



**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
16-04**

WHEREAS, there is an imminent danger of an infestation of the non-native plant pest European and Asian gypsy moths, which seriously endanger the agricultural and horticultural industries of the state of Washington and seriously threaten the economic well-being and quality of life of state residents;

WHEREAS, approximately 10,500 acres in western Washington, including a European gypsy moth infestation near Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, and six Asian gypsy moth infestations in Tacoma, Gig Harbor, Kent, Lacey, and Vancouver, are in imminent danger of infestation; and, emergency measures are necessary to prevent establishment of the pest;

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 gypsy moth management in the United States;

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 control the pest; 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) in the seven infestation areas, beginning in mid-April 2016, to kill the gypsy moth in its instar (caterpillar) stage.

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 imminent danger of infestation noted herein, after evaluation of other alternatives and in accordance with RCW 17.24.171, do hereby declare a State of Emergency and authorize the Director of the

