



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# Welcome!

**Gifford Pinchot National  
Forest Recreation  
Fee Proposal –  
Virtual Town Hall Meeting**

# Purpose of Meeting

To provide an overview of the Forest Recreation Fee Proposal, answer questions, and solicit input from the public.

## Agenda

- ❖ Fee proposal presentation
- ❖ How to provide feedback
- ❖ Question and Answers
- ❖ Please ask questions in the Facebook chat.

# Meeting Logistics

- ❖ Please post questions in the Facebook chat.
- ❖ Forest staff will answer as many questions as possible during the live meeting. Any questions we are not able to answer live will be answered in the chat over the next few days.
- ❖ Questions and comments may also be emailed to: [sm.fs.gpnfrecfees@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.gpnfrecfees@usda.gov). Additional methods for providing comments on the fee proposal will be shared at the end of the meeting.
- ❖ Closed Captions can be turned on or off. To manage the closed caption tool, look for the closed caption icon (cc) in the lower right-hand portion of your screen.
- ❖ This meeting and any questions or comments are being recorded and will continue to be available on Gifford Pinchot National Forest Facebook page afterwards.

# What's happening?

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The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is proposing to charge new and/or increased fees at numerous developed recreation sites.



# Background

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- ❖ The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve these sites.
- ❖ Recreation fees on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest have remained unchanged for over 15 years.

# Why Fees?

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- Public lands are a valuable part of our legacy. Recreation fees are an investment in this legacy; they benefit those who are using public lands and they provide a sustainable source of revenue.
- Recreation fees support work that helps keep water clean, restore and protect the environment, provide safety measures, make recreation opportunities available, and ensure opportunities for future generations
- Raising recreation fees would help the forest improve infrastructure at campsites and day use sites and hire additional recreation staff during the season of operation.

# Why Fees?

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- The Forest continues to see a gap in current allocations to current revenue collected. These proposed new and increased fees will assist the forest in closing that gap and continue to maintain sites to the level our visitors come to expect.
- Fee revenue has been used on projects that improve visitor experience, such as visitor center rehabilitation, restroom upgrades, trail repairs and improvements, campground improvements, historic structure enhancements, education and visitor interpretation programs, on-site accessibility improvements, trash & graffiti removal, Forest Service presence to discourage illegal activity, vandalism repairs, and hazard tree removal.

# Other Key Information

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- If approved, fees would not be implemented until appropriate amenities are in place.
- Even if proposed changes are implemented, about 70% of the 234 developed recreation sites on the Forest would remain non-fee.
- All sites included in this proposal would be managed by the Forest Service.
- Proposed fee prices are based on a market analysis of similar sorts of opportunities within the area.
- Ninety-five percent of the revenue from recreation fees remains on the forest to operate, maintain, and improve facilities.



# Proposed Northwest Forest Pass Day Use Sites



Snowgrass Trailhead

# Proposed New Northwest Forest Pass Fee Sites

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## **Mt. Adams Ranger District**

- Crest Camp
- Falls Creek Falls Trailhead
- Hemlock Recreation Area
- Middle Falls Trailhead

## **Mount St. Helens Ranger District**

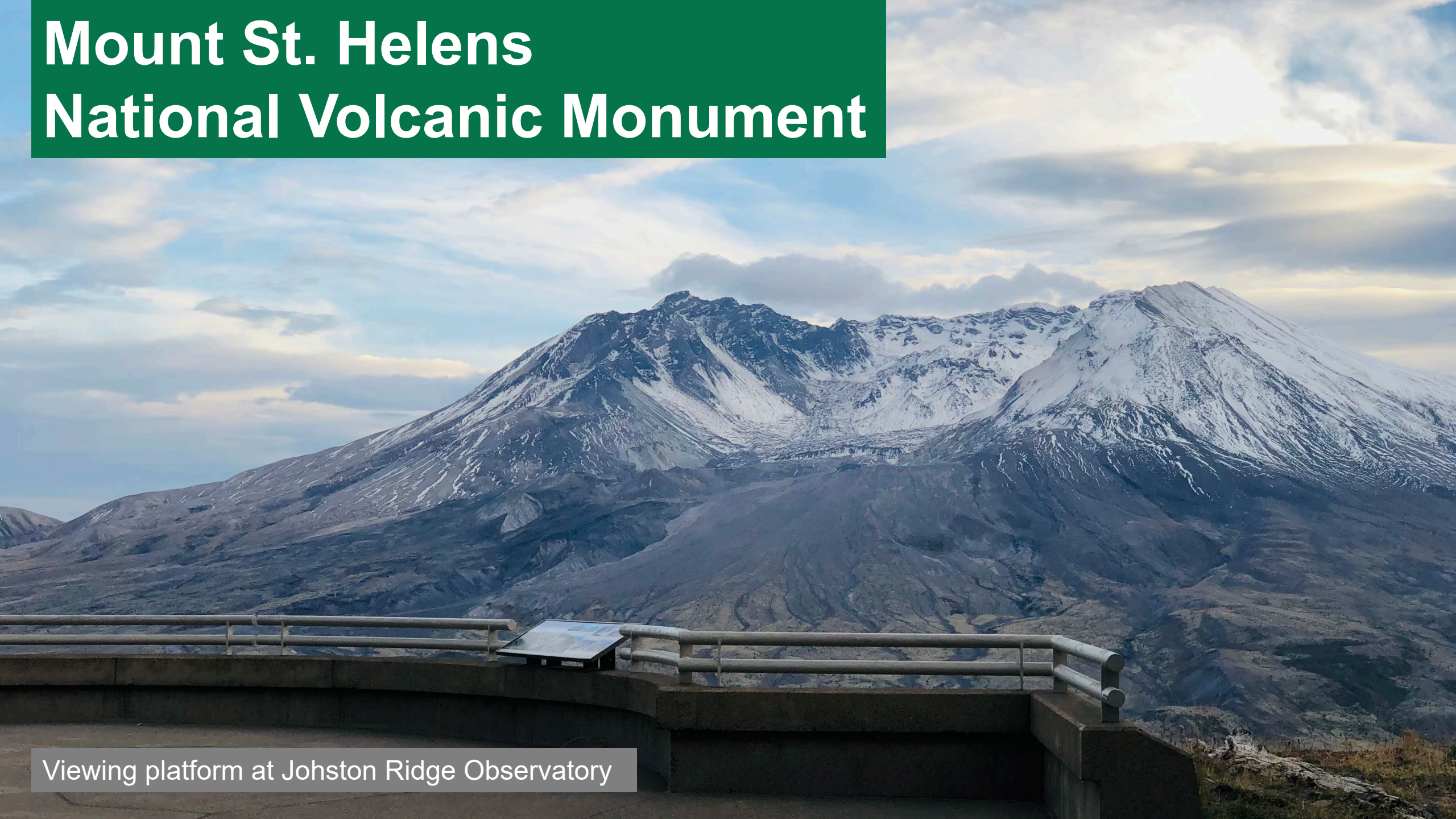
- Siouxan Trailhead
- June Lake Trailhead
- Marble Mountain Trailhead

## **Cowlitz Valley Ranger District**

- Snowgrass Trailhead
- Chambers Lake Day Use Site

\*Interagency Passes also applicable

# Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument



Viewing platform at Johnston Ridge Observatory

# Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (NVM) and Johnston Ridge Observatory (JRO)

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Current fee at JRO is \$8/person (16 and older)

**Option 1:** Proposed change to \$12/person (16 and older). The full suite of Interagency Passes will continue to allow the pass holder (with valid ID) plus 3 persons into JRO.

**Option 2:** Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Pass. Proposed at \$30/private vehicle, or \$25/motorcycle. Good for 7 days, valid at JRO, and all day-use sites within the NVM boundary. The Northwest Forest Pass would also be accepted all sites within the NVM boundary, except at JRO.

**Only one option OR the other could be implemented, not both.**

# Proposed Northwest Forest Pass (NWFP) Day Use Sites and/or Monument Pass\* - New Fee

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## Sites along State Highway 504

- Coldwater Lake Picnic and Boating
- Hummocks
- South Coldwater
- Loowit
- Coldwater Science and Learning Center (winter only)

## Sites along Forest Road 99

- Cascade Peaks Interpretive Site (list FR99)
- Donnybrook
- Cedar Creek Viewpoint

\*All other day use sites within the National Volcanic Monument boundary currently require a \$5 day use fee or the NWFP. These include: Ape Canyon, Bear Meadow, Harmony, Independence Pass, Lava Canyon, Meta Lake, Miners Car, Norway Pass, Smith Creek, Trail of Two Forests, Windy Ridge.

Birth of a Trail #246 via  
Coldwater Day Use Area



A photograph of a forest campsite. The scene is dominated by tall, slender evergreen trees with dense green foliage. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled pattern of light and shadow on the ground. In the middle ground, there are two wooden picnic tables. Between them is a fire pit made of stones. The ground is covered in a layer of dry pine needles and leaves. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# CAMPGROUNDS

## Proposed Fee Increase and New Fees

Trout Lake Creek Campground

# Proposed Campground Fee Increases

## Mt. Adams Ranger District

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### Lower Falls Campground

- Current: \$15/site/night, single; \$30/site/night, double
- Proposed: \$20/site/night, single; \$40/site/night, double; \$5/extra vehicle

### Cultus Creek Campground

- Current: \$10/site/night, single; \$20/site/night, double; \$5 per extra vehicle
- Proposed: \$15/site/night (and keep the \$5 per extra vehicle)

### Forlorn Lakes Campground

- Current: \$10/site/night, single; \$20/site/night, double; \$5 per extra vehicle
- Proposed: \$15/site/night, single; \$30/site/night, double (and keep the \$5 extra vehicle fee)

### Trout Lake Creek Campground

- Current: \$10/site/night, single; \$20/site/night, double; \$5 per extra vehicle
- Proposed: \$15/site/night (and keep the \$5 extra vehicle fee)



# Proposed Campground Fee Increases

## Mt. Adams Ranger District

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### Tillicum Campground

- Current: \$5/site/night
- Proposed: \$10/site/night

### Government Mineral Springs Campground

- Current: \$5/site/night
- Proposed: \$10/site/night

### Lewis River Horse Camp

- Current: \$5/site/night
- Proposed: \$15/site/night, \$5 per extra vehicle

### Mount Adams Horse Camp

- Current: \$5/site/night
- Proposed: \$15/site/night

# Proposed Campground Fee Increases

## Cowlitz Valley Ranger District

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### Chambers Lake Campground

- \$15/site/night, single
- \$30/site/night, double
- \$5 per extra vehicle

### Cat Creek Chimney Campground

- \$15/site/night, single
- \$30/site/night, double



Toilets at Lewis River Horse Camp

A photograph of a forest with a picnic table. The scene is a dense forest of tall, thin trees with a dirt path and a wooden picnic table in the middle ground. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled light on the ground. The ground is covered with pine needles and some green plants in the foreground.

# Group Campgrounds Proposed New Fees

Twin Falls Campground

# Proposed Group Campgrounds – New Fee

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## Mt. Adams Ranger District

### Twin Falls Campground

- Proposed: \$50/night, up to 50 people

**Note: Group campgrounds would be available by reservation only.**

## Cowlitz Valley Ranger District

### Wakepish Sno-park

- Proposed: \$100/night, up to 100 people

### Orr Creek Sno-park

- Proposed: \$100/night, up to 75 people



Orr Creek Group Camp

# Group Picnic Site (Day Use)

## Proposed New Fee at Mount St. Helens



### Marble Mountain Shelter

Proposed: \$100/day, up to 100 people

Note: This would be available by reservation, day use only.

# Cabins/Lookouts

## Proposed Fee Increase and New Fees



Gotchen Cabin



# Proposed Rental Cabins– Fee Increase

## Mt. Adams Ranger District

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### Government Mineral Springs Guard Station

- Current: \$65/night, up to 9 people
- Proposed: \$100/night, up to 9 people

### Peterson Prairie Cabin

- Current: \$50/night, up to 6 people
- Proposed: \$100/night, up to 6 people

# Proposed Rental Cabins/Lookouts – New Fee

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## **Cowlitz Valley Ranger District**

### **La Wis Wis Guard Station**

- Proposed: \$150/night, up to 8 people

### **Nisqually (Big Creek) Guard Station**

- Proposed: \$85/night, up to 4 people

### **Burley Mountain Lookout**

- Proposed: \$90/night, up to 4 people

## **Mt. Adams Ranger District**

### **Gotchen Guard Station**

- Proposed: \$85/night, up to 4 people

### **Red Mountain Lookout**

- Proposed: \$90/night, up to 4 people

# Special Recreation Permit Proposed Fee Increase and New Fees



Mt. Adams Climb

# What is Special Recreation Permit?

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Special Recreation Permits are issued to ensure extra measures are required for natural and cultural resource protection, the health and safety of visitors, or to allocate capacity and/or disperse recreation use. Permits may be required for places like wilderness areas, shooting ranges, and specialized trail systems.

# What do Special Recreation Permits Fees Support?

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Some of the services and management typically provided for recreation permits include, but are not limited to:

- Increased patrols by FS employees
- Patrols by specially trained FS employees, such as river rangers, mountaineering rangers, OHV rangers
- Increased visitor contact by interpreters
- Area-specific maps and brochures
- Campsite cleanup and human waste removal
- Volunteer programs supporting provision of services and management
- Maintenance of specialized trails (OHV, winter, mountain bike, etc.)
- Maintenance of portal facilities and access to portal facilities
- Support of emergency medical and rescue services

# Special Recreation Permits – Fee Increase

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## Mount St. Helens Climbing Permit

- Current: \$15/person
- Proposed: \$20/person
- Required April 1- October 31
- There is also a non-refundable \$6 reservation fee for every permit transaction.

## Mt. Adams Climbing Pass

- Current: \$15/person for weekend climbing pass, Friday-Sunday; \$10/person for weekday climbing pass, Monday-Thursday
- Proposed: \$20/person
- Required May 1- September 30

# Special Recreation Permit – New Fee

Mount St. Helens

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## Mount Margaret Backcountry Permit

- Proposed: \$10/person/night (16 and older)
- Required May 1 – November 30
- Permit available on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)

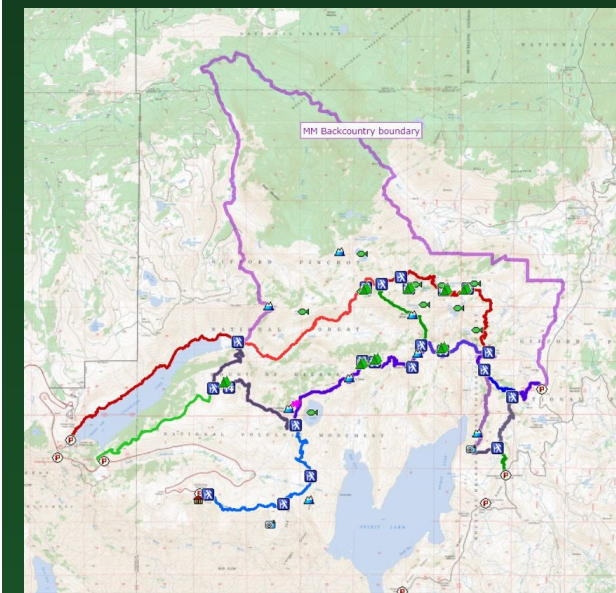
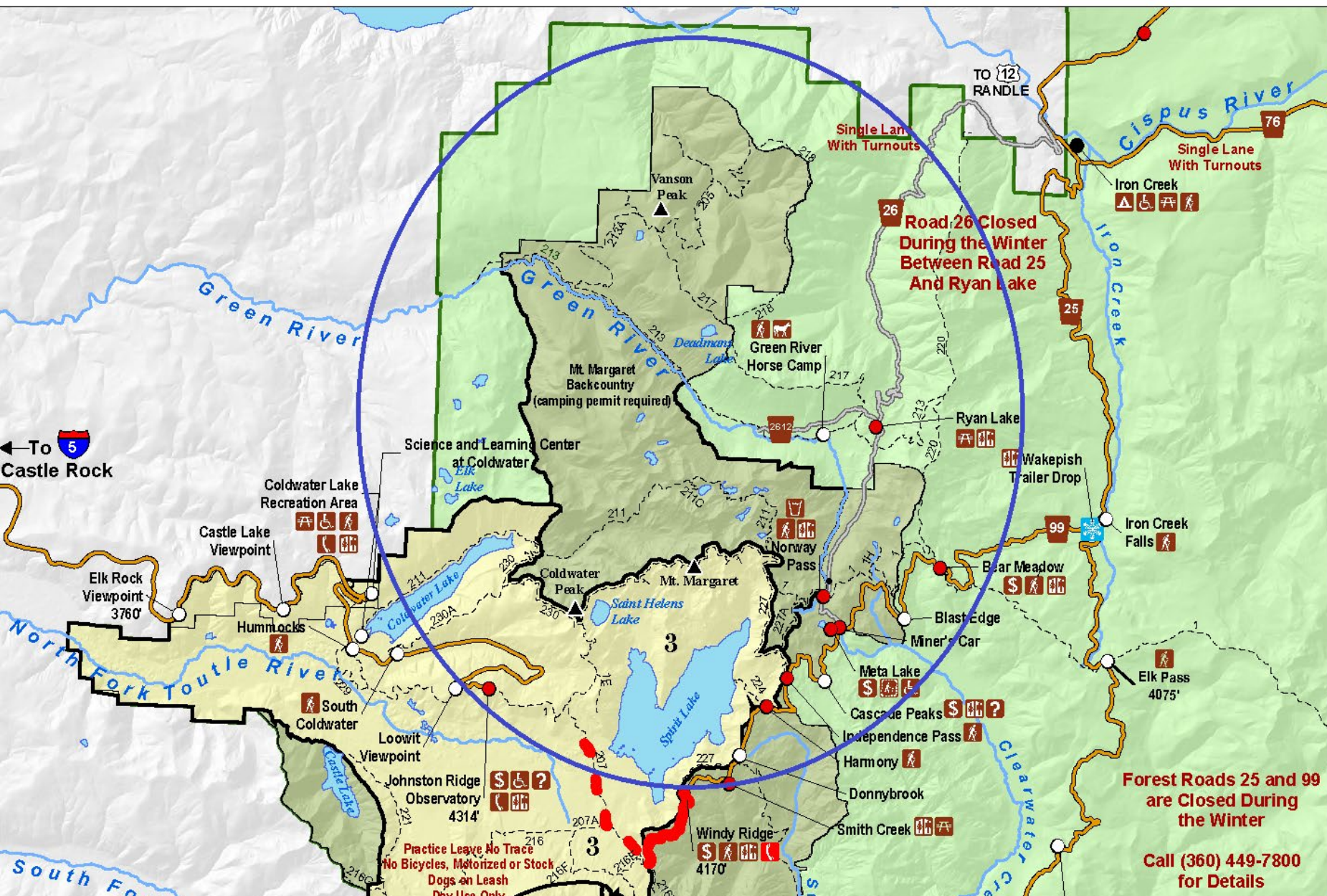


# MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT



## Mount Margaret Backcountry Permit (north of Spirit Lake affected by the blast)

- Approximately 43 miles of trail





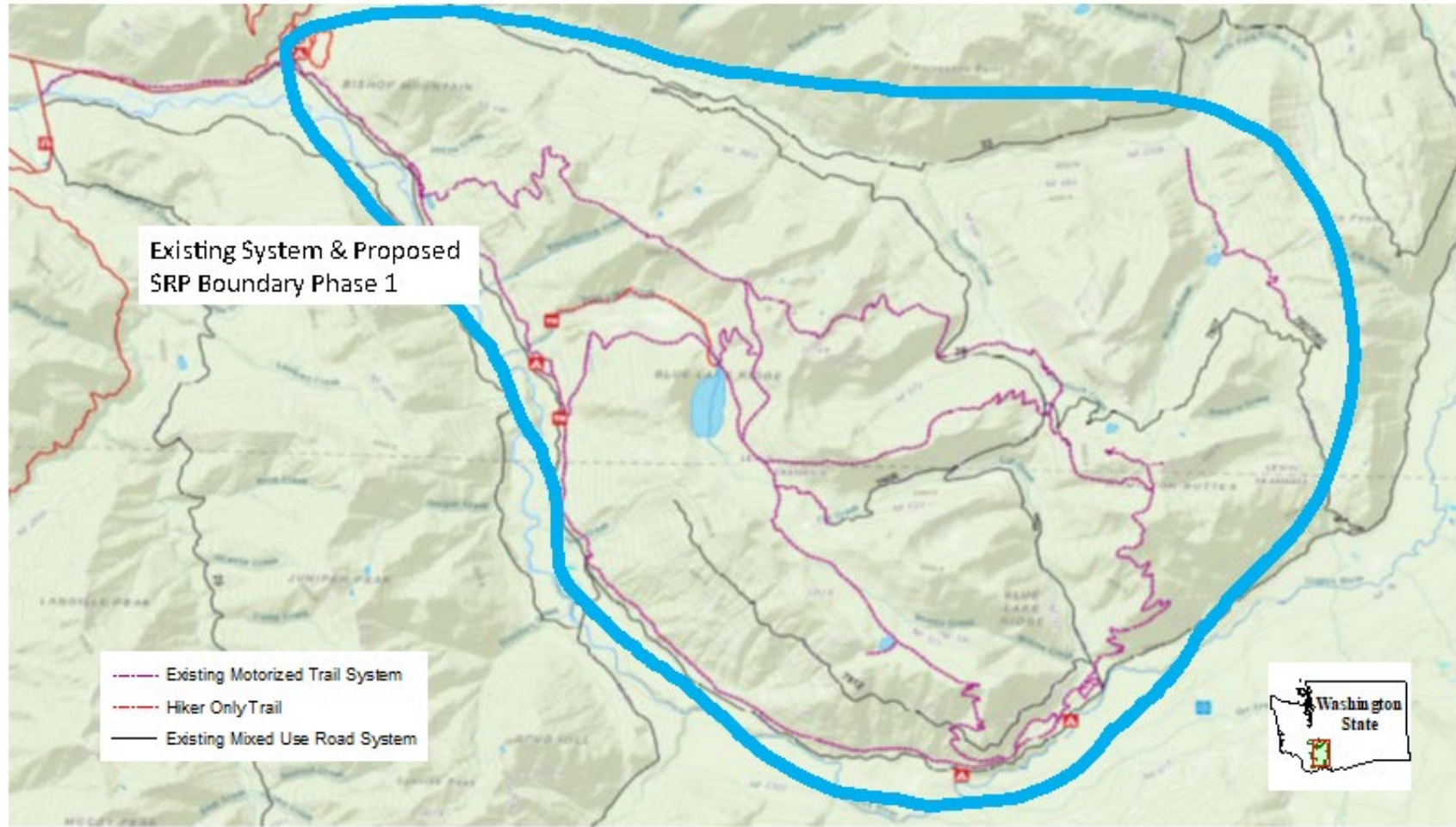
# Special Recreation Permit – New Fee

## Cowlitz Valley Ranger District

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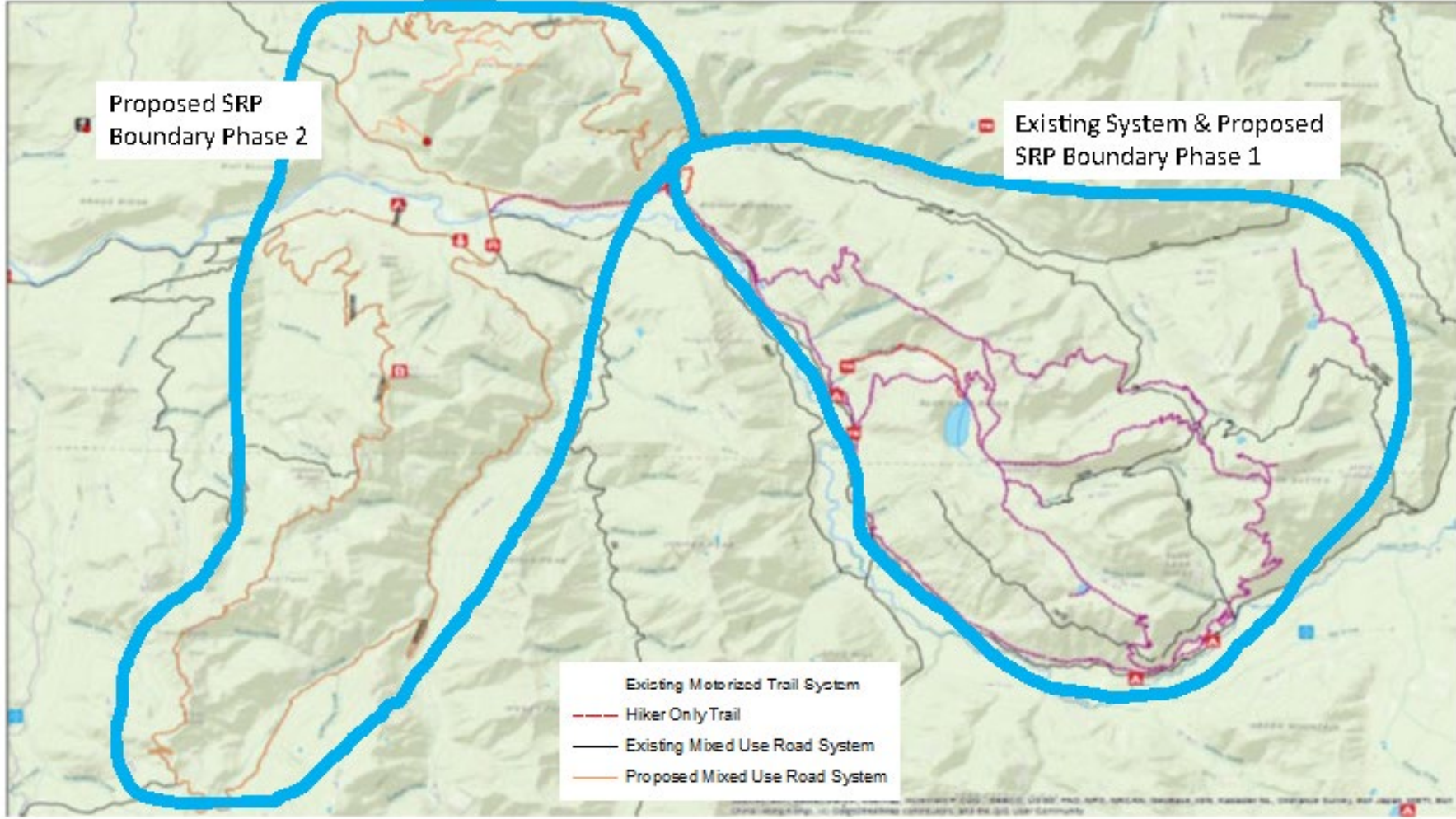
### Cat Creek OHV Area (includes Blue Lake ORV Trailhead)

- Proposed
  - **Phase 1:** \$10 for two day per non-highway legal vehicle, \$50 seasonal pass (16 and older)
  - **Phase 2:** \$20 for two day per non-highway legal vehicle, \$100 seasonal pass (16 and older)
- Required April 2 through November 30
- Volunteer Pass (free seasonal pass) for 40 hours of volunteer service a year



## Cat Creek ORV Area Phase I

- Approximately 36,000 acres
- 18 miles of mixed-use roads
- 55 miles of motorized trail



## Cat Creek ORV Area Phase II

- Increase the ORV area by approximately 31,000 acres
- Expand mixed-use road system by approximately 74 miles

# Next Steps

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- Continue to solicit public comment through Sept 16, 2022
- Review public comments and make changes to the proposal based on public comments
- Submit proposal to Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for review\*
- Send RAC recommendations to Regional Forester
- Submit proposal to Regional Forester for approval
- Implement fee changes (summer 2023)

\*The Forest plans to use the existing Forest Secure Rural Schools/Title 2 RAC.

# We want to hear from you!

## Ways you can provide your comments:

Comment cards available at your local Forest Service Office or download a comment card online.

- **Mail:** Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters, Attn: Recreation Fees, 987 McClellan Rd, Vancouver, WA 98661
- **Email:** [sm.fs.gpnfrecfees@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.gpnfrecfees@usda.gov)
- **Online:** using the interactive mapping tool <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/fees>

Pacific Northwest Region – Recreation Fee Proposals

Introduction **Gifford Pinchot National Forest** Mt. Hood National Forest

USDA USFS

### Project Description

You can submit your comments by using the interactive web map from the "Comment - Interactive Web Map" tab below.

Project Point of Contact: Kyung Koh Willis  
Phone: 360-891-5177  
Email: [SM.FS.GPNFRecFees@USDA.gov](mailto:SM.FS.GPNFRecFees@USDA.gov)

Mailing Address:  
Gifford Pinchot National Forest  
Attn: Rec Fees  
987 McClellan Rd  
Vancouver, WA 98661

Comment period ends September 16

Questions?





**Thank you for joining us!**

**Review the Recreation Fee Proposal and submit comments here:** <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/fees>

**Comments will be accepted in the following ways:**

- **Comment cards** available at your local [Forest Service Office](#) or download a comment card online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/fees>
- **By mail to:** Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters, Attn: Recreation Fees, 987 McClellan Rd, Vancouver, WA 98661
- **Email:** [sm.fs.gpnfrecfees@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.gpnfrecfees@usda.gov)
- **On the interactive mapping tool public comment site located online:** <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/fees>

**Email questions:** [sm.fs.gpnfrecfees@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.gpnfrecfees@usda.gov)

**Contacts:**

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