



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL AMPHIBIAN WEEK
May 2 – 8, 2021

By the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior (Department) and its Bureaus, as stewards of public lands, are proud of our resource conservation legacy to safeguard lives, protect our national treasures, defend wildlife, and preserve the natural and cultural resources entrusted to the Department; and

WHEREAS, amphibians, found across America in urban, rural, and wild spaces, connect children and families to nature, promote a sense of discovery of the natural world, provide the sounds of summer evenings, and engage future generations in stewardship activities; and

WHEREAS, amphibians are key indicators of ecosystem health and drinking water conditions, and are an important part of ecosystems that support life on Earth; and

WHEREAS, the plight of amphibians, one of the most threatened taxonomic groups in the world, has become symbolic of biodiversity loss; and

WHEREAS, of the known species of amphibians that inhabit our planet, over one third of them are considered imperiled or vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature; and

WHEREAS, climate change, disease, and contaminants are threats to not only amphibians but also to all of humankind and other living resources; and

WHEREAS, amphibians contribute to the economy by performing ecosystem services like pest control and carbon sequestration, and by inspiring outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Department's Bureaus participate in global collaborative conservation partnerships and in actions addressing the ongoing global amphibian crisis, making significant contributions to the conservation and understanding of amphibians; and

WHEREAS, the Department protects and manages much of the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the importance of amphibians to families and healthy ecosystems on public and private lands and their value to the Nation's economy, I, Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior, do hereby proclaim May 2 – 8, 2021, as National Amphibian Week at the Department. I call upon the American public to join us in recognizing the importance of amphibians and the stewardship role the Department plays in providing valuable amphibian habitats throughout the Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 26 day of April 2021, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deb Haaland", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Deb Haaland