P-26-02

PROCLAMATION TO PROCLAIM MAY 15, 2026, AS "ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY" IN THE TOWN OF FLETCHER

WHEREAS, plants, wildlife, and healthy natural habitats provide significant benefits to communities, including clean water, recreation, education, economic value, cultural meaning, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the United States has long recognized the importance of conserving imperiled species through the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and other conservation laws; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act has helped prevent the extinction of more than 99 percent of listed species and continues to support recovery efforts across the country; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to a diverse range of native plants and wildlife, including species that are threatened, endangered, or otherwise at risk; and

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina's rivers, streams, forests, and mountain ecosystems provide habitat for species such as the Eastern Hellbender, which depends on clean, cold, fast-flowing streams and has faced increased threats from habitat degradation and recent storm impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fletcher recognizes the importance of protecting natural resources, maintaining healthy waterways, expanding greenway connections, preserving public open space, and supporting responsible stewardship of the lands and waters that make our community special; and

WHEREAS, local waterways such as Cane Creek contribute to the larger watershed of the French Broad River—widely recognized as one of the oldest rivers in the world—highlighting the importance of protecting Fletcher's natural resources as part of a historically and environmentally significant river system; and

WHEREAS, local conservation efforts, including care for Cane Creek, Hoopers Creek, Fletcher's parks, greenways, floodplains, and natural areas, contribute to the health of wildlife habitat and the quality of life of Fletcher residents; and

WHEREAS, Endangered Species Day provides an opportunity to celebrate conservation success stories, raise awareness about species recovery, and encourage residents to help protect wildlife and natural habitats in their own community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fletcher joins communities across the country in recognizing the importance of conserving endangered and threatened species for current and future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fletcher Town Council hereby proclaims May 15, 2026, as "Endangered Species Day" in the Town of Fletcher and encourages residents to learn more about endangered and threatened species, support habitat conservation, protect local waterways, and participate in stewardship efforts that strengthen Fletcher's natural environment.

Adopted this the 11th day of May 2026.

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Mayor Preston Blakely

ATTEST:

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Christine Thompson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk