

March 20, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

This meeting is being held in-person and virtually.

Physical Location: Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, WA 98501.

[Facility information and visitor parking.](#)

Online Participation: If you wish to participate online, please click the link below to register and follow the instructions in advance of the meeting. You will be emailed specific instructions upon registering. Technical support for the meeting will be provided by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) board liaison, Julia McNamara, who can be reached at Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov.

Online Registration Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y26QUIP-S_qkSr6oT4_WTQ

Phone Option: You may also access the webinar using a phone only. This can be completed by calling (669) 900-6833 at or shortly before the start of meeting. You will then be prompted for a meeting ID. The meeting ID is 823 1488 8703.

Time: Opening session will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov.

COVID Precautions: Masks and hand sanitizer will be made available.

Open Meeting Agreement: This open public meeting is webcasted on TVW and recorded. By attending the meeting, you agree that your image, anything you say, and any materials you submit may be posted indefinitely on RCO's and TVW's websites.

Special Accommodations: People with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact Leslie Frank by phone (360) 789-7889 or e-mail Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov. Accommodation requests should be received by March 1, 2025, to ensure availability.

Thursday, March 20

OPENING AND WELCOME

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Order

*Chair Todd Murray
Julia McNamara*

- Hybrid Meeting Ground Rules
- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review and Approval of Agenda (**Decision**)
- Approval of December 2024 Minutes (**Decision**)

HOT TOPIC AND STAFF REPORTS

9:10 a.m.

1. Council Staff Report

Stephanie Helms

9:30 a.m.	2. Aquatic Invasive Species of Greatest Concern Update	<i>Member Justin Bush</i>
10:00 a.m.	3. 2026-2030 Strategic Plan Update Activity Session	<i>Stephanie Helms, All</i>
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	<i>Lunch</i>
DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS, AND UPDATES		
1:00 p.m.	4. 2026-2030 Strategic Plan Activity Wrap Up, Debrief, & Next Steps	<i>Stephanie Helms, All</i>
1:20 p.m.	5. Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda 2026-2030 Update – Invasive Species Strategy Workshop Debrief	<i>Stephanie Helms, Member Todd Hass</i>
1:40 p.m.	6. 2025 Council Bylaws Update (<i>Discussion & Decision</i>)	<i>All</i>
2:00 p.m.	Break	
2:10 p.m.	7. Roundtable for State Agency Session Updates	<i>All</i>
2:40 p.m.	8. Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 17, 2025 Meeting Topics July 2025 Travel Meeting Location 	<i>All</i>
2:50 p.m.	General Public Comment <i>Please limit comment to three minutes</i>	
3:00 p.m.	ADJOURN	

Next regular meeting: July 17, 2025, Location to be determined.

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: December 5, 2024

Place: Hybrid – Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Washington, 98501 and online via Zoom

Invasive Species Council Members Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blain Reeves	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Murray	Washington State University
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ray Willard	Washington State Department of Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sven-Erik Spichiger	Washington State Department of Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
<hr/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marcie Clement	Avista
<input type="checkbox"/> Adam Fyall	Benton County
<input type="checkbox"/> Steven Burke	King County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacy Horton	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Hass	Puget Sound Partnership
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexei Calambokidis	Trout Unlimited
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cory Sandow	United States Bureau of Reclamation
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	United States Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Luca Furnare	United States Customs and Border Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yolanda Inguanzo	United States Department of Agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> Carrie Cook-Tabor	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Karen Ripley	United States Forest Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wes Glisson	Washington Department of Ecology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Bush	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Thorpe	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Helms	Executive Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia McNamara	Board Liaison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica La Belle	Invasive Species Program Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maria Marlin	Outreach and Education Specialist
<input type="checkbox"/> Marissa Dallaire	Intern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Montgomery	Board and Policy Administrative Assistant

Guests & Alternates:

Crystal Durbecq	United States Forest Service
Shawn Ultican	Washington Department of Ecology
Susan Brush	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting. Timestamps have been provided that correspond with a video of this recorded session, available at www.youtube.com/@WashingtonRCO. Please note, each link will open a new video tab. Timestamps can also be found in the video description. **Please note, the recording starts after the Welcome and Call to Order.**

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Blain Reeves called the Washington Invasive Species Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison performed roll call and determined quorum. Members Marcie Clement, Adam Fyall, Steven Burke, Luca Furnare were absent.

Motion: Approval of **December 5, 2024, Agenda**

Moved by: Member **Mary Fee**

Seconded by: Member **Joe Maroney**

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of **September 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Moved by: Member **Ray Willard**

Seconded by: Member **Justin Bush**

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Council Staff Report (0:00)

Stephanie Helms, council executive coordinator, shared that staff presented at a Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine class, the North American Invasive Species Management Association 32nd Annual Conference in Missoula, the Washington State Weed Conference in Wenatchee, and at the University of Washington on Washington's approach to aquatic invasive species prevention, attended an European green crab open house and the Zebra and Quagga Mussel Statewide Summit, and hosted an Urban Forest Pest Readiness workshop in Bellingham.

Crystal Durbecq joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m. as Alternate for Member Karen Ripley.

Upcoming events include the Columbia River Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Team Meeting, Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Annual General Meeting, celebrating the successful eradication of northern giant hornet from Whatcom County, Urban Forest Pest Readiness workshops in Spokane and Yakima, Washington State University statewide pesticide recertification conferences, the Seattle Boat Show,

European Green Crab Manager's Symposium, Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week, and the Invasives 2025 Forum with the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia.

Maria Marlin, communication and outreach specialist, provided an overview of the council's social media and website engagement. Engagement on Facebook reached just over 17,000 more people this quarter. Maria highlighted the top Facebook post related to native seed packets available through the Noxious Weed Control Board which reached almost 18,000 people. **Member Fee** added that the Washington State Department of Agriculture funded the native seeds. The second Halloween Invasive Species Pet Costume Contest increased engagement across platforms, and the first place winner was Walter Smiles dressed as a brown marmorated stink bug. The council website had over 16,000 users with sessions derived primarily from an organic search. Ms. Marlin highlighted the Washington State Noxious Weed Conference in Wenatchee hosted by the Washington Vegetation Management Association.

Jessica La Belle, program specialist, highlighted her presentation at the North American Invasive Species Management Association 2024 Annual Conference on spotted lanternfly and the importance of considering invasive species impacts to cultural resources.

Ms. Helms noted a review of priority species is underway and will continue through the spring of 2025. Cultural resources criteria will be completed and added to the priority assessment tool in the spring. The biennial report will go out for review by the end of December 5, and the Bylaws update will go out for review on January 1. There are two interagency agreements in process: \$47,000 from the Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forest Program to create a Washington Emerald Ash Borer Resource and Management Guide funded by the United States Forest Service and \$34,000 for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's Washington State Transboundary Dreissenid Mussel Response Readiness funded by the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

Lastly, the council website added two new pages, one for [job opportunities](#) and one for [grant opportunities](#). Ms. Helms intends for staff to send monthly emails to the council that highlight activity on these pages.

Member Glisson noted that applications for the [aquatic invasive plants management grants program](#) are being accepted through December 17 and noted these grants would be a good addition to the new grant opportunities webpage.

Member Anderson suggested the council consider an effort to collect peer-reviewed materials to be made available on the council website to practitioners and the public, possibly with an additional web page. Ms. Helms wants to explore cross-referencing existing scientific databases as there can be issues in creating an original host platform for external scientific information on the council website. **Member Calambokidis** added that Trout Unlimited has good information on their website that could be interlinked with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the council's websites.

Item 2: Brainstorming for 2025 Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week (32:46)

Maria Marlin gave an overview of council efforts at last year's Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week, which included outreach at the Capitol Building. Feedback indicated that the council should be responsible for coordinating the event and should consider shorter hours that targets a different group of invasive species each day; use less paper material; have a hook to draw people in; and provide tangible items like boot brushes, Japanese knotweed honey sticks, and other pre-packaged food items.

This year, Washington Invasive Species Awareness week is from February 24-28, but the tabling event will run February 25-27 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day and incorporate ideas from the feedback. Volunteers will be recruited to staff the table. Ms. Marlin invited the council to provide ideas for outreach at the tabled event at the Capitol Building, webinar topics and speaker ideas, and an awards ceremony.

Member Willard suggested organizing a scavenger hunt that utilizes the Washington Invasives application for participants to report roadside weeds with a prize at the end of the week. **Member Bush** emphasized a message of safety would need to be included for participants. **Alternate Member McNatt** suggested a road trip motif that highlights different invasive species in different geographical regions of the state, with a different region highlighted each day. Member Bush liked this idea and suggested bringing together council agencies to speak on various issues across regions.

Stephanie Helms noted that Invasive Species Award recipients will be highlighted during Invasive Species Awareness Week and **Member Maroney** added it is the intention to have recipients attend in-person. Members suggested annual grass and fire prevention in eastern Washington, tribal perspectives and impacts of invasive species on tribal lands, and eastern Washington issues as webinar topics.

Member Bush suggested focusing on the economics of invasive species during Invasive Species Awareness Week and highlighting reports that look at the annual cost for mitigation and response efforts.

Item 3: Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention and Readiness Update ([45:20](#))

Member Justin Bush, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife aquatic invasive species policy coordinator, provided an overview of the 2023 quagga mussel incident near Twin Falls in Idaho and shared that continued monitoring efforts detected additional quagga mussels in September 2024 in the same area. In response, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has considered potential pathways that could bring quagga and zebra mussels to Washington, in addition to downstream movement from Idaho. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is working to increase mandatory watercraft inspection capacity and early detection monitoring by adding a dedicated year-round monitoring team.

Mr. Bush also provided a brief update on the August Marimo moss ball zebra mussel incident, which prompted a collaboration with Washington State Department of Agriculture, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and United States Department of Agriculture. All 1,000 Marimo moss balls that entered Washington were found and had not entered the environment. Washington's response is being used as the national model to find the other 25,000 potentially contaminated products. The overall message from this incident is [Don't Let it Loose](#) and highlights the importance of increasing awareness for prevention.

When Idaho's quagga mussel detection was announced last year, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife responded by developing short term actions to prevent and prepare for the invasive mussels, including a new state response plan. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is increasing awareness and engagement by emphasizing the [Clean, Drain, Dry](#) campaign, which prevents invasive species of all kinds.

In March, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife began working with Oregon to address their shared waters of the Columbia River. In October, both states convened a joint state working group to develop near-term actions. A final report on findings and recommendations is expected to be completed in December. Mr. Bush suggested zebra and quagga mussels as a webinar topic for Invasive Species Awareness Week.

On December 3, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife hosted a quagga and zebra mussel prevention and readiness summit in Spokane in partnership with the

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region. The summit covered Idaho's quagga mussel response; roles, prevention, and readiness actions; perspectives of water users; Tribal cultural resource impacts and management implications; federal updates and opportunities; legislative perspectives and response panel; and near-term actions and next steps. Mr. Bush highlighted the Snake River site-specific response plan, noting other jurisdictions are considering developing their own site-specific plans, including Lake Whatcom and the Pend Orielle River. The council can anticipate inclusion in the process and the Snake River plan to be complete by June 2025.

Currently, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is performing risk assessment and a mitigation system scoping analysis and looking at existing guides like [Preparing for Invasive Mussels: Vulnerability Assessment Guide for Raw Water Infrastructure](#) from the Canadian Okanagan Basin Water Board and working with the United States Geological Survey to develop a United States focused version with increased information on mitigation systems by July 2025.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife was provided \$1.8 million of the state general fund for one year and leveraged \$1.81 million through the United States Army Corps of Engineers to begin implementing the short-term actions and have executed an agreement with the Pacific State's Marine Fisheries Commission. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted a \$7.2 million request to State Legislature for quagga and zebra mussel prevention; readiness; outreach, education, and public engagement; and building local government and Tribal capacity in the 2025-2027 biennium. Half of this funding would be federal funds.

Lastly, Member Bush alerted the council to a recent golden mussel detection around Stockton, California on November 6. This is the first golden mussel detection in the United States. They behave and have similar impacts to quagga and zebra mussels but prefer to settle in soft sand. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is working to create a Washington State risk assessment for golden mussels as boats from this area are known to have traveled to Washington and as far as Alaska.

Member Hass noted the latest Puget Sound Action Plan does not include ballast water and would like to look for a complementary way to include ballast water as a transport mechanism.

Member Maroney asked if Fin, the mussel sniffing dog, could detect golden mussels. Member Bush noted that additional training for canines is needed, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is procuring an additional canine next year. Additionally,

the agency is looking at how many targets a canine can have with the addition of this emerging mussel.

Item 4: Celebrating the Successful Eradication of Northern Giant Hornet in Whatcom County ([1:21:08](#))

Member Sven Spichiger was honored to announce, in collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture, a celebration of the successful eradication of the northern giant hornet from Whatcom County with an event on Wednesday, December 18 at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal. Member Spichiger provided a recap of the 2020 detection of northern giant hornet in Whatcom County and the efforts involved in the successful eradication.

Please note: the celebration event was cancelled in response to travel restrictions for cabinet agencies announced on December 2.

BREAK: 10:35 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

Item 5: Protecting Washington's Sagebrush Biome – Boot Brush Project, A Year in Review ([1:38:01](#))

Maria Marlin provided an overview of the sagebrush biome, which is home to 350 species of plants and animals considered to be species of conservation concern. Intact sagebrush environments provide food products from livestock production, hunting opportunities, recreational opportunities, and provide water for municipal, industrial, and irrigation uses. Noxious weeds in the shrub-steppe lead to more frequent and expansive wildfires, damage habitat and infrastructure, threaten human safety, deplete soil water, reduce grazing land, and are expensive to manage.

Fifty boot brush stations were funded by the United States Forest Service Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to limit the spread of noxious weeds in the shrub steppe of eastern and central Washington. The stations include a customizable weather-proof sign panel with the patented [PlayCleanGo](#) campaign, wooden panels, and a boot brush. Thirty boot brushes were distributed in 2024 and the remaining twenty will be distributed in 2025. Interested organizations applied. Sites that were recently burned, trailheads, restoration sites, areas bordering agricultural land, sites that are already being treated for noxious weeds, and sites with heavy usage were all considered.

Ms. Marlin explained improvements that will be made to the process in 2025, including the addition of secondary contacts and an estimated installation timeframe to the interest form, a smoother customization process for signs, and cultural resources

assessment guidance in accordance with Executive Order 21-02. Council members were invited to help spread information about the boot brush interest form.

Member Willard noted that there would be many seeds around the used boot brushes and asked if there was a plan to manage the area immediately around each station. Ms. Marlin noted there is a section in the application that notes that each organization is responsible for the boot-brush station maintenance. Ms. Marlin added there is funding available to purchase handheld boot brushes and that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife also has council-branded boot brushes.

Item 6: Invasive Species Awards Recognition Ceremony ([1:55:52](#))

Past Chair Joe Maroney presented the Invasive Species awards. State Representative Mary Dye received the Distinguished Leader Award for displaying outstanding leadership, direction, advocacy, and support to invasive species policy, prevention, or management, and playing a crucial role in securing the \$1.8 million proviso for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's invasive mussel response efforts. Evan Hiatt received the Valiant Volunteer Award for going above and beyond to prevent, contain, or manage invasive species in Washington. Specifically, Mr. Hiatt discovered and reported a northern pike in the pond at the Limekiln Preserve on San Juan Island. Jill Silver accepted the Outstanding Organization Award on behalf of the 10,000 Years Institute which provides landscape-scale jobs in restoration across jurisdictions to prevent the spread of invasive species in coastal watersheds on the Olympic Peninsula through their Pulling Together in Restoration Project. Award recipients provided comments on their efforts and awards.

Member Bush noted the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is working with San Juan County Conservation Land Bank to address the population of northern pike on San Juan Island. Of note, the northern pike caught on San Juan Island was genetically distinct from any northern pike populations in the Columbia River in Washington.

Winners will be recognized in a ceremony during the 2025 Invasive Species Awareness Week. Nominations for the 2025 award cycle will open March 20, 2025.

Item 7: Passing of the Gavel and Honoring Chair Blain Reeves ([2:39:16](#))

Chair Blain Reeves highlighted the Department of Natural Resources first annual Spartina Week held in cooperation with the Stanwood Spartina Cooperative on October 21-24. During Spartina Week, crews surveyed the Skagit Bay Estuary for spartina, treated and discovered new spartina sites, and bagged spartina. Chair Reeves spoke about his time on the council, as chair, and his career.

Stephanie Helms thanked Chair Reeves for helping guide her through her first year as the new executive coordinator of the council. **Jessica La Belle** presented Chair Reeves with a gift to commemorate his time as council chair.

Motion: Nominate the vice chair, **Todd Murray**, to become the chair of the Washington Invasive Species Council today (2:54:48)

Moved by: Chair **Blain Reeves**

Seconded by: Member **Justin Bush**

Decision: **Approved**

New Chair Todd Murray called for a nomination for Vice Chair.

Motion: Nominate **Member Mary Fee** (2:57:53)

Moved by: Member **Justin Bush**

Seconded by: Member **Joe Maroney**

Member Fee accepted the nomination.

Decision: **Approved**

LUNCH: 12:07 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Item 8: Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Update and 2024

Accomplishments (3:01:33)

Karen Ripley and Steven Burke joined the meeting online at 1:15 p.m. after lunch.

Susan Brush, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination section lead, provided an overview of the Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) section that operates five watercraft inspection sites across the state and as of November 15, had inspected 53,722 watercraft, detected thirteen mussel-fouled watercraft, and performed 1,663 decontaminations in 2024.

Ms. Brush provided an overview of the [Call Before You Haul](#) program that provides a twenty-four hour hotline to alert Washington, Oregon, Idaho, or Montana of the movement of watercraft from throughout the country into these states and fills the gap between industry needs and state objectives to maintain protection against the introduction of aquatic invasive species. Ms. Brush highlighted a mussel-fouled boat that was traveling from Lake Michigan to the Puget Sound via Interstate 90 and was intercepted through this program.

WID is following the golden mussel detection in California, as mentioned in Item 3, and is preparing a risk assessment. In 2025, WID will continue optimizing the existing infrastructural investments by ensuring each watercraft inspection station is operating at

full capacity and by directing funds. Also in 2025, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will launch a pilot station on Newport Highway in Spokane County and will investigate site expansion in southwestern Washington.

Member Horton asked if the movement of construction equipment is considered. Ms. Brush noted all aquatic conveyances are required to stop at check stations and a Call Before You Dig notice can be made for construction equipment.

Alternate Member McNatt asked about ballast water transfer protocols. Ms. Brush answered that WID is considering how it can complement the ballast program and port activities. **Member Bush** suggested inviting Dr. Amanda Newsom to discuss ballast water and biofouling at a future council meeting and noted that almost 80 percent of incoming vessels into the state are treating ballast water. **Member Willard** asked if the introduction of golden mussels in the Bay Area was from ballast water. Ms. Brush explained this was the initial assumption; however, with where golden mussels are continuing to be found, it is less known where the initial introduction came from.

Member Bush noted there is space for new partnerships with Washington Department of Ecology around aquatic noxious weeds. **Member Glisson** agreed this would be a good opportunity for collaboration.

Item 9: Invasive Species Strategy for Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda Update ([3:27:37](#))

Member Todd Hass requested council members contribute their expertise to updating the [Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda](#), a four-year plan that charts the course for Puget Sound recovery. The [2022-2026 Action Agenda](#) built a solid foundation and incorporates invasive species in Strategy Fourteen. The Puget Sound Partnership would appreciate the involvement of interested council members to serve as subject matter experts in facilitated content refinement sessions in the coming months to better align the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda with the council's Strategic Plan. Following refinement, the resulting draft content will be open to review and feedback from other close partners and a public review. Member Hass noted the opportunity to create a regional Puget Sound invasive species focus group from the council for this effort and other potential purposes.

Stephanie Helms noted the council has funding available through the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection Act 7721 to organize and host a Puget Sound invasive species workshop, and that efforts refining the Puget Sound Partnership Action Plan and the Washington Invasive

Species Council Strategic Plan updates could help inform future council facilitated workshops and events.

Member Maroney suggested clarifying language used to describe invasive species in the new action agenda and calling out priority species.

Member Bush noted the funding implications tied to the strategic initiatives in the action agenda and strategic plans and emphasized the importance of council involvement for better federal funding opportunities, noting ballast water is not explicitly identified in the action plan.

Ms. Helms will help coordinate the council members willing to participate in this endeavor. Member Maroney asked to clarify what type of input the Puget Sound Partnership was looking for from the council. Ms. Helms noted that recommendations and activities are outlined in the [meeting materials](#) and that Puget Sound Partnership is looking for subject matter experts. Ms. Helms will be developing a clarifying guidance document.

BREAK: 1:53 P.M. – 2:05 P.M.

Item 10: Strategic Plan Update for 2026-2030 – Brainstorming Kickoff ([4:04:57](#))

Stephanie Helms provided an overview of the key priorities, achievements, and next steps for each of the six key strategic areas: leadership and coordination; innovation and research; education and outreach; prevention; early detection rapid response; and containment, management, and eradication. Goals and a timeline for the strategic plan working group are included in the [meeting materials](#). Throughout the process, the council will have opportunities to review and provide feedback on strategic plan updates. The proposed timeline will begin with a working group convening in January and end in July with a final draft of the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

Members expressed concern about the timeline and emphasized the importance of the initial process being discussed by the council. Members would like to be involved but with the short timeline are unable to be. **Member Bush** suggested extending the timeline past the Legislative session. Members supported dedicating a large portion of the next council meeting to rank priorities as a large group and then breakdown to a working group for additional steps. **Member Willard** volunteered for the working group and suggested a gap analysis.

Ms. Helms would rework the timeline based on feedback and plans to dedicate the March meeting to this topic. Additionally, the surveys will be restructured to optimize council feedback.

Item 11: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion ([4:44:22](#))

Hearing a desire to dedicate a large portion of the March meeting to the Strategic Plan Update, **Stephanie Helms** provided a list of additional topics for future meetings throughout 2025, including a Washington Department of Transportation drone update, the [Call Before You Haul](#) campaign, whirling disease, an overview of Caulerpa, a deeper briefing from the 10,000 Years Institute, a discussion on bylaws, and a National Invasive Species Awareness Week debrief. **Member Bush** suggested a state agency budget update roundtable.

Members discussed potential travel meeting locations and with support for holding the travel meeting in Bellevue, which could coincide with the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region 2025 Conference and draw a larger audience.

Alternate Member Shawn Ultican, Washington Department of Ecology, noted a draft permit for [zostera japonica eelgrass management](#) is available for review and comment through January 14, 2025. Two additional permits will be renewed 1) aquatic plant and algae in 2025 and 2) noxious weed control in 2027. The Washington Department of Ecology and Ms. Helms will coordinate to include the council in the review process.

Member Bush noted the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife applied for funding from the Washington Commission on Integrated Pest Management to investigate anecdotal evidence that *Spartina anglica* may be becoming resistant to imazapyr and suggested the council hear a spartina update at a future meeting.

General Public Comment

None.

ADJOURNED: 2:56 P.M. ([4:55:58](#))

The next council meeting will be held on March 20, 2025, Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington 98501.

STRATEGIES

Continue and refine an integrated planning approach to prevent, manage, and mitigate the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, including (but not limited to) European green crab, invasive fish, and invasive plants.

Actions for 2026-2030 include:

- Collaborate and coordinate monitoring and mitigation with Tribal co-managers , across state and local agencies, and other partners;
 - Ensure language is inclusive of tribal nations broadly to include both treaty and non-treaty tribes
 - Include federal agencies to make connection to Puget Sound Federal Task Force
- Increase surveillance to detect invasive species and better understand pathways of introduction;
 - Connect to concrete response plans
 - Develop and synchronize monitoring and reporting data analysis tools using GIS for data sharing
 - Identify and address barriers in funding and procedures to avoid constraints for monitoring (example: lab capacity)
 - Clarify and communicate roles and responsibilities between partners
- Expand response networks for coordinated rapid response to and management of invasive species;
 - Include community groups for long term management where possible
 - Maintain and strengthen a lead to guide expanded response networks
- Ensure field staff from all jurisdictions are trained in recognizing, reporting, and preventing invasive species.
 - Take state agency trainings and broaden to all organizations and individuals through groups like the Washington Invasive Species Council
 - Train groups through lens of habitat – what priority species could show up in certain habitats, and train active field staff accordingly
- Support short and long-term studies to test innovative invasive removal and management approaches;
 - Identify forum in which these key questions get defined and prioritized
 - Develop central information clearing house for easy reference
 - Crosswalk scientific recommendations to management metrics
 - Look at using scientific studies to improve existing mitigation approaches, along with new innovative ones
 - Engage other regions with existing invasive species issues to better understand management approaches
 - Raise awareness of potential new research opportunities to research entities
 - Celebrate and advertise research successes through groups like Washington Invasive Species Council to build upon momentum
 - Strengthen relationships between managers and researchers
 - Develop “shovel ready” prioritized research projects for strong funding proposals
- Improve and strengthen regulations, invasive species prohibitions and ballast water management;
 - Identify gaps in results from regulations and support development of criteria for agency rulemaking
- Increase public awareness and access to state and local mandatory watercraft inspection stations to inspect and prevent invasive species (such as zebra and quagga mussels, or aquatic noxious weeds) along roadways and ports-of-entry;

- Understand and support efforts outside of Puget Sound, understanding that those efforts will protect Puget Sound
- Support and encourage community-led efforts to prevent, reduce and manage invasive species.
 - Develop and support networks for distributing resources to community groups
 - Maintain visible action and support from agencies to encourage and support community-led efforts
- Expand local programs (for example, Green City Partnerships) that offer volunteer stewardship opportunities and learning to promote native plant care, planting, invasive species prevention and management.
 - Might be better combined with next point and housed under Strategy 2
 - Maintain and strengthen support, rather than expand beyond a group's existing capacity
 - Emphasize wholistic approach to invasive species through restoration and protection
- Expand training, technical and financial support for community science to monitor invasive species.
 - Recognize communities may be needed beyond monitoring (management)
 - Advocate for funding for educational institutions that are qualified to support trainings
- Continue and increase research to understand the potential for climate change to exacerbate or mitigate the spread of invasive species.
 - Combine with point below
 - Identify and understand nexus between climate change, invasive species expansion, and disease transmission to develop predictive decision support tools as outlined in Puget Sound Federal Task Force Action Plan
 - Understand how climate change affects or creates pathways of spread
- Continue incorporation of climate change information and resilience into integrated planning, research, monitoring and management of invasive species.
 - Quantify and understand how climate change and urbanization stressors exacerbate invasive species spread and subsequent impacts on vulnerable native species as identified in Puget Sound Federal Task Force Action Plan

Develop, continue, fund, and implement coordinated outreach and education programs that incentive and increase awareness and motivate action for Puget Sound residents to reduce the spread of invasive species.

Actions for 2026-2030 include:

- Develop, fund, and assess projects and programs that aim to affect behavior change or support new stewardship behaviors for invasive species prevention, management and mitigation, particularly for culturally-relevant projects or programs.
 - Advertise regional opportunities, such as upcoming Puget Sound Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop hosted by Washington Invasive Species Council, to capture larger regional audiences within Puget Sound
- Leverage and improve existing preK-16 formal and informal educational curricula to include invasive species awareness, identification, reporting, and prevention of invasive species.
 - Expand accessibility to existing educational materials from the Washington Invasive Species Council
- Continue improvement and deployment of culturally-relevant education and signage at public boat launches for both marine and freshwater bodies about invasive species prevention;
 - Combine with point below
 - Connect with state agencies with existing signage resources
- Continue improvement and deployment of culturally-relevant educational flyers about invasive

species prevention when registering watercraft or purchasing fish and shellfish harvest licensing, both in-state or out-of-state;

- Combine with point above
- Continue and strengthen studies and reports documenting connections between invasive species and their impacts on the Puget Sound ecosystem, treaty protected resources, human health, economic and community resiliency.
 - Continue to expand educational networks and connect existing ones to further broaden educational impacts
- Collaborate with pet retailers, horticultural nurseries, native plant and gardening groups, and schools in education on native plant benefits and impacts of non-native plants or impacts of releasing unwanted animals into the wild.
 - Expand creation and distribution of 'Don't Let It Loose' campaign outreach materials to retailers
- Continue development and deployment of information on the potential for climate change to exacerbate or mitigate the spread of invasive species.
 - Streamline with points in Strategy 1

Washington Invasive Species Council

By-Laws

March 6, 2025

Italicized Text: Statutory language

(Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.310 to 79A.25.360)

Official Designation

The name of this organization shall be the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC).

Purpose, Scope, and Vision

Purpose

The purpose of the council is to provide policy level direction, planning, and coordination for combating harmful invasive species throughout the state and preventing the introduction of others that may be potentially harmful.

Scope

The council will address invasive species, which include nonnative organisms 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 nonharmful exotic organisms.

Vision

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

Staff Support Host and Administration

Staff support to the council shall be provided by the Recreation and Conservation Office and from the agencies represented on the council. For administrative purposes, the council shall be located within the office.

The Recreation and Conservation Office's Executive Coordinator will be the executive support staff to the council, in addition to other staff as needed. Staff shall work on behalf of the council, while directly reporting to the Recreation and Conservation Office director or their designee. The Executive Coordinator may supervise staff also working on behalf of the Washington Invasive Species Council.

To execute the duties and achieve the goals of the council between meetings, the council delegates authority to the Executive Coordinator to speak on its behalf and make executive decisions around the creation of working groups and other advisory committees, providing comments or letters using the council's approved strategy and decision on record as guidance.

The Executive Coordinator will compile a report of such actions and provide a staff report at each regular meeting.

Duty, Goals, and Expectations of the Washington Invasive Species Council

Duty

The council is a joint effort between local, tribal, state, and federal governments, as well as the private sector and nongovernmental interests. The council will foster cooperation, communication, and coordinated approaches that support local, state, and regional initiatives for the prevention and control of invasive species.

Goals

The council's goals are to:

- i. Minimize the effects of harmful invasive species on Washington's citizens and ensure the economic and environmental well-being of the state;*
- ii. Serve as a forum for identifying and understanding invasive species issues from all perspectives;*
- iii. Serve as a forum to facilitate the communication, cooperation, and coordination of local, tribal, state, federal, private, and nongovernmental entities for the prevention, control, and management of nonnative invasive species;*
- iv. Serve as an avenue for public outreach and for raising public awareness of invasive species issues;*
- v. Develop and implement a statewide invasive species strategic plan as described in Article 5;*
- vi. Review the current funding mechanisms and levels for state agencies to manage noxious weeds on the lands under their authority;*
- vii. Make recommendations for legislation necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;*
- viii. Establish criteria for the prioritization of invasive species response actions and projects; and*
- ix. Utilizing the process described in subsection (ix.) of this section, select at least one project per year from the strategic plan for coordinated action by the Washington invasive species councilmember entities.*

Expectations

As stated in the November 28, 2006, founding meeting of the council by then Governor's Chief of Staff, Tom Fitzsimmons, the "expectations of the council are:

- To be collaborative across agencies and disciplines.
- To be creative and bold.
- To consider both economic and environmental ideas.

- To think outside of agency missions.
- To be action oriented.

The outcome should be bold and comprehensive.”

Statewide Invasive Species Strategy

The council shall develop and periodically update a statewide strategic plan for addressing invasive species. The strategic plan should incorporate the reports and activities of the invasive species committees and working groups, the state noxious weed control board, and other appropriate reports and activities.

The strategic plan must be updated at least once every three years following its initial development. The strategic plan must be submitted to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by September 15th of each applicable year. The council will develop a five-year strategy, reviewing and reprioritizing priority actions as needed in year 3 to guide the remaining 2 years.

Each state department and agency named to the council shall, consistent with state law, make best efforts to implement elements of the completed plan that are applicable to the department or agency.

Contents

The strategic plan must, at a minimum, address:

- I. *Statewide coordination and intergovernmental cooperation;*
- II. *Prevention of new biological invasions through deliberate or unintentional introduction;*
- III. *Inventory and monitoring of invasive species;*
- IV. *Early detection of and rapid response to new invasions;*
- V. *Control, management, and eradication of established populations of invasive species;*
- VI. *Projects that can be implemented during the period covered by the strategic plan for the control, management, and eradication of new or established populations of invasive species;*
- VII. *Revegetation, reclamation, or restoration of native species following control or eradication of invasive species;*
- VIII. *Tools that can be made available to assist state agencies that are responsible for managing public land to control invasive noxious weeds and recommendations as to how the agencies should be held responsible for the failure to control invasive noxious weeds;*
- IX. *Research and public education on invasive species prevention, control, and management;*
- X. *Funding and resources available for invasive species prevention, control, and management; and*
- XI. *Recommendations for legislation necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.*

Washington State Invasive Species Council Membership

Statute

Per state law, the council includes representation *from the following entities*:

- *The Washington State Department of Agriculture, represented by the director or the director's designee;*
- *The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, represented by the director or the director's designee;*
- *The Washington State Department of Ecology, represented by the director or the director's designee;*
- *The Washington State Department of Natural Resources, represented by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee;*
- *The Washington State Department of Transportation, represented by the secretary or the secretary's designee;*
- *The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, appointed by the board;*
- *A county located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains, appointed by the other members of the council; and*
- *A county located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains, appointed by the other members of the council.*

The council must invite one representative each from the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Coast Guard to participate on the council in a nonvoting, ex officio capacity.

The councilmembers may add members to the council as the councilmembers deem appropriate to accomplish its goals.

Additional Members Added to Accomplish Council Goals

Since 2016, the council has added the following councilmembers:

- A tribal nation located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains, appointed by the other members of the council.
- A tribal nation located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains, appointed by the other members of the council.
- A representative of the Washington State University, appointed by the other members of the council.
- A non-governmental organization representing the conservation sector, appointed by the other members of the council.
- A representative of industry, selected by the council's industry advisory panel to represent the panel on the council.

- The Puget Sound Partnership, represented by the director or the director's designee, appointed by the other members of the council.
- The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, represented by the director or the director's designee, appointed by the other members of the council.
- The Washington Office of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, represented by a Washington Office council member or a member's designee, appointed by the other members of the council.
- The U.S. Forest Service, represented by the state, private, and tribal forestry director or the director's designee, appointed by the other members of the council.
- A representative of the U.S. Coast Guard, recommended by a Commander of the Seattle District and appointed by the other members of the council.
- A representative of the U.S. Department of the Interior, recommended by the Senior Advisory for Invasive Species and appointed by the other members of the council.
- A representative of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, appointed by the other members of the council.

See attachment 1, List of Washington Invasive Species Council Members – Council Members for a list of members and status.

Alternates

Council members shall nominate up to three alternates from their organization to attend council meetings on the member's behalf when necessary. Upon nomination, the member shall notify the council on their alternate's voting privileges prior to the meeting. The designated alternate can be changed by written request to the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Executive Coordinator at any time.

Voting

While undefined in statute, non-federal member agencies named in statute and non-federal member organizations added to the council as deemed appropriate are considered voting members.

The council strives for consensus whenever possible and encourages ex officio non-voting members to provide their input on decisions, while acknowledging that any input thus provided is not official.

Each member, or in their absence, designated alternate, shall have one vote and must be present to cast their vote. Passage of motions shall require the simple majority of those present and voting. Informal polling for consensus shall not be considered voting. Meetings and voting may be conducted virtually or in person.

Terms

Council members who are agency directors or director's designees, will serve until a request for a change is made by the director. In the event a designee resigns from the council with no request for change, the council will request a new designee from the department director.

Council members representing organizations that are not appointed by a department director will serve a term of the member's discretion.

The Chair of the Washington Invasive Species Council, or the Chair's designee, reserves the right to request replacement of any member who is unable to fully participate in the council or who misses three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the council.

Officers

Chair

The Chair of the Washington Invasive Species Council will be chosen by a majority vote of voting council members. The Chair will serve a term of 2 years following a vote of appointment.

Vice Chair

The Vice Chair of the Washington Invasive Species Council will be chosen by a majority vote of the council members, including members in statute and added by the council. Two years following the vote, the Vice Chair may become the Chair.

Past Chair

The Past Chair of the council will be automatically filled by the Chair of the council following completion of a 2-year term. The Past Chair may be designated to provide specific functions on behalf of the council, such as attending events or providing comments on behalf of the Chair and Executive Coordinator.

Conduct of Meetings

Meetings and record-keeping of the council are subject to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act ([Chapter 42.30 RCW](#)). Materials explaining the provisions of this law are available at the Office of the Attorney General's [Open Government Internet Manual webpage](#).

Key Provisions

Key provisions are stated below:

- i. The meetings are open to the public (RCW 42.30.030).
- ii. Public attendees cannot be required to register their names or provide other information as a condition of attendance (RCW 42.30.040).
- iii. Minutes are to be promptly recorded and open to public inspection (RCW 42.30.035).

- iv. Actions taken and decisions made by a vote of the Council can only happen at meetings open to the public and for which appropriate notice has been provided. Further, votes cannot be made by secret ballot (RCW 42.30.060).
- v. Regularly scheduled meeting dates, times, and places are to be filed with the code reviser in January of each year to be published in the Washington state register (RCW 42.30.075).
- vi. Agendas are to be made available to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled start time of the meeting (RCW 42.30.077).
- vii. The council will provide an opportunity for public comment at each regularly scheduled meeting.
- viii. A quorum is required to conduct a meeting of the council. The only actions that can be taken without a quorum are to fix a time of adjournment, adjourn, recess, or to take measures to obtain a quorum. A quorum requires that a minimum of eight appointed positions on the council be occupied and is defined as a majority of the occupied positions.
- ix. All actions of the council are decided on a majority vote. A majority vote is defined as a majority of the number of voting members present at the meeting.
- x. Council members may participate in meetings, including the casting of votes, in person, by teleconference, or by videoconference.
- xi. Meeting materials (agendas and minutes) will be posted to the council website at: <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/council/meetings/>.
- xii. Parliamentary Procedures - The council's practice and process is not overly formal and is generally established by the provisions set forth above. Where not inconsistent with governing statutes or this document, the Council will consult *Robert's Rules of Order* as needed for guidance regarding its parliamentary procedures.

Advisory Panels, Committees, and Working Groups

The Chair, Vice-Chair or Executive Coordinator is authorized to establish advisory panels, committees, and working groups on an as-needed basis. The Chair, Vice-Chair, or Executive Coordinator will notify the council of new groups at the next regular meeting, sharing information on a statement of its intended scope, duration, and membership.

Additionally, the council has established two standing groups:

Executive Committee

The council Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, Past Chair, and up to three additional council members, whether voting or non-voting. The executive committee may not make decisions requiring open public meetings but may discuss issues and items to place on future council meeting agendas. The Executive Committee will be convened by the Executive Coordinator no less than 4 times per year, around the approximate mid-point between scheduled regular meetings.

Committee members not filling the roles of council officers will serve a term of four years before reappointment by the council or replacement by another member.

See Attachment 1. List of Washington Invasive Species Council Members – Executive Committee Members.

Industry Advisory Panel

The council recognizes the importance of involving industry in fulfilling its duties and goals. Coordinating both public and private efforts on invasive species management will provide operational efficiencies, enhance communications for rapid response, and encourage a broader participation in invasive species prevention and control.

On March 14, 2014, the council approved their Executive Committee's recommendation to create a panel to be comprised of 5 to 7 people representing industries affected by invasive species for a trial period of one year. The council also approved the addition of a member position for industry, with the member being selected by the panelists. In each subsequent statewide strategic plan, the council has extended the panel and intends to do so indefinitely through the by-laws.

For purposes of communicating panel matters and input to the council, the member representing industry will serve as spokesperson unless otherwise decided by consensus of the panel. The spokesperson will also coordinate panel meetings and/or conference calls as necessary, compile meeting notes and/or other relevant information, and communicate consensus decisions to the council. This will apply to both oral and written communications. Individual industry members determine their own internal communication procedures.

Individual industry panel members may at any time pursue independent participation separate from the panel. Nothing in by-laws constrains industry members from engaging in independent policy discussions that may differ from other members of the panel. The panel spokesperson will present information to the council on behalf of the panel once the panel has reached consensus.

Staff support for the panel will be provided by the spokesperson unless support is requested of the council's Executive Coordinator.

Panel Roles

- i. Provide industry information on topical invasive species issues
- ii. Communicate timely any concerns or support for council actions
- iii. Keep respective industry members apprised of Council actions
- iv. Apprise the council of emerging industry issues on invasive species
- v. Assist the Council in strategic planning on invasive species that affect industry
- vi. Provide alternatives, solutions, and recommendations on invasive species management issues

Panelist Responsibilities

- i. Stay informed on council meetings and activities
- ii. Participate in IAP meetings
- iii. Attend council meetings, as appropriate
- iv. Ensure industry communications flow both ways: industry member to industry stakeholders, and industry member to council from stakeholders
- v. Stay up-to-date on relevant invasive species issues

Attachment 1. List of Washington Invasive Species Council Members – Industry Advisory Panel Members

Ethical Responsibilities

Council members are subject to the Ethics in Public Service Act, [Chapter 42.52 RCW](#). The statute includes prohibitions against conflicts of interest, acceptance of most gifts, and release of confidential information. The council and its members will strive to maintain full awareness and compliance with these requirements in the conduct of its work.

Council members are expected to recuse themselves from discussion and decisions on topics and issues for which they have a conflict of interest or where there may be an appearance of a conflict of interest.

Amending the By-Laws

The by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the council membership. By-laws will be revised annually following publishing of the regular meeting schedule with the State Code Revisor, and as needed to change membership, officers, or standing committee or panel membership.

Adoption Date

Adoption Date: March 20, 2025

Chair

Date

Attachment 1. List of Washington Invasive Species Council Members

Council Members

Organization	Council Member	Status
Benton County	Adam Fyall	Voting
Avista Corporation	Marcie Clement	Voting
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Joe Maroney	Voting
King County	Steven Burke	Voting
Trout Unlimited	Alexei Calambokoidis	Voting
Northwest Power and Conservation Council	Stacy Horton	Voting
Puget Sound Partnership	Todd Hass	Voting
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Jason Anderson	Voting
U.S. Customs and Border Protection	Luca Furnare	Voting
U.S. Department of the Interior	Vacant	Ex officio
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Yolanda Inguanzo	Ex officio
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Vacant	Ex officio
U.S. Forest Service	Karen Ripley	Ex officio
U.S. Coast Guard	Lt. Alexandra Mostrom	Ex officio
Washington Department of Agriculture	Sven-Erik Spichiger	Voting
Washington Department of Ecology	Wes Glisson	Voting

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Justin Bush	Voting
Washington Department of Natural Resources	Blain Reeves	Voting
Washington Department of Transportation	Ray Willard	Voting
Washington Parks and Recreation Commission	Andrea Thorpe	Voting
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board	Mary Fee	Voting
Washington State University	Todd Murray	Voting

Executive Committee Members

Role	Council Member	Date of Appointment
Chair	Todd Murray	12/5/2024
Vice Chair	Mary Fee	12/5/2024
Past Chair	Blain Reeves	12/5/2024
Committee Member	Ray Willard	3/23/2023
Committee Member	Sven-Erik Spichiger	3/23/2023
Committee Member	Joe Maroney	3/23/2023

Industry Advisory Panel Members

Organization	Council Member	Role
Avista [Private Utilities]	Marcie Clement	Spokesperson
Taylor Shellfish [Shellfish Industry]	Erin Ewald	Panel Member
Washington State Water Resources Association [Irrigation Industry]	Mike Schwisow	Panel Member
Northwest Marine Trade Association [Marine Industry]	Jay Jennings	Panel Member
Washington Nursery and Landscape Association [Plant Nursery Industry]	William Raynolds	Panel Member
Chelan Public Utility District Number 1 [Public Utilities]	Vacant	Panel Member
To-Be-Determined	Vacant	Panel Member