



## Sportsman's Stewardship Pledge

### "The Extra Mile"

I choose to be a good steward of our natural resources on the water, in the field, and in my everyday life by living a lifestyle of environmental awareness - with positive impact.

**I will learn the fish and game laws where I hunt or fish, and always abide by them.**

The Extra mile: Laws will be the bare minimum as I exercise outdoor ethics. I'll find my practice on "Leave No Trace" ethics, and seek to "limit my catch," not "catch my limit."

**I will practice Catch and Release and Selective Harvest faithfully and responsibly.**

The Extra mile: Although there are times when selective harvest makes sense, I will choose to limit my take, rather than always taking my limit. For fish that I intend to release, I will wet my hands when landing them, use a rubber landing net, or keep them in the water. I will limit the time that the fish is out of the water to the shortest time possible. I will fish with the intention of a steward rather than that of a consumer.

**I will "police my resource," by turning in poachers, and reporting polluters.**

The Extra mile: I will program local "Turn in Poacher" and "Pollution Hotline" numbers into my cell phone, or carry them with me on a wallet card so that I can respond quickly if I witness an issue.

**I will make up for "the other guy," the one who has not yet embraced stewardship, by cleaning up the areas that I fish, hunt, hike and camp.**

The Extra mile: I will carry a trash bag with me when I go into the field or onto the water, and I will make it a point to leave every spot I visit better than I found it.

**I will not trespass to fish or hunt, I will respect private property and help make a good name for sportsmen among private landowners.**

The Extra mile: If given permission to fish private property, I will treat landowners and others on the property with a high level of respect. I will close any gates that I find closed. I will clean up any trash that I find, and never leave any behind. I will adhere to whatever rules or restrictions on harvest or use that the landowner requests.

**I will boat in a safe and responsible manner.**

The Extra mile: Kids on my boat will wear PFDs. My motor will be in operable condition so as to diminish fuel or oil discharge into the water. I will pursue low-impact angling methods such as float tubing, paddling sports, or other methods when possible.

**I will treat other users of the resource with exceptional respect, with the intention that anglers would become known widely as the primary stewards of the resource.**

The Extra mile: I will adhere to the "Golden Rule" even when it is not first expressed to me.

**I will look for conservation projects where I can participate with time, money, or other resources.**

The Extra mile: I am willing to periodically sacrifice fishing, hunting, hiking, or other participatory outdoor time to do something with positive impact on the resource. I'll invest in these projects, programs and organizations as well.

**I will encourage others to take the stewardship pledge and I will promote the ethic of natural resource stewardship.**

The Extra mile: I will encourage others to take on this ethic of a steward, or a shepherd, of our natural resources, including fisheries, because I pledge to be a pillar of the environmental and outdoor community.

**I choose to serve as a role model in protecting what remains, and recovering what's been lost of our wild and natural places.**

The Extra Mile: I will live a lifestyle that encompasses environmental stewardship even when I am not on the water. I will do that which is within my control to reduce energy use and fuel consumption, as well as household and lawn and garden waste and pollution. As much as it is within my control to do so, I will make eco-friendly decisions in my business dealings and in the marketplace.

**I am a steward.**

**I'll Go the Extra Mile.**