

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1989, 1.2 million African elephants existed in the wild, but today only an estimated 420,000 remain; and

WHEREAS, on average, 96 elephants are killed a day in Africa by poachers for ivory and, at this current rate of approximately 35,000 elephants slaughtered per year, African savanna elephants and their smaller forest cousins will be extinct within two decades; and

WHEREAS, the Asian elephant population has plummeted from 150,000 to an estimated 30,000 elephants in 13 range countries in South Asia and Southeastern Asia due to vast loss of critical habitat and retaliation killing from conflict with humans; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has the second largest market for ivory and federal law does not regulate ivory sales within states; and

WHEREAS, Woodland Park Zoo has joined the 96 Elephants campaign to stop the killing, stop the demand, and stop the ivory trade by educating millions of people about the elephant crisis; and

WHEREAS, around the world, conservation organizations are on the ground fighting poachers and transnational organized crime groups that are behind the large-scale poaching to fund terrorist groups and the illegal drug and arms trade;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor Jay Inslee do hereby recognize Woodland Park Zoo and its 96 Elephants conservation efforts and proclaim September 22, 2014 as

Elephant Appreciation Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to celebrate and support this special observance of African and Asian elephant conservation.



Signed this 18th day of September, 2014

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee