



ATNI Winter 2025 Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 08

“INVASIVE SPECIES FUNDING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the introduction and establishment of invasive species to the U.S. (intentional or unintentional) can pose a significant threat to native and plant communities; and

WHEREAS, the global economic cost to prevent, monitor, and control invasive species, combined with the damage to crops, fisheries, forests, and other resources, is estimated to be more than \$1.2 trillion over the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are recognized as the third greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide and played a key role in 60 percent of recorded plant and animal extinctions; and

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten the survival of native plants and animals, including pollinators, and are a significant threat to almost half of the native species listed as federally endangered, including salmon and orcas; and

WHEREAS, invasive predatory species such as Northern Pike, pose a risk to salmon, steelhead, and other resident, treaty-protected fisheries; and

WHEREAS, invasive European green crab, a globally damaging invasive species that poses a threat to native shellfish, eelgrass, and estuary habitat critical for salmon and many other species; and

WHEREAS, invasive freshwater mussels, such as quagga and zebra mussels pose a threat to fisheries, habitat, hatcheries, and passage; and

WHEREAS, invasive plants, such as flowering rush, pose a threat to lakes and riverine habitats and is conducive to salmon and resident fishery predators, such as Northern Pike; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in keeping with the authorities and responsibilities under the Snyder Act of 1921 and other federal laws, regulations, and treaties, BIA works with tribal governments and tribal members in natural resources management programs to enhance the quality of life in tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the BIA, Branch of Fisheries, Wildlife and Recreation (BFWR) provides annual competitive funding to Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal Organizations' projects to address the negative impacts of invasive species on their lands. For the BFWR Invasive Species Program, "invasive species" includes plants and animals that negatively impact Tribes and their natural resources; and

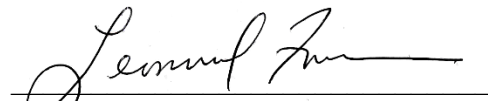
WHEREAS, in recognition that Tribes and Tribal Organizations exert a critical level of effort in managing invasive species, the State of Washington is seeking federal appropriations to include \$8 million to the BIA Invasive Species Program for Northwestern Region invasive species management priorities; now

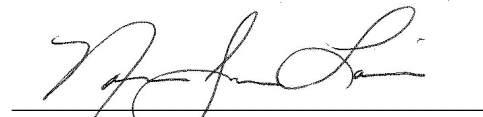
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby acknowledge the importance of invasive species prevention and management and request that the U.S. Congress appropriate \$8 million to the BIA Invasive Species Program for Northwestern Region invasive species management priorities in Federal Fiscal Year 2025 and ongoing; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby commit to identifying priority invasive species of greatest concern to Northwest Tribes, and to develop strategies to further Tribal, Tribal Organization, regional, state, and federal policy as it relates to the prevention and management of invasive species.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Winter Convention held at the Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon on January 26-30, 2025, with a quorum present.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary