Proclamation

WHEREAS, native plant species are an important part of Washington's heritage, providing important aesthetic, economic and ecological contributions that make Washington a special place to live; and

WHEREAS, Washington enjoys an amazing biodiversity with over 3,000 native plant species, from rain forest plants on the Olympic Peninsula to the desert species in Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, preserving native plant eco-systems is critical for protecting wildlife, birds, fish and water quality in our state; and

WHEREAS, native plant ecosystems protect our watersheds by recharging natural aquifers, modulating stream flows, filtering water and reducing erosion and flooding; and

WHEREAS, over 350 of our native plant species are listed as rare by the Washington Natural Heritage Program; and

WHEREAS, invasive species present a great threat to sustaining our native plant ecosystems and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, climate significantly impacts Washington’s native plants and their habitats, requiring action to protect them from climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the week of April 21-27, 2019, as

Native Plant Appreciation Week

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in appreciating, enjoying and celebrating our floral diversity by learning more about our native plants and their habitats.

Signed this 22nd day of March, 2019

Governor Jay Inslee