

ORDINANCE NO. 084651

BEFORE THE BOARD OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF PROHIBITING CAMPING ON OR NEAR WAWAWAI ROAD.

WHEREAS, the portion of the Snake River and the Snake River Canyon which borders part of the southern edge of Whitman County is a very significant natural resource, draw for tourism, and recreational area for all residents and visitors; and,

WHEREAS, the County owns and maintains Wawawai Road as a County Road that runs along the edge of the Snake River, and serves as an important means of access to the many people who want to see or use the area for tourism and recreation. For decades, residents and visitors have used the road and have stopped along the side of the road for short periods of time while accessing the river and surrounding area. The road and its adjacent areas owned by the County are intended and maintained for such access, and are not intended to be used as a camping area; and,

WHEREAS, a significant number of people have recently begun camping on the side of Wawawai Rd and on County property adjacent to the road, despite the lack of designated parking spots or any services such as water or restroom facilities. The use of the roadside and immediately adjacent areas as camping spots significantly infringes on the safe access to and use of the area for recreation and tourism; and,

WHEREAS, in the general area there are a number of designated camping areas owned and maintained by the US Army Corps of Engineers and a County Park where camping may legally occur; and,

WHEREAS, the Whitman County Board of County Commissioners has determined that it is necessary to adopt this ordinance to protect and preserve the ability of all residents and visitors to be able to safely use Wawawai Road to view and to access the Snake River and the Snake River Canyon; and so that the road may be safely used by all, rather than only those who would camp along the road and immediately adjacent to the road.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Whitman County Board of County Commissioners camping is prohibited on or near Wawawai Road, more specifically described **as attached**.

Dated at Colfax, WA this 2nd day of August, 2021 and effective as of this date.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Arthur D Swannack, Chairman

Maribeth Becker, CMC
Clerk of the Board
BY: Corey Mitzimberg
Deputy Clerk of the Board

Tom Handy, Commissioner

Michael Largent, Commissioner

CAMPING PROHIBITED

Sections:

- 8.40.010 Definitions.**
- 8.40.020 Camping Prohibited.**
- 8.40.030 Violation - Crime of Trespassing.**

8.40.010 Definitions.

For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions apply:

- A. "Camp" means erecting a tent or shelter or arranging bedding or both, for the purpose of, or in such a way that permits, remaining overnight, or parking a trailer, camper, or other vehicle for the purpose of remaining overnight.
- B. "Vehicle" means every device capable of being moved upon a public highway and in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway. Bicycles shall not be considered vehicles for purposes of this Chapter.

8.40.020 Camping Prohibited Near Wawawai Road.

It shall be unlawful for any person to camp on or along Wawawai Road in Whitman County, or on County property within 500 feet from the centerline of that road, from the Eastern border of the County at the Idaho State line and then West along Wawawai Road to Wawawai County Park (approximately 27 miles), except in areas specifically designated and posted for those purposes.

8.40.030 Violation - Crime of Trespassing.

Any person intentionally camping in the above-described areas of Wawawai Road, or on County property within 500 feet of the road's centerline, will be trespassing and may be criminally prosecuted for trespassing in violation of RCW 9A.52.080.