

## **MOGA President Chuck Rein to Members**

Dear MOGA Members,

When I last communicated with you, the outfitting industry was just beginning to get a taste of what was to come. We knew there would be impacts to outfitting businesses, especially fishing and early hunting seasons, namely bear and turkey. Some outfitters who offer backcountry pack trips were losing clients as well. Impacts varied widely from outfitter to outfitter. Now everyone who offers any one of the above-mentioned services are feeling a significant impact to their business. It remains to be seen how fall hunting outfitters will be impacted.

MOGA has been hard at work attempting to get concrete guidance from the myriad of state and local agencies as well as the Governor's office so that we can provide clear direction to our members. This has been quite difficult due to the extensive inconsistencies of the various policies and directives. The executive committee needs to be sure that no misinformation is being disseminated. All of the various officials we have talked to have been complimentary of MOGA's proactive approach, and willingness to embrace the protection of guests, employees, and fellow Montanans. Several members have expressed concern that due to the inconsistent and murky guidance from the State that they are not sure if they are permitted to service out-of-state clients. The answer is yes but only by taking very specific precautions. A refresher of procedures you should follow are listed later in this newsletter.

MOGA is experiencing some big wins on your behalf. The first I will speak to is the "Trails Stimulus Bill." We have draft legislation sponsored by Senator Daines ready to go before the United States Senate. This legislation, provided it passes and passes without amendments, will provide \$200 million for a program that outfitters who hold Forest Service Special Use permits can enter into contracts with the Forest Service to clear trails and provide weed control can tap into. This proposal will keep some of our forest service outfitters in business to see another year. When the funding runs out the trails and weeds program is over we have every expectation that Congress will see the efficiency and benefits to the public this program affords and may reauthorize it in the future.

Also on the docket is a proposal to issue hunting licenses to non-resident outfitted clients who were not successful in the drawing. It has been endorsed by FWP and now awaits

the approval of the Governor. We anticipate that the addition of these licenses will generate over \$20 million in economic activity and provide over \$3 million in additional license revenues to the Department. The Governor recognizes the economic potential this proposal has while placing a minimal number of hunters on the ground, Again, this proposal will put much needed dollars in the pockets of outfitters and pump millions of dollars into the Montana economy.

I want you to know the leadership of MOGA is doing everything in our power to provide you with accurate and timely information. I know some of you are frustrated and worried about your business and your family's well-being. I know too that it is not just your outfitting business that is in jeopardy. Many, if not most of us, operated another business besides the outfitting. There are few businesses (not counting those who make toilet paper and hand sanitizer) that have not been negatively impacted by this pandemic.

Please don't let your frustrations fester in a vacuum. Bring your frustrations and ideas to Dusty, Chris, me, or any of the board members. Believe me, no one wants to mitigate the negative impacts of Covid-19 more than we do.

Lastly, I will mention where we are with creating an enhanced licensing system that provides industry sustainability. When we came out of the winter convention licensing was the big issue and it still is. Progress has understandably slowed but not come to a halt. We will be ready to carry a well vetted and industry supported proposal to Helena in January.

Thank you for your membership and support. Call me anytime.

Chuck Rein  
MOGA President  
(406) 930-2828

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**MOGA Membership Climbs During Pandemic**

Individual Outfitter and Guide memberships and renewals have been up significantly during the COVID 19 pandemic. As you know we have been communicating with the industry at large, regardless of member affiliation, and we take it as a vote of confidence that memberships continue to climb even during these uncertain times. We are both humbled and appreciative and would like to thank you all for your continued support. We have been busier than ever during the last few weeks including welcoming new MOGA members, providing CoronaVirus Addendums and full Waiver and Release documentation and putting out the most concise and focused information we can to the industry, regardless of your particular service sector. .

**Membership update March 23, 2020 to May 12, 2020**

Outfitter Membership Renewals: 30

Outfitter Memberships NEW: 6

Guide Membership Renewals: 3

Guide Memberships NEW: 4

Business Membership Renewals: 4

Thank you again for your continued support!

[Join MOGA Today](#)

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## **Serving Clients, Protecting Staff and Protecting Communities**

MOGA has been asked to provide a concise and complete outline addressing the three overarching goals related to service to clients and ways to mitigate risks we all face. We know you can be out providing services to clients, so please take time to visit these recommendations and incorporate them into your operations. If you do, you can help keep your client, staff and communities safe while still operating your business.

### **Goal #1**

## Prevent Creating “Close Contacts”

- **Close Contact Definition:** Any person who has spent >10 continuous minutes within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19. The definition currently includes any close contact starting 48 hours prior to the ill individual’s first symptoms.
- **Public Health Actions:** The health jurisdiction where an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19 will do contact tracing which involves contacting everyone who has been a close contact and requiring those individuals to complete a 14-day quarantine.
- **How This Will Affect You:** If the 48-hour period prior to the ill person’s onset of symptoms includes time spent with you, your employees, or your other clients, you may be contacted. All persons who are considered a close contact will be required to enter a 14-day quarantine.
- **Recommendations to Avoid Creating Close Contacts:**

Assess each step of your operations identifying any steps where activities result in close interactions between you, your staff, and your visitors.

- **Extended Interactions** (examples: riding in vehicles, sleeping in tents or cabins, fishing shoulder to shoulder, viewing and photographing wildlife, hiking and walking, mealtimes, waiting in lines etc.)
  - Eliminate any extended interactions that you can.
  - Mitigate the ones you can’t eliminate.
  - **Extended Interactions Example Mitigation:**
    - Provide separate tents for non-family members or for groups of people who are not already close contacts due to travelling together or some other close relationship.
    - Wear cloth face coverings whenever proper social distance cannot be maintained.
    - Utilize extra transport vehicles if possible, to increase space between passengers.
    - Remember that families and travel partners are already close contacts so there is no need to worry about social distancing within those groups. This is referred to as “cohorting” in the public health community and is an important tool for you to utilize.

- For all activities, increase spacing to 6 feet or greater whenever possible. You will likely need to be prepared to respectfully remind employees and customers of the need to maintain social distancing.
- **There are many more potential mitigations. These examples are not meant to be a complete list.**
- **Brief Interactions:** These are routine social interactions that require individuals to be closer than 6 feet from each other for brief periods of time. Many of them involve physical contact. Many of these interactions can be eliminated or modified. Examples: handshakes, hugs, loading gear, assisting someone with equipment, assisting a client mounting their horse, etc.
  - **Example Mitigations**
    - Eliminate brief interactions whenever possible.
    - Modify those that cannot be eliminated by keeping the interaction to a minimum length of time.
    - Use of cloth face masks is recommended in all situations where social distancing is difficult.

## **Goal #2**

### **Encourage Good Hygiene & Employee Health**

This is a critically important goal which can be achieved with some simple mitigation practices. Following are some suggestions for your consideration.

- Provide access to full handwashing facilities whenever possible.
- Provide hand sanitizer at any points in your operation where common touch surfaces are hard to avoid and only provide hand sanitizer where full handwashing is not available. Examples: in vehicles, handling shared equipment like spotting scopes, fishing equipment, etc.
- Provide education of your staff on the importance of handwashing and proper hand sanitizer use.
- Provide your clients information on handwashing and hand sanitizer use.
- Be sure you model good hand hygiene behavior and provide time, opportunity, and supplies necessary for all staff and clients to practice good hand hygiene.
- Consider providing cloth face masks for your employees and clients in all situations where social distancing becomes difficult.

- **There are many more potential mitigations. These examples are not meant to be a complete list.**

### **Employee Health**

It is hard to overstate the importance of having a strong employee health policy. All of the carefully planned policies to prevent COVID-19 in your business operations can be rendered ineffective by an employee that works while ill. The CDC has extensive information and advice for employers on sick employee policies, return to work policies, employee education and sick leave policies at the following link which also links to many supporting documents. Please contact us if you have any questions about COVID-19 and related employee health and attendance policies.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

### **Goal #3**

#### **Use Excellent Cleaning & Disinfection Procedures**

Routine and frequent cleaning and disinfection of common touch surfaces is important in your operations for prevention of COVID-19 transmission. There is a lot of good guidance from CDC on cleaning and disinfection. The links included below from CDC and EPA should be excellent resources to assist you with planning your cleaning and disinfection policies and procedures.

**CDC's main webpage for small businesses. This page covers all topics not just cleaning and disinfecting and it should be a great resource for you as you develop all aspects of your COVID-19 operating plan:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-small-business.html>

**CDC's webpage for businesses, workplaces, and public spaces with specific information on cleaning and disinfecting:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

**A helpful cleaning and disinfection planning tool from CDC:**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/ReOpening\\_America\\_Cleaning\\_Disinfection\\_Decision\\_Tool.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/ReOpening_America_Cleaning_Disinfection_Decision_Tool.pdf)

**\*EPA's list of approved disinfectant products for the COVID19 virus:**

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf>

\* **Note:** The disinfectants on EPA's list are effective against COVID-19 when used according to label instructions. However, it is important to understand that the virus that causes COVID-19 is not particularly tough when it comes to cleaning and disinfecting. In fact, thoroughly washing surfaces with soap and water is effective at removing and even killing this virus. Common household cleaners and disinfectants are effective at eliminating the virus. Use of a disinfectant after a cleaning step is certainly allowable and probably advisable but please use whatever product you choose according to label instructions. Do not overuse chemical sanitizers, and do not use stronger than recommended solutions.

**Food-service Operations:** Some operators may also be food-service operators or may serve food on a limited basis to your clients. You may even have a licensed food establishment. The requirements for sanitizing food equipment and food contact surfaces have not changed. You should continue as normal using food code approved sanitizers and solutions for that purpose. Do not use alternative products labeled as disinfectants for your food service and food contact surface sanitizing purposes.

**Additional Thoughts on Food-service:** At this time, food is not thought to be a significant risk for transmission of the COVID-19 virus. It is unknown if it is possible for a food handler that is ill with COVID-19 to contaminate a food item and transmit the disease to another via the oral route. There is a short list of routine requirements that currently are standard operating requirements for handling food which will protect against this potential risk. The requirements are listed below.

Current Standard Requirements:

1. Employee Health - sick employees should never work as a food handler.
2. Always wash hands before handling food.
3. Never handle exposed food with direct hand contact - use food-service gloves, tongs, deli tissues etc. to handle exposed food.

Additional Advice:

1. Consider utilizing pre-made and prepackaged or wrapped food from approved sources as much as possible to prevent the need of handling exposed food.
2. Offer handwashing or hand sanitizer to clients before they eat.

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## **Special Communication; Outfitting and Compliance with Governor's Directives**

To: MOGA Membership

From: Chuck Rein, MOGA President

Re: Special Communication; Outfitting and Compliance with Governor's Directives

Date: May 12, 2020

The last several weeks have been exceedingly difficult for many members. MOGA has been hard at work attempting to get concrete guidance from the myriad of governmental agencies Governor's office so that we can provide clear direction to you. This has been quite difficult due to the extensive inconsistencies of the various policies, the extremely dynamic nature of the situation and daily changes we see in policy and direction. The Executive Committee has tried to ensure that no misinformation was disseminated. All the various officials we have talked to have been complimentary of MOGA's proactive approach, and willingness to embrace the protection of employees and guests and fellow Montanans. Several members have expressed concern that due to the inconsistency in guidance from the State, are they or are they not permitted to service out-of-state clients. The definitive answer is YES, but not without each member taking extremely specific precautions. So, what should you do?

- Adapt your client reception, lodging and service procedures with the necessary enhancements to follow the guidelines for protection. MOGA has several templates for you to follow.
- Memorialize your client's understanding of their responsibility when planning to come to Montana by informing them of your procedures for acceptance, and consider having them sign an [affidavit](#) that helps you the outfitter comply with the Governor's expectation that you have "confirmed with the client" that they have met all the criteria for coming to Montana including self-quarantine. Utilization of this [affidavit](#) is totally optional and is not being mandated, it merely represents added assurance that you have confirmed with the client (a standard required by the Governors order) their responsibility and serves as protection for you should any agency question your adherence to State policies. MOGA has developed a sample affidavit for members, please click [HERE](#) to view. If you desire one, contact the Office and we will get the template to you.
- Make sure your waivers and releases included the new inherent risk disclosure concerning the Coronavirus. If clients have already signed a previous version of your waiver, provide an addendum to that specific to the Coronavirus. Again, MOGA has what you need for this and all you have to do is call or [email the office](#).
- Document the procedures you perform to keep people safe while under your watch via a simple log
- The Executive Committee feels that if members commit to performing these steps, they will not only be in compliance with the intent of Federal and State policies and guidelines, but would also have fortified their defense should any agency decide to challenge an outfitter servicing a client. MOGA staff stands

ready to assist you, contact Mac with any questions or concerns you have.

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## Senator Wyden Introduces Rural JOBS BILL with Major Focus on OUTFITTERS & GUIDES

Wyden's *21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act* will provide significant investment in wildfire prevention and resiliency efforts; programs that can get rural Americans back to work when it's deemed safe by public health experts to do so; **direct relief for outfitters and guides**; as well as extensive resources for watershed restoration.

Some Key Elements:

- **Establishes a \$7 billion relief fund to help outfitters and guides who hold U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior special use permits – and their employees – stay afloat through the truncated recreation season;**
- Provides an additional \$3.5 billion for the U.S. Forest Service and \$2 billion for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to **increase the pace and scale of hazardous fuels reduction and thinning efforts**, prioritizing projects that are shovel-ready and environmentally-reviewed;
- Establishes a \$9 billion fund for qualified land and conservation corps to increase job training and hiring specifically for jobs in the woods, helping to restore public lands and watersheds, while providing important public health related jobs in this time of need;
- Provides an additional \$150 million for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the flagship program for community forest restoration and fire risk reduction;

- Provides \$6 billion for **U.S. Forest Service capital improvements and maintenance to put people to work reducing the maintenance backlog on National Forest System lands**, including reforestation;
- Provides \$500 million for the Forest Service State and Private Forestry program, which will be divided between programs to help facilitate landscape restoration projects on state, private and federal lands, including \$100 million for the Firewise program to **help local governments plan for and reduce wildfire risks**;
- Provides \$10 billion for **on-farm water conservation and habitat improvement** projects;
- Provides full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has **broad bipartisan support**; and
- Provides \$100 million for land management agencies to purchase and provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to their employees, contractors and service workers.

A one-page summary is available [here](#).

A section-by-section summary is available [here](#).

A copy of the legislative text is available [here](#).

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## **TAKE ACTION TODAY TO SUPPORT THIS BILL**

Call or Email Idaho Senators [Daines](#) and [Tester](#) and ask them to support the *Wyden 21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act*.

This bill, if passed, could be the difference between solvency and insolvency for a significant proportion of outfitters in Montana--and like the Trails Stimulus bill being proposed by Senator Daines, it is built on nonpartisan principles and practical needs across rural economies and hard-hit industries.

Contact Senator Daines [HERE](#)

Contact Senator Tester [HERE](#)

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# COVID-19 Symptoms and Warning Signs

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

The following symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure.

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath



\*This is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of [MERS](#)-CoV viruses.

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately**.

**Emergency warning signs include:**

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

\*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.