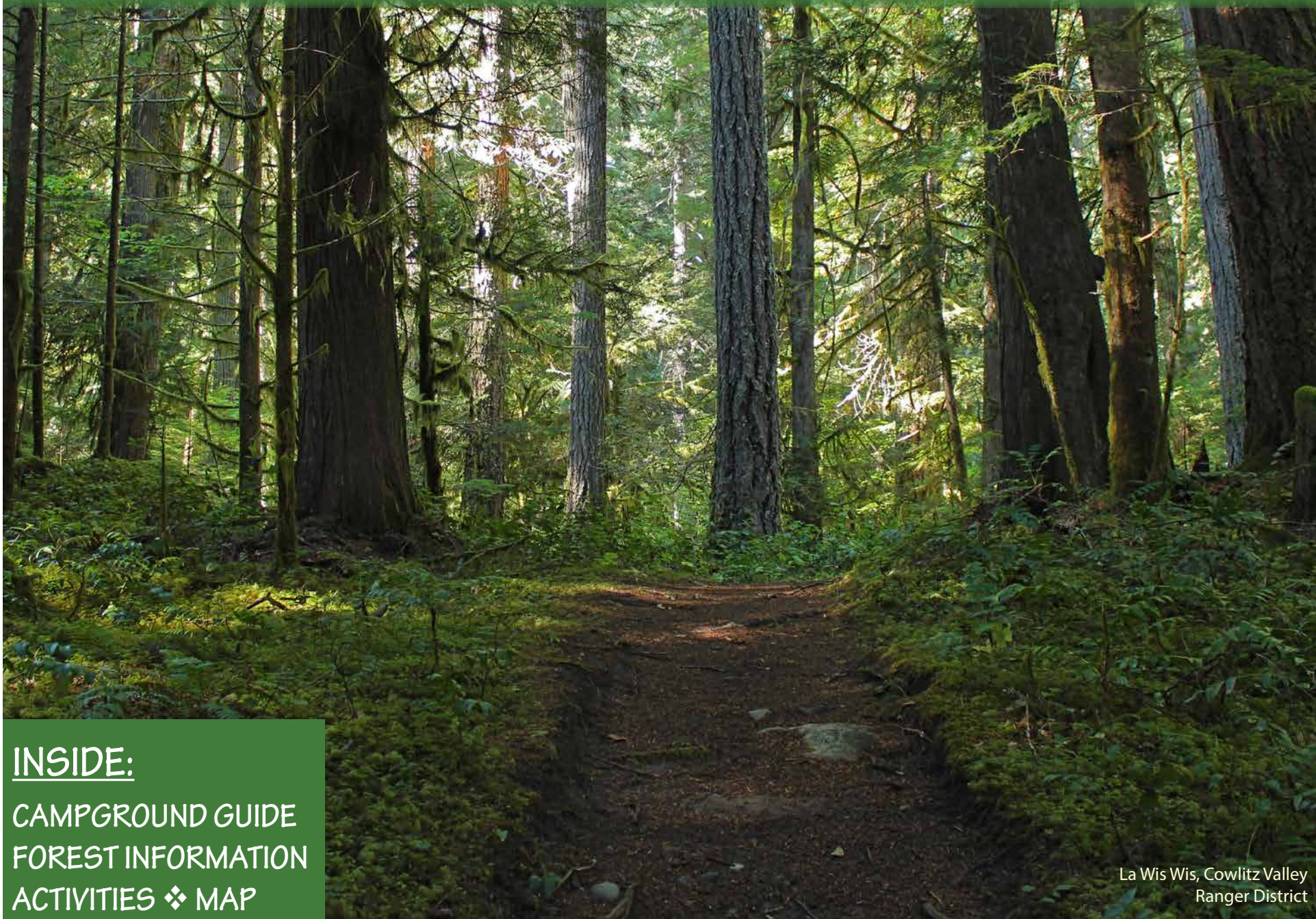


Gifford Pinchot National Forest Visitor Guide



La Wis Wis, Cowlitz Valley
Ranger District

INSIDE:

CAMPGROUND GUIDE
FOREST INFORMATION
ACTIVITIES ❖ MAP

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is a big place! Find current info and more information about exploring your forest at:

www.fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot

Follow the forest on social media & get info on closures and safety, events, beautiful places to visit, and more!

[facebook.com/GiffordPinchot](https://www.facebook.com/GiffordPinchot)

twitter.com/gpnf



This publication was printed with the support of [Discover Your Northwest](#), a not-for-profit organization that operates bookstores at parks and forests throughout the Pacific Northwest.



The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is one of the oldest national forests in the United States. Established in 1908, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest provides clean water, timber, food, habitat for wildlife, diverse recreational opportunities, and a place to enjoy solitude in a busy world.

No matter the season, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest offers adults and families opportunities to explore and have fun on the forest. There are fishing derbies in early summer, snowshoeing and skiing to historic cabins in winter, hiking along waterfalls in spring, and pitching in at events such as National Public Lands Day events in mid-fall.

Discover your national forest.

Forest Facts

Gifford Pinchot National Forest total size 1,368,300 acres
Cowlitz Valley Ranger District..... 575,000 acres
Mt. Adams Ranger District..... 367,000 acres
Mount St. Helens Nat'l Volcanic Monument 110,300 acres
Mount St. Helens outside Monument..... 316,000 acres

Wilderness Areas 180,600 acres
Roads open to highway legal vehicles 3,285 miles
Trails open to hikers, horses, or trail bikes..... 1,475 miles
Developed forest campgrounds..... 44
Sno-Parks..... 16
Visitors to the forest annually (estimate)..... 1,210,000

Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites..... 1,735
Historic structures..... 108

Timber volume harvested (million board feet)..... 32.73
Reforestation..... 1,240 acres
Tree boughs sold 4,190,450 lbs.
Christmas tree permits sold..... 3,062
Huckleberries (commercial) 65,991 gallons

Forest Supervisor Gina Owens
Deputy Forest Supervisor..... Angie Elam
Cowlitz Valley District Ranger..... Gar Abbas
Mount Adams District Ranger..... Emily Platt
Mount St. Helens Monument Ranger..... Rebecca Hoffman

Getting to know Gifford Pinchot National Forest

The U.S. Forest Service administers national forest lands for outdoor recreation, timber, watersheds, range, fish and wildlife. From its designation as Columbia National Forest in 1908, through its name change to Gifford Pinchot National Forest in 1948 honoring the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, to today, this land has offered a wealth of resources for humans and the natural world.

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is very diverse across its 1.3 million acres. While Douglas-fir is prevalent and has provided timber for decades, other common trees include Western hemlock, Port Orford and Western red cedars, as well as ponderosa and lodgepole pines.



While there are many spots to enjoy the trees, one good place is the Trail of Two Forests (#233) on the south side of Mount St. Helens. There you can explore an old-growth Douglas-fir forest that stands on top of the remains of another forest that was engulfed in lava flows over 2,000 years ago, leaving lava casts and imprints of the ancient trees.

Thousands of species of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects depend on our forests and help create a healthier and more resilient forest.

See how many different animals you can detect. Look for signs of animals such as fur, tracks, smells, and scat. To get started, try out the Wood Creek Watchable Wildlife Trail (#247) south of Randle on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District.

Water is an essential resource for us all. The forests of the Cascade Range provide water for winter and summer recreation, habitat for wildlife, and drinking water for small and large communities alike. The Gifford Pinchot's streams also provide habitat for threatened fish species, including Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

Recognizing our water resources, Congress designated 20 miles of the Upper White Salmon River and Cascade Creek as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The scenery, geology, and hydrology of these river segments are outstandingly remarkable and only a short drive north from Trout Lake on the Mt. Adams Ranger District.

The Forest Service is charged with maintaining and improving the health, diversity, and productivity of the forest through managing vegetation, restoring ecosystems, and reducing hazards. By actively working to improve our forests, wildlife, and watersheds we can help sustain this landscape for future generations.



Harvesting Forest Products

Between mushrooms and huckleberries for eating; salal, beargrass and foliage for flower arrangements; tree boughs and cones for wreaths; firewood for heating; posts and poles for fencing; and Christmas trees for the holidays, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is a big part of people's daily lives.

The forest issues both "charge use" permits and "free use" permits. Certain products, like firewood, always have a fee while other products might be free, depending on the quantity you harvest for personal use. Check with a Gifford Pinchot office to ensure you are harvesting legally! More info at: tinyurl.com/gpnfpermits

Collecting huckleberries and taking them off the forest requires a permit— for both personal and commercial purposes. A free use permit allows visitors to pick up to one gallon of berries per day and up to a total of three gallons of berries per year. Get your huckleberry free use or mushroom permit online at: <https://apps.fs.usda.gov/gp>



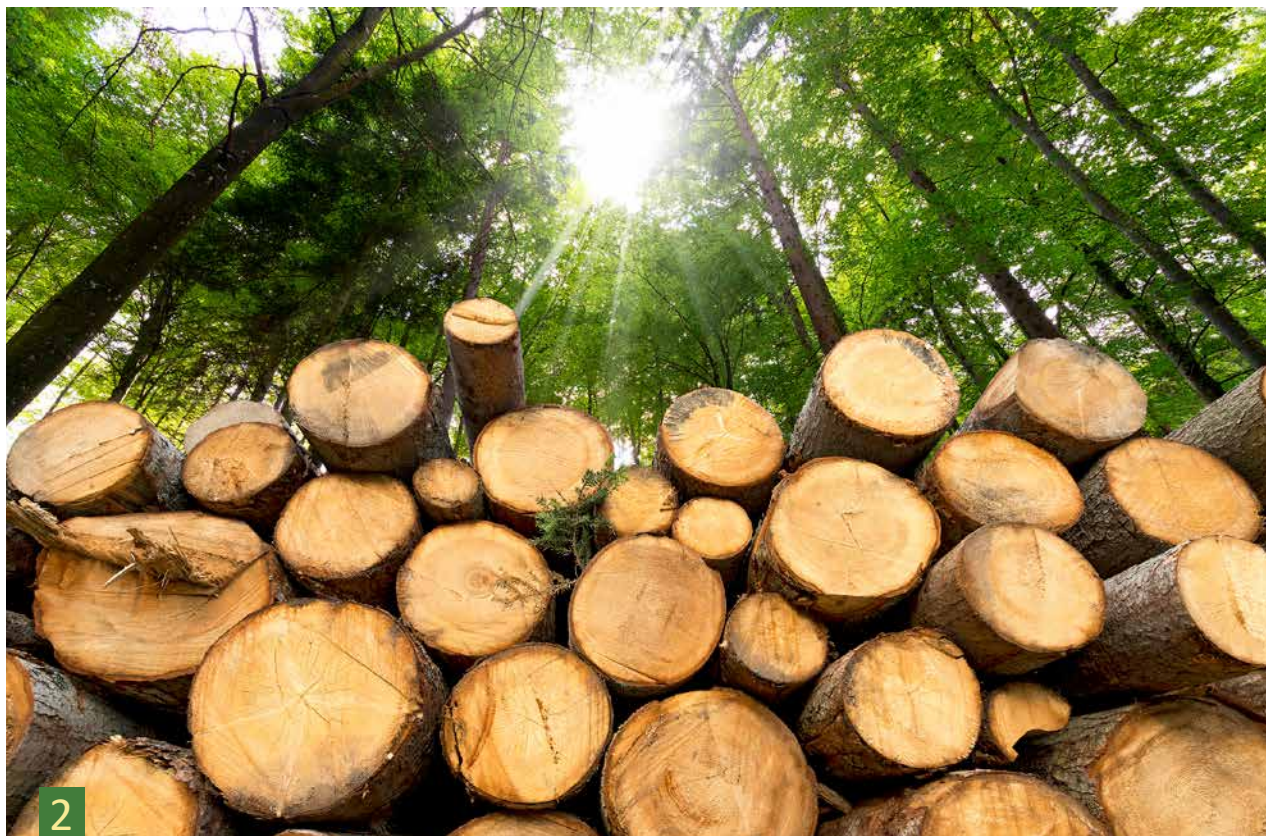
Preserving Our Cultural Heritage

People have been using the forest for thousands of years. Some of these locations of past human activity or occupation are still identifiable today. Forest archeology crews document our cultural heritage resources through field surveys, historical documentation, or oral tradition. The forest heritage program protects heritage resources as well as shares the values of these resources with the American people. To date, 1,596 heritage resource sites have been documented on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest!



The forest's heritage story is told through artifacts, historical sites, and buildings preserved and protected by law. When an artifact is removed or a

site damaged, the forest's legacy becomes incomplete, much as a book would be incomplete if words were erased or pages torn out. If you discover a site or object of interest, leave it undisturbed and report your discovery to the nearest Forest Service office.



Protecting bats & caves on the Forest

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) has killed over six million bats since 2006. Caused by a fungus, it is often spread by people visiting caves. Many caves nationally have been closed to protect our bat populations.

While WNS has not been found on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, it has been found in Washington State.



A Forest Service wildlife biologist examines a bat at Shawnee National Forest in Illinois.

You can help prevent the spread of WNS!

- Do NOT wear shoes used in other caves or climbing areas unless completely cleaned.
- Do NOT bring dogs into caves- they can spread the fungus in their fur and paws.
- CLEAN your shoes and clothing of dirt and mud before entering a cave.
- CLEAN AGAIN after exiting a cave or climbing area.
- WASH your hands and exposed skin.
- CHANGE into clean shoes and clothes before getting into your vehicle to leave.
- WASH clothing, hats, or shoes worn in hot, soapy water (at least 131°F) for at least 20 minutes.
- If you see bats, please avoid disturbing them and do not handle live or dead bats.

Find out more at: wdfw.wa.gov/living/bats.html

Preparing Before You Head Out...

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is filled with scenic spots and natural beauty. But it is also vulnerable to human actions. Trash, abused dispersed campsites, driving off-road, and improperly disposed of human waste all degrade the landscape, worsen the experience for other visitors, and harm wildlife.

When you visit the forest, please leave with everything you brought with you. Learn the principles of Leave No Trace and put them in to action consistently. National forests like the Gifford Pinchot belong to all Americans- both those visiting today and the generations that follow us.

Besides being a good caretaker of our public lands, you can improve your visit by planning ahead. Find out current road and trail conditions; pay attention to the weather; know the limitations of your vehicle; and let someone know where you're going and when you expect to be back.

Stop in at a forest office to get more information, maps, camping and trail information, or visit us online: www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/giffordpinchot

Hiker's Checklist

Whether heading out for an afternoon or a backpacking trip, hikers need to be prepared for safety before heading into the woods.

- Water
- Food
- First Aid Kit
- Pocket Knife
- Extra clothing
- Map & Compass
- Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses
- Whistle
- Headlamp/ flashlight
- Check weather conditions
- Trip itinerary shared with others
- Hiking buddy
- Check to see if your route has restrictions in effect

Leave No Trace 7 Principles

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

For more info, check out:
Int.org/learn/7-principles

Exploring Mount St. Helens

When Mount St. Helens erupted in May 1980 it leveled 240 sq. miles of forest, creating a landscape resembling the moon's surface. In 1982 Congress created the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, recognizing its national significance. Scientists worldwide come to this unique environment to study how plants and animals recover after volcanic destruction.

Decades later, Mount St. Helens has dozens of places you can visit to witness these ongoing changes.

- Summer visits often begin at the Johnston Ridge Observatory.
- Climbing to the south rim of the volcano is open year round with a permit, but permits sell out for much of the summer so check ahead.
- Pets are not allowed in certain areas of Mount St. Helens. Check the *Volcano Review* visitor guide for details.

Pick up a copy of the *Volcano Review* or stop in at a forest office for more information.

Wilderness

Wilderness areas are lands designated by Congress to be protected and preserved in their natural condition, without permanent improvements or habitation.

These areas have a few special regulations to help preserve their unique character:

- Permits are required to enter any Wilderness on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. These permits are free, and are self-issued at trailheads.
- Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is prohibited. This includes motor vehicles, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the take-off and landing of aircraft and drones.
- Groups are limited to 12 members, including all people and pack or saddle stock.
- Campsites must be at least 100 feet from the shoreline of any lake, stream, and/or the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.



Practice good fire safety on the forest! Find out more about fire safety from the expert, Smokey Bear!

Visit www.smokeybear.com for tips, videos, games, and more!

Driving Safely on Forest Roads

Motor Vehicle Use Map Gifford Pinchot National Forest



Washington Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture FS-873-0683

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest has thousands of miles of roads. Almost all of these roads are open to highway legal vehicles only. Some examples of vehicles that are highway legal are: passenger cars, pickup trucks, and SUVs, as well as motorcycles that are licensed for general operation on all public roads within Washington.

Examples of vehicles that are not highway legal include: ATVs, UTVs (side by sides), golf carts, off road motorcycles, and any other motor vehicle that by state law is not licensed for general operation on all public roads.

The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) shows where you can legally drive vehicles, displaying designated roads and trails suitable for motorized use by type of vehicle and time of year.

Many roads are closed for wildlife protection or the winter season. Consult the seasonal road table in the front of the MVUM.

Pick up your free MVUM at any forest office or online at: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/mvum. You can also download the MVUM onto your smartphone.

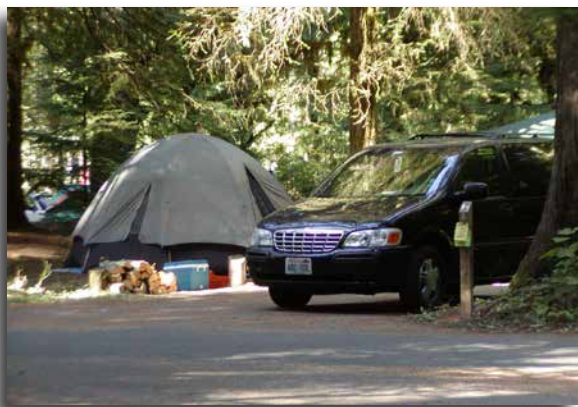
Once you know your route, it is important to stay safe! Most roads are gravel, many are narrow, and some are accessible only by high-clearance vehicles. Drive at safe speeds and respect the limitations of your vehicle!



Camping on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Camping is a great way to experience the forest. Whether gathering the extended family at a group campsite or just heading out with the dog, there are plenty of campsites at which to roll out your sleeping bag.

Below you will find a table showing developed campgrounds on the forest. Some accept advance reservations while others are entirely first-come, first-serve.



Reserve your spot under the stars!

Several forest campgrounds are open for reservations at Recreation.gov. Rather than driving up on Friday evening hoping to find an open site, visitors can now reserve a single or double site online up to one year in advance.

Recreation.gov features campground maps, a calendar of availability, the ability to reserve specific sites, and uploaded visitor photos. Plus, campground fees are spent locally on campground maintenance and forest recreation sites.

Reservations are not required, and a portion of every campground includes first-come, first-served sites. However, during busy summer weekends, reservations could get you and your family one step closer to fun.

Recreation.gov does charge a non-refundable reservation fee. It is available online or by phone, toll-free, at: (877) 444-6777.



Dispersed Camping

Camping outside campgrounds, or dispersed camping, is legal throughout most, but not all, of the forest. Where legal, you can use existing routes to reach dispersed campsites when it will not cause damage to national forest resources or facilities. Visitors may not drive beyond 150 feet from the main road. For more information contact your local forest office.

When choosing your campsite, there are a few rules to remember:

- Camp at least 100 ft. away from creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Use camp stoves to help conserve ground cover resources.
- Avoid trenching around sleeping areas.
- Camp out of view from major trails wherever possible.
- Never clean dishes or fish in a stream or lake.
- Always pack out what you bring in and leave your site cleaner than you found it!

If you are headed out into a Wilderness, keep in mind that there are a few additional regulations, such as restrictions on where you can build a campfire or camping areas that are limited to designated campsites.

Here are answers to a few frequently asked questions about camping on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest:

- Spring campground opening dates are subject to weather and road conditions. Please check current conditions online or call your local Ranger District office for more information.
- None of our campgrounds have electrical hookups.

- None of our campgrounds have RV holding tank dump stations. There are stations available at some local RV parks surrounding the forest.
- None of our campgrounds have showers.
- There is a 14-day maximum stay at campgrounds and in dispersed camping areas.
- Single sites are limited to a maximum of 8 people.

No open sites? There are many campgrounds surrounding the forest! For more information, check out PacifiCorp, Cowlitz County, Lewis County, or Skamania County tourism sites listed on page seven of this newspaper under Contact Information.

Find current conditions of campgrounds and a forest campground map online at:

www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/giffordpinchot/recreation

Forest Campgrounds

Cowlitz Valley Ranger District (Northern)

| Campground or Primitive Camp Name | # Sites | Water | Space Length | Single Site Fee | Double Site Fee | Elevation | Latitude | Longitude |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Adams Fork (R) | 24 | ✓ | 22' | \$16 | \$30- \$45 | 2,600' | 46.3400 | -121.6487 |
| Big Creek (R) | 29 | ✓ | 24'- 40' | \$18 | \$30 | 1,800' | 46.7360 | -121.9703 |
| Blue Lake Creek | 11 | | 20'- 30' | \$12 | \$30 | 1,900' | 46.4032 | -121.7374 |
| Cat Creek (Primitive) | 5 | | 18' | Free | — | 3,000' | 46.3521 | -121.6195 |
| Horseshoe Lake | 10 | | 16' | \$12 | — | 4,150' | 46.3007 | -121.5444 |
| Iron Creek (R) | 98 | | 24'- 40' | \$20 | \$38 | 1,100' | 46.4275 | -121.9857 |
| Killen Creek | 8 | | 22' | \$12 | — | 4,450' | 46.2934 | -121.5483 |
| La Wis Wis (R) | 100 | ✓ | 18'- 40' | \$20 | \$38 | 1,250' | 46.6773 | -121.5761 |
| North Fork (R) | 33 | ✓ | 32' | \$18 | \$34 | 1,450' | 46.4505 | -121.7875 |
| Olallie Lake | 5 | | 22' | \$12 | — | 4,250' | 46.2908 | -121.6222 |
| Soda Spring (Primitive) | 7 | | | Free | — | 3,250' | 46.7044 | -121.4821 |
| Takhlakh Lake (R) | 54 | | 22' | \$18 | \$30 | 4,450' | 46.2817 | -121.5991 |
| Tower Rock (R) | 22 | ✓ | 22' | \$18 | — | 1,100' | 46.4455 | -121.8653 |
| Walupt Lake (R) | 44 | ✓ | 22' | \$18 | \$34 | 3,930' | 46.4227 | -121.4750 |

Mt. Adams Ranger District (Southern)

| Campground or Primitive Camp Name | # Sites | Water | Space Length | Single Site Fee | Double Site Fee | Elevation | Latitude | Longitude |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Beaver (R) | 24 | ✓ | 25' | \$20 | \$34 | 1,050' | 45.8566 | -121.9568 |
| Cultus Creek | 51 | | 32' | \$10 | \$20 | 4,000' | 46.048 | -121.7546 |
| Forlorn Lakes | 25 | | 18' | \$10 | \$20 | 3,700' | 45.9589 | -121.7550 |
| Goose Lake | 19 | | No RVs | \$10 | — | 3,150' | 45.9408 | -121.7585 |
| Govt. Mineral Springs | 5 | | 18' | \$5 | — | 1,230' | 45.8821 | -121.9957 |
| Lower Falls (R) | 43 | ✓ | 60' | \$15 | \$30- \$35 | 1,500' | 46.1566 | -121.8785 |
| Morrison Creek | 12 | | No RVs | Free | — | 4,650' | 46.1292 | -121.5170 |
| Moss Creek (R) | 18 | ✓ | 32' | \$16 | — | 1,330' | 45.7943 | -121.6354 |
| Oklahoma (R) | 16 | ✓ | 22' | \$16 | \$30 | 1,700' | 45.8696 | -121.6280 |
| Panther Creek (R) | 33 | ✓ | 25' | \$18 | \$34 | 950' | 45.8201 | -121.8795 |
| Paradise Creek (R) | 42 | ✓ | 25' | \$18 | \$34 | 1,540' | 45.9493 | -121.9338 |
| Peterson Prairie (R) | 29 | ✓ | 32' | \$16 | \$30 | 2,900' | 45.9692 | -121.6562 |
| Sunset Falls (R) | 16 | | 25'- 40' | \$12 | — | 1,000' | 45.8187 | -121.2502 |
| Tillicum | 17 | | 18' | \$5 | — | 3,900' | 46.1235 | -121.7791 |
| Trout Lake Creek | 17 | | No RVs | \$10 | \$20 | 2,200' | 46.0564 | -121.6107 |
| Twin Falls | 3 | | Tent only | Free | — | 2,700' | 46.2158 | -121.6683 |

Sites with (R) are reservable at www.recreation.gov!

| Group Sites | # Sites | Water | Space Length | Site Fee | Site Capacity | Elevation | Latitude | Longitude |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Atkisson (R) | 1 | ✓ | 40' | \$75 | 50 | 2,700' | 45.9610 | -121.6151 |
| Beaver (R) | 1 | ✓ | 40' | \$100 | 60 | 1,100' | 45.8566 | -121.9568 |
| Coho (La Wis Wis) (R) | 1 | ✓ | 24' | \$90 | 25 | 1,250' | 46.6752 | -121.5851 |
| North Fork (R) | 3 | ✓ | 22' | \$75; \$100 | 25; 35; 50 | 1,450' | 46.4511 | -121.7892 |
| Peterson Prairie (R) | 1 | ✓ | 40' | \$75 | 50 | 2,900' | 45.9689 | -121.6574 |

Find Your Pass to Adventure

The Forest Service collects fees at developed day-use sites, trailheads, and campgrounds. Around 90% of recreation fees go right back into maintaining the trails, lands, and facilities you use. Keeping sites in good condition takes planning, person-power, and, of course, money. Every year your recreation fees go towards:

- cleaning restrooms
- repairing erosion
- replacing old or damaged signs
- repairing trail bridges
- fixing old or installing new picnic tables
- cutting out trees from trails
- ensuring campgrounds are clean

Public feedback has told us that recreation site priorities are:

- Maintaining Restrooms
- Maintaining Trails
- Improving Safety and Security

For sites that have a fee, you can use any valid interagency federal recreation pass or Northwest Forest Pass. You can obtain a pass at any Forest Service office.

Annual and day passes are also available for purchase online. Annual passes are mailed to you while day passes can be purchased and printed on your home printer.

For more details, visit: www.discovernw.org



Designed for All

The forest can be a rugged place. Some recreation sites and trails have been designed to be accessible to as many users as possible. The Pacific Northwest Accessible Adventures videos are filled with ideas about where to go for in the Pacific Northwest for accessible recreation.

Watch the videos and learn about accessible forest recreation sites and trails at: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/giffordpinchot/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5161181



Day Use Fee Sites on the Forest

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🚶 Ape Canyon Trailhead 🏠 Ape Cave Interpretive Site 🏠 Bear Meadow Interpretive Site 🚶 Berry Patch Trailhead 🚶 Blue Lake ORV Trailhead 🚶 Climbers Bivouac Trailhead 🚶 Cold Springs Trailhead 🚶 Cultus Creek #108 Trailhead 🚶 Goose Lake Boating Site 🏠 Harmony Falls Viewpoint 🏠 Ice Cave Picnic Site 🚶 Independence Pass Trailhead 🚶 Indian Heaven #33 Trailhead 🏠 Johnston Ridge Observatory 🏠 Lahar Viewpoint Interpretive Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 Lava Canyon Interpretive Site 🏠 Lower Falls Picnic Site 🏠 Meta Lake Interpretive Site 🏠 Miners Car Interpretive Site 🚶 Norway Pass Trailhead 🚶 Packwood Lake Trailhead 🚶 Smith Creek (#99D) Trailhead 🏠 Smith Creek Interpretive Site 🚶 South Climb #183 Trailhead 🚶 Thomas Lake #111 Trailhead 🏠 Trail of Two Forests Interpretive Site 🏠 Trapper Creek Trailhead 🏠 Whistle Punk Trailhead 🏠 Windy Ridge Interpretive Site 🏠 Woods Creek Watchable Wildlife Site |
|---|---|

Operating Seasons Across the Forest

Gifford Pinchot National Forest spans over 1.3 million acres of Washington's Cascade Mountains, rising to over 12,000 feet at Mt. Adam's summit. Snow buries the landscape in the winter season and storms cause damage to roads and trails. As a result, many sites are only accessible for part of the year.

Additionally, a few areas are closed temporarily every year to protect birds and wildlife during their nesting or breeding seasons.

Please respect gates and road closures to help protect our natural and built resources for generations to come.

ATTENTION: Inclement or winter weather may close sites earlier or open sites later than listed.

| Recreation Site | Season (approximate) | Ranger District |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Johnston Ridge Observatory | mid-May— October | Mount St. Helens |
| Cascade Peaks Interpretation Station | July— September | Mount St. Helens |
| Pine Creek Info. Center | late-May— September | Mount St. Helens |
| Iron Creek | mid-May — September | Cowlitz Valley |
| La Wis Wis | June— Labor Day | Cowlitz Valley |
| Takhlakh Lake | June— mid-September | Cowlitz Valley |
| Lower Falls | April— November | Mt. Adams |
| South Climb Trailhead | late May— October | Mt. Adams |
| Forest Road 25 | May— November | Mount St. Helens |
| Forest Road 99 Sites | May— November | Mount St. Helens |
| Hemlock Picnic Area | April— October | Mt. Adams |
| Panther Creek | mid-May— mid-Sept. | Mt. Adams |

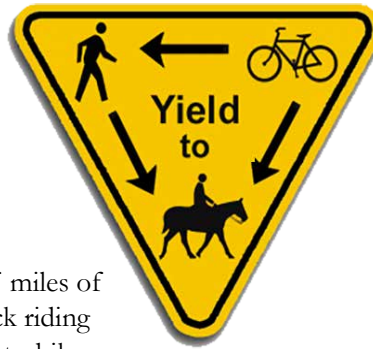
Trails and Hiking

There are almost 1,500 miles of trails on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Many are multi-purpose trails open to hikers, bicycles, trail bikes, and horses. Others might be developed for Off Highway Vehicles or restricted to non-motorized users. All are great ways to get to know the forest a little better.

A few things to keep in mind when planning your next trek:

- Trails in Wilderness Areas are non-mechanized, meaning that while pedestrians and pack animals are allowed, trail bikes, OHVs, and bicycles are not.
- Some trails have seasonal closures and many are inaccessible throughout the winter and spring due to snow or road closures.
- Official forest maps show trails as dashed lines with pink trail numbers.
- Maps and guidebooks are available for purchase at forest offices and visitor centers.

- Practice Leave No Trace principles.
- Check the Recreation Conditions Report on the forest website or contact a forest office to see if there are any known trail impacts.
- If you are hiking during hunting season, wear plenty of bright colors like blaze orange and always be aware of your surroundings.
- Consult the current Motor Vehicle Use Map for trails open to ATVs and trail bikes.
- Some forest roads may only be passable by high clearance vehicles. Check road conditions before you head out.



Horses

There are hundreds of miles of trails open to horseback riding on the forest. For safety, hikers and cyclists should remember to yield to horses on trails. Popular trails include Boundary Trail #1 and Packwood Lake Trail #78.

Gifford Pinchot National Forests offers 11 horse camps, several of which have stock water troughs, manure bins, tethering area, and loading ramps. Ask for a horse camp map and brochure at forest offices.

To help reduce the spread of invasive species, riders are reminded that weed-free feed is required in national forests in the Pacific Northwest. Weed-free feed includes commercially processed pellets, steamed and rolled grains, or state certified weed-free feed.



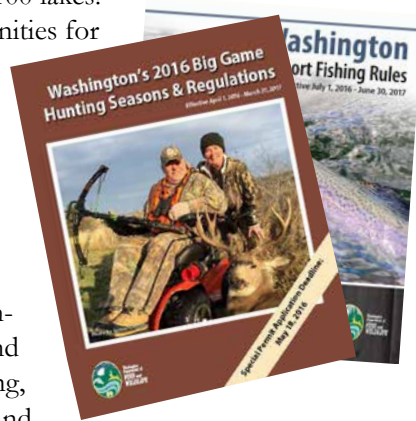
Fishing & Hunting

Did you know the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has more than 20 species of fish in 1,360 miles of streams and over 100 lakes?

Excellent opportunities for bait, hardware, and fly-fishing abound. Hunting is also popular on portions of the forest.

The State of Washington manages and regulates all hunting, fishing, trapping, and other capture of animals across the forest.

For information about licenses, open areas, and regulations visit the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>



Mountain Biking

There are lots of great trails woven throughout the Gifford Pinchot National Forest open to mountain bikers.

How you rate trail difficulty will depend on your riding experience, the kind of bike you use, your goals, along with the ever-changing factors of weather and trail conditions.

Trail conditions often change. By visiting a Ranger District office on your way out of the forest and letting a Forest Service representative know about a change in trail conditions— such as a fallen tree or washout— you can help bring attention to safety issues.

Paved and unpaved forest roads are often narrow and windy. Be aware at all times for approaching traffic.



Special Uses

Between guided trips, research studies, outfitters, organized races, large group gatherings like weddings or reunions, commercial filming, communications sites and fund raisers, there are many commercial and large group activities happening on national forests.

These activities fall under a category called Special Uses and may require a permit. For more information about Special Uses permits, visit: www.fs.usda.gov/main/giffordpinchot/passes-permits/event-commercial

Scenic Drives

Looking to spend an afternoon enjoying tall trees and dramatic views? Going for a scenic drive is a popular way to enjoy the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Here are a few routes for a relaxed drive that really showcase the national forest.

State Route 504: State Route (SR) 504 is a paved road that ends at Johnston Ridge Observatory. Along the way there are several viewpoints of Mount St. Helens and the Toutle River Valley, as well as three visitor centers along the way.

Cougar to Carson: Take Forest Road (FR) 90, Curly Creek Rd, and FR 30 to drive through the south part of the forest with plenty of recreational sites at which to stop. Bring a picnic lunch and stop at McClellan Viewpoint.

Randle Loop:

Make a loop on FR 23, FR 76, and FR 25. The forest surrounding the Cispus

River is beautiful and lush. Stop at one of the trails for a hike, or continue south on FR 25 & FR 99 to explore Windy Ridge and overlook Mount St. Helens.

Keep in mind that most roads on the forest are unpaved and many are closed in the winter season. Roads are also subject to heaving and pot holes, thanks to a lot of freezing and thawing throughout colder months, as well as our abundance of loosely packed soils from volcanic eruptions. Drive slowly and stay safe.



Mountain Climbing Basics

Thousands of people climb Mt. Adams and Mount St. Helens every year. While considered “non-technical” climbs, both can be dangerous and require careful preparation, good physical fitness, and attention to safety and weather before and during the climb.

- Both mountains require permits year round for summit climbing.
- Winter permits are self-issue and free.
- Mt. Adams climbers need to purchase a Cascade Volcano Pass May through September for trips above 7,000 ft.
- Mount St. Helens climbers need to purchase permits through www.Recreation.gov for trips April– October above 4,800 ft. More details at: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/climbingmsh
- Climbing is pack-in, pack-out– including all solid human waste. Free bags are available.
- To lessen over-crowding, climbers are encouraged to consider a weekday trip.

Contact the Mt. Adams Ranger District or Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument office for more information.



Where to get more information

Need a forest map? How about a Northwest Forest Pass? Or what about just a recommendation for how to spend a day or the weekend on the forest? Gifford Pinchot National Forest offices have you covered!

Hours change for summer season. Check online or call for details. www.fs.usda.gov/GiffordPinchot

[Cowlitz Valley Ranger District](#)

10024 US Hwy 12
Randle, WA 98377
(360) 497-1100

[Mt. Adams Ranger District](#)

2455 Hwy 141
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-3400

[Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument](#)

42218 N.E. Yale Bridge Rd.
Amboy, WA 98601
(360) 449-7800

Fort Vancouver
Visitor Center
1501 E. Evergreen Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 891-5000

From a TTY call 711 to be connected to a Forest Service office.



Volunteers

Did you know that volunteers contributed almost 50,000 hours of service to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in 2017? That is a ton of forest work that could not have happened without them!



Most of our volunteers are part of projects led by one our valued partner groups. These partners improve recreation opportunities, preserve historic structures, and improve natural habitat on the forest.

Volunteer opportunities include trail maintenance, acting as Wilderness stewards or campground hosts, and helping at events and with education programs.

If you would like to pitch in and improve your public lands consider volunteering! You can find more information at: www.fs.usda.gov/main/giffordpinchot/workingtogether/volunteering

Contact Information

| EMERGENCY (Police, Medical, and Fire) | 911 |
|--|----------------|
| Cowlitz Valley Ranger District (Randle) | (360) 497-1100 |
| Mt. Adams Ranger District (Trout Lake) | (509) 395-3400 |
| Mount St. Helens NVM (Amboy) | (360) 449-7800 |
| Johnston Ridge Observatory | (360) 274-2140 |
| Gifford Pinchot NF HQ (Vancouver) | (360) 891-5001 |
| Other Useful Contacts | |
| National Recreation Reservations (recreation.gov) | (877) 444-6777 |
| PacificCorps (campgrounds along SR 503) | (503) 831-6666 |
| Washington State Parks (parks.wa.gov) | (360) 902-8844 |
| Washington Tourism (www.experiencewa.com) | (800) 544-1800 |
| Cowlitz Co. Tourism (www.visitmtsthelens.com) | (360) 577-3137 |
| Lewis Co. Tourism (discoverlewiscounty.com) | (800) 525-3323 |
| Skamania Co. Tourism (www.skamaniacounty.org/visiting) | (509) 427-3980 |

Winter Recreation



Winter is a beautiful time on the forest. Snow blankets the woods and create a sense of quiet.

Animals such as some frogs, bears, and snakes hole up to rest out the winter in dens, burrows, or nests. Others, like owls and elk, don't seem bothered by the cold and go about their business as usual.

For humans the winter season offers several ways to explore the forest. There are groomed cross-country ski trails as well as trails and roads open to snowmobiles throughout the forest. Look for trailheads that start at a Sno-Park, check the snow report online or at a forest office, and then grab your gear and head out!

Snowshoeing is also a great way to enjoy winter without having to worry about trails. Trekking in the woods with snowshoes doesn't require trailers or racks and allows you to visit places off the beaten path.

Driving on the forest in the winter season requires planning ahead and a willingness to turn back if conditions prevent safe travel. It is not uncommon for some areas to have more than 12 feet of snow on the ground. Some of this snow may not melt off roads or trails until June, depending on elevation.

Several roads have seasonal closures beginning in late fall- consult your Motor Vehicle Use Map for maps and a full list. Roads that are legally open may still be inaccessible due to snow or require chains.

Parking at designated Sno-Parks requires a Washington Sno-Park permit, which can be purchased at forest ranger district offices, local businesses, or online: parks.state.wa.us/130/Winter-Recreation

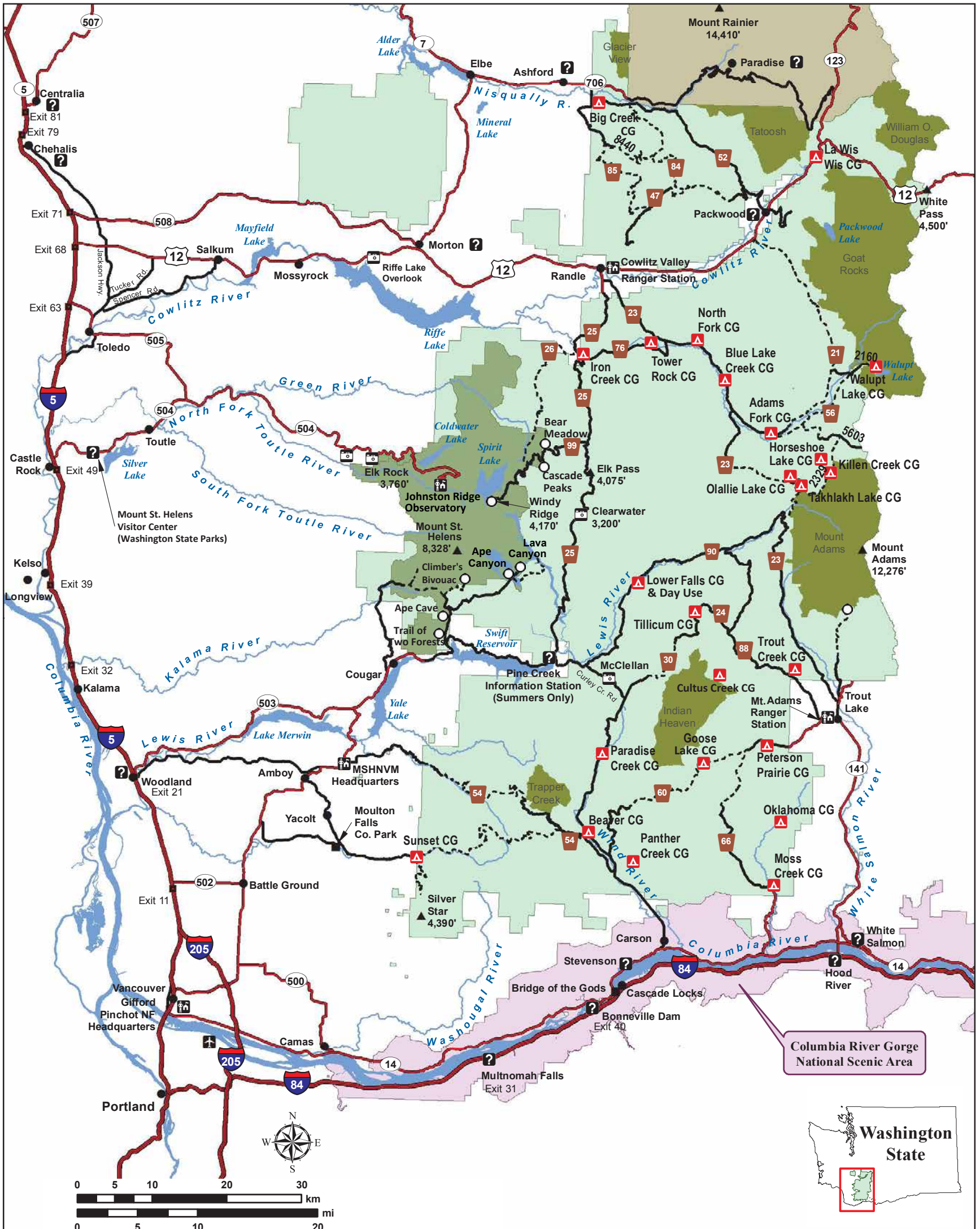


When venturing onto mountain slopes in winter always remember to check the avalanche and weather forecasts at the Northwest Avalanche Center: www.nwac.us



Gifford Pinchot National Forest Vicinity

Gifford Pinchot National Forest Vicinity



For more information, visit our website at:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot>

or call (360) 891-5000

USDA Forest Service is an equal

- Forest Boundary
- Mount St. Helens NVM
- Wilderness Area
- Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
- Forest Service Office

- Summit
- City, Town, Community
- Airport
- Recreation Sites
- Campground

- Interstate Hwy.
- US, State or County Hwy.
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Lakes and River Areas

This map is intended for general reference and is approximate in general proportions.

Elevations are in Feet

