

Hood River County is taking steps to limit exposure to and prevent the spread of COVID-19, as such this meeting will be held virtually via Webex. To view and participate in the live meeting you must register prior to joining the meeting. Once you “join” the meeting you will be given the phone number and event/meeting number to use to call in from a phone to listen to the meeting. You may also elect to use the speakers on your device. If you do not have the ability to or do not want to view/participate in the meeting but only listen, you may just call in to listen. The link to the meeting and phone/event number, for call-in purposes, can be found by visiting the Hood River County website then the Board of Commissioners webpage. Thank you.

AGENDA

11:30a.m. Webex Platform

I. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

II. CONFLICTS OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

III. NEW BUSINESS

Forestry

1. Consider a Temporary Full Closure of County Forest Lands
RECOMMENDATION: Approve an Order (to be numbered #20-010 if approved) that rescinds Order 20-009 and authorizes a full closure of County Forest, Forest Roads and Forest Recreational Trails to all public use until further notice. Also authorize the County Administrator or Commission Chair, with input from the County Forester, to rescind Order 20-010 so we can be responsive to actual fire weather condition changes and open the county forest back up as quick/soon as possible.

HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA REQUEST FORM

DATE: 09/11/2020 **DEPARTMENT:** Forestry **NAME:** Doug Thiesies

SUBJECT: Further Closure to County Forestland , Forest Roads and Forest Recreational Use

AUTHORITY: *ORS:* _____ *OAR:* _____

COUNTY ORD.: Ordinance 78

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF SUBJECT:

On August 25, 2020 the Commissioners passed Order 20-009 that closed county forest lands from recreational use between the hours of 9pm-5am to help reduce the risk of fire during this extreme fire danger we are experiencing. Signs have been posted on access to the county forest indicating the partial closure.

Due to the continued extreme risk of fire, fire danger, lack of resources to fight additional fires and the interest of public safety the County Forest Manager recommends a full closure of all Hood River County Forestland, Forest Roads and Forest Trails to all recreational use until further notice. We further recommend the closure be assessed each day with authority given to the County Administrator or Commission Chair to rescind the Order with input from the County Forester so we can be responsive to actual fire weather condition changes to open back up as quick/soon as possible.

Landowners with private property in holdings will continue be issued permits by the Forest Manager.

Some areas will continue to be a passive closure and gate closures will remain in addition to closing additional existing primary road gates on North and South Gilhouley, Post Canyon, Riordan Hill and Binns Hill. Temporary forest road closure signage will be updated to reflect a full closure and placed in areas that may have an imminent threat of fire spread including roads: Fir Mt. The Old Dalles Road, Post Canyon, Riordan Hill, Binns Hill, Kingsley, Lovers Lane, Deadpoint and Green Point, Neal Crk Canyon and Bald Butte Road. The use of readers boards on loan from our Public Works Department will continue to be used as available.

ATTACHMENTS: Multiple 2

FISCAL IMPACT:

Personnel resources to post signage or barricades.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY AFFECTED PARTIES:

COUNTY COUNSEL *FINANCE* *OTHER AGENCIES* *ADMIN*
HR DEPT *APPROPRIATE COUNTY COMMITTEE* *OTHER*

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT:

Close the County Forest, Forest Roads and Forest Recreational Trails to recreational use until further notice.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an Order (to be numbered #20-010 if approved) that rescinds Order 20-009 and authorizes a full closure of County Forest, Forest Roads and Forest Recreational Trails to all public use until further notice. Also authorize the County Administrator or Commission Chair, with input from the County Forester, to rescind Order 20-010 so we can be responsive to actual fire weather condition changes and open the county forest back up as quick/soon as possible.

FOLLOW UP: ORD/RESO/AGMT/ORDER, ETC: ORIGINALS TO R&A
 COPIES TO: _____

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, the Commissioners 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 or Commission Chair, with input from the County Forester, 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 Order 20-010.
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

Mike Oates, Chair