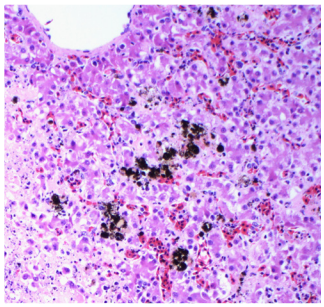
AFRICAN CLAWED FROG *(XENOPUS LAEVIS)*

RIGHT: OSHV-1 SHELLFISH VIRUS *(OSTREID HERPESVIRUS TYPE 1)*

ASIAN GIANT HORNET *(VESPA MANDARINIA)*

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME DISEASE *(PSEUDOGYMNOASCUS DESTRUCTANS)*

GARLIC MUSTARD *(ALLIARIA PETIOLATA)*



Washington Invasive Species Council 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive Species Council

Council Organizations

The council is comprised of members from state, federal, local, regional, and tribal government agencies; non-governmental organizations; and industry groups. The council meets quarterly and provides a venue for regular communication among its members, partners, and the public. This ongoing coordination results in consistent statewide priorities, efficient management approaches, and common messaging to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Washington State.

Chelan Public Utility District | Shaun Seaman
Columbia Land Trust | Ian Sinks
Kalispel Tribe of Indians | Joe Maroney, Chair
King County | Steve Burke
Northwest Power and Conservation Council | Kendall Farley
Puget Sound Partnership | Todd Hass
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians | Pat Stevenson
U.S. Coast Guard | Vacant
U.S. Customs and Border Protection | Trade Supervisor and Operations Manager
U.S. Department of Agriculture | Clinton Campbell
U.S. Department of the Interior | Heidi McMaster
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Pat DeHaan
U.S. Forest Service | Karen Ripley
Washington State Department of Agriculture | Brad White
Washington State Department of Ecology | Lizbeth Seebacher
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Allen Pleus
Washington State Department of Natural Resources | Blain Reeves, Vice Chair
Washington State Department of Transportation | Ray Willard, Immediate Past Chair
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board | Mary Fee
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission | Andrea Thorpe
Washington State University | Todd Murray
Yakima County | Ron Anderson

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Twitter
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Instagram
instagram.com/wa_invasivespeciescouncil/

Administrative services are provided by the Recreation and Conservation Office (rco.wa.gov).

If you need this information in an alternative format, please call 360-902-3000 or TDD 800-833-6388.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive Species Council

Washington Invasive Species Council 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Mission

The council provides policy level direction, planning, and coordination that will:

- Empower those engaged in the prevention, detection, and eradication of invasive species.
- Include a strategic plan designed to build upon local, state, and regional efforts, while serving as a forum for invasive species education and communication.

Vision

Sustaining Washington's human, plant, and animal communities and our thriving economy by preventing the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species.

Purpose

Established by the Legislature in 2006, the council is tasked with providing policy level direction, planning, and coordination for combating harmful invasive species throughout the state and preventing the introduction of others that may be harmful. The council is tasked with improving coordination of state invasive species activities to ensure the investments made today are the right investments for the future.

Key Strategic Areas

- Leadership and Coordination
- Innovation and Research
- Education and Outreach
- Prevention
- Early Detection and Rapid Response
- Containment, Control, and Eradication

"Invasive species" include non-native organisms (terrestrial and aquatic plants, animals, wildlife diseases, and insects) that cause economic or environmental harm and are capable of spreading to new areas of the state. "Invasive species" does not include domestic livestock, intentionally planted agronomic crops, or non-harmful exotic organisms.

Leadership and Coordination

Key Priorities

1. Statewide leadership and information sharing
2. Coordination and partnerships
3. Coordination and response structures and processes
4. State and federal polices and programming
5. Sovereign nations and municipalities
6. Unified industry and government

Key Objectives

- **Function as a regional hub** for leadership and information sharing across all jurisdictions.
- **Continue statewide and regional coordination and develop new partnerships** with industry, governments, and non-governmental organizations.
- **Reinforce existing collaboration** with organizations, in addition to creating new processes for tribal, municipal governments, regional invasive species organizations and others.
- **Ensure adequate resources, polices, and programs** at the federal, state, and local levels.

Before the Invasive Species Council, there was no organized forum for tackling many emerging issues. The council has helped bring the right people to the table to find balanced solutions to these important issues.

What We Will Achieve

- **Extension of the council** from 2022 to 2032.
- **An understanding of the capacity, capabilities, and needs** of tribal governments and municipalities through a survey.
- **An understanding of the capacity, capabilities,** and needs of tribal and municipal government through a survey.
- **Advocacy for invasive species programs** and activities at the state and federal levels.
- **Collaboratively developed model coordination** and information sharing structures and processes for tribal and municipal governments and others.
- **Adequate resources, policies, and programs** at the federal, state, and local levels through collaboration with organizations such as the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, Western Governors' Association, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Innovation and Research

Key Priorities

1. Understanding and evaluating impacts and invasion pathways
2. Resilient landscapes and climate change
3. Vulnerable species, resources, and infrastructure
4. Diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice

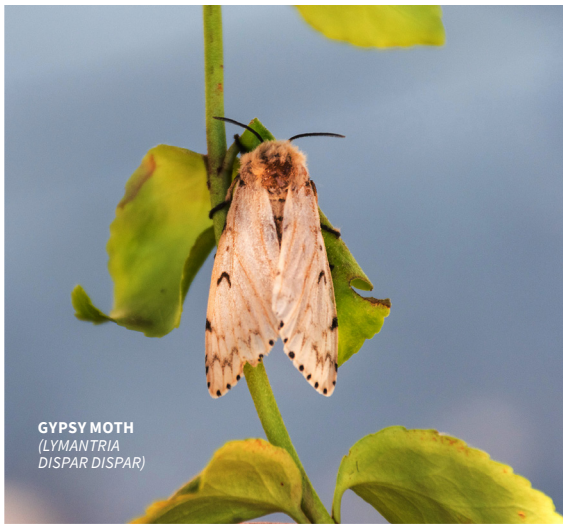
Key Objectives

- **Advocate for integration of invasive species prevention** and management processes, policies, and planning into ecosystem and climate change adaption plans.
- **Advocate for prioritizing invasive species prevention** and management activities that protect vulnerable species, resources, and infrastructure.
- **Collaboratively leverage federal funds for state, local, and tribal programs** where there is a cross-cutting need beyond the charge of one individual organization.
- **Build and reinforce connections** among researchers, managers, and policy makers.
- **Unite industry, researchers, and managers** to address shared challenges.
- **Understand the issues and the nexus** between invasive species and diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice.

Today we face new and complex problems. We need to be innovative and increase research to be successful.

What We Will Achieve

- **Integration of invasive species prevention, management, and strategic actions** into federal, regional, state, and regional climate change, forest health, and landscape resiliency plans.
- **Improved coordination by managers, researchers, and industry** in project development and planning. When appropriate, we will lead cross-cutting projects on behalf of multiple organizations.
- **Increased sharing of invasive species best practices and information,** statewide and regionally, especially those whose effects are damaging to Washington's economy and environment.
- **Continuation of the industry advisory panel and increased collaboration** and information sharing between panel members and the council.
- **Convening of a science advisory panel** when new cross-cutting issues or questions arise to provide the council with recommendations based upon best available science.
- **Convening of a work group to investigate the nexus between invasive species** and diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice. Recommendations will be presented to the council and integrated into the council's work and membership.
- **Analysis of gaps in understanding invasive species impacts,** with an emphasis on non-traditional sectors such as recreation and social values or specific areas of concern, such as impacts to salmonids or vineyards.



GYPSY MOTH *(LYMANTRIA DISPAR DISPAR)*

Education and Outreach

Key Priorities

1. Public awareness and mobilization
2. Policy maker awareness
3. Youth and adult citizen science
4. Professional development and cross-training
5. Formal and informal education

Key Objectives

- **Raise awareness and mobilize the public** and whole community.
- **Develop messaging and campaigns** to address emerging problems.
- **Harmonize messaging across organizations** to better address existing problems.
- **Improve statewide first detector capabilities** by cross-training professionals.
- **Engage both youth and adults** through formal and informal education.
- **Continue and expand our online presence** and public awareness.
- **Continue and expand education to** key policy makers to raise their awareness of the threats of invasive species.

We need to maintain a high level of awareness about invasive species issues, and we need to inspire the next generation to mobilize and lead these efforts.

What We Will Achieve

- **Statewide promotion of Invasive Species Awareness Week** in Washington State in collaboration with the Governor's Office and state agencies.
- **Statewide promotion of events** such as Tree Check Month, amplifying regional and national messages, while tailoring the content to state and local needs.
- **Development and implementation of new campaigns** and messages with national and regional partners.
- **Continuation of formal youth education** and development of informal adult education.
- **Continuation of formal adult education** through existing and new curriculum and programming.
- **Maintenance of the InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov Web site** as the central information hub, including the Washington Invasives mobile app.
- **Identification of the professional development needs** of invasive species managers and in collaboration with partners address of identified gaps.
- **Continuation of the development of an annual outreach plan** and year-end report to improve and optimize outreach operations.
- **Improvement of our online presence and public awareness** through Webinars, events, and workshops.
- **Continuation of the existing first** detector programming and investigation of opportunities to expand the network.
- **Partnerships with established groups and avenues** for information sharing to improve the reach of our messages and to leverage these resources to achieve our objectives.
- **Informed policy makers that understand the threats** of invasive species and the benefits of actions to prevent, detect, respond, and control, contain, or eradicate.

Prevention

Key Priorities

1. Understand and address invasion pathways
2. Response readiness
3. Prevention protocols and public adoption
4. Understand and address risk

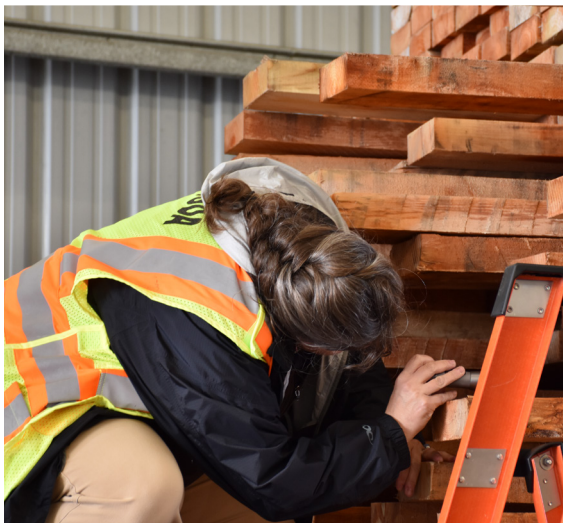
Key Objectives

- **Better understanding of the risks of expanding** invasive species and potential impacts.
- **Quickly analyze risks of newly introduced invasive species** and determine priority.
- **Understand pathways for introduction** and spread of invasive species.
- **Work collaboratively with industry and organizations** to address risks and pathways.
- **Advocate for response preparedness and readiness** to industry and management organizations.
- **Harmonize agency prevention protocols** and encourage public participation in prevention.
- **Advocate for, and assist with, national, regional, state, and local prevention programs** such as nursery and watercraft inspections and awareness programs for the public and business sectors.

What We Will Achieve

- **Improved analytical tools that assess risk and impact** for use in council prioritization. We will promote these tools to partners and organizations to help them prioritize their own work.
- **Advocacy for international and domestic pathway analyses** and readiness activities.
- **Prevention protocols and best practices** actively implemented and used by both agencies and the public.
- **Advocacy for and assistance to existing prevention programs** and explored opportunities for additional protection at the local level.
- **Outreach, trainings, tools, and equipment** that empower the public and watercraft users to implement the prevention protocols in collaboration with partners.

If we prevent the introduction of new invasive species, we avoid thousands, if not millions in management costs and economic losses. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.



Early Detection and Rapid Response

Key Priorities

1. Early detection capabilities
2. Emergency funding
3. Diagnosis and notification
4. Response plans and exercises
5. Optimizing and sharing response resources

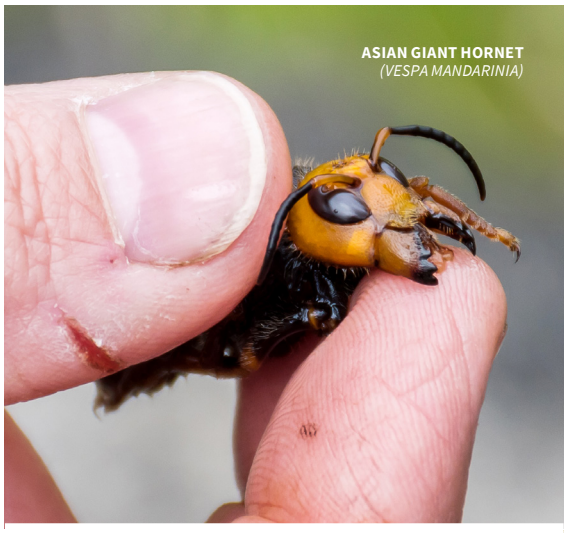
Key Objectives

- **Support increasing the capacity and capabilities** of state, tribal, and local governments for early detection.
- **Support diagnostic centers and technologies.**
- **Streamline incident notification systems** and processes.
- **Ensure that emergency funding** is available for rapid response.
- **Pre-identify processes and procedures,** and promote early detection and rapid response resource sharing.
- **Improve and develop response plans.**
- **Practice and enhance response plans** through workshops, drills, and exercises.
- **Leverage federal assistance** to address invasive species emergencies.
- **Provide input to improve response plans** based on best practices, experience, industry perspective, site specific knowledge, or other expertise.

When prevention isn't possible, early detection and rapid response are the next best strategies to ensuring the invasion causes the least amount of damage.

What We Will Achieve

- **Expanded use of the Incident Command System (ICS)** and facilitation of its adoption by council organizations and partners.
- **Early detection monitoring improvements** to address known gaps in monitoring and surveillance.
- **Advocacy of invasive species diagnostic centers** and new technologies.
- **Streamlined notification systems** with an emphasis on improving the notification process among organizations that have jurisdiction, partners, and the public.
- **Improved response planning** through coordination and involvement of the council.
- **Increased focus on practicing response.** We will promote, facilitate, and participate in workshops, drills, and exercises.
- **A consultation to agencies** that have jurisdiction in an invasive species emergency and advocacy for federal support.
- **Participation in Multiagency Coordination Groups (MAC Groups)** and aided command and operations sectors as requested.
- **Outreach to local organizations that can help** with early detection and response efforts.


ASIAN GIANT HORNET
(VESPA MANDARINIA)

Eradication, Control, and Containment

Key Priorities

1. Adequate and sustainable funding
2. Data collection, sharing, and mobilization
3. Optimization of response operations
4. Asset-based management for protection and natural or economic assets
5. Evaluation and reevaluation

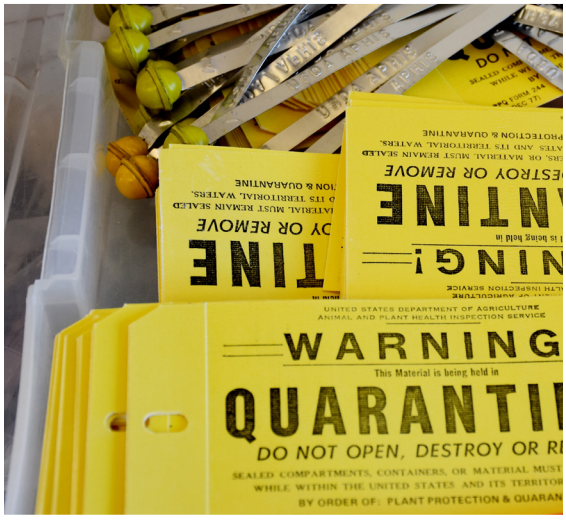
Key Objectives

- **Ensure that adequate and sustainable funding** is available for meeting the management goals for established species.
- **Analyze and document current funding** and operations, determining gaps and needs.
- **Evaluate and advocate for management goals** for established species that are reasonable and feasible.
- **Advocate for reevaluation of operations and management goals** using adaptive management principles that are based upon new science, best practices, changing population dynamics, and efficacy.
- **Advocate for and assist with operational optimization** through resource sharing, cross-training, and public engagement.
- **Promote and assist with data collection, sharing, and mobilization** among organizations at the local, state, regional, and national levels to establish a common situational awareness.
- **Analyze regulatory invasive species classifications,** management goals, and operations, and propose reevaluation when appropriate.
- **Promote and assist with response strategies** that protect the most at-risk species and resources from both economic and environmental damages.

What We Will Achieve

- **Funding that meets the management goals** of lead organizations.
- **Advocacy for lead organizations** to set data-driven management goals.
- **Cross-organizational work groups to analyze regulatory classifications** at the state and federal level. Advocacy for changes when appropriate.
- **Collection of data and mobilization campaigns** to address data gaps.
- **Workshops and symposia offering current research** and best practices that address established and potential invasive species.
- **Advocacy for adaptive management principles** when managing established invasive species.

Once we know an invasive species is present, aggressive eradication, containment, and control give us a fighting chance to stop the spread and make sure we won't be spending millions of dollars to battle this species for years to come.



PLANT TREATMENT: BOHEMIAN KNOTWEED

InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov