

COMMISSIONER'S ORDER

NUMBER 202010

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Hilary S. Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands

Public health and safety being primary concerns of Washington State residents under State of Emergency Proclamation Numbers 20-05 and 20-25 that aim to dramatically reduce the spread of coronavirus, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources hereby issues this emergency directive.

Whereas, the Department closed all campgrounds and campsites on Department-managed lands beginning March 23, 2020 to reduce public exposure to the coronavirus; and

Whereas, the Department closed all offices to public access on March 20, 2020, directing that continuity of operations continue from remote work locations to meet critical business and emergency service needs; and

Whereas, a period of highest caution has been established by a statewide "Stay Home – Stay Healthy" order; and

Whereas, the Department, under the authority granted in 43.12.065(1) of the Revised Code of Washington and implementation guidance in the Washington Administrative Code 332-52-100, may limit public access to Department-managed lands for purposes of public safety;

I, THEREFORE, NOW ORDER AND DIRECT the following actions:

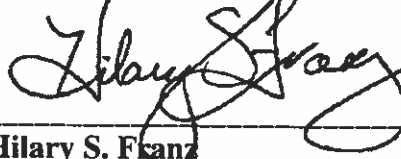
1. Public access for recreational uses will be closed on all Department-managed lands beginning March 26, 2020 and until this order is modified or rescinded, and
2. This closure order includes all public access, whether for dispersed or non-dispersed recreational uses, on public lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources, including state lands, state forest lands, natural area preserves, natural resources conservation areas, or lands under lease to other public agencies where the public agency does not have public use rules of its own or when requested.
3. This public access and recreation closure order does not apply to:
 - a. Any person engaged in commercial or other activities conducted under sale, lease, permit or other authority from the department if the rules are inconsistent with the department's legal obligations to the person engaged in the authorized activity.

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- b. Lands leased to another public agency when that public agency has its own public use rules, unless it has requested that Department of Natural Resources rules apply.
- c. Persons using the waters above state-owned aquatic lands for navigation and other uses associated with the right of navigation under the public trust doctrine, except to the extent that state law and Department of Natural Resources rules control anchorage.

Signed this 25th day of March, 2020.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Hilary S. Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands