



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Department of Natural and Environmental Resources

March 16, 2020

DNER announces closure of areas to prevent spread of coronavirus

San Juan, Puerto Rico - Following the recommendations of the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez Garced, for stricter measures of social isolation to prevent the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), through its acting secretary, Cynthia Rivera Morales, announced the closure of all nature reserves, state forests, wildlife refuges, recreational areas and public beaches ascribed to the national parks. In addition, the hunting season is canceled.

These measures will be effective immediately, until March 30, explained the head of Natural and Environmental Resources, when the situation will be re-evaluated again and further steps may be taken.

Likewise, the central and regional offices will remain closed in order to guarantee the safety of employees and citizens. As previously announced, navigation, hunter and operator education courses were canceled until further notice.

Due to this closure, all renewals of licenses, permits, endorsements, concessions and boat registration valid until March 30 will run until April 30. Likewise, any other document that expires in said term, will last until April 30. Administrative hearings will be rescheduled after March 30 and any term expiring until April 30.

“For the safety of the people who visit our protected natural areas and our staff; and following the plan established by Governor Wanda Vázquez Garced, it was determined to temporarily close the forests, wildlife refuges, nature reserves and public beaches ascribed to the national parks. We want citizens to focus on protecting themselves from this virus,” said the secretary.

On the other hand, the Ranger Corps will continue working as usual, responding to citizen requests 24 hours a day through the number (787) 724-5700. Likewise, Environmental Emergencies, the Cerrillos and Portugues dams and the DRNA pump stations will be working.

"Our social platforms will continue to offer information (Twitter @DRNAGPR and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/drnapr/>, as well as our website (<http://www.drna.pr.gov/>), in the event of any eventuality, Rivera Morales emphasized.

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