



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Adams
Ranger District

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Date: June 13, 2024

Dear Permit Holder:

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is starting an "Open Season" for submitting proposals involving changes to your Recreation Residence, outbuildings, and lots. This letter will inform you about the details of the Open Season process and the reasons we are moving in this direction.

Open seasons are specific timeframes in which cabin owners can submit a proposal for review and consideration. The use of the Open Season will allow the Forest Service to be more efficient in responding to your requests for project approval. We believe it will also help cabin owners plan upcoming projects and will provide a realistic and consistent timeline for our review and approval process. Several of our neighboring National Forests utilize the open season process and recommend it.

When is the Open Season on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest? Our Open Season will be from August 1 through September 15, beginning this year. All project proposals must be submitted to us during this period. This includes proposals for any changes you would like to make to your cabin, lot improvements or to the lot, including repairs, ground disturbance, removal or replacement of existing structures, and new construction.

Our hope is that we will have more capacity to process permit modifications starting in 2025 once cabin fees are retained regionally and locally. Until that time, we anticipate that we'll be able to approve proposals submitted during the Open Season by the following dry season, depending on the completeness of the proposal, and cabin eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. For complex projects such as a rebuild, addition, or major infrastructure project, it is advised that you submit proposals during the Open Season two years before you would like to implement the project.

Important Points to Keep in Mind

- As always, permit holders must receive written approval from the Forest Service before starting any project that disturbs the soil/ vegetation or that affects the exterior of the cabin as outlined in their Special Use Permit.
- It is best to submit your project proposal as early as possible during the Open Season. We will strive to review projects in the order they are received.



- Please make sure your Project Request Form is filled out completely and with all the necessary details (dimensions, material description and manufacturer, location on the building or lot, photographs, etc). Your proposal will be entered into the queue, only after you have provided all the necessary detailed information.
- Keep in mind that some projects will only be authorized for completion during the "dry season."
- Emergency repairs are an exception and can be submitted year-round. Please contact us as soon as possible after the emergency occurs and repair will be authorized as quickly as possible, based on the urgency of the situation.

Additional information, including the Project Request Form, can be found on our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/giffordpinchot/passes-permits/?cid=stelprd3818528>. Please submit your project proposals electronically to Joel.Nowak@usda.gov and Frances.Lanagan@usda.gov. Alternatively, the complete form can be mailed to Joel Nowak at 1835 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia WA, 98512.

We hope the use of the Open Season will improve our project request and approval process. We look forward to working with you to make this new process streamlined, efficient and predictable in terms of our timelines for project approvals. If you have any questions about the Open Season process, please contact your Permit Administrator, Joel Nowak at 360-819-3378 or at the email address listed above.

Sincerely,



Erin K. Black
Mt. Adams District Ranger

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