The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, invasive species, including insects, animals, diseases, and noxious weeds, damage Washington's land and water, harm wildlife, reduce the productivity of natural resources, and hinder effective resource management across the state; and

WHEREAS, the global economic cost of preventing, monitoring and controlling invasive species, combined with the damage they inflict on crops, fisheries, forests, and other vital resources, is estimated to exceed $1.2 trillion over the past 50 years; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are recognized as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide and are responsible for approximately 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 disrupt natural ecosystems by altering fundamental processes such as fire cycles, water availability and flooding patterns; and

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten natural resources, impede industry, endanger agriculture and the food supply, pose risks to human health, and are becoming increasingly difficult to prevent and control due to global commerce and human activity; and

WHEREAS, preventing the introduction of invasive species is far more cost-effective than removing them once established, and an informed and vigilant public plays a critical role in early detection and rapid response;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim February 23-27, 2026, as

Invasive Species Awareness Week

in the state of Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to learn more about preventing the spread of invasive species by visiting invasivespecies.wa.gov.

Signed this 6th day of February, 2026

Governor Bob Ferguson