

Dear Shillapoo WLA Advisory Committee:

I hope this email finds you and your loved ones healthy and enjoying the springtime.

As you probably know, last week Governor Inslee announced a partial reopening of state lands for day-use recreation beginning on May 5. (Overnight camping and visitor centers will remain closed until Phase 2 of the governor's [Safe Start plan](#).)

Like many of you, we were excited to get back outside. Thousands of people headed outdoors this past week, and we have been pleased to see most people complying with the governor's guidelines outlined at this website: <https://medium.com/@wdfw/frequently-asked-questions-reopening-state-lands-fishing-and-hunting-967a6726fe26>.

Unfortunately, we also observed some dangerous crowding and illegal camping on and near some WDFW-managed wildlife areas. In the name of keeping both the public and our staff healthy, we hope this behavior can be curtailed with positive messaging and education. We want to do everything we can to keep state lands open.

I'm writing today to ask for your help with this messaging and education. Each of you represents various interests connected to the Wildlife Area, and you probably have other folks in your professional and social networks you know who enjoy visiting state lands. **Please help us reach the people in your networks and share the Responsible Recreation Guidelines.**

Below are sample social media posts you can modify and share, along with the Guidelines. Thank you for helping keep people safe and recreating responsibly!

Sincerely,  
Daren Hauswald

Sample Post 1: "Like you, I'm excited to be back in the outdoors. Before you go, please remember: State parks, wildlife areas, boat launches, and DNR recreation lands are open for day-use only. All camping on state lands remains closed. Make sure to check your destination is open before you go, and review the [#responsiblerecreation](#) guidelines here: <https://bit.ly/2T1KZ3a> Take care, stay healthy, and enjoy your visit!"

Sample Post 2: "Happy to see people back outdoors, but we can't forget we're still in the middle of a global pandemic! Please, help protect yourselves and your neighbors and maintain at least six feet of physical distancing. Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth around other people. If your destination is crowded, have a backup plan or come back at a different time."

Sample Post 3: With the weekend ahead of us, please remember to [#RecreateResponsibly](#) and practice physical distancing. Visit the this blog for tips to enjoy the outdoors safely: <https://bit.ly/2T1KZ3a>.

## **Guidelines for #ResponsibleRecreation**

### **Before you go**

- **Check what's open.** While many state-managed land destinations are open for day-use, other local, tribal, and federal land may still be closed.
- **Opt for day trips close to home.** Overnight stays are not permitted.
- **Stay with immediate household members only.** Recreation with those outside of your household creates new avenues for virus transmission.
- **Come prepared.** Visitors may find reduced or limited restroom services as staff begin the process to reopen facilities at wildlife areas and water access sites. You are advised to bring your own soap, water, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper, as well as a mask or bandana to cover your nose and mouth.
- **Enjoy the outdoors when healthy.** If you have symptoms of fever, coughing, or shortness of breath, save

your outdoor adventure for another day.

**When you get there**

- **Avoid crowds.** Be prepared to go somewhere else or come back another time if your destination looks crowded.
- **Practice physical distancing.** Keep six feet between you and those outside your immediate household. Launch one boat at a time to give others enough space to launch safely. Leave at least one parking space between your vehicle and the vehicle next to you. Trailer your boat in the same way.
- **Wash your hands often.** Keep up on personal hygiene and bring your own water, soap, and hand sanitizer with you.
- **Pack out what you pack in.** Take any garbage with you, including disposable gloves and masks.

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