



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST**

**ORDER OF THE FOREST SUPERVISOR
OCCUPANCY AND USE RESTRICTIONS
FOR THE PEMIGEWASSET WILDERNESS AREA**

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited on the White Mountain National Forest within the area described in this Order as Exhibit A the “Restricted Area” within the White Mountain National Forest

1. Except while being prepared, consumed, or under on-site visual observance, all food, food containers, scented items (such as soap, lip balm, toothpaste) and refuse shall be stored in a cylindrical, hard-sided, non-pliable Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) certified bear resistant canister or stored in a supplied food storage box at the Thirteen Falls Tent-site **36 C.F.R. § 261.58 (cc)**.

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a written Forest Service authorization specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order.
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.

RESTRICTED AREA

The restricted area lies within the boundaries of the Pemigewasset Wilderness Area. The restricted area is depicted on the attached map labeled Exhibit A.

PURPOSE

The Pemigewasset Wilderness has experienced increased human-bear conflicts over the past five years driven by a healthy bear population, a surge in visitor use, and ineffective food storage. These conflicts pose significant risks to public safety, lead to bear habituation, result in negative ecological effects for the black bear population and degrade Wilderness character. Alternative food storage techniques have proven to be ineffective in the Pemigewasset Wilderness Area as incidents show an increasing trend between 2021 and 2025.

Posting of the Order as required in 36 CFR 261.50 will provide notification to National Forest visitors that activities are restricted in the area shown on attached map. An enforcement plan describes how the public will be informed of the prohibitions, how it will be posted, and planned enforcement strategies.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order will be effective on May 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect until May 1, 2031, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.
2. A map identifying the Restricted Area is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A.
3. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both (*see* 16 U.S.C. § 551, 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(6), 18 U.S.C. § 3581 (b)(7)).
4. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Pemigawasset Ranger District located in Campton, NH, telephone number 603-536-6100, and at the White Mountain National Forest Supervisor's Office in Campton, NH, telephone number 603-536-6100.
5. This Order supersedes any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order.

Done at Campton, NH, this 30th day of March, 2026.

DEREK IBARGUEN,
Forest Supervisor
White Mountain National Forest