

Washington Invasive Species Council



FACT SHEET

Council Members

- Chelan County Public Utility District
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- King County
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Okanogan County
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Transportation
- Washington Noxious Weed Control Board
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
- Washington State University

2015-17 Budget

Base budget.....	\$203,290
State grants.....	\$96,393
Federal grants.....	\$76,879
Other	\$9,052
Total	\$385,614

Washington Invasive Species Council

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Reducing the Risk

The Legislature created the Washington Invasive Species Council in 2006 to improve coordination among state agencies and help the State be more strategic about managing invasive species. By setting strategic goals and convening state and federal agencies and other partners, the council helps ensure that the investments made today are the right investments and will prevent Washington from paying a steep price in the future.



Feral swine, identified on a national forest in July 2016. The council coordinated an interagency response that eliminated the group.

Economic Cost

The economic consequences of invasive species can be devastating. In Washington:

- State agencies and universities spend more than \$25 million a biennium to control invasive species.
- The spartina invasion in coastal estuaries jeopardizes the state's \$77 million annual sales of shellfish and the thousands of jobs provided by that industry in Washington. If not controlled, the total economic impact is estimated to be \$48.6 million.
- Invasive spotted fruit flies are spreading into eastern Washington, threatening the multi-billion dollar fruit industry. The total economic impact by apple maggot, if not stopped, is estimated to be nearly \$392 million.
- If zebra and quagga mussels become established in the lakes and rivers in Washington, the economic impact to water infrastructure and recreation is estimated to be \$1.26 billion.

What are Invasive Species?

Washington State law defines invasive species as non-native organisms that cause economic or environmental harm and which could spread to new areas of the state.

Invasive species arrive in Washington in numerous ways. They are spread easily by wind, water, animals, people, equipment, and imported goods. For example, they can be garden plants gone wild, plants and animals that hitchhike on boats, insects that arrive on imported fruit, or pets and science projects released into the wild. Invading species are able to out-compete and overwhelm local species, disrupting entire ecosystems.

Washington Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet

INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Washington ranks among the top 15 states for diversity of native plants, animals, and birds. But these native species are threatened by invading species across the globe.

Accomplishments

- Since establishment in 2006, the council has brought in more than \$550,000 in federal grants and agreements.
- In 2015, the council updated its strategic plan, committing to actions that will broaden invasive species awareness, increase prevention and coordination, and enhance management resources.
- The council led a stakeholder process to determine long-term, sustainable funding for aquatic invasive species management and prevention and, in 2016, delivered the funding report and recommendations to the Legislature.
- The council has been extended by the Washington State Legislature to June 30, 2022.

Aquatic Invasive Species
Funding Advisory Committee
Report & Recommendations



The 2016 aquatic invasive species funding advisor report and recommendations provided to the Legislature.

Tracking Distribution

The council has done extensive work collecting data on where invasive species are, how quickly they are spreading, how they arrived, what they are damaging, and what programs are in place to address them. This work has resulted in a better understanding of species distribution and gaps in management and has helped managers be more strategic, efficient, and coordinated in their efforts.

Focus on Prevention

The council believes that prevention is the most cost-effective way to deal with invasive species. To prevent the spread of invasive species, the council collaborates with educators, businesses, members, and regional partners to develop effective educational and outreach messages. The council's awareness campaigns are successful at reducing the spread of harmful species such as wood-boring insects, feral pigs, and dreissenid mussels. The council also helps develop decontamination protocols to include in state policy and grant manuals, which helps prevent the introduction of invasive species at state construction sites.

Public Education

Educating the public is the key to preventing new species introductions. The council maintains an education Web site (wise.wa.gov) along with a council Web site (invasivespecies.wa.gov) to educate the public about invasive species. The council also works with educators to develop classroom curriculum to engage students from kindergarten to college.



WA Invasives
smartphone application

Early Detection and Response

The council works with its partners to encourage state residents to help in the early detection of invasive species. The council manages a reporting e-mail system and smartphone app that allow the public to report harmful invasive species. The council then facilitates response actions led by federal, state, and local agencies.