



Proclamation

WHEREAS, invasive species, including noxious weeds, damage our land and water, harm our wildlife and the productivity of our natural resources, and inhibit use and management of those resources in Whatcom County; 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 \$120 billion annually; and

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

WHEREAS, invasive species impede industry, threaten agriculture and food supply, endanger human health and are becoming increasingly difficult to prevent and manage as a result of global commercialization and human travel; and

WHEREAS, prevention is far less expensive than trying to remove species once they become established, and an educated and aware public is highly effective at detecting introduced species early;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Singh Sidhu, do hereby proclaim February 26 - March 3, 2024 as

Invasive Species Awareness Week

in Whatcom County, and encourage all citizens to participate in activities and events to promote knowledge and understanding of the threats posed by invasive species.

Signed this 9th day of February, 2024

Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

