



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

26-01

Spongy Moth Infestation

WHEREAS, there is an imminent danger of an infestation of the non-native plant pest spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar L.*) in the Lake Youngs area in King County and Lakewood in Pierce County (approximately 831 acres); and

WHEREAS, this imminent danger of infestation seriously endangers the forest, 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 State 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 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture proposes to conduct aerial spraying with *Btk* under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit # WAG994675 issued by the Department of Ecology for the purpose of invasive insect control;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, 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 order the Director of the Department of Agriculture to use emergency measures as necessary in the above-noted areas to effect the eradication of spongy

moth, which may include the use of aerial applications of *Btk*.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 27th day of April A.D., two thousand and twenty-six, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/

Secretary of State