BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HOOD RIVER COUNTY, OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF: )

AMENDING ORDER NO. 20-002, )
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, 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 is explicit that, while outdoor activities and exercise are permissible, a minimum 6-foot distance between all individuals must be maintained; otherwise, failure to comply constitutes 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, on April 2, 2020, the Board adopted Order No. 20-001 instituting certain closures to prevent the aggregation of people and reduce the spread of COVID-19, including all County forests, roads, trails, restroom facilities and Post Flats, Family Man, Binns Hill, and Pinemont Drive recreational staging areas; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020, the Board adopted Order No. 20-002, amending Order No. 20-001 to exclude controlled hunting from the recreational closure orders for Oregon residents that have been issued ODFW hunting tags for the 2020 Spring season; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that outdoor recreational activities help to relieve stress and anxiety and that promoting mental health is an important component of mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board is therefore desirous of restoring local access to County forest for dispersed recreational day use for County residents, subject to certain restrictions for maintaining adequate social distancing measures.
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. All County forest trailheads and recreational staging areas, restrooms and facilities remain closed, including Post Flats, Family Man, Binns Hill, and Pinemont Drive. Vehicle access to these staging areas is prohibited.

2. Parking is prohibited along Post Canyon Drive from and between Country Club Road to the 7-Streams Trailhead, and on Riordan Hill Drive from and between Sunset Drive and the County forest boundary.

3. Recreational day use and local access to County forest, forest roads and trails is permitted, provided that individuals comply with EO-20-12, restrict non-essential travel and maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any person who is not a member of their immediate household. Traveling from outside the County to recreate on County forest, forest roads and trails does not comply with the non-essential travel restrictions of EO-20-12.

4. Pursuant to EO-20-12, social and recreational gatherings of any size are prohibited if social distancing between individuals cannot be maintained. Congregating on trails or anywhere within the County forest is prohibited.

5. Users are encouraged to recreate within their physical limits and avoid activities that pose enhanced risks of injury.

6. Individuals having fever, cough or shortness of breath are directed to comply with all state and local public health orders and stay home.

7. The County Administrator is authorized and directed to coordinate implementation of this Order with the Departments of Forestry and Public Works, including installing appropriate signage where feasible, reflecting the closures and access restrictions directed by this Order.

8. 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.

9. Except as otherwise amended herein, Order No. 20-02 shall remain in full force and effect. This Order shall take effect on April 28, 2020 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 23rd day of April, 2020.

//

//