

**Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week
February 26, 2017 – March 4, 2017**

WHEREAS, invasive aquatic and terrestrial species, including noxious weeds, negatively influence the productivity, value, and management of a broad range of water and land resources in Skamania County; and

WHEREAS, every year, the costs to prevent, monitor, and control invasive species, combined with the costs from damage to crops, fisheries, forests, and other resources cost the nation an estimated \$137 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are recognized to be the second greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide, after habitat destruction from human development; and

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten the survival of native plants and animals, including salmon and other threatened or endangered species, and interfere with ecosystem services by changing processes such as fire, nutrient flow, water availability, and flooding; and

WHEREAS, invasive species impede industry, threaten agriculture, endanger human health, and are becoming increasingly harder to prevent and control as a result of global commercialization and human travel; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are a significant threat to almost half of the native species currently listed as federally endangered; and

WHEREAS, an educated and aware public is highly effective at early detection of newly-introduced species;

NOW THEREFORE, We, the Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of February 26 through March 4, 2017, to be

Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week in Skamania County

and we encourage everyone in our county to be vigilant in looking for invasive species and noxious weeds, to report sightings to the Washington Invasive Species Council and to play an active role in the protection of our county's resources by remembering to clean, drain, and dry watercraft and other equipment, not to release unwanted pets into the wild, and clean boots and equipment before enjoying the outdoors.

DATED: February 22, 2017


SKAMANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:




Chairman



Commissioner




Commissioner



Prosecuting Attorney

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board