

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, invasive species — including insects, animals, diseases, and 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; and

WHEREAS, the global economic cost to prevent, monitor, and control invasive species, combined with the damage to crops, fisheries, forests, and other resources, is estimated to be more than \$1.2 trillion over the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are recognized as the second greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide and are responsible for 60 percent of recorded plant and animal extinctions; and

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten the survival of native plants and animals, including pollinators, and are a significant threat to almost half of the native species listed as federally endangered, including salmon and orcas; and

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

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten natural resources, impede industry, threaten agriculture and the food supply, endanger human health, and are becoming increasingly difficult to prevent and control as a result of global commercialization and human activities; and

WHEREAS, it is far less expensive to prevent the introduction of invasive species rather than remove them 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 26-March 3, 2024, as

Invasive Species Awareness Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 8th day of January, 2024

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.
Governor Jay Inslee