



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS



Safety for DNR volunteers and employees is the most important thing.

CONTACT

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Volunteering with DNR

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with DNR! The work of volunteers is vitally important to support DNR's mission, including keeping trails open to all users and campgrounds safe and clean.

As we all work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Washington, we know you have many questions about when you can get back out on the landscape to recreate, and to volunteer!

Now that we have reopened, when will volunteer opportunities restart?

As of July 1, 2020, with staff permission, volunteers are allowed back on DNR lands in counties that are in Phase 2 or further of the governor's Safe Start reopening plan. Please connect with the DNR staff in the region that you would like to volunteer in, or contact Andrea Martin, DNR Recreation Policy Manager, at andrea.martin@dnr.wa.gov with questions about volunteer opportunities.

Are groups allowed to volunteer?

The allowable group size for volunteering will be determined by the reopening phase of the county in which you are volunteering.

- In Phase 2 counties, groups must be 6 or fewer (five volunteers and one leader or DNR staff member).
- In Phase 3 counties, groups must be 11 or fewer (ten volunteers and one leader or DNR staff member).
- If you volunteer directly with DNR as a campground host, participate in Forest Watch, or do trail scouting or maintenance directly for DNR, please reach out to the DNR staff you routinely work with about needs and opportunities.
- If you normally volunteer with one of our non-profit partners (such as Washington Off-Highway Vehicle Association, Washington Trails Association, Friends of Capitol Forest, Backcountry Horseman of Washington, etc.) please connect with that organization directly to learn about group-specific safety guidelines and expectations.



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What if the county I want to volunteer in is in a different stage?

We encourage all our volunteers to recreate and volunteer close to home. Please also make sure you are adhering to travel restrictions for your county before deciding to recreate or volunteer.

When will campground hosts be able to start volunteering?

Camping on state lands has reopened in many regions of the state and some campgrounds are still in need of campground hosts. Please visit <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/volunteer> for a list of campgrounds currently in need of hosts.

When will Forest Watch volunteers be able to start volunteering?

Forest Watch is permitted to start in all counties where volunteerism has resumed. This includes all counties that are in at least Phase 2 of the reopening plan. Please reach out to the DNR staff in your region for more information about needs and updated safety protocols.

What PPE do I need to bring when I volunteer?

In addition to the usual safety gear that trail work and maintenance usually requires, such as leather gloves, hard hat, eye and ear protection, and closed-toe shoes, all volunteers should be prepared to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by bringing a cloth mask or facial covering, eye protection, non-fabric disposable gloves, and hand sanitizer. We also recommend that all volunteers come prepared for limited services and facilities by carrying toilet paper and a garbage bag (or similar) for safely storing any trash and taking it home.

Do I have to wear a mask when I volunteer?

All DNR staff and volunteers must wear a cloth facial covering at all times, even when a distance of 6 feet can be maintained from others. The only time you would be able to remove your mask is if you are working exclusively with members of your household, or working completely alone.