



King County

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, invasive aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial species, including noxious weeds, negatively influence the productivity, value, and management of a broad range of water and land resources in King County; and

WHEREAS, every year, the costs to prevent, monitor and control invasive species combined with the costs to crop damage, fisheries, forests, and other resources cost the nation \$137 billion; and

WHEREAS, after habitat destruction, invasive species are the second-greatest threat to biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten the survival of native plants and animals, and interfere with ecosystem functions by changing processes such as fire, nutrient flow, and flooding; and

WHEREAS, invasive species impede industry, threaten agriculture, endanger human health, and are becoming increasingly harder to control as a result of global commercialization and human travel; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are a significant threat to almost half of the native species currently listed as federally endangered;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dow Constantine, Executive of King County, do hereby proclaim the week of February 21 through February 27, 2016, to be

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

in King County, and encourage all residents to participate in activities and events to promote knowledge and understanding of the threats posed by noxious weeds and invasive species.



Dow Constantine
King County Executive