



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS



Public safety is the number one concern for DNR, which is why we're asking you to recreate responsibly whether out on the trail or kicking back while camping.

#RecreateResponsibly

Visit dnr.wa.gov/open to see what recreation sites are currently open.

Frequently Asked Questions

Reopening Camping on Public Lands

DNR Will Begin Reopening Camping on June 1, 2020

When are we reopening?

Statewide camping reopened June 1 in most Phase 2 counties of Governor Inslee's "[Safe Start](#)" [reopening plan](#). The Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) campgrounds will reopen on a rolling basis after that date and as more counties move into Phase 2.

What is reopening?

Camping on state lands is opening. This includes both campgrounds and dispersed camping on DNR-managed lands that allow for those activities. Some campgrounds may require repairs or other maintenance and will not be available until later in the summer. Please check www.dnr.wa.gov/open to get the latest information.

Will restrooms or other services be available at these areas?

Restrooms will be open, but you should expect some reduced or limited services. Most DNR restrooms do not have running water or hand sanitizer available, and trash services are not provided. Plan to be self-sufficient by bringing your own personal protective equipment, water, soap, hand sanitizer and toilet paper. Pack everything out when you leave.

Do I need a Discover Pass?

Yes. The [Discover Pass](#) is required to park your vehicle at state recreation lands and water-access sites managed by Washington State Parks (Parks), Washington State Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and DNR.

What are the rules that I need to follow?

- Camping is not allowed within counties in Phase 1 of the state's reopening plan. If you live in one of these counties, please stay close to home and only visit day-use areas.
- If your county is in Phase 2, you can go camping in state campgrounds or in dispersed camping areas that are also located in a Phase 2 county.
- Groups are not to be larger than 5 people unless all group members are from the same household.
- NEVER leave a campfire alone. Campfires are only allowed in dedicated fire rings and no fires are allowed while dispersed camping.
- Continue to follow the [6 Recreate Responsibly Tips](#) (see below).

Will state lands close if there are issues with crowding?

If large groups congregate or there is a lack of adherence to physical distancing protocols, we will evaluate the need for location-based closures. In addition, if other COVID-19 related public safety concerns develop, WDFW, DNR, and Parks may close areas with limited notice to protect public health and safety.



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Reopening Camping

Frequently Asked Questions Continued

How do I keep my family safe?

It is so important that we all continue to practice physical distancing and proper hygiene while visiting our favorite recreation areas. When visiting, it is up to you to be a responsible recreationist and know that there is always a risk of infection when venturing from the safety of your home. However, below are tips for you and your family to minimize risk of infection.

How to camp responsibly:

- Bring all your food and firewood with you to minimize interactions. Do not carry wood more than 100 miles as it can carry pests and disease.
- Avoid making cash transactions and follow camp host guidelines.
- Keep groups small. Camp with your immediate household or in groups no more than five outside your household.
- Follow all state and federal guidelines provided by [Center for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov/).

Why should we take extra care in small communities?

Many small communities are concerned about an influx of visitors that may bring the virus into their community. They may not have the facilities open that out-of-town visitors expect, such as gas stations or local restaurants. Before visiting, take the time to research what is open and available, or better yet, bring all the supplies you'll need.

How many people can I camp with?

According to the reopening plan, camping is part of Phase 2. In Phase 2, no gatherings allowed of five or more people unless all are members of the same household. Washington state is not issuing any group permits at this time and group camping anywhere is still illegal.

Practice These 6 Tips to #RecreateResponsibly:

1. **Know Before You Go** – Check the status of the place that you want to visit. If it closed, don't go. If it's crowded, have a Plan B.
2. **Plan Ahead** – Prepare for facilities to be closed, pack a lunch and bring essentials like hand sanitizer and face coverings.
3. **Practice Physical Distancing** – Adventure only no more than 5 people outside your household while maintaining 6 feet of distance. Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth and give others space. *If you are sick stay home.*
4. **Play It Safe** – Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your possibility of injury. Search and rescue operations and health care resources are both strained.
5. **Stay Close to Home** - This is not the time to travel long distances to recreate. Many places have not opened camping yet or only open for day use. Be aware of what phase your county is in, as well as, the county in which you are traveling.
6. **Leave No Trace** – Respect public lands and communities and take all your garbage with you.

Learn more about these tips by visiting www.recreateresponsibly.org.