
File Code: 2720
Date: April 13, 2020

Dear Permittee,

The staff of the Eldorado National Forest hopes that you and your family are safe and well. As we work through the unpredictable and rapidly changing COVID-19 situation, the health and safety of employees and the public continues to be our top priority at the USDA Forest Service.

Outdoor recreation can be beneficial for your health but must be practiced safely. We recommend exercising close to your home and complying with local and state guidance for not traveling for your recreation needs. Stay safe and visit www.coronavirus.gov for additional information on avoiding COVID-19.

Gov. Gavin Newsom published an executive order that directed California residents to heed the public health directives of the state Public Health Officer to shelter in place.

“To protect public health, I as State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health order all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors, as outlined at <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>.”

Order of the State Public Health Officer
March 19, 2020

In addition, Amador and El Dorado Counties have published local guidance regarding COVID-19 as it relates to travelling to and within the counties.

“The Health Officer reiterates that neither Amador residents nor nonresidents should be traveling from their usual places of residence for the duration of the orders by the Governor and Health Officer except as expressly permitted as a means to accomplish essential functions. Staying in short term lodging, defined as lodging for a period of less than 30 days, to facilitate recreation, tourism or "sheltering in place" away from your ordinary residence is NOT an essential function, places undue strain on infrastructure and services, and is NOT permitted under the orders by the Governor or Health Officer”.

Order of the Amador County Public Health Officer
Rita H. Kerr, M.D
March 27, 2020



“The Health Officer reiterates that neither El Dorado County residents nor nonresidents should be traveling from their usual places of residence for the duration of the Governor’s Order except as expressly permitted as a means to accomplish essential functions. Staying in short term lodging, defined as lodging for a period of less than 30 days, to facilitate recreation, tourism or “sheltering in place” away from your ordinary residence is NOT an essential function, places undue strain on infrastructure and services, and is NOT permitted under the Governor’s Order of the Health Officer’s Directive.”

Order of the El Dorado County Public Health Officer
Nancy Williams
March 24, 2020

As a reminder, this excerpt from your special use permit FS-2700-5a, General Terms section, Paragraph H, outlines how recreation residents must comply with state and local requirements:

H. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. In exercising the privileges granted by this permit, the holder shall comply with all present and future federal laws and regulations and all present and future state, county, and municipal laws, regulations, and other legal requirements that apply to the permit area, to the extent they do not conflict with federal law, regulations, or policy. The Forest Service assumes no responsibility for enforcing laws, regulations, and other legal requirements that fall under the jurisdiction of other governmental entities.

Previously approved cabin maintenance projects should be postponed until the governor’s executive order is lifted. Recreation residence repairs needing immediate work to address urgent health and safety concerns should be coordinated with your permit administrator. Be advised that forest staffing is expected to be limited and specific services such as water systems may not be operational. In addition, most developed recreation sites within the forest have been closed.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we all work together to minimize the impacts and spread of the COVID-19. Continuing our service to you during this time is very important. Please contact your permit administrator if you have any questions about this information. We value your partnership in stewarding public lands and advocating their sustainable use.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Berger
ELIZABETH BERGER
Acting Forest Supervisor