

What is an invasive species?

Federal Definition:

The central guidance for invasive species programs at the federal level comes from Executive Order 13112 (http://www.invasivespecies.gov/home_documents/EO_13112.pdf), which created the National Invasive Species Council. This order defines an invasive species as:

“A species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.”

The primary guidance document on this definition is the “Invasive Species Definition Clarification and Guidance White Paper” (http://www.doi.gov/NISC/global/ISAC/ISAC_documents/ISAC%20Definitions%20White%20Paper%20%20-%20FINAL%20VERSION.pdf)

What is Harm?

“A species is a problem when humans define it as a problem. Organisms are just organisms. They’re not moral or ethical; they are just living. Good or bad, that’s a completely human declaration....The fact that certain native species may become less abundant, is that really harm or is that just change?”

—Mark A. Davis (Ecologist at Macalester College author of *Invasion Biology*, Oxford University Press 2009) (Borrell, B. (2011) “A Friend to Aliens” *Scientific American* 304(2):74-77)

Washington State Definition:

“...invasive species include non-native organisms that cause economic or environmental harm and are capable of spreading to new areas of the state. Invasive species does not include domestic livestock, intentionally planted agronomic crops, or non-harmful exotic organisms.”

—Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.310
(http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/what_they_are.shtml)



Purple Loosestrife



Hawaiian Mangroves



Light Brown Apple Moth



Spartina Alterniflora



Japanese Knotweed



Hawaiian Coquí

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www.RachelCarsonCouncil.org

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