

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, invasive species – including noxious weeds – damage our land and water, harm our wildlife and the productivity of our natural resources, and inhibit management of those resources in Washington State; and

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

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

*WHEREAS*, invasive species interfere with ecosystems by changing natural processes such as fire, water availability and flooding; and

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

*WHEREAS*, prevention is far less expensive than trying to remove species once they arrive and an educated and aware public is highly effective at detecting introduced species early;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim February 24 - March 2, 2019 as

### *Invasive Species Awareness Week*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to learn more about preventing invasive species by visiting [invasivespecies.wa.gov](http://invasivespecies.wa.gov).



Signed this day 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019

Governor Jay Inslee