



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Washington Invasive Species Council

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

Sample 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 **(insert location here)**; 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/WE)**, **(insert decision maker or organization)**, do hereby proclaim the week of February 26 through March 4, 2017, to be

Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week

in **(insert location here)** and **(I/WE)** encourage everyone in our **(location)** to be vigilant in looking for invasive species and noxious weeds, to report sightings to the Washington Invasive Species Council (www.invasivespecies.aw.gov/report.shtml), and to play an active role in protection our **(location'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 (www.wise.wa.gov).

Signed this **(day)** of **(month)**, 2017

(signature)

(Title/Organization)