



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
Shoshone National Forest
Wapiti Ranger District**

Hard-Sided Camping Equipment Requirement

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), the following are prohibited on all National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Threemile, Eagle Creek, and Newton Creek Campgrounds in the Wapiti Ranger District of the Shoshone National Forest, which are described further below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A ("Described Areas"):

1. Camping from March 1st to December 1st without a hard-sided, non-pliable, and self-contained unit (such as a trailer, camper, or vehicle). 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(e).

EXEMPTIONS

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

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

DESCRIBED AREAS

The Described Areas are the Threemile, Eagle Creek, and Newton Creek Campgrounds which are along U.S. Highway 14-16-20 between the East Entrance of Yellowstone National Park and Wapiti, WY. Threemile Campground is in Township 52 North, Range 109 West, Section 11. Eagle Creek Campground is in Township 52 North, Range 108 West, and Section 17. Newton Creek Campground is in Township 52 North, Range 107 West, and Section 29.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect public safety and minimize human-bear conflicts.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect on April 19, 2024, at 05:00 p.m., through December 31, 2027, at 12:00 a.m. unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Areas is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/shoshone/alerts-notice>.
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions 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 months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Wapiti Ranger District Office in Cody, WY, (307)-527-6921, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Areas.

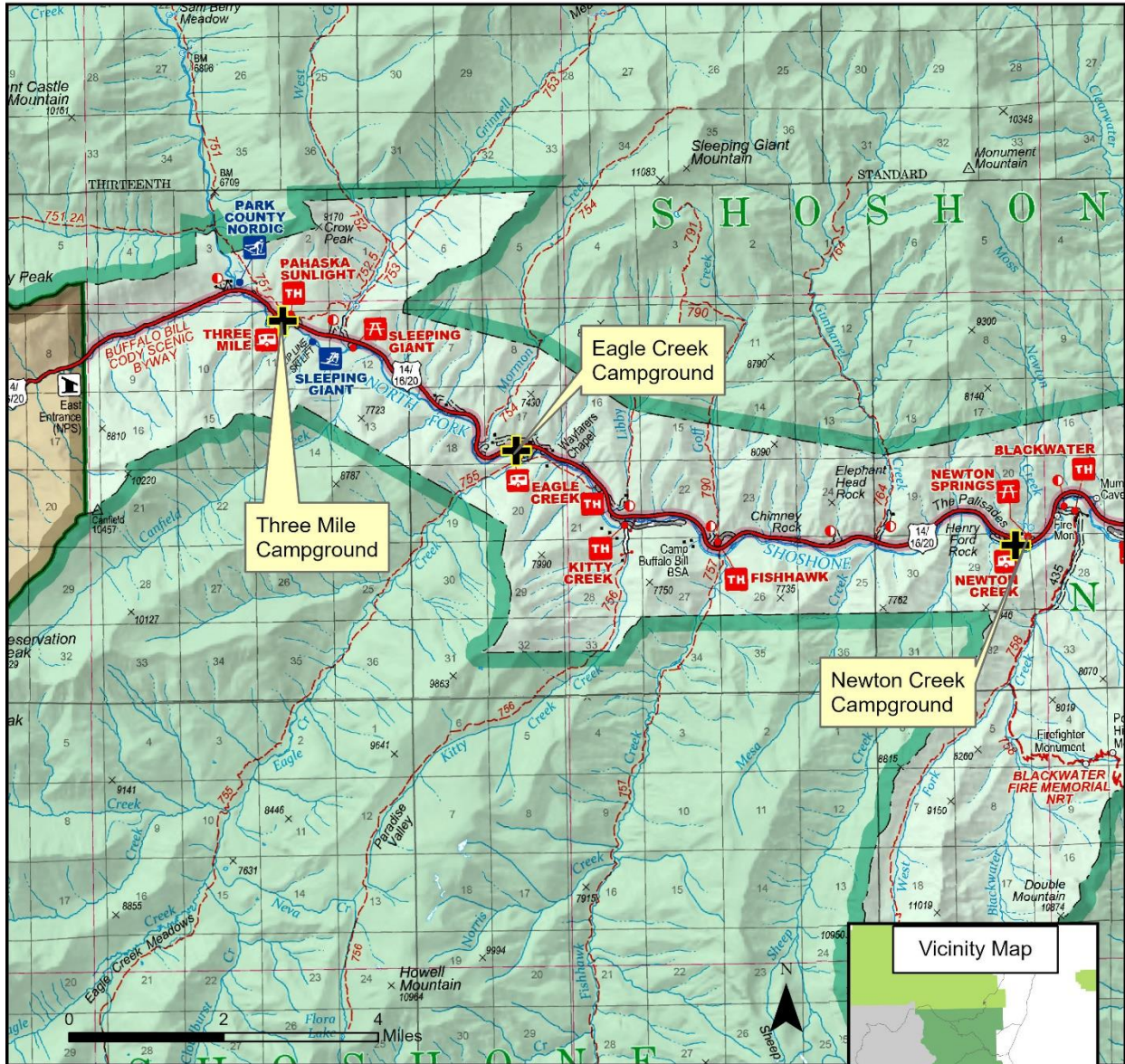
Signed and issued on April 19, 2024.

Ken W. Coffin
Forest Supervisor
Shoshone National Forest

Exhibit A



ORDER #SHO-24-002 EXHIBIT A: Described Area and Vicinity Maps



Legend

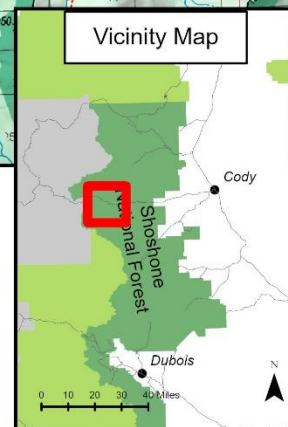
Described Area
(Hard-sided Only
Campgrounds)

+

For More Information Contact:

Wapiti Ranger District
Shoshone National Forest
203A Yellowstone Ave
Cody, WY 82414

Phone: (307) 527-6921



**ASSESSMENT OF NEED
LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN
CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST**

HARD-SIDED CAMPING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT

[Assessment of Need](#)

Purpose of Order

The Newton Creek, Eagle Creek, and Three Mile Campgrounds are in the Upper North Fork Shoshone River drainage where grizzly bear densities are high, and along the river corridor where bears naturally travel. These campgrounds have higher potential for interactions between bears and humans compared to other campgrounds, including campgrounds located further east along the North Fork where bear activity is generally lower. The Forest has restricted overnight camping to persons using hard-sided camping units at Eagle Creek and Three Mile Campgrounds since about 1997, and the same restriction has been in place at Newton Creek Campground since 2013. These restrictions have been successful in meeting the purpose of providing for public safety and minimizing the potential for human-bear conflicts.

Scope of Order

This Order prohibits camping with soft-sided equipment (such as tents) that bears can enter at three campgrounds within the Wapiti Ranger District: Threemile, Eagle Creek, and Newton Creek from March 1st to December 1st annually. The prohibition applies only at these campgrounds located in the Upper North Fork Shoshone River drainage because high bear densities in this area create a higher risk to public safety. Camping will be allowed with tents or other soft-sided camping units at five developed campgrounds located in reasonable proximity to the restricted campgrounds where bear densities and potential for human-bear interactions are generally lower. The prohibition also only applies from March 1st to December 1st annually, because that is when bears are generally active in the area. To allow for winter camping opportunities, the hard-sided camping restriction would not apply from December-February when bears are generally denning.

Law Enforcement Plan

Posting

Signs will be prominently posted to inform the public of the Order's requirements at the three campgrounds where they apply. The Order will also be posted in the Shoshone National Forest Supervisor's Office in Cody, WY, and at the District Offices in Cody as required in 36 CFR 261.51. It will be posted to the Shoshone National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/shoshone/alerts-notice>.

Enforcement Strategies

The Newton Creek, Eagle Creek, and Three Mile Campgrounds typically have camp hosts who will inform the public of hard-sided camping requirements. Past experience has demonstrated that signing and campground host presence is highly effective at gaining compliance with hard-sided camping restrictions. Patrols by Forest Service law enforcement officers (LEO's) and Forest Protection Officers (FPO's) will be used to provide additional education and enforcement. LEO's and FPO's will enforce the restrictions in situations where that becomes necessary.

Civil Rights Impact Analysis

The Order will restrict the opportunity for people to camp in the Newton Creek, Eagle Creek, and Three Mile Campgrounds with tents or other soft-sided camping equipment during 9 months of the year when bears may be active. However, no impacts are expected to any individual's civil rights. The prohibition will apply to everyone equally except for excepted individuals.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance

This Order is categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis and documentation under 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1), which allows for Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR part 261 to protect public health and safety to be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The Order is consistent with this category of actions because its purpose is to provide for public safety and minimize the potential for human-bear conflicts. No extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude the application of this categorical exclusion.