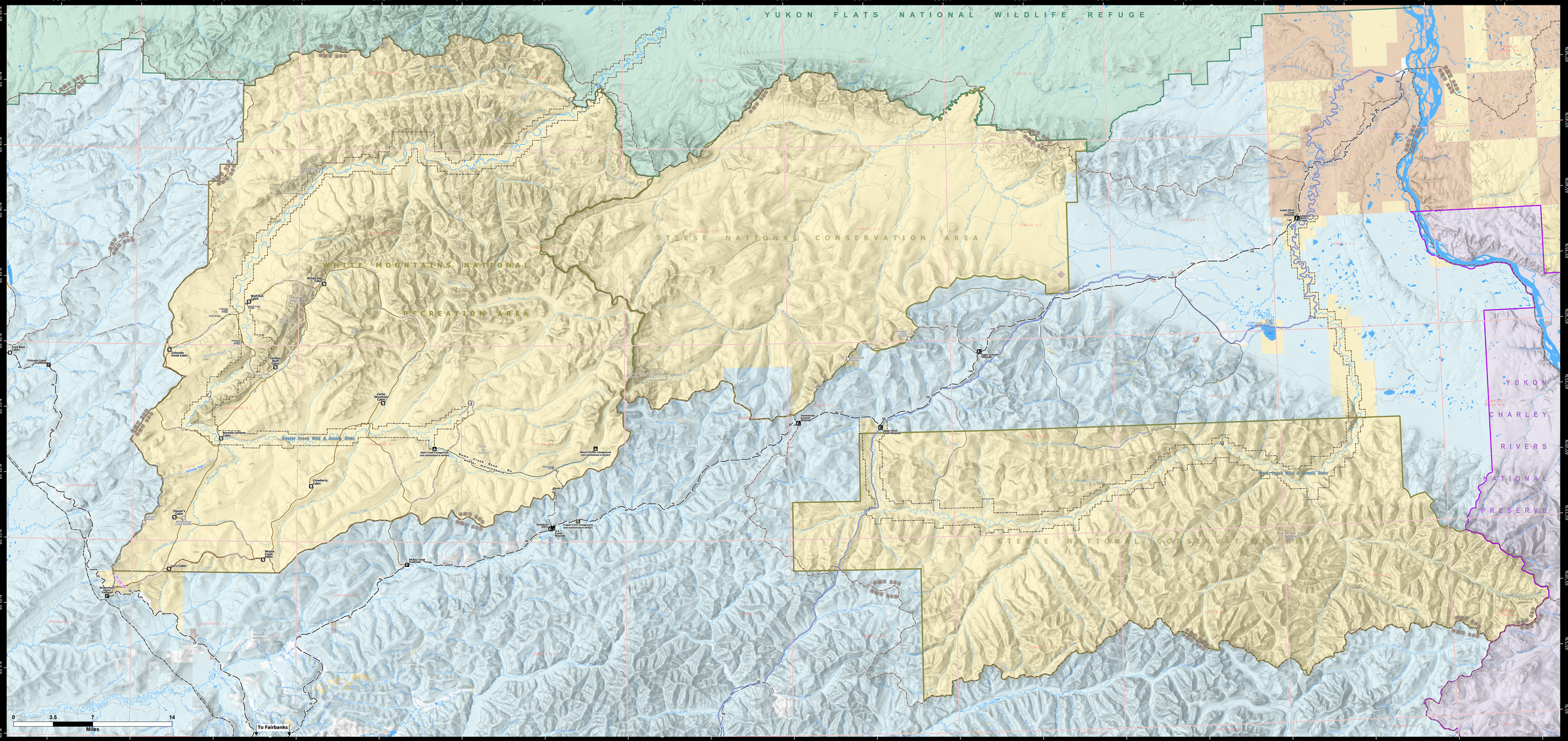
NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Winter Recreation in the White Mountains National Recreation Area and Steese National Conservation Area

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR | BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Alaska



The White Mountains National Recreation Area

Just an hour's drive from Fairbanks, the White Mountains National Recreation Area is one of Interior Alaska's premier winter destinations! The recreation area was created to provide for public outdoor recreation and enjoyment and for the protection of scenic, scientific, historic, fish and wildlife, and other values contributing to public enjoyment.

The area offers stunning scenery and peaceful solitude. Visitors can travel by ski, snowshoe, dog team and snowmobile to enjoy the 12 public cabins and 250 miles of groomed trails.

Limestone Cabin

Trail Conditions

Make sure to read the most recent trail report before you head out.
https://www.blm.gov/visit/white-mountains/trail-update

Public Recreation Cabins

Cabins must be reserved in advance and require a fee. Reservations for reservation days are limited to three consecutive nights, with reservations beginning at noon of the first day's stay to noon of the last day. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance. Weekends and holidays are times of peak use.

Wolf Run Cabin

Reservations for the cabins can be made through the recreation.gov website under "White Mountains National Recreation Area, Alaska" or by calling toll free: 1-877-444-6777.

Cabins are equipped with bunk beds, a table and benches, propane cook stove, propane lantern, fire extinguisher, saw, ax, broom, wood stove and outhouse.

Renters need to bring their own food, water, sleeping bags and pads, matches, utensils, toilet paper, garbage bags, and 1-pound propane bottles for the cook stove and lantern. Renters should also bring a shovel and spare lantern in case the lantern don't function properly. Cabin users should be prepared to cut firewood or bring some with them.

Cabin List: size, occupancy

Bonanza LaFavre Cabin: 12' X 16', 6 person
Cache Mountain Cabin: 10' X 16', 6 person
Caribou Bluff Cabin: 10' X 12', 4 person
Colorado Creek Cabin: 12' X 16', 4 person
Crowberry Cabin: 16' X 16', 6 person
Eleazar's Cabin: 12' X 16', 6 person
Fred Blist Cabin : 12' X 16', 4 person
Lee's Cabin: 12' X 16', 6 person
Moose Creek Cabin: 16' X 16', 6 person
Richard's Cabin: 16' X 20', 6+ person
Windy Gap Cabin: 12' X 16', 4 person
Wolf Run Cabin: 12' X 16', 6 person

Summit trail shelter

Trail Shelters

Four trail shelters are available throughout the White Mountains and Steese Areas. Trail shelters are available on a first-come, first-served basis, no reservations can be made.

The Summit Trail Shelter and Wickersham Trail Shelter are in the White Mountains. Only the Wickersham trail shelter has a wood stove.

The Ptarmigan Creek and North Fork Shelters are located along the non-motorized Pinnell Mountain Trail in the Steese Area.

Multi-use trails | Please be courteous of others

The Steese National Conservation Area

The Steese was created to conserve and protect nationally significant landscapes with unrivaled scenic, geological, and ecological values.

With no winter maintenance, the area offers solitude and opportunities for winter recreation such as cross-country skiing and snowmobile. Routes are sometimes maintained by caribou hunters and a few trappers. The trail for the Yukon Quest is marked and maintained for the dog-sled race that occurs in February.

Safety Recommendations

Trail conditions and weather can change rapidly and there are many risks associated with winter recreation. Be as prepared as possible:

-Share a trip plan with family or friends before you head out.

-Check the weather before you head out.

-Check highway conditions before you head out (511.alaska.gov).

-Bring more water, food, and fuel than you need for your trip.

-Bring a satellite communication device, more than one if possible.
Do not rely on cell phone coverage in these areas!

-Plan for mechanical breakdowns.

-If you become stranded, do not separate from your party.

BLM Routes - Winter Allowed Designations

- Non-motorized and mechanized use only
- Open to all modes of non-motorized travel excluding class 1,2 and 3 E-bikes
- Open to all modes of non motorized travel. (Winter Maintained)
- Open to ORVs weighing 1,000 pounds or less Curb Weight and a maximum width of 50 inches. Open to all modes on non-motorized travel (Winter Maintained)
- Roads not maintained in winter
- Yukon Quest Trail - State of Alaska and BLM limitations apply. (Maintained only for Feb. races)

BLM Winter Snowmachine Use Area Designations

- Research Natural Areas (RNAs) - Cross country travel allowed for snowmobiles 1,000 pounds or less curb weight and 50 inches or less width. No travel by snowmobiles over exposed soil and/or vegetation.
- Cross country travel allowed for snowmobiles 1,000 pounds or less curb weight and 50 inches or less width.

Map not to be used to determine federal subsistence hunting areas.

- Cabin: Reservable, Fee
- Shelter: Non Reservable, No Fee
- Interpretive Site
- Parking Area
- Point of Interest
- Bridge
- Rivers and streams
- Highway
- Hilltopout (NP)
- Wild and Scenic River Corridor
- Game Management Unit (GMU)
- USGS 1:63,360 Quad Map Name

Administered Lands
- State of Alaska
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Native Lands
- Native Allotment
- Local Government
- Private

Basemap: Contours (500 ft. interval) on Multi-Directional Hillshade (Esri)

Disclaimer: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Mapping Standards. This product was produced through digital means. This product is updated without notification. The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey plats, Master Title Plats, and tabulations case-files.

Contact Information

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Learn more about BLM's Travel and Transportation Management online:
https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-programs/travel-and-transportation