



Washington Invasive Species Council Key Recommendations on First Fifteen Priority Species

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION FOR ALL 15 PRIORITY SPECIES:

- The Legislature creates a sustainable and dedicated fund to 1) enable emergency response by state and local agencies to invasions and 2) continue the structured, interagency coordination and collaboration on invasive species such as that provided by the Washington Invasive Species Council. The Washington Invasive Species Council develops rules for fund eligibility.

KUDZU

- The Legislature increases funding to the Washington Department of Agriculture for Class A and B designate weed grants to county noxious weed control boards.
- The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board and Washington Invasive Species Council develop options for addressing disparities between counties in enforcement of the noxious weed laws, including consideration of instituting a county enforcement assistance program in Washington Department of Agriculture.
- Agencies conducting natural resource management adopt protocols, train employees, and enforce decontamination procedures when working in areas where invasive species are present. The Washington Invasive Species Council develops protocols and agencies adopt them by December 2010.
- The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board coordinates with counties to (1) promote common messaging about prevention, (2) distribute educational materials that focus on identification and pathways of spread, (3) promote citizen reporting, and (4) provide training to county weed coordinators on detection of Washington Invasive Species Council priority species not yet in Washington.

VARIABLE-LEAF MILFOIL

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- At water bodies with public access, land owners or managers ensure signs are posted that address the cleaning of gear and equipment of all plant material, and that promote citizen reporting. The Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology partner with Oregon and Idaho for consistent and simplified outreach messages.

BRAZILIAN ELODEA

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KNAPWEEDS

- The Legislature increases funding to the Washington Department of Agriculture for Class A and B designate weed grants to county noxious weed control boards.
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PHRAGMITES

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SPARTINA

- The Legislature increases funding to the Washington Department of Agriculture for Class A and B designate weed grants to county noxious weed control boards.
- The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board and Washington Invasive Species Council develop options for addressing disparities between counties in enforcement of the noxious weed laws, including consideration of instituting a county enforcement assistance program in Washington Department of Agriculture.
- The Legislature continues funding for Washington Departments of Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources for Spartina eradication to meet the objectives of Revised Code of Washington 17.26 (Control of Spartina and Purple Loosestrife) and the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health, Action 2.4 (Spartina eradication in WA, OR, CA).
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CAULERPA

- The Natural Resource Cabinet assigns authority to a state agency for invasive marine algae.
- An assigned agency works with the Washington Invasive Species Council to develop a mechanism for classifying marine algae based on potential risks to the environment and economy.
- The Legislature extends and increases by \$1, the per vessel registration fee to the Freshwater Aquatic Algae Control Account to expand the Washington Department of Ecology's freshwater algae program to also include marine algae. The enhanced program would provide grants to detect and respond to invasive marine algae infestations.
- Until an agency is assigned responsibility, the Washington Invasive Species Council creates and distributes educational materials on identifying and reporting invasive marine macro-algae such as *Caulerpa*, *Sargassum*, and *Undaria* to recreation groups, such as scuba divers, canoe and kayak clubs, beach walkers, and the pet and aquarium users and industry.

ZEBRA AND QUAGGA MUSSEL

- Following the noxious weed model (Revised Code of Washington 17.10), the Legislature provides the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife the authority to require landowners to remove and control prohibited species and, in water bodies containing public access, to implement prevention measures.
- State and federal agencies and tribes develop and sign an agreement and adopt training protocols to use the incident command structure in an emergency response situation, as identified in the *Rapid Response Plan for Zebra Mussels in the Columbia River Basin*. The Washington Invasive Species Council facilitates development of the agreement.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife develops and maintains a rapid response unit and develops agreements with other Columbia River Basin states to share resources when zebra or quagga mussels and priority species are detected, as determined by the department and the Washington Invasive Species Council.
- Agencies conducting natural resource management adopt protocols, train employees, and enforce decontamination procedures when working in areas where invasive species are present. The Washington Invasive Species Council develops protocols and agencies adopt them by December 2010.
- The Legislature extends and increases the fee into the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Enforcement Account beyond 2012 to continue funding the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Patrol zebra and quagga mussel boat inspection and monitoring program and other priority species research and management projects as part of a broader aquatic invasive species prevention program.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife creates a state action plan for responding to a zebra or quagga mussel infestation that provides supplemental information for Washington's implementation of the *Quagga/Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters* developed by the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and adopted by the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.
- The Washington Invasive Species Council and the Governor's Office support and work with Washington's Congressional delegation to find federal funding for the *Quagga/Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters* and to provide funding to update and implement the *Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species*.
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TUNICATES

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- The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission designates three tunicate species, *Didemnum vexillum*, *Styela clava*, *Ciona intestinalis*, as prohibited species under Revised Code of Washington 77.12.020 based on threats they pose to the environment and at the recommendation of a panel of national and international tunicate experts.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife develops and adopts protocols for tunicate early detection, control, and disposal.
- The Legislature provides authority to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to require the adoption of tunicate best management practices at aquatic facilities (e.g., aquaculture facilities, marinas).
- The Washington Invasive Species Council, Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology, and the Puget Sound Partnership work together to educate recreational divers, boat yard employees, harbor masters, marinas, and aquaculture industry about new listings of prohibited tunicate species.

NUTRIA

- Following the noxious weed model (Revised Code of Washington 17.10), the Legislature provides the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife the authority to require landowners to remove and control prohibited species.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife assesses the environmental and economic risks of nutria in Washington. The department uses the risk assessment findings to clarify needs for response and potentially adjust internal policy on nutria.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife adds information to its Web site about nutria and feral swine, and creates and distributes education materials in all regional offices. The education materials should be produced in coordination with the Oregon and Idaho Invasive Species Councils for consistent messaging and to promote reporting of nutria and feral swine populations.

FERAL SWINE

- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife develops and implements an emergency response protocol for feral swine.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife adds information to its Web site about nutria and feral swine, and creates and distributes education materials in all regional offices. The education materials should be produced in coordination with the Oregon and Idaho Invasive Species Councils for consistent messaging and to promote reporting of nutria and feral swine populations.

LYMANTRIIDS

- No recommendations necessary.

WOOD-BORING BEETLES

- To increase regional awareness of firewood as a mechanism for the spread of invasive, wood-boring insects and plants, the Washington Invasive Species Council seeks a second year of federal funding for 'Don't Move Firewood' outreach campaign. The council continues its partnership with the Invasive Species Councils of Idaho and Oregon, Washington Department of Agriculture, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington State University, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

VHS FISH DISEASE

- To prevent the spread of fish diseases such as VHS and other pathogens, the Legislature provides authority to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to prohibit the overland transportation of water contained in any compartment, equipment, or container from an infested water body, including, but not limited to, live wells, ballast tanks, and bilge areas.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife educates boaters about the spread of fish diseases in the water contained in live wells of recreational boats. The department should create outreach materials and messages with input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and the Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission fish health specialists.