

The State of Washington



Proclamation

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 Washington State; 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, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the week of February 26 through March 4, 2017, to be

Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week

in Washington and I encourage everyone in our state to be vigilant in looking for invasive species and noxious weeds, to report sightings to the Washington Invasive Species Council (<http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml>), and to play an active role in protecting our state's resources by remembering to clean, drain, and dry watercraft and other equipment, not release unwanted pets into the wild, and clean boots and equipment before enjoying the outdoors (<http://wise.wa.gov/>).

Signed this 14th day of February, 2017




Governor Jay Inslee