



**CLOSURE ORDER OF THE FOREST SUPERVISOR
RESTRICTING OCCUPANCY AND USE, TO WIT:
MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST, WEST VIRGINIA**

Pursuant to the provisions of 16 U.S.C. § 551, and 36 C.F.R. §§ 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited in the Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia due to hazards associated with the COVID-19 virus.

1. The following are prohibited:

- a. Being within an area or facility listed in this Order, and as shown on the map attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A (dated 03/27/2020), as closed for reasons of public health and safety. 36 CFR § 261.53(e).

The following areas are ordered closed on the Monongahela National Forest:

- All Developed Campgrounds
- All Developed Day Use Areas (including visitor centers, picnic areas, observation towers, Highland Scenic Highway overlooks, and historic sites)
- Middle Mountain Cabins
- Dispersed (roadside) camping along the Cranberry and Williams Rivers
- All toilet facilities

- b. Using any area within Monongahela National Forest by a group larger than ten (10) people at one time. Groups larger than 10 people must split into smaller groups and recreate at least 200 yards apart. 36 CFR § 261.58 (f).

2. Duration: The prohibitions of this Order shall remain in effect until terminated by the Forest Supervisor.

3. Exemptions: Pursuant to 36 CFR §261.50 (e), the following persons are exempt from the prohibitions contained in this Order:

- a. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission (36 CFR 261.50(e)(1));
- b. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty (36 CFR 261.50(e)(4)).

4. General Prohibitions: The General Prohibitions set forth in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A (§§261.1-261.23), remain in effect. The prohibitions set forth herein pursuant to 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart B (§§261.50-261.58) are in addition to the General Prohibitions.

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for an individual or \$10,000.00 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both (16 U.S.C. 551 and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571).

Dated this 30 day of March 2020, at Elkins, West Virginia.

/s/ Shawn M. Cochran
SHAWN M. COCHRAN
Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest