

Press Release

For Immediate Release: 07/01/2020

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Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Extends Lake Recreation and Road Closures

Nevada Department of Transportation Coordinates with Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to Advise Public of the Pyramid Lake Highway Screening Extension.

Nixon, Nev. – The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is announcing extension of Pyramid Lake recreational closures and highway screening as an important measure to reduce potential spread of COVID-19 and protect health of Tribal members and guests. A tentative opening timeframe will be announced at a later date.

All permitted Pyramid Lake recreation activities such as boating, camping, fishing and day use will continue to be closed to the general public.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe will also continue to screen all traffic entering Pyramid Lake tribal lands at the following two locations as a measure to reduce potential spread of the virus within tribal communities:

- State Route 446 near the intersection of State Route 447 (near the Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitors Center at State Street in Nixon).
- State Route 445, near mile marker 28 south of Sutcliffe

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe retains jurisdiction over land use surrounding Pyramid Lake. The tribe's screening process allows only Pyramid Lake residential and business traffic on State Route 446 and State Route 445 (Pyramid Highway) near Pyramid Lake. Local Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal traffic and Pyramid Lake Reservation resident traffic with proof of residency in zip codes 89442, 89424 and proof of residency for the Sutcliffe community will be allowed through, while traffic without appropriate proof of residency or PLPT membership will be turned around. Further information is available at (775) 574-1000 extension 1107.

The tribe has taken unprecedented efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in recent actions through formal resolutions and declarations by the Tribal Council under the leadership of Chairman Anthony Sampson. Mirroring the declaration of Governor Sisolak, Chairman Sampson declared a state of emergency on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation due to the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, the Tribe earlier this spring enacted additional resolutions to close Pyramid Lake to all boating, camping, fishing, and day use activities for the general public. The Tribe has a "shelter in place" order for its residents and has only recently lifted the temporary curfew effective July 1, 2020. The Tribe continues to educate and encourage our tribal members to take the necessary steps to protect themselves from the threat of the COVID 19 virus by using face masks when in public places and regular hand sanitization practices. Any Pyramid Lake residents are encouraged to call the Tribal Health Clinic or EMS facility to request face masks and hand sanitizers for themselves or their families if needed.

The Pyramid Lake Tribal Council recognizes that American Indian populations on remote reservations are highly vulnerable not only due to the nature of COVID-19 but due to the lack of medical facilities and staff to address their needs. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is no exception to these threats. In light of this and the extraordinary threat posed by the virus, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council in conjunction with Tribal Chairman Anthony Sampson continue to take the necessary steps to protect their community members through the continuation of Pyramid Lakes closure to outside visitors until further notice.

The Tribe is anxious to welcome guests back to Pyramid Lake however, the biggest concern remains the safety of guests and residents/members of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

Pyramid Lake Tribal Chairman, Anthony Sampson, stated that although these are trying times for the Tribe and our nation, our continued commitment to provide a safe and accessible recreational area to all of Nevada's residents as well as others visiting Nevada is our goal. We are working diligently but cautiously towards a plan of reopening the lake to our visitors and hope that when this occurs everyone will have safety in mind as they enjoy our beautiful desert lake.

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About the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe: Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's members are direct descendants of the Northern Paiute people who have occupied the vast area of the Great Basin for thousands of years. The Tribe maintains a 477,000 acres reservation 35 miles northeast of Reno NV. The reservation fully contains Pyramid Lake, a 175 sq. mile desert terminal lake primarily receiving water from the Truckee River.