

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, trees and forests absorb carbon dioxide, give off oxygen, and store carbon; keep our air clean to breathe and our water safe to drink; provide wildlife habitat; promote physical fitness and improve mental health; mitigate the impacts of climate change; decrease city temperatures on hot summer days; and help conserve energy and ease the stresses of city life; and

**WHEREAS**, communities most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are often areas experiencing reduced benefits from trees due to low tree canopy cover—an environmental justice issue that can be addressed through equitable planting and management of trees; and

**WHEREAS**, planning for the right tree in the right place helps trees to grow strong and healthy, and capable of providing many benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining healthy trees and forests is one of the most cost-effective strategies to combat the negative impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program is working with communities across the state to help local governments, citizen groups, and volunteers manage and care for their urban forests; and

**WHEREAS**, Arbor Day is an opportunity to celebrate Washington's forests and teach present and future generations about the importance of living amongst healthy trees throughout the state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2021, as

### *Arbor Day*

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

Signed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee

