



**Skamania County Community Health
710 SW Rock Creek Drive
Stevenson, WA 98648**

ORDER OF THE SKAMANIA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER CLOSURE OF RECREATIONAL HIKING IN SKAMANIA COUNTY

DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 23, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment up to ninety days, or both.

The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease (“COVID-19”) spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to safeguard the public and protect healthcare resources. The Skamania County Health Officer (“Health Officer”) has determined that steps to limit gathering measures are now necessary in Skamania County (“County”) considering the increasing scope and severity of the threat that COVID-19 poses. Skamania County is a small rural community with relatively little infrastructure available to handle large numbers of COVID-19 infections. Unnecessary travel from larger metropolitan areas for the purposes of recreational hiking in the Skamania County Gorge increases the likelihood of close social interaction both in the parking areas of trailheads, on crowded trails themselves, and during other incidental social interactions resulting from such travel. Local businesses such as at gas stations and grocery stores are ill equipped to handle the volume of interactions while maintaining recommended social distancing. Although not yet confirmed in Skamania County, confirmed cases of infection and increasing instances of community spread in Washington State require the limitations in this Order. Accordingly,

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF RCW 70.05.070
THE HEALTH OFFICER HEREBY ORDERS:**

1. Effective immediately, as of 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2020, and continuing until further notice, all recreational hiking destinations in Skamania County are closed until further notice. This is necessary to control and prevent the spread of a dangerous, contagious disease within the jurisdiction of the Skamania County Health Officer; to maintain health over the territory of this jurisdiction; and to promote the public health. All trailheads/state park access in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area within Skamania County

2. Anyone parking at any trailhead in Skamania County for anything, but emergency needs will be subject to parking infraction, criminal citation, or both.

3. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) Posted on the County Public Health Department website (skamaniacounty.org). (2) It is requested that the Washington State Parks and U.S. Forest Service post this Order on-site in a place viewable to the public, as well as on their website or social media platform.

4. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Order.

5. The Health Officer will continue to assess this quickly evolving situation and may at any time modify, cancel, or extend this Order, or issue additional orders related to COVID-19.
PURSUANT TO RCW 70.05.070, THE HEALTH OFFICER REQUESTS THAT ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH AND ENFORCEMENT THIS ORDER.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Krager".

Steven Krager, MD, MPH Date: March 23, 2020
Skamania County Deputy Health Officer