

# Local Tourism Impacts



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# Whitefish Tourism Impacts: COVID-19



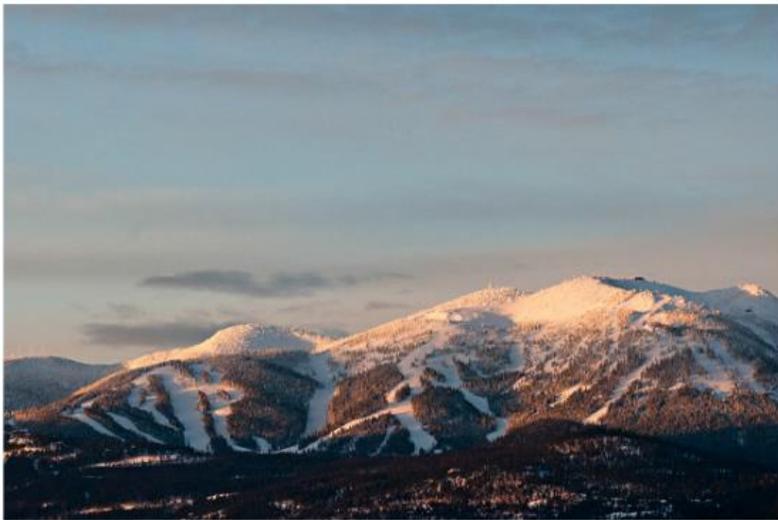
NEWS & FEATURES | SPORTS | OUTDOORS | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | OPINION

## News & Features

### Whitefish Mountain Resort to Close for Season

As COVID-19 virus spreads, officials decide to close ski resort three weeks early

BY JUSTIN FRANZ // MAR 15, 2020



SHOW CAPTION

Whitefish Mountain Resort will close for the season after today as fear of the coronavirus pandemic continues to sweep the nation.

WHITEFISHPILOT.COM

# Whitefish Pilot

115th year / issue 15

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

\$1.00

## Whitefish prohibits guests at lodging facilities

By HEIDI DESCH  
Whitefish Pilot

Whitefish on Sunday became the first city in Montana to prohibit guests from staying at lodging facilities and vacation rentals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Council, during a special electronic meeting, voted

unanimously to pass an emergency ordinance that prohibits reservations and walk-ins except for in certain cases in an effort to curb the spread of the virus. The ordinance goes into effect immediately.

Councilor Melissa Hartman said the ordinance is about protecting the health and safety

of everyone in the community and not about keeping people out of Whitefish.

"We're passing this to protect our health-care workers and not over burden our infrastructure," Hartman said. "The flavor of this feels to some like a build the wall mentality to keep people out, but every-

one wants to stay safe and healthy."

The ordinance prohibits stays at lodging facilities except for "essential purposes including government, health care, law enforcement, domestic violence victims, personnel responding to the COVID-19 emergency, essential workers

as defined by federal and state guidance, family members of those seeking medical treatment, and those individuals that have a medical recommendation to quarantine outside their home."

Mayor John Muhlfield said

[See Lodging, A6](#)

**SPORTS:** Glacier Twins open season  
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**COMMUNITY:** WHS grad now soccer writer  
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WHITEFISHPILOT.COM

# Whitefish Pilot

115th year / issue 22

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

\$1.00

## Ban on lodging stays lifts beginning June 1

By HEIDI DESCH  
Whitefish Pilot

Whitefish's emergency ordinance restricting stays at lodging facilities is being lifted on June 1.

Gov. Steve Bullock on May 19 announced that Montana is moving into phase two of the

state's reopening plan related to the COVID-19 pandemic on June 1. The 14-day travel quarantine for non-essential travel into the state will also be lifted on June 1.

A previous emergency ordinance passed by City Council has prohibited lodging facilities

from providing accommodations for non-essential purposes in response to the pandemic.

Accommodations for all travelers at Whitefish hotels and short-term rentals will now be allowed, including reservations and walk-in guests beginning on June 1.

"We realize the challenges our businesses have faced through this crisis," City Manager Dana Smith said in a release. "We have all worked together to mitigate the spread of the virus and we appreciate the support of the Whitefish community as we look to the

next phase."

Lodging facilities still can not provide accommodations for non-essential purposes through May 31, and existing reservations during that time must also be canceled.

[See Lodging, A6](#)

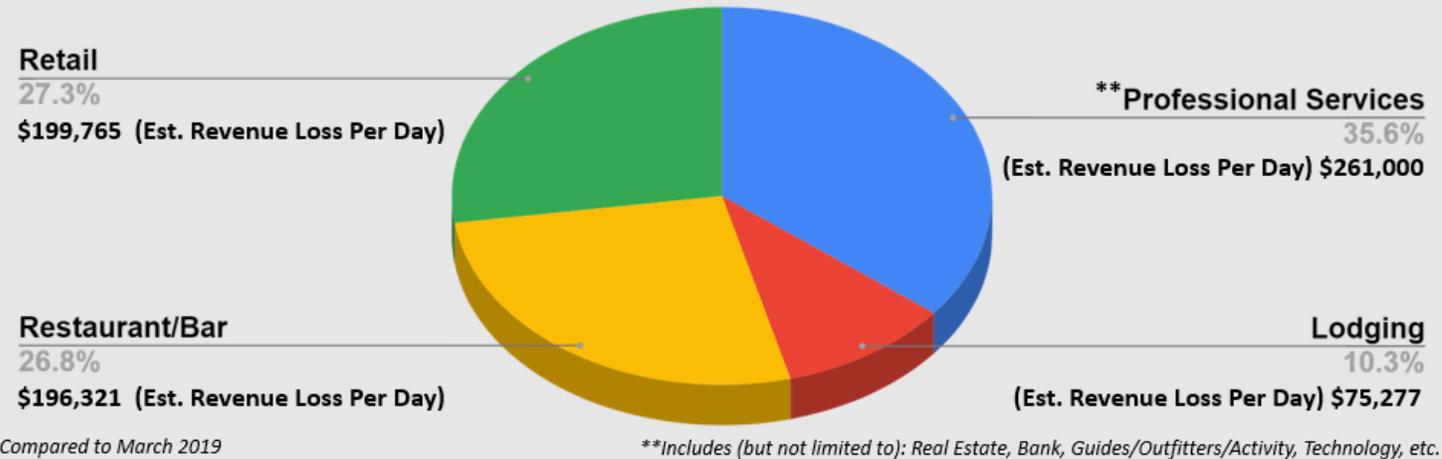
# Whitefish Tourism Impacts: COVID-19

## Community

- Over \$732,000: Estimated Total Revenue Loss Per Day in March (Businesses within City Limits)\*

## Explore Whitefish Budget

- 50% Budget Reduction FY20
- 50% Budget Reduction FY21



# Safety Messaging & Crisis Communication w/ City of Whitefish

## PREVENT THE SPREAD

### CLEAN

Wash your hands and sanitize often



### CAREFUL

Practice 6-foot social distancing and wear cloth face coverings in public settings



### CONNECTED

Stay informed at  
WhitefishCovidCares.com



**WHITEFISH**  
• MONTANA •



## Resources

Visitor Information

Frequently Asked Questions for Visitors

The City of Whitefish

North Valley Hospital / Kalispell Regional Medical Center

Flathead County Health Department

Glacier National Park

## COVID Care Kit

### Business Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Local Services and Attractions
- Flathead County Business Reopening Guidelines
- Prevent The Spread CCC Signage - Green (PDF)
- Prevent The Spread CCC Signage - White (PDF)
- Prevent The Spread CCC Signage - Green (JPG)
- Prevent The Spread CCC Signage - White (JPG)
- National Park Service Safety and Social Distancing Graphics

# Whitefish Sustainable Tourism Management Plan



## FINDING *the* BALANCE

### A WHITEFISH COMMUNITY MEETING

Whitefish residents are invited to join in a discussion about tourism in our community.

**Monday, May 14, 2018 • 6:00 – 8:00PM**  
at Whitefish City Hall, Council Chambers

**THE DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE:**  
How does visitation impact Whitefish both positively and negatively?  
What do you, the Whitefish residents, find most special about this place?  
What are we at risk of losing as a result of growth in visitation?  
And we'll discuss if there is a tipping point, how we will know if we are getting close, or if the balance has tipped.

Hosted by the City of Whitefish Tourism Master Plan Committee. [www.cityofwhitefish.org](http://www.cityofwhitefish.org)

# Questions?

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