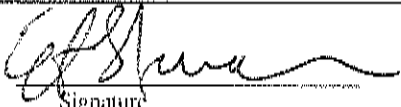


COMMISSIONER'S AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

<u>SUBMITTED BY</u>	Noxious Weed Department	 Signature
<u>AGENDA DATE</u>	3/1/2022	
<u>SUBJECT</u>	Invasive Species Awareness Week in Skamania County	
<u>ACTION REQUESTED</u>	Approve/Sign	

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

February 28 – March 4, 2022 is National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Governor Jay Inslee has formally proclaimed Feb 28- March 4 Washington Invasive Species Awareness Week (WISAW), in conjunction with the national event. WISAW will promote numerous events statewide and will include information on ways that the public can help our efforts in their own communities. One of those events, the Columbia Gorge Invasive Species and Exotic Pest Workshop, will occur on March 3rd.

FISCAL IMPACT

Every year, invasive species cost the nation an estimated \$137 billion. Bringing awareness of invasive species to our county can help minimize their effects.

RECOMMENDATION

Sign and declare February 28 – March 4, 2022 Invasive Species Awareness Week in Skamania County.

LIST ATTACHMENTS

2 copies of proclamation



Invasive Species Awareness Week

February 28 – March 4, 2022

WHEREAS, invasive aquatic and terrestrial species, including noxious weeds, damage our land and water, harm our wildlife and the productivity of our natural resources; and inhibit those resources in Skamania County; and

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

WHEREAS, invasive species are recognized to be the second greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide, after habitat destruction from human development; 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 ecosystem services by changing natural processes such as fire, nutrient flow, water availability, and flooding; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of SKAMANIA COUNTY, do hereby proclaim February 28 – March 4, 2022 as

Invasive Species Awareness Week

In SKAMANIA COUNTY, and encourage all people in SKAMANIA COUNTY to learn more about preventing invasive species by visiting invasivespecies.wa.gov.

DATED: _____
SKAMANIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

Chairman

Prosecuting Attorney

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Commissioner

Clerk of the Board



Invasive Species Awareness Week

February 28 – March 4, 2022

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