

**Forest Service**

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News Release



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Phased Reopening of Forest Service Recreation Facilities

Everett, Wash. – Starting May 22, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS) will begin a phased reopening of trailheads, day-use areas, and other developed recreation sites. “We are making every effort to expand access within the context of CDC guidelines and state and local government orders for residents,” said Nicole Branton, acting forest supervisor. “To align with our Washington State partners, we will be reopening sites where we can do so safely.”

Most trailheads and day use facilities will reopen on May 22. Campgrounds will remain closed during this first phase so forest staff and concessionaires can prepare them for operation. Additionally, some trailheads and day-use areas are still snow covered or inaccessible due to winter storm damage and may remain closed until access can be restored.

Restrooms will be closed; garbage service and water facilities will be unavailable. Visitors should plan to be as self-sufficient as possible, this includes bringing their own water, knowing how to properly dispose of human and dog waste, and packing out all garbage. “The level of service we can provide will depend on several factors, including workforce capacity, and the ability to provide services in a manner that is safe for our employees,” public



services staff officer Mike Schlafmann said. “Many operational tasks we normally do to prepare for opening recreation sites have been delayed, we will be working to complete these tasks and prepare for sites to open while protecting the health and safety of our employees, volunteers, partners, recreation providers, and the public.

Forest visitors are encouraged to know before they go. Check ahead of time to find out what local conditions and closures may be. Please help protect and respect your public lands and follow social distancing guidelines when in parking areas, trailheads, and on trails. [Check road and trail conditions here.](#)

For more information regarding available recreational opportunities, please visit our website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/mbs>



The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, with headquarters in Everett, Wash., is one of the most visited forests in the country. Located on the west side of the Cascades between the Canadian border and Mt. Rainier National Park, you will find glacier-covered peaks, spectacular mountain meadows and old-growth forests rich in history and outdoor opportunities.

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