



HILARY S. FRANZ  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS



**Public safety is the number one concern for DNR and that is why DNR is asking you to be a responsible recreationist when visiting your public lands.**

**#RecreateResponsibly**

Visit [dnr.wa.gov/open](https://dnr.wa.gov/open) to see what recreation sites are currently open.

## Frequently Asked Questions

# Reopening Recreation & Public Access

## DNR Will Begin Reopening Recreation Sites and Public Access Beginning May 5, 2020.

### When are we reopening?

Governor Inslee announced on April 27, 2020 that statewide recreation will begin reopening the following Tuesday, May 5. DNR recreation site openings will happen on a rolling basis beginning with day-use only recreation areas.

### What is reopening?

All state-managed public lands, including state parks, natural areas, and recreation land on a rolling basis. State-managed boat launches and marinas will be open for day-use services only; no overnight moorage. Recreational fishing for highland and lowland lakes, and the Columbia River and local hunting for turkey and spring bear.

### Does this apply to all DNR managed lands?

This generally applies to all DNR managed lands used for day-use activities, which include trailheads, trails, roads, free flight launch sites, water access sites, day-use areas, and dispersed recreation (off-trail hiking, hunting, target shooting, etc.).

### Is camping reopening too?

No. All camping and overnight accommodations on state lands remain closed until further notice. This includes both dedicated and dispersed camping.

### Why is camping closed?

Campgrounds bring people together and that is why we cherish outdoor adventure. However, this creates a potentially unsafe setting. Visitors stay for days at a time, cook and eat in close proximity, share restroom facilities, and have limited resources for following disinfection and hand washing recommendations. It is imperative that we continue to limit risk and exposure for everyone.

### Will bathrooms or other facilities be open at these areas?

Not at all locations. You should expect reduced or limited services, particularly for those that were closed for the winter. Most DNR restrooms do not have running water or hand sanitizer available. Plan to be self-sufficient by bringing your own personal protective equipment, water, soap, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and pack out anything you bring with you.

### 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.



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## Reopening of Public Lands

# Frequently Asked Questions Continued

### Will state lands close if there are issues with crowding?

If large groups are congregating or there is a lack of adherence to physical distancing protocols, we will evaluate location-based closures at that time. 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.

### How do I keep my family safe?

It is so important that we all continue to practice physical distancing and proper hand 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.

## Tips to Be a Responsible Recreationist

**Plan Ahead** - While many state-managed land destinations are open for day-use, other local and federal lands may still be closed. Pack your lunch and get gas before you go, don't make unnecessary stops to or from your destination. Do not carpool with people other than your immediate household. ***If you are sick stay home.***

**Come Prepared** - Visitors may find reduced or limited restroom services as staff begin the process to reopen facilities. Bring your own soap, water, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper with you. Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth if you find yourself near others with a mask or other facial covering.

**Stay Close to Home** - This is not the time to travel long distances to recreate. If your destination is crowded, be prepared to go somewhere else or come back at another time. Also, make sure to enjoy the outdoors with your immediate household members only. Recreation with those you don't live with creates new avenues for transmission.

**Don't Take Unnecessary Risks** - Health care workers and first responders are working really hard right now to keep us safe during this health crisis. This includes not attending or hosting gatherings like cookouts or barbecues.

**Practice Physical Distancing and Good Hygiene** - Keep six feet between you and those outside your immediate household. Launch one boat at a time to give others enough space to launch safely. Leave at least one parking space between your vehicle and the vehicle next to you. Wash your hands often and try not to touch your face. Practice good hygiene and bring your own water, soap, hand sanitizer, and facial covering with you. Be aware of any high-traffic surfaces and avoid them.

**Leave No Trace** - Take any garbage with you, including disposable gloves and masks. With facilities just reopening there may not be staff collecting trash, be respectful of our public lands and facilities.