



United States Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
3644 Avtech Parkway  
Redding, CA 96002  
Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/stnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf)



# News Release

For Immediate Release

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## U.S. Forest Service to implement area closure on Mt. Shasta Health and safety concerns for climbers and community

**MT. SHASTA Calif.** — In alignment with current federal, state, and local guidance for social distancing and to ensure health and safety of climbers and employees, the Shasta-Trinity National Forest will temporarily close the area on Mt. Shasta above 10,000 feet in elevation, effective April 23, 2020.

Springtime is the most popular time to climb Mt. Shasta and during a typical year will attract up to 7,000 climbers. This creates a congestion issue at the Bunny Flat trailhead where hundreds of climbers park and embark from this one small area. Another concern is high-density camping at the small base camp known as Helen Lake, where climbers typically spend the night before attempting the summit.

Climbing also involves inherent risks, especially on the exposed upper slopes and ridges of the mountain and each year, a number of climbers end up injured, lost or sick. Law enforcement and/or search and rescue operations may be limited at this time. Due to these public health and safety concerns, a Forest Order prohibiting entry or use of the upper mountain is deemed necessary.

High risk activities such as rock climbing or backcountry activities that increase your chance of injury or distress should be avoided in all areas of the forest at this time.

This closure order will be in effect through April 30, 2020 and may be extended. You can view the order and closure map at [www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd728978.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd728978.pdf). For more information, please call the Mt. Shasta Ranger Station at (530) 440-4509 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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