



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Bushkill, Pennsylvania 18324

10.D. (DEWAVRP)
Closure Order #[20-001]

April 14, 2020

Closures, restrictions and public use limits:

Closure Order – Portion of a Park Area:

In accordance with Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 1.5, authorized by Title 16, United States Code, Section 3, the following temporary closure is established for the proper management, protection, government, and public use of the portion of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. This discretionary regulation is in addition to the other regulations published in Title 36, CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 2 through 7.

- All park facilities, including the park visitor centers, volunteer-run partner locations, SSTs, and comfort stations
- Pocono Environmental Education Center Trail System
- Kittatinny Point parking areas
- Extension of all winter closures until May 22, 2020:
 - **Pennsylvania**
 - Dingmans Access
 - Dingmans Falls Visitor Center and Parking Area
 - Hialeah Picnic Area
 - Group Campgrounds
 - **New Jersey**
 - Mountain Road
 - Blue Mountain Lakes Road/Crater Lake Area
 - Watergate
 - Namanock
 - Old Mine Road Dirt
 - Group Campgrounds
- All river and AT camping until May 22, 2020

Authority: **36 CFR 1.5**

Notice: This administrative order applies to all individuals subject to the regulatory authority of the National Park Service (NPS) within the boundaries of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, including park visitors, government employees, concession

employees, park residents and stakeholders, except as required by essential government activities as approved.

Finding: The NPS issues this administrative order for the purposes of maintaining public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. This order is consistent with the following public health directives:

Federal

- On March 28, the CDC issued a Domestic Travel Advisory for NY, CT, and NJ. “Due to extensive community transmission of COVID -19 in the area, CDC urges residents of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut to refrain from non-essential domestic travel for 14 days effective immediately.”
- CDC guidance on social distancing of maintaining at least six feet of space between individuals and limiting group size to fewer than ten people.
- On March 28, The National Park Service closed all overnight shelters and privies on lands administered by the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Office.

New Jersey

- On April 7, Governor Murphy closed all NJ State Parks and Forests:
 - EO118: “WHEREAS, recent instances of non-compliance with Executive Order No. 107 have continued in the State Parks and Forests despite verbal warnings and orders to disperse gatherings, ejections from the parks, and the issuance of citations by law enforcement”;
 - “ All State Parks and Forests and county parks must close to the public as long as this Order remains in effect.”
- On March 21, 2020, Governor Murphy of New Jersey enacted
 - EO 107 : “WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, I have instructed all State departments and agencies to utilize work-from-home arrangements for both essential and non-essential employees wherever feasible;” and “Nothing in this Order shall be construed to limit, prohibit, or restrict in any way the operations of the federal government, or the movement of federal officials in New Jersey while acting in their official capacity.”
 - EO 108 which follows a unitary command structure; also states “parks can vary widely in their nature, with some large parks being suitable locations for outdoor activities that can be practiced using social distancing, while other parks can attract large, crowded groups of people that pose significant public health concerns.”
 - 3/21/2020 NJ Stay at Home Executive Order - effective until rescinded by the governor (EO 107).

Pennsylvania

- 4/1/2020 PA Stay at Home Executive Order - effective until 4/30/2020.
- On March 23, Governor Wolf issued a “stay at home” order for Monroe County (PA); on March 25, Governor Wolf issued a “stay at home” order for Northampton County; on March 27, Governor Wolf issued a “stay at home” order for Pike County.

- Pennsylvania State park and forest facilities are closed including park and forest offices and visitor centers, restrooms, overnight accommodations (campgrounds, cabins, etc.), and public programs and events; private nonresidential RV parks have closed.

These directives require the NPS to take the actions identified above because:

- Public health directives require social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. Allowing visitors in park facilities or on the PEEC trails may violate the requirement that persons stay at least 6 feet from each other. Additionally, the park used 2019 Search and Rescue data to identify hot spots and reduce risk to visitors and search and rescue personnel.
- Closure of the Kittatinny Point parking areas is in coordination and consultation with the NJ Worthington State Forest. This area showed significant overuse with potential for safety and health hazards.
- Winter closure extensions allow the reduced park team to focus on currently open operations, rather than expanding operations into already closed areas, reducing exposure to park employees.
- Closure of camping along the river and AT is in compliance with other NPS units along the AT and both NJ and PA state park overnight accommodation directives.

This order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice. The effectiveness of this order will be assessed on an ongoing basis, and the order will be modified or rescinded when conditions warrant.

Approval: _____
Superintendent

Date