

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST  
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON



FOREST ORDER NO. 06-03-01-24-03

**MOUNT ST. HELENS VOLCANIC MONUMENT RESTRICTIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited in Areas One, Two, Three, and Mount Margaret Backcountry of Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Each geographic location is as described, visually and in writing, in Exhibit A through Exhibit H. This order supersedes Forest Orders 06-03-01-22-03, 06-03-01-22-02, and 06-03-01-21-01. This Order is effective from April 25, 2024, through April 25, 2027.

**PROHIBITIONS:**

**Area One (Exhibit A and E)**

1. Entering or being in the Mount St. Helens Volcanic Crater. [36 C.F.R. 261.53(a), (c), (e)]

Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up any material, supplies, or person by means of an aircraft, including a helicopter. [36 CFR 261.58(y)]

1. Entering into or being in Restriction Area Two which is described in Exhibit B and shown in Exhibit F. This area is closed for the protection of special biological communities and for scientific experiments or investigations. [36 C.F.R.261.53 (b), (c),(d)]
2. Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up any material, supplies, or person by means of an aircraft, including a helicopter. [36 CFR 261.58(y)]

**Area Three (Exhibit C and G)**

1. Camping. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(e).
2. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a).
3. Possessing or operating a motorboat on Coldwater Lake. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(n).
4. Possession of dogs, cats, or other pets – except service animals. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).
5. Riding, hitching, tethering or hobbling a horse or other saddle or pack animal in violation of posted instructions. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(aa).
6. Landing of aircraft or dropping or picking up any material, supplies, or person by means of an aircraft, including a helicopter. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(y).
7. Using a bicycle, vehicle or motorized vehicle on any trail. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(b).
8. Fishing, except at designated sites in compliance with all state and federal fishing laws and regulations. 36 CFR § 261.58(v)
9. Entering or being in Area Three which is closed for protection of special biological communities or protection of scientific experiments or investigations. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(b)(d)(e)

**Mount Margaret Backcountry (Exhibit D and H)**

1. Camping. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(e).
2. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a).
3. Riding, hitching, tethering or hobbling a horse or other saddle or pack animal in violation of posted instructions. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(aa).
4. Landing of aircraft or dropping or picking up any material, supplies, or person by means of an aircraft, including a helicopter. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(y).

5. Using a bicycle, vehicle or motorized vehicle on any trail. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(b).

Note: the term *aircraft* encompasses Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS or “drones”). An aircraft is any device invented, used, or designed for flying in the air. 49 U.S.C. § 40102; 14 C.F.R. § 1.1.

#### **EXEMPTIONS:**

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

##### Exemptions Specific to Area One:

1. Persons under a special use authorization or agreement that allows the otherwise prohibited activity, and approved contractors and their agents directly engaged in approved work outlined in an operating plan or permit.
2. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation Order), specifically exempting them from this order.
3. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

##### Exemptions Specific to Area Two:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

##### Exemptions Specific to Area Three:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons transporting animals in vehicles, and persons with dogs on leash (no longer than six feet). **NOTE:** this exception does not apply to the Johnston Ridge Observatory (JRO) to include the building interior, JRO amphitheater, JRO plaza deck, and the Eruption Trail.
3. Persons using stoves or heating devices with gas, propane, alcohol, and tablet/cube fuel sources.
4. Persons in the following areas, only to the extent that the persons are permitted to be in these areas when hiking on the designated trails:
  - a) Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center Complex
  - b) Truman Trail #207;
  - c) Harry’s Ridge Trail #208
  - d) Windy Trail #216E;
  - e) Loowit Trail #216;
  - f) Harmony Trail #224
  - g) Elk Bench Trail #211D;
  - h) Winds of Change Trail (disability assistance devices, children walkers and strollers and disability assistance animals are permitted).
  - i) Coldwater Lake Complex;
  - j) Lakes Trail #211
  - k) Birth of a Lake Trail (disability assistance devices, children walkers and strollers and disability assistance animals are permitted).
  - l) Boundary Trail #1;
  - m) Hummocks Trail #229 and 229A;

- n) South Coldwater Ridge Trail #230A
- o) Tunnel Viewpoint
- p) Loowit Viewpoint
- q) Eruption Trail

5. Bicycles on the following trails sections:

- Boundary Trail #1 from the junction with Coldwater Trail (230) to the Norway Pass Trailhead.
- Coldwater Trail (230).

Exemptions Specific to Mount Margaret Backcountry:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authoring the otherwise prohibited act or omission;
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty;
3. Persons using stoves or heating devices with gas, propane, alcohol, and tablet/cube fuel sources; and
4. Bicycles on the following trails sections:
  - a. Boundary Trail #1 from the junction with Coldwater Trail (230) to the Norway Pass Trailhead.
  - b. Coldwater Trail (230).

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions identified in 36 C.F.R. § 261, Subpart A.

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both (16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551, 3571, and 3581).

Executed in Vancouver, WA this 25th day of April 2024.

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JOHANNA KOVARIK  
Forest Supervisor  
Gifford Pinchot National Forest

## FOREST ORDER NO. 06-03-01-24-03

### **Area One description Exhibit A**

As shown on the attached map (Exhibit E), the Volcanic Crater closure (Area One) point of beginning (POB) is at the southwest corner of section 33 T9N R5E, then east along the section line to the southeast corner of the same section (33 T9N R5E); then southeast to the crater rim at point 6904, then following the crater rim in a clockwise direction around to the point of beginning.

### **Area Two description Exhibit B**

The Point of Beginning (POB) for the boundary of Area Two is at the intersection of Trail 216A (Ptarmigan Trail) and the 4800ft elevation in Section 21, T8N, R5E, contouring west at 4800ft until intersecting Trail #216 (Loowit Trail) in section 17, T8N, R5E; then continuing on Trail #216 (Loowit Trail) to the western boundary of Section 26, T8N, R5E, then north along the western boundary of Section 6 to the southern boundary of Section 36, T9N, R4E, then east along the southern boundaries of Sections 36, 31, and 32; at the southeast corner of section 32, T9N, R4E the boundary goes due south to the crater rim at point 6904, then follows the crater rim in a counter-clockwise direction to the southeast corner of section 33 T9 R5E, then east along the southern boundary of Section 34 to Section 2, T8N, R5E and then south following the 4800 foot elevation contour to the south and around the mountain, contouring, until the 4800 foot contour line intersects Trail 216 (Loowit Trail), then west along the north edge of Trail #216 to its junction with Trail 216A (Ptarmigan Trail) at POB. The boundary described as shown in attachment Exhibit F (Map).

### **Area Three description – Exhibit C**

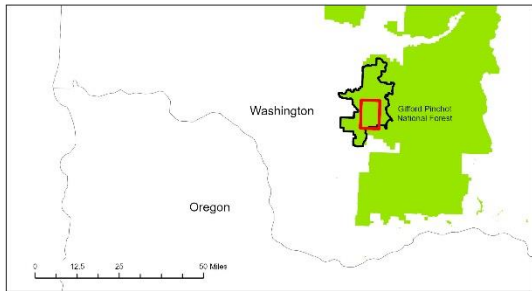
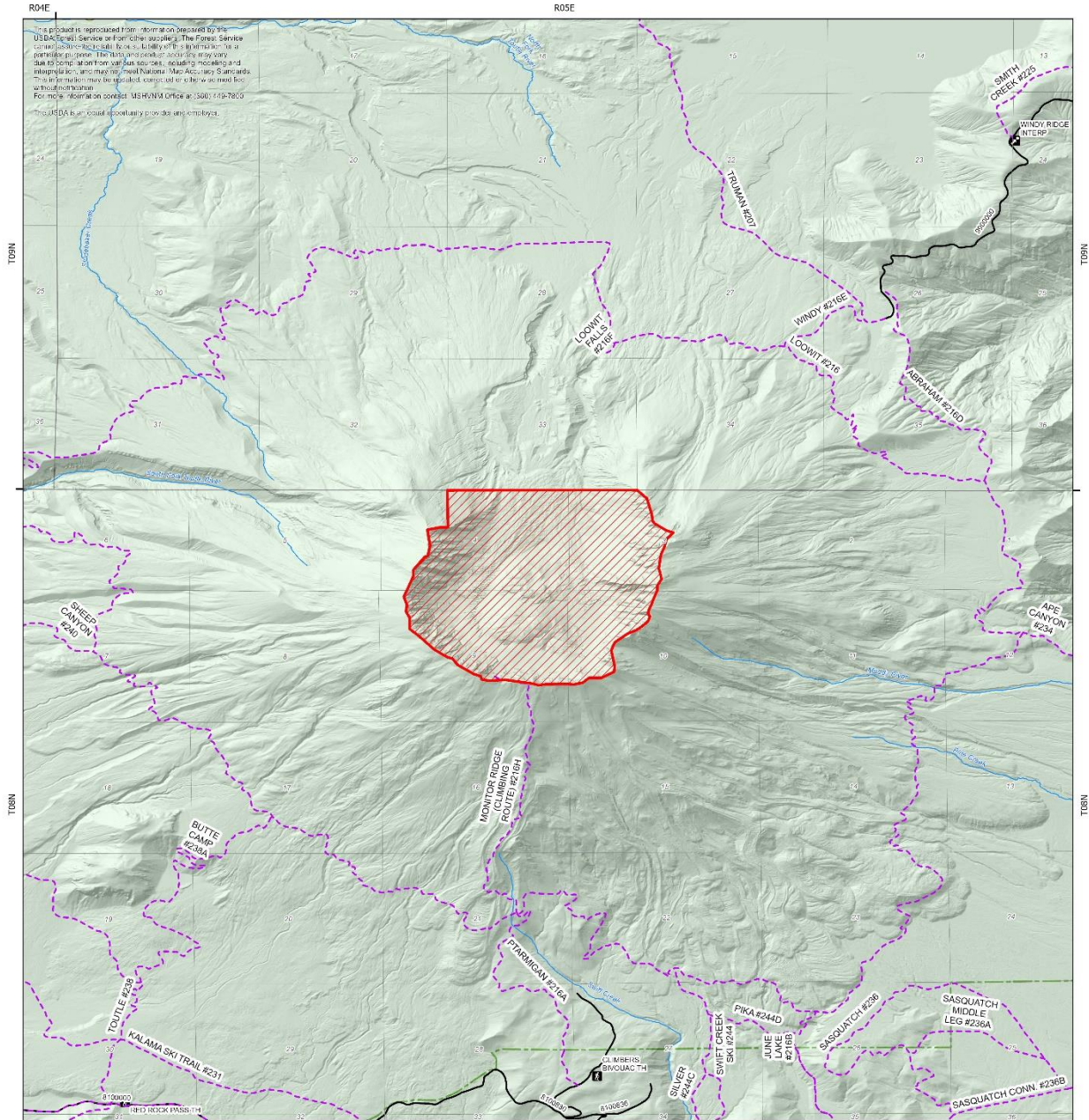
The Point of Beginning (POB) for the boundary of Area Three is at the southeast corner of Section 31, T9N, R5E; then continues west along the southern boundary of Section 31 to Section 36, T9N, R4E; then north along the eastern boundary of Section 36 to Section 25; then west along the southern boundary of Section 25 to Castle Creek; then northwest (downstream) along the east bank of Castle Creek to Section 11, T9N, R4E; then west along the southern boundaries of Sections 11, 10 and 9 to the Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument boundary; then follows the monument boundary west, north and east in a clockwise direction until it intersects the south edge of pavement on Washington State Route 504 (SR504); then follows SR504 east to the Elk Rock Viewpoint; then east along the rock wall that defines the south edge of the viewpoint parking area; then north along the east edge of viewpoint parking area pavement until it reaches the south edge of pavement on SR504; then east along the south edge of pavement on SR504 to Section 3, Township 9N, R4E; then east along the northern boundary of Section 3 to Section 4; then north along the western boundary of Section 4 to the south pavement edge on State Route 504; then east along the south pavement edge on SR504 to the Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument boundary in the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 35, T9N, R4E; then east along the monument boundary to Section 21, T10N, R5E; then due east along the ridgetop to the summit of Minnie Peak; then south (downstream) along the Minnie Creek drainage and along the west bank of Minnie Creek to Lakes Trail (FS-211D); then east along the south edge of FS-211D to South Coldwater Trail (FS-230); then south along the east edge of FS-230 to Boundary Trail (FS-1); then east along the south edge of FS-1 to Independence Ridge Trail (FS-227); then south along the west edge of FS-227 to the Independence Pass Trailhead; then south along the west edge of Forest Road 99 to Windy Ridge Viewpoint; then south along west edge of viewpoint pavement to south end of viewpoint; then east along the south edge of pavement to Truman Trail (FS-207) located in the southeast corner of the parking area; then south along the west edge of FS-207 to Abraham Trail (FS-216D); then south along the west edge of FS-216D to Section 26, T9N, R5E; following the southern section line of section 26 west to the southwest corner of section

26; then south following the section line between sections 34 and 35. Finally heading west on southern boundary of sections 34, 33, 32, to the southeast corner of section 31, the POB. All trails identified as the boundary of the Closure Area Three are included in the closure order. The Area Three boundary is shown on the map in Exhibit G.

### **Mount Margaret Backcountry description – Exhibit D**

The boundary of the Mount Margaret Backcountry begins at the point of beginning (POB) where Forest Road 26 crosses the north boundary of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument; then continues south along the west edge of the Forest Road 26 to Norway Pass Trailhead; then west along the north edge of trailhead parking area to Boundary Trail (FS-1); then west along the south edge of FS-1 to Independence Pass Trail (FS-227A); then south along the west edge of FS-227A to the Independence Ridge Trail (FS-227); then north along the east edge of FS-227 to Boundary Trail (FS-1); then continues west along the south edge of FS-1 (Boundary Trail) to its junction with South Coldwater Ridge Trail (FS-230); then continues north along the west edge of FS-230 to its junction with Lakes Trail (FS-211); then continues west along north edge of FS-211 until it crosses Minnie Creek; then north along the west bank of Minnie Creek to the summit of Minnie Peak in Section 21, T10N, R5E; then west along the ridgetop to the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument boundary; then north along the monument boundary to Miner's Creek in Section 8, T10N, R5E; then north along the west bank of Miner's Creek to Green River Trail (FS-213) in Section 32, T11N, R5E; then east along the south edge of FS-213 to the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument boundary in Section 11, T10N, R5E; then along the monument boundary until Forest Road 26, the POB. The Mount Margaret Backcountry Boundary is as described in Exhibit H (Map).

# Map Exhibits E through I:

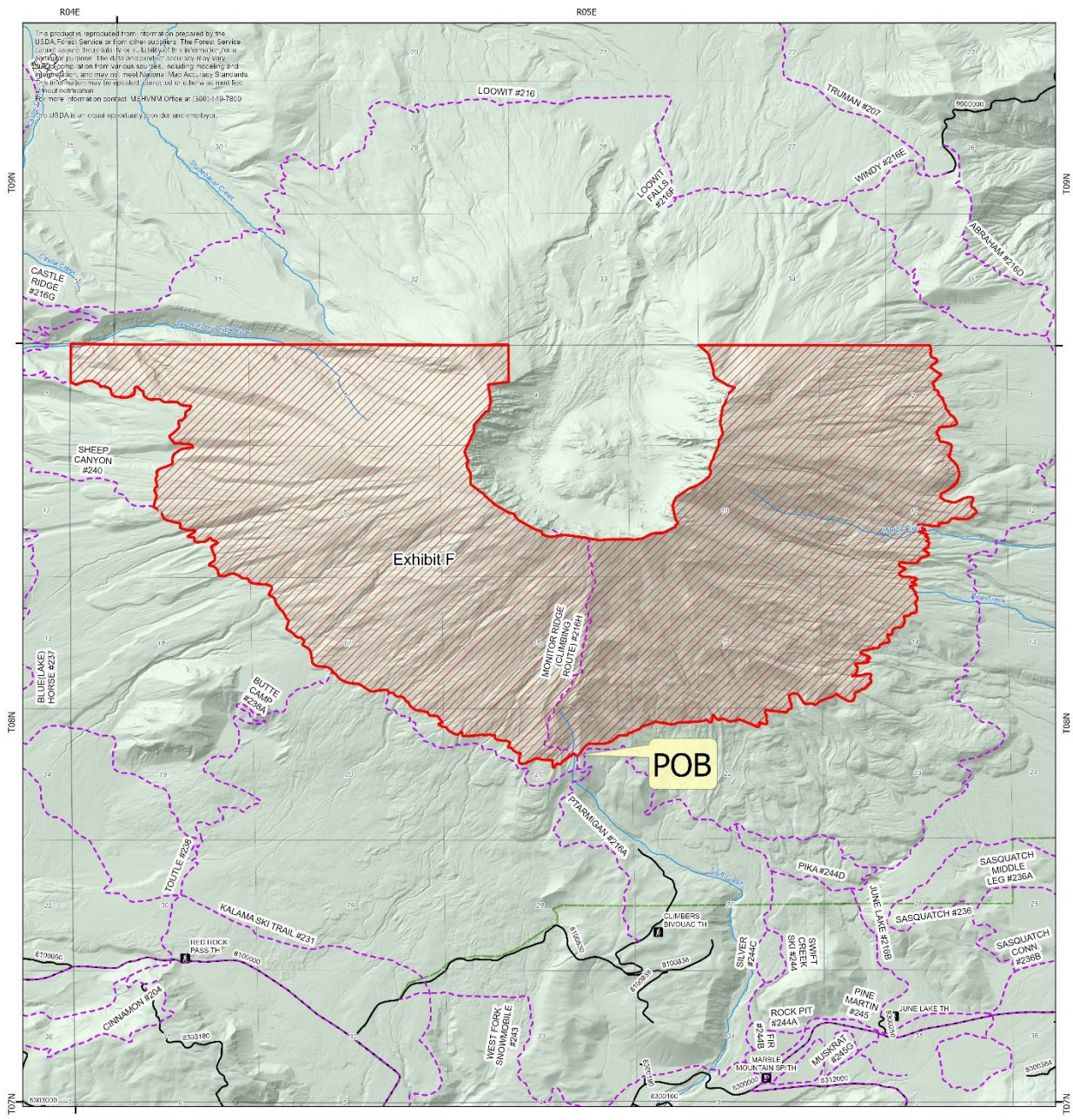


**06-03-01-24-03**  
**Exhibit E: Area One Map, Crater Closure**  
**MSHVNM**

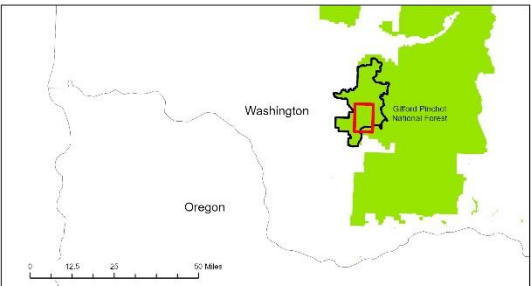
-  Area One Closure
-  National Forest
-  Administrative Boundary
-  USFS Roads
-  USFS Trails







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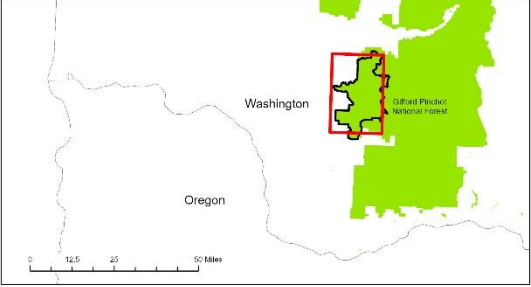
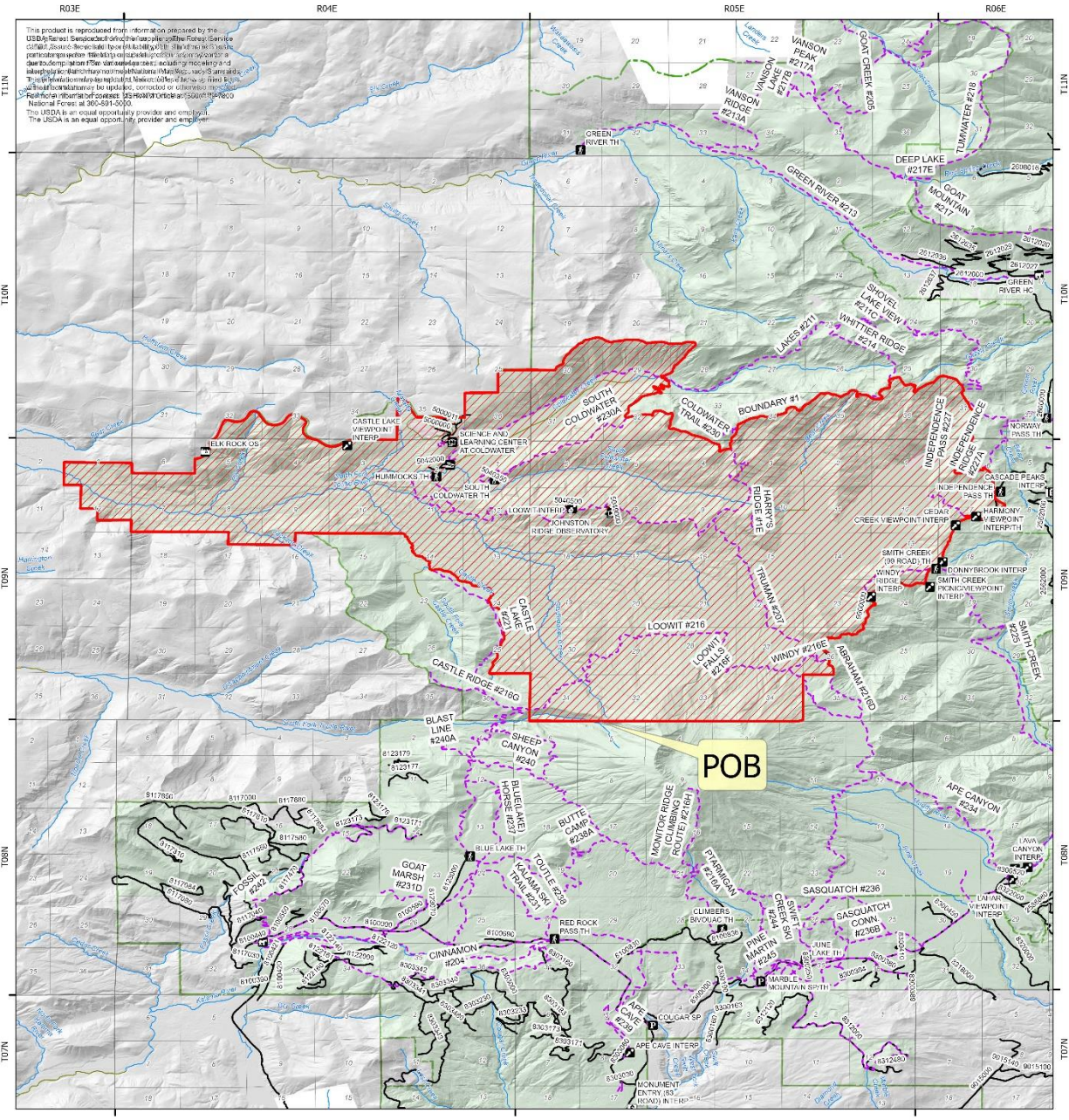


**06-03-01-24-03**  
**Exhibit F: Area Two Map**  
**MSHVNM**

-  Area Two Restrictions
-  National Forest Administrative Boundary
-  USFS Roads
-  USFS Trails





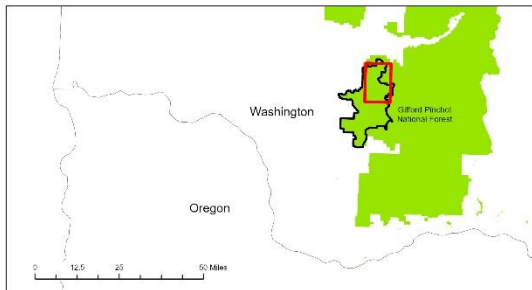
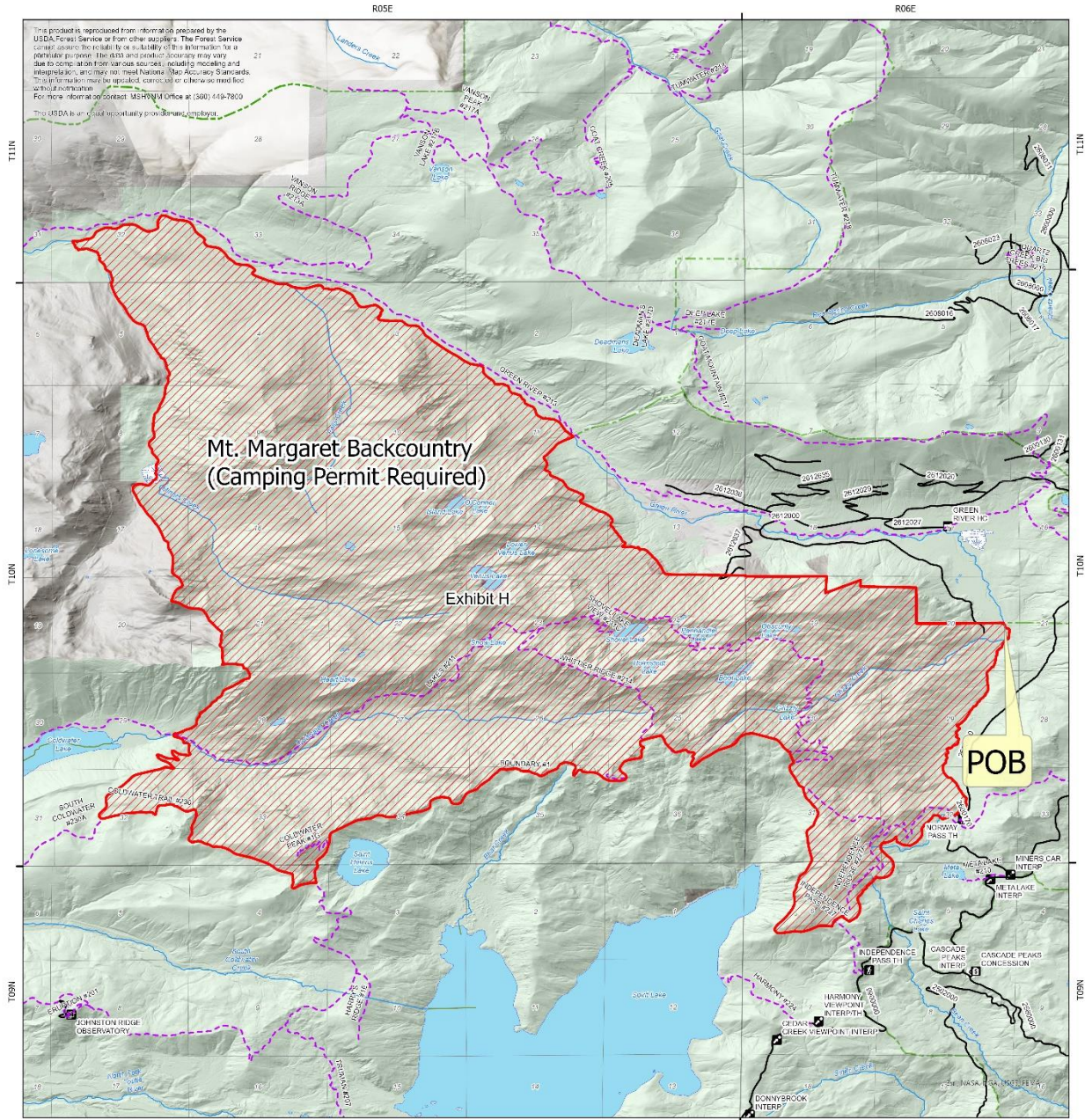


06-03-01-24-03  
**Exhibit G: MSHVNM Area Three Map**  
**MSHVNM**

- Area Three Restrictions
- National Forest Administrative Boundary
- USFS Roads
- USFS Trails







**06-03-01-24-03**  
**Exhibit H: Mount Margaret Backcountry**  
**MSHVNM**



- National Forest
- Administrative Boundary
- USFS Roads
- Trail
- Area Restrictions





