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

No matter the season, there are opportunities for everyone to explore and have fun outdoors. There are campgrounds open in the summer; snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and skiing to historic cabins in winter; looking for seasonal wildflowers while hiking in spring; and gathering mushrooms in early fall.

Discover your national forest!
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 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, noble fir, Western redcedar, 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 Forest. These species help create a healthier ecosystem...

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 Service heritage program works to protect these resources and share the values of these heritage 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.

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

Mount St. Helens erupted in May 1980 and 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 world-wide come to this unique environment to study how plants and animals recover after volcanic disturbances. Visit the Monument and witness ongoing changes!

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 unique to the area 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 and conserve 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 have a fee while other products are free depending on whether you harvest for personal or commercial use. Check with a Gifford Pinchot office to ensure you are harvesting legally. More info at: tinyurl.com/epfstpermits

Collecting huckleberries and taking them off the forest requires a permit— for both personal and commercial purposes. A free personal 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, or mushroom, free use permit online at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/gpnfpermits

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. Nationally, many caves have been closed to protect our bat populations.

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

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
Know Before You Go

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 always let someone know where you’re going and when you expect to be back!

Stop in at a forest office to get tips on where to go, conditions updates, maps or passes. 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

Wildlife Safety

Bear Safety: Keep your campsite clean to ward off bears. Store all food and scented items in bear-proof containers or in vehicle, covered and out of sight. Do not approach or attempt to feed bears.

If you encounter a bear keep a safe distance and slowly back away. If a bear approaches, scare it away—shout, wave arms, throw stones, deploy bear spray. DO NOT RUN!

Cougar Safety: Cougars are secretive and shy. Attacks on humans are extremely rare.

If you encounter a cougar, stop and pick up small children. Face it and make yourself look as big, shout and yell and slowly back away. Be assertive. If the animal attacks, fight back and DO NOT RUN!

Leaving 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

Wilderness Travel

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 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.

Motor Vehicle Use Map

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.
Camping on the Gifford Pinchot National 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!

Reserve your spot under the stars!

Many forest campgrounds accept reservations. Visitors can go to Recreation.gov to make reservations. Visitors can now reserve a single, double, or group campsite online up to 6 months in advance.

Features campground maps, a calendar of availability, the ability to reserve specific sites, and uploaded visitor photos.

Dispersed Camping

Camping outside campgrounds, or dispersed camping, is legal throughout most of the forest. 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.

Follow these guidelines:
- Choose sites that are already established.
- Camp at least 100 ft. away from creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Avoid trenching around sleeping areas.
- Never clean dishes, or clean fish, in a stream or lake.
- Collect only dead or down wood.
- Avoid using plastic or aluminum cans.
- Always pack out what you bring in and leave your site cleaner than you found it!

Answers to frequently asked questions about camping on the forest:
- Spring campground opening dates are subject to weather and road conditions. Check current conditions online or call your local Ranger District office for information.
- None of our campgrounds have electrical hook-ups.
- 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 max of 8 people.
- If you are traveling into a Wilderness keep in mind that there are additional regulations, such as restrictions on where you can build a campfire or areas that are limited to designated campfires.

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.

Final current conditions of campgrounds and a forest campground map online at: www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/giffordpinchot/recreation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Campgrounds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campground</td>
<td>Sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adams Fork (R)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Creek (R)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Lake Creek (R)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat Creek</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe Lake</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Creek (R)</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killen Creek</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Wis Wis (R)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Fork (R)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ollallie Lake</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soda Creek (Primitive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tahklah Lake (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tower Rock (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walupt Lake (R)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mount St. Helens (South &amp; West)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Falls (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalama Horse Camp</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mt. Adams Ranger District (South &amp; East)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultus Creek (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forlorn Lakes (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goose Lake (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Govt. Mineral Springs (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Falls (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morrison Creek (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moss Creek (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panther Creek (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paradise Creek (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peterson Prairie (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tillicum (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout Lake Creek (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Falls (R)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

For sites that have a fee, you can use a valid Interagency Pass, a Northwest Forest Pass or pay with cash or check on site. 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

Day Use Fee Sites on the Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Operating Season</th>
<th>Ranger District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ape Canyon Trailhead</td>
<td>March - October</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ape Cave Interpretive Site</td>
<td>March - October</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Meadow Interpretive Site</td>
<td>April - November</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry Patch Trailhead</td>
<td>May - October</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Lake ORV Trailhead</td>
<td>May - October</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climber’s Bivouac Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Springs #72 Trailhead</td>
<td>April - November</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultus Creek #108 Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goose Lake Boating &amp; Day Use Area</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony Falls Viewpoint</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Cave Picnic Site</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence Pass Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Heaven #33 Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnston Ridge Observatory</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Wis Wis Interpretive Site</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Falls Day Use Site</td>
<td>April - November</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meta Lake Interpretive Site</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miners Car Interpretive Site</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway Pass Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packwood Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Creek #99D Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Creek Interpretive Site</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Climb #183 Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Helens Falls Day Use Area</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Takhlakh Lake Day Use Area</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Lake #111 Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail of Two Forests Interpretive Site</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trapper Creek #192/#194 Trailhead</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wahapt Lake Day Use Area</td>
<td>May - September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whistle Punk #59 Trailhead</td>
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<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windy Ridge Interpretive Site</td>
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<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woods Creek Watchable Wildlife Site</td>
<td>May - September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
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Operating Seasons Across the Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Site</th>
<th>Season (approximate)</th>
<th>Ranger District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ape Cave</td>
<td>mid-May — October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnston Ridge Observatory</td>
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<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Creek</td>
<td>mid-May — September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Wis Wis</td>
<td>June — Labor Day</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takhlakh Lake</td>
<td>mid-June — September</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Falls</td>
<td>April — November</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Climb Trailhead</td>
<td>July — August</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Road 25</td>
<td>May - June — November</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Road 99 Sites</td>
<td>May - June — November</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemlock Picnic Area</td>
<td>April — October</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panther Creek</td>
<td>mid-May — mid-Sept.</td>
<td>Mount St. Helens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We want to hear from you!

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is proposing changes to recreation fees under the Recreation Enhancement Act Fee Program. We are accepting comments on proposed changes impacting some campgrounds and day-use sites on the Forest.

Learn about proposed changes and how to comment at: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/fees

Special Forest Passes, Permits & Reservations

Ape Cave Timed Reservation Ticket
Timed reservations are required to visit Ape Cave during the open season, May 18 through October 31. Choose a two-hour time slot for your desired day at Recreation.gov.

Lewis River Recreation Area Reservation
The Lewis River Recreation Area is a 10-mile corridor, situated along the Lewis River and Forest Road 90. This area provides access to the popular Lewis River Trail #31, and associated waterfall viewing.

Advanced reservations for parking at trailheads and day use areas are required during the busy visitor season June 15 - September 06. Reserved Parking tickets must be purchased online and printed before you travel. Go to Recreation.gov for tickets.

Mount Adams Climbing Pass
A Mt. Adams Climbing Pass is required if you are climbing above 7,000 feet elevation in Mt. Adams Wilderness between May 1 and September 30. Purchase a pass at Recreation.gov.

Mount St. Helens Climbing Permit
Climbing permits are required year-round to climb Mount St. Helens. Between April 1 and October 31 climbing permits are limited and must be purchased online in advance at Recreation.gov.

Mount Margaret Backcountry Permits
Permits are required for overnight camping in the Mount Margaret Backcountry between May 1 and November 30. Permits are available online at Recreation.gov.

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Wrist Band
Buy onsite for entrance to Johnston Ridge Observatory and surrounding area, $8 per person.

Scan this QR Code with your Smartphone camera to get a link to our Recreation Passes and Permits web page.
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.

Find specific trail information on our recreation pages: www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/giffordpinchot/recreation.

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

- Trails in Wilderness 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 high elevation trails are inaccessible throughout the winter and spring due to snow or road closures.
- Popular maps may not have the most current information. Never rely solely on your phone for navigation. Bring a trusted map & the ten essentials.
- Check conditions reports on the forest website or contact a forest office for latest conditions.
- When hiking during hunting season, wear bright colors like blaze orange and always be aware of your surroundings.
- Remember: Some forest roads may only be passable by high clearance vehicles.

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.

Pacific Northwest Accessible Adventures videos provide ideas of where to go for accessible recreation in the Pacific Northwest. Check out the videos highlighting Mount St Helens: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/accessibleadventures.

Washington Trails Association Hiking Guide has a new accessibility filter to help users determine whether a trail is wheelchair-friendly: www.wta.org/go-outside/hikes.

Fishing & Hunting

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/.

Biking & OHV

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.

Road biking: Most roads through the forest are not paved or may have rough surfaces, logging tracks, and/or blind curves. Please use extreme caution.

E-bikes (electric assisted bikes): E-bikes have motors and as such, are only allowed on motorized trails and roads.

OHV: Consult the current Motor Vehicle Use Map for trails open to ATVs and trail bikes. Pick up a free Motor Vehicle Use Map at any ranger district office.

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 though the south part of the forest with plenty of recreational sites at which to stop. Bring a picnic lunch and stop at McLellan 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 bike, 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.
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 of 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](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/giffordpinchot/workingtogether/volunteering)

Winter Recreation

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

Animals such as some frogs, bears, and snakes hole up to rest out the winter in dens, burrows, or nests. What tracks can you find in the snow?

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 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](http://www.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](http://www.nwac.us)

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 Mt. Adams Climbing Pass, May through September, for trips above 7,000 ft. at [Recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).
• Mount St. Helens climbers need to purchase permits through [Recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) for trips April–October above 4,800 ft.
• Climbing is pack-in, pack-out— including all solid human waste. Visitors should come prepared with a WAG bag. Some may be available at the trailhead, but this is not guaranteed.
• To lessen overcrowding, climbers are encouraged to plan a weekday trip.

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

Need a forest map, recreation pass or a recommendation for how to spend a day or the weekend on the forest? Forest offices have you covered!

**Cowiltz 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

Contact Us

EMERGENCY (Police, Medical, and Fire)
911

**Johnston Ridge Observatory**
(360) 274-2140

**National Recreation Reservations**
(877) 444-6777

**PacificCorps**
(503) 831-6666

**Washington State Parks**
(360) 902-8844

**Washington Tourism**
(800) 544-1800

**Cowiltz Co. Tourism**
(360) 577-3137

**Lewis Co. Tourism**
(800) 525-3323

**Skamania Co. Tourism**
(509) 427-3980

Other Contacts

Winter Recreation