Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington's wildlife and wild places are a core part of life in this beautiful state; and

WHEREAS, Washington's forests and coastlines harbor one of the largest populations of black bears in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Washington is the only West Coast state, excluding Alaska, that is still wild enough to harbor a small number of grizzly bears, a federally-protected threatened species both in the North Cascades and Selkirk Mountains; and

WHEREAS, by educating the public on the ecology, behavior, and conservation of bears, as well as simple safety precautions that are easy to employ, it is possible for people and bears to coexist peacefully; and

WHEREAS, Western Wildlife Outreach and their Grizzly Bear Outreach Project, in partnership with the Woodland Park Zoo, and multiple government and non-governmental organizations, is committed to providing accurate information about bears through innovative events such as Bear Affair, June 4th, 2016, at the Woodland Park Zoo and other programs that educate and engage the public; and

WHEREAS, the people of Washington State take great pride in their state's wildlife legacy, which also attracts thousands of visitors to Washington annually;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim, June 4-12, 2016 to be

Bear Awareness Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 28th day of April, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee