BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HOOD RIVER COUNTY, OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF:

AMENDING ORDER NO. 20-001,
CLOSURES TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS
OF HOOD RIVER COUNTY AND LIMIT
COMMUNITY SPREAD OF
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the Hood River County Board of Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. 2323 declaring a Local State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, activating certain emergency powers authorized by ORS 401.309 and the County’s Emergency Operations Plan; and

WHEREAS, all County buildings and forest recreational staging areas and their restroom facilities are closed to the public, including Post Flats, Family Man, Binns Hill, and Pinemont Drive staging areas; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020 the Governor issued Executive Order (EO-20-12) directing Oregonians to Stay Home, Save Lives, restricting non-essential travel and prohibiting all non-essential social and recreational gatherings of individuals where a minimum 6-foot distance between all individuals could not be maintained as a primary means of reducing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Executive Order was explicit that, while outdoor activities and exercise were permissible, a minimum 6-foot distance between all individuals must be maintained; otherwise, failure to comply constituted an imminent threat and immediate danger to public health because of the contagiousness and virulence of the Novel Coronavirus and mortality of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Governor’s Executive Order and closures of County forest recreational staging areas has not proven effective in Hood River County as visitors have continued to come to the County to hike, bike, gather and recreate. Repeated instances of violation of the social distancing norms have placed County resources and residents at much greater risk of the spread of COVID-19, thereby creating an imminent threat and immediate danger to public health; and

WHEREAS, the continued influx of visitors, turning over on a short-term basis, increases the likelihood of the spread of COVID-19 more than longer term tenancies and threatens the limited health care resources available in Hood River County; and

WHEREAS, on March 25th, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Hood River issued a Declaration directing the City Manager to close Public Parks, Recreation Sites, Transient Lodging Facilities and Campgrounds to Prevent Aggregation of People and Reduce the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus; and
WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, consistent with the City of Hood River, and pursuant to the authority granted the Hood River County Board of Commissioners under ORS Chapter 401, ORS Chapter 431 as the Local Public Health Authority, Resolution No. 2323 and the Hood River County Emergency Operations Plan, the Board of Commissioners adopted Order No. 20-001 to protect the health and safety of its citizens, instituting a temporary order closing all County parks and forests and transient lodging, including RV parks and public and private campgrounds, hotels, motels, short-term rentals and homestay lodging; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) closed recreational hunting, fishing, crabbing and clamming to non-residents due to concerns about travel to Oregon to participate in these outdoor activities. While the closure does not apply to Oregon residents, ODFW guidance states that resident hunters and anglers should not travel outside of their communities and continue to observe social distancing measures. The Board of Commissioners therefore finds that Order No. 20-001 should be amended to allow controlled hunting on County forest for Oregon residents that have been issued ODFW hunting tags for the 2020 Spring season.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. All County parks, forests, forest roads, forest recreational staging areas, facilities and trails are closed to the public for recreational use, excluding controlled hunting for Oregon residents that have been issued ODFW hunting tags for the 2020 Spring season.

2. All transient lodging facilities, including motels, hotels, short-term vacation rentals, hosted home shares, bed and breakfasts, RV parks, and campgrounds are closed to the public. All camping on private property is prohibited, except for those approved by the Hood River County Health Department. Transient lodging facilities may remain open to serve only the following designated individuals:

   a. Current registered guests for a term of longer than 30 consecutive days.

   b. County residents effecting a COVID-19 self-quarantine or who have moved from their local residence in order to allow a family member or roommate to self-quarantine in their local residence.

   c. Families or individuals residing in lodging for less than 30 days if this is their only means of shelter. Includes, but is not limited to, vouchers for stay provided by local or regional governments or nonprofit agencies.

   d. Employees of the facility provided lodging as a requirement or benefit of their employment.

   e. Patients or families of patients receiving medical care at local facilities.

   f. Essential personnel as defined by federal or state law, where lodging within Hood River County is necessary for work involving the safety of human life or the protection of property or performing other work consistent with the intent of this provision, e.g. emergency and public safety responders, truck drivers and supply providers, and construction industry workers.
g. Other individuals as authorized by the Hood River County Health Department.

3. The County Administrator shall communicate and coordinate with the owners, operators and users of transient lodging facilities affected by this Order, which shall take all reasonable steps to terminate current occupancy of any guests not exempted herein by no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, April 3, 2020. No new occupancies in violation of this Order may be rented effective 8:00 am Saturday, April 4, 2020.

4. The County Administrator is authorized and directed to take all necessary steps authorized by law to otherwise effectuate the closures directed by this Order.

5. A violation of this Order or the County’s March 17, 2020 Emergency Declaration shall be a Class C misdemeanor pursuant to ORS 401.990 and a civil infraction enforceable under the County’s Enforcement Code (Chapter 1.08). This Order is a public health law, as defined in ORS 431A.005 and may be enforced as permitted by ORS 431A.010.

6. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall have the full force and effect of law during the declared state of emergency. All existing laws, ordinances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Order shall be inoperative during this period of time and to the extent that such inconsistencies exist.

ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2020.

HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Mike Oates, Chair

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Karen Joplin, Commissioner

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Rich McBride, Commissioner

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Robert Benton, Commissioner

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Les Perkins, Commissioner