

Outfitting, Self-Quarantine Orders and Best Practices

[The Governors Phase One announcement](#) suspended stay at home orders and opened some businesses in Montana including Outfitted services. This has raised questions within the outfitting community as to how that allowance interfaces with the 14-day self-quarantine requirement for travelers.

[The Governor's quarantine order](#) is silent on where the quarantine takes place but generally speaks to what actions should be included as the act of quarantine. At the center of the issue is the question, with appropriate controls, can clients self-quarantine at the Outfitters camp, lodge or facilities and what constitutes best practice under that scenario? Also, may a person self quarantine at a second home or VRBO and participate in guided day fishing as long as all appropriate hygiene and social distancing requirements are met?

MOGA's position is evolving and for now, where the quarantine takes places is not the issue, but the practices that are followed, defines the act of quarantine. **Ultimately, interpretation of your procedures with the Governor's order will rest with your county attorney.**

We recommend:

1. Visitors to Montana are required to self-quarantine as per the Governor's directive. The directive clearly states quarantine for 14 days or the duration of your trip to Montana, whichever is shorter.
2. [The Governor's quarantine order](#) is silent on where the quarantine takes place but generally speaks to what actions should be included as the act of quarantine.

3. Develop written documentation that outlines your company policy and procedures related to assisting clients self-quarantine. This documentation needs to address enhanced personal hygiene procedures and must adhere to social distancing guidelines.
4. Sit down with your county attorney in advance and go over your policy/procedures to address self-quarantine and decide, from their point of view, if those actions meet or exceed the intent of the [Governors 14-day self-quarantine requirement](#) or determine what else needs to be included to meet their standard. Not all counties will interpret the requirements the same and the Governor has deliberately left significant decision-making authority at the county level to accommodate differing levels of risk.

[READ MORE](#)

SBA Business Loan Program Temporary Changes; Paycheck Protection Program – Additional Criterion for Seasonal Employers

A newly released interim rule finally addresses the disparity for Seasonal Employers and ensures consistency in program administration by providing a seasonal employer the option of using **any consecutive 12-week period between May 1, 2019 and September 15, 2019 for determining its maximum loan amount.**

MOGA, led by Pat Tabor, and several other key organizations raised this issue and offered remedies to our Congressional leaders. Pat submitted draft language that has been included within this rule. This should fix that issue and we are very thankful for the actions of Senator Daines and his staff to follow-up with the needed adjustments.

[SEE THE NEW RULE](#)

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH MOGA

MOGA has retained a subject matter expert who will help individual Outfitters with navigating the PPP process at a very reasonable rate of \$30 per hour. Jami Welch will be using a MOGA generated template (thank you Pat Tabor!) to accurately assess your qualification status and assist you, the Outfitter, with making application for these loans/grants. **This service is available to ALL Outfitters**, regardless of membership status. To take advantage of this offer and arrange to have Jami help you please contact:

Jami Welch

jwbooks1606@gmail.com

PPP Loan Forgiveness Strategies: Manage Your Outcome

When: Thursday, April 30. 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm EST

In this session, CPA Pat Tabor will focus on what we know about the forgiveness calculation and how you can predetermine and manage to the best result (all of it forgiven). Pat will introduce a new tool that he developed for AO members to track and calculate. Pat will also include updates to the PPP program including guidance for self-employed individuals and some other new aspects based on the refunding.



Pat Tabor not only has over 30 years experience as a CPA & Consultant but he is one of us. Everything Pat will cover is something he has looked into for his family's recreational business. Pat has made it his mission to become very fluent in all aspects of the new laws in particular PPP, EIDL and other tax and grant assistance programs out there to help outfitters.

[Register Here](#)

Outfitters Request Trails and Noxious Weeds be included in Next Stimulus

Eight other Outfitting organizations and Safari Club International joined MOGA led effort to secure finding for trail clearing and noxious weed control as part of the upcoming fourth stimulus.

Senator Steve Daines, in an [announcement](#) released last week, endorsed the effort and promised to lead the work in the Senate. He will be joined by delegations from across the American west in an effort to secure sufficient funding to put Outfitters permitted to provide services on Forest Service lands and clean and simple mechanism to work under contract opening trails and engaged in weed control.

This is a particularly timely proposal in that:

- Many public land outfitters have suspended summer trips in response to COVID 19 orders.
- There is decades long backlog of trail clearing and weed control across the west that the Forest Service has prioritized but are unable to attend to.
- Outfitters and their crews are uniquely qualified to handle this work. They are knowledgeable of the area, have the insurance and infrastructure to hit the job hard and get results.
- Forest Service leadership anticipate a dramatic decline in seasonal staff in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Staff they do bring on will be dedicated to fire control and senior staff forecast very little resources being put toward trail clearing and weed control; making this a perfect year to get Outfitters and their crews out in the field.
- Clearing trails and controlling the spread of noxious weeds is a huge public benefit across the full spectrum of users who value our treasured public lands.

MOGA authored a letter sent to the Congressional Leadership endorsing the effort. That letter was signed by all the members of the Professional Outfitters of America (POGA), America Outdoors (representing 3,000 small businesses) and SCI.

[READ THE LETTER](#)

In the coming weeks, we will work on draft legislation and building a coalition of support for this effort. With the addition of weed control, the number of outfitters qualified to participate in this program has expanded tremendously to include both land-based and river-based businesses.

Pulse of the Outfitting Industry April Update

Parsed into same-day trips, multi-day trips and resorts, the results of the America Outdoors April Survey of the outdoor recreation industry is now available. I think you will agree, the results are both stunning and compelling. Montana leaders and decision makers need to be aware of this information.

[VIEW RESULTS](#)