

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HOOD RIVER COUNTY, OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF:

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COUNTY)	
FOREST, ROADS AND TRAILS TO PUBLIC)	ORDER NO. 20-010
PUBLIC USE DUE TO EXTREME FIRE)	
DANGER)	

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency due to imminent threat of wildfire across the state; and

WHEREAS, during the week of September 7th, multiple cities and counties across Oregon have declared a State of Emergency due to catastrophic wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Hood National Forest, portions of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, portions of Oregon St. Parks lands in the Gorge and other large private forest landowners in Hood River County have closures in effect; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Department of Forestry has implemented an Industrial Fire Precaution Level IV, Complete Shutdown of industrial forest operations in Hood River County unless a specific waiver is issued by the State Forester; and

WHEREAS, critical fire weather conditions have been prevalent in Hood River County, including strong winds, low fuel moistures and warm temperatures; and

WHEREAS, due to extreme risk of fire and limited resources to fight fires on County forest, the County Forest Manager recommends closing all Hood River County forestland, forest roads, and forest trails to public use, until further notice; and

WHEREAS, Hood River County Ordinance No. 78 and No. 251 authorize forest road and trail closures to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Hood River County during periods of high fire danger; and

WHEREAS, having considered the recommendation of the Forest Manager at its duly noticed Special Meeting on September 11th, 2020, to enact a new temporary closure Order to mitigate fire risk on County forest and provide for safety and welfare of the people during this time of high fire danger.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Hood River County Order #20-009 is rescinded.

2. All County forest, forest roads and forest trails are closed to all public use, beginning Friday, September 11th, at 1:00 PM.
3. The County Administrator is authorized and directed to coordinate implementation of this Order with Forestry and Public Works including closing forest road gates and installing appropriate signage reflecting the closures and access restrictions directed by this Order.
4. The County Administrator shall reopen County Forest, Forest Roads and Forest Trails to public use once the conditions giving rise to the extreme fire danger have diminished, which effectively will rescind this Order.
5. This Order is not intended to affect private lands, public agencies, fire, police, public works, or other emergency management agencies. The County Forest Manager may issue permits upon request for private landowner access, utility maintenance, etc., as deemed appropriate.
6. A violation of this Order shall be a Class C misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine of up to \$1,250, or 30 days in jail, or both, and a civil infraction enforceable under the County's Enforcement Code (Chapter 1.08).

ADOPTED this 11th day of September, 2020.

HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Michael J. Oates, Chair