

## Outdoor Recreation Resources | COVID-19

*Updated 4/28/20*

The Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is monitoring trail and park closures managed by the various agencies listed below during the COVID-19 crisis. Daily updates will be available in this document as well as through on Colorado's Official Trails App, [COTREX](#).

### County Public Health Orders and Closures

Many counties across Colorado have enacted Public Health Orders restricting travel and services to reduce the spread of the virus. County Public Health Orders are available on the [Colorado Counties Inc](#) website. It's important to honor all local public health orders and restrictions.



**Colorado State Parks remain open, but Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has closed all playgrounds, picnic areas, campgrounds, dispersed camping and camping facilities** (including yurts and cabins) at Colorado's state parks as well as camping at State Wildlife Areas effective March 26 until further notice. This action has been taken based on The

Stay-At-Home Order from Colorado Governor Jared Polis and the advice of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CPW visitor centers, service centers, and offices remain staffed, but are restricting access to the public. Restrictions and closures remain subject to change.

**All Colorado State Parks non-campground outdoor areas of parks, including trails, boat ramps, marinas and shorelines remain open.** Park rangers remain on duty protecting the parks and normal rules and regulations, including the need for a valid daily or annual park pass, apply.

Practice [trail safety etiquette](#) while recreating outdoors and visit parks responsibly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about Colorado's state parks and outdoor recreation opportunities during the COVID-19 outbreak, visit the [CPW website](#).



**Bureau of Land Management-managed (BLM) public lands remain open** to visitors to enjoy in a safe and responsible manner; however, please only visit areas close to home and avoid very popular or crowded locations where social distancing may be difficult. Limit group activities to members of your household. Note that existing rules and regulations apply. Fees for overnight camping, cabin rentals, day use, and use of special areas will remain in effect.

#### **BLM Colorado Closures or Restrictions:**

- Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center & Museum remains closed until further notice.
- Dispersed camping is not permitted on BLM public lands along the Arkansas River until further notice.
- A 10-person maximum group size limit is in effect along the Ruby Horsethief section along the Colorado River is in effect until further notice (permits are available through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)).
- Normal spring mud closures and wildlife closures remain in effect in several areas throughout Colorado.

#### **BLM urges visitors to do their part when visiting public lands as some visitor services may be limited due to limited staff availability in some areas. We recommend that you:**

- Bring your own supplies such as disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper.
- Pack out your trash.
- Reduce the handling of cash by paying recreation fees through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or with a check, where available.
- Keep yourself and others safe by taking personal responsibility in following social distancing rules anytime you are on BLM public lands.

For more information on COVID-19 updates on BLM lands, visit the [BLM website](https://www.blm.gov). Updates are made in real time to adhere to [CDC guidance](https://www.cdc.gov).

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Where it is possible to adhere to federal, state and local public health guidance, **outdoor spaces managed by the National Park Service (NPS) will remain accessible to the public and entrance-fee free. Visitor services such as visitor centers are generally closed.** However, NPS is working to gradually increase access and our services across all units of the National Park System. The NPS will continue to work alongside state and local

officials as these changes are implemented. Park rangers remain on duty protecting the parks, and normal rules and regulations continue to apply.

- NPS encourages visitors to Find their Virtual Park! NPS parks and programs are sharing virtual content on their websites and social media. Check out our [wildlife webcams](#), [virtual tours](#), [Junior Ranger programs](#), [citizen science videos](#), even [coloring pages](#). There are countless ways to #FindYourPark from home.
- Visit the [Active Alerts in Parks](#) webpage for updates on closures. You can also visit our [Colorado National Parks](#) webpage for quick links to general information about each unit.
- The NPS urges visitors to practice the [Leave No Trace Seven Principles](#) to keep outdoor spaces safe and healthy.
- Visitors can be assured that we continue to monitor facilities and services in national parks and maintain health and wellness standards for staff and visitors.

Visit the [NPS Coronavirus webpage](#) for updates about NPS operations.

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**The Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region, national forests and grasslands across Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming, has implemented changes to recreation facilities and activities to minimize the impact and spread of COVID-19.**

**Developed recreation sites within the Region are [temporarily closed](#). Dispersed camping, hiking, and activities are allowed, although discouraged.**

- Closed developed recreation sites include campgrounds, day-use areas, picnic areas, and any other constructed facility amenities such as potable water stations, fire rings/grills, picnic tables, restroom facilities with flush or vaulted toilets, and trash cans and trash collection services.
- Parking facilities, trails and trailheads remain open.
- Dispersed camping includes camping on a national forest or grassland where recreation facilities or services are not provided.
- [Fire restrictions are also in effect](#). Fire restrictions will prevent the drawdown of fire and medical resources to unwanted human-caused wildfires and reduce firefighter exposure to COVID-19 during the current pandemic.

Forest and grassland visitors camping in dispersed recreation sites, hiking or embarking on river activities are encouraged to obey fire restrictions and recreate safely and responsibly.

Visitors are encouraged to "Know Before You Go." Check the Forest Service's new [online tool](#) for current recreation updates and closures across national forests and grasslands in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.



**While most U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) visitor centers and other visitor services are temporarily unavailable, outdoor recreation areas and trails are generally open** during regular operating hours, with some exceptions.

Visit the [USFWS closures webpage](#) for Colorado-specific updates.



The Travel Center in Towaoc is open 5:00am - 7:00pm each day, but is available for credit card sales 24 hours per day. The Casino, Hotel and Resort is closed. The Tribal Park is closed. The RV Park is closed.

Visit the [Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park website](#) for more information.



Several outdoor areas including parks managed by the Southern Ute Tribe are closed to public visitors.

Lake Capote (located at U.S. 160 and CO Hwy 151) is open to tribal members only.

The following locations are closed to all visitors:

- Veterans Memorial Park (Weeminuche Drive and Capote Drive, Tamuche Circle, CR 517)
- Piwood Circle Ute Road facilities (Including the basketball court, soccer field, playground, and Memorial Chapel)
- Patrick Silva Memorial Softball Field
- Cedar Point Townhome Park
- Shadow Spirit East Street
- Cedar Point East Park

- Lodge Pole Way



For more information regarding Colorado's current guidelines and restrictions on outdoor recreation, visit the [Department of Natural Resources' COVID-19 FAQ](#) page.