



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

SPONGY MOTH INFESTATION

24-03

WHEREAS, there is an imminent danger of an infestation of the non-native plant pests spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar L.*) in the Steamboat Island Road and US Highway 101, Thurston County area (roughly 1,383 acres), and near the town of Concrete, Skagit County area (roughly 920 acres); and

WHEREAS, this imminent danger of infestation seriously endangers the agricultural and horticultural industries of the state of Washington and seriously threatens the economic well-being and quality of life of state residents; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Agriculture has prepared an Environmental Assessment and issued a determination of non-significance tiered to federal agency environmental reviews for spongy moth management in the United States; and

WHEREAS, after thorough evaluation of other alternatives and in accordance with RCW 17.24.171, the Director of the Department of Agriculture has requested that I order emergency measures to prevent or abate the infestation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture proposes as the preferred alternative to use aerial spray applications of the biological insecticide containing the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki (Btk)* (Foray 48B, EPA Reg. No. 73049-427) to kill the spongy moth in its instar (caterpillar) stage beginning in May 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture proposes to conduct aerial spraying with *Btk* under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit # WA0039047 issued by the Department of Ecology for the purpose of invasive moth control.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the authority vested in me under RCW 43.06.010(13), as a result of the above-noted situation, after evaluation of other alternatives and in accordance with RCW 17.24.171, do hereby find that the imminent threat of infestation has created a state of emergency and order the Director of the Department of Agriculture to use

