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 24-28, 2020, 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.

Signed this day 31st day of January, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee