

## **Webinar Recording: Follow the Numbers Tactics & Action Steps for the Next 90 Days**

Pat Tabor, CPA, and former MOGA President, addressed hundreds of Outfitters across the nation on the rules and new developments with the PPP & EIDL loan options and tax relief as well as how to manage the money, including setting yourself up for loan forgiveness.

This is an extraordinary service tapered directly to the Industry at a time when it is needed the most. If you missed it we have included a copy of the Webinar for you.

OUTFITTERS WITH PPP QUESTION RELATED TO 1099/W2 EMPLOYEES, SKIP TO  
1:24.20

(1 Hour, 24 minutes, 20 seconds) FOR TABOR'S TAKE

[\*\*VIEW THE WEBINAR\*\*](#)

**THIS JUST IN: New Guidance on Self Employment  
Reporting for PPP**

[VIEW ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

## **Big Game Drawing Results Are Available**

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks have completed the drawings for non-resident Big Game hunting licenses and results are posted to the MYFWP website

[\*\*Check Draw Results\*\*](#)

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## **Grizzly Bear Advisory Council**

The Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council is accepting comments on grizzly bear hunting. The council is being flooded with anti-hunting comments. More comments in favor of regulated grizzly hunting as a management tool is needed.

Please submit your comments supporting a regulated hunting season for Grizzly bears in Montana and submit those comments by using the link below:

**[SUBMIT COMMENT NOW](#)**

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## **MOGA Spearheads Trails Stimulus Package**

MOGA is leading a national effort to establish a Trail Clearing Stimulus package that would mandate federally permitted Outfitters operating on Forest Service Lands be awarded trail clearing contracts to put experienced crews in the field doing productive work. Modeled after earlier national efforts, we are asking that Congress appropriate money to fuel a massive trail clearing effort across Montana and the US on USFS

lands. We have focused this effort within the Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service lands to keep it as simple as possible. We may be able to extend the model to BLM and possibly NPS lands once this model is developed. To help us justify the proposed program we need to know some basic information from you. Please take the flowing SURVEY as soon as possible.

*“We have focused this effort within the Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service lands to keep it as simple as possible,” said Mac Minard, Executive Director of MOGA. “We may be able to extend the model to BLM and possibly NPS lands once this model is developed.”*

To help us stand this program up we need to know some basic information from you. Please take the flowing [SURVEY](#) as soon as possible.

[TAKE MOGA SURVEY NOW](#)

## **Talks with Governors Office continue to re-open Outfitting**

MOGA has been in communication with the Governors office and the Office of Outdoor Recreation to reopen Outfitting in Montana. It is evident that the actions taken early by the Governor have helped stem the spread of the CoronaVirus in Montana. The Governor is certainly considering ways that we can, as Montanans, incrementally lessen the restrictions where doing so does not pose extreme public health hazards. As we approach the April 24<sup>th</sup> date of the Governors mandated closure of businesses, we are seeking to be classified as an allowable activity, consistent with the Outdoor Recreation provision of the Governor's original announcement.

We believe that some measure of Outfitted business can be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the health concerns of the clients, staff and communities. MOGA, in conjunction with medical and legal professionals, has developed [recommended protocols](#) that call for per-screening of clients, social distancing guidelines while in camp and in the field and recommended travel procedures.

It is no surprise that Montana is forecast to be one of the hardest hit states economically

from the anticipated downturn in Tourism. A [recent report forecasts](#) Montana as the second most hard hit by the Corona-virus. As tourism suffers, workers will bear the brunt of the difficulty. Nationally, there could be as many as 5.9 million jobs lost by the end of April.

*"We want to be sensitive to the health concerns for our clients, our families and our communities. We have all seen people on the golf courses and the private river floaters. We believe that Outfitted clients are attended to in a manner that meet or exceed the acceptable standards for other allowed activities," said Mac Minard, Executive Director of MOGA.*

In Idaho, Outfitting and Guiding is permissible so long as social distancing protocols and recreation guidelines are followed. MOGA has developed a set of recommended protocols consistent with best practices and will continue to work with [Governor Bullocks Corona virus task-force](#) to arrive at a way to put some people back to work safely.

## **Guide and Resources and FAQs during COVID-19**

### **Unemployment & Relief Info**

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*Produced by The Redside Foundation with special thanks to IOGA and  
The Whale Foundation.*

#### **CoronaVirus Resources**

Under the bipartisan funding package (CARES Act) that became law on March 27, 2020, in the coming weeks and months, you now have access to economic assistance to help weather the COVID-19 crisis.

- **Providing Recovery Rebates for Individuals:** All individuals with a Social Security Number will receive rebates worth \$1,200 for individuals (\$2,400 for couples) and \$500 per child under 17. A family of four would receive \$3,400. Rebates phase out above \$75,000 for singles filers, \$112,500 for heads of household, and \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns. There is no income floor or phase-in. Each member of your

family must have a Social Security Number (included on your last tax return) to claim a rebate. For more information click [here](#).

• **Federal Expansion of State Unemployment Benefits:** The CARES Act provides Federal funding to each state's unemployment insurance agency and requires that states pay out additional unemployment benefits to individuals who become unemployed for COVID-19 related reasons. The CARES Act expands the definition of a "covered individual," to provide unemployment benefits to those who:

- Have already exhausted their state's unemployment benefits;
- Have or are seeking a diagnosis for COVID-19;
- Have a household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Are providing care for a household member, relative, or relative's household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Have a child who is unable to attend school or daycare due to a COVID-19 closure order;
- Cannot go to work because they have been quarantined or because their place of work is closed due to a closure order (it does not include those who can telework);
- Had to quit their job as a direct result of COVID-19; or
- Are self-employed, seeking part-time employment, or would not have a sufficient work history under State law to otherwise qualify. The exact amount you can receive through Unemployment depends on your state and your previous earnings. Between now and July 31, an additional \$600 will be added to every unemployment compensation check, so no one will receive less than \$600 per week.

### **COVID-19 Unemployment Compensation Q&A**

#### **Q: How do I know if I'm eligible for Unemployment Insurance?**

**A:** Workers who have been laid off or furloughed by their employer through no fault of their own are generally eligible for unemployment compensation. Additionally, the stimulus package recently passed by Congress temporarily expands unemployment insurance to cover individuals who are not traditionally covered, including the self-employed, gig-workers, independent contractors, and workers with irregular work history. It also expands the list of allowable criteria for claiming

unemployment

compensation to include many reasons related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Q: What if I'm not eligible for traditional Unemployment Insurance?**

**A:** The CARES Act temporarily expands unemployment insurance to cover individuals who are not traditionally covered, including the self-employed, gig-workers, independent contractors, and workers

with irregular work history. It also expands the list of allowable criteria for claiming unemployment

compensation to include many reasons related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Contact the

unemployment office in the state where you worked to determine your eligibility.

**Q: What if I've been out of work because of COVID-19 for several weeks already?**

**A:** If you exhaust the weeks of unemployment compensation available to you through your state's laws,

you will be eligible for an additional 13 weeks of benefits. These benefits will be federally funded, but

you will still receive them through your state.

**Q: How long will the expanded benefits be in place?**

**A:** Expanded eligibility for unemployment insurance will be in effect until December 31, 2020. A \$600

additional benefit will be added to unemployment compensation received for weeks between when the

bill is enacted and July 31, 2020.

**Q: Can employees work part-time and receive unemployment?**

**A:** Yes. If you work during the time you claim benefits, you may continue to receive some or all of your

benefits depending on the number of hours you work and how much you earn. Earnings must be

reported on the weekly certification during the week earned (not when paid).

**Q: What if I'm temporarily laid off because the place where I work is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 virus?**

**A:** An individual temporarily laid off may qualify for benefits if he or she was able, available for and

actively seeking work or returning to work with their employer.

**Q: Will I be required to look for work if I am temporarily out of for work because of**

**coronavirus  
(COVID-19)?**

**A:** No. If you are unemployed due to COVID-19 related reasons and will be returning to work with your employer, you are not required to seek work or register for work. Answer 'yes' to the question asking if you are returning to work within 16 weeks on your unemployment application. You are still required to submit your weekly reports and to maintain contact with your employer.

**Q: What if I must stop working because I am ill or have been diagnosed with COVID-19?**

**A:** If you are currently employed but unable to work due to COVID-19, you would not meet the requirements to qualify for unemployment benefits as you would be covered for paid sick leave benefits by your employer (learn more here). If you become ill and you are not currently working, you should check with your state for eligibility.

**Q: What if I quit my job because I am generally concerned over the COVID-19 virus?**

**A:** It depends. This would be determined on a case-by-case review and may vary by state.

**Q: What if I am confined to my home because of COVID-19?**

**A:** If you are physically or mentally unable to work due to COVID-19, you may or may not meet the availability requirements to qualify for benefits in some states. If you are quarantined due to direction of a medical professional, local health district, your employer or state/local government, you may be eligible if you are off work because of COVID-19 and provided you are returning to work with your employer. If you are unemployed due to a stay home order, you may be eligible for benefits. Check with your state for eligibility.

**Q: Is there a difference for people who work seasonally?**

**A:** There isn't a different track for seasonal employees versus regular employees. The eligibility requirements are the same.

**Q: For people who have not yet lost out on wages, when is the best time to apply for unemployment insurance?**

**A:** Unemployment is based on past wages and earnings, so you can start when you need it.

## **Forest Service Fee Relief Policy**

The [US Forest Service issued guidance](#) on April 8, 2020 to individual forests regarding operating fee relief across the country. This is guidance, not direction, and therefore non-binding, keeping the final decision in the power of the local forest. MOGA continues to work with both Montana and Region 1 USFS staff to gain clarity and application of this guidance.

The guidance encourages forests to extend a 90-day fee deferral to its permittees to ease the pressure on operators who are set up to pay their estimated use. Finally, the guidance also includes provisions to relax other requirements during the 90-day period.

In Montana, we have worked with Forests to assess the minimum fee necessary and forgo the requirement for a preseason itinerary and preseason payment. With the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19, impact to travel and tourism, it is impossible to accurately assess the demands. Many Forests within Montana have adopted this approach and we encourage you to meet with your District Ranger to attain the same consideration.

Read the communication from the Forest Service [HERE](#)

## **Greater Helena Gives Giving Campaign**

Out of respect to all of our Big Hearts Family and Friends, *Big Hearts under the Big Sky* is withdrawing from the Greater Helena Gives 24-hour online giving campaign this year due to the current situation with COVID-19. Big Hearts is hyper-aware of the fact

that this could negatively effect our image and our relationship with you.

Thank you for your past contributions!! We will continue to move forward this year and make the 2021 Banquet the biggest one yet!