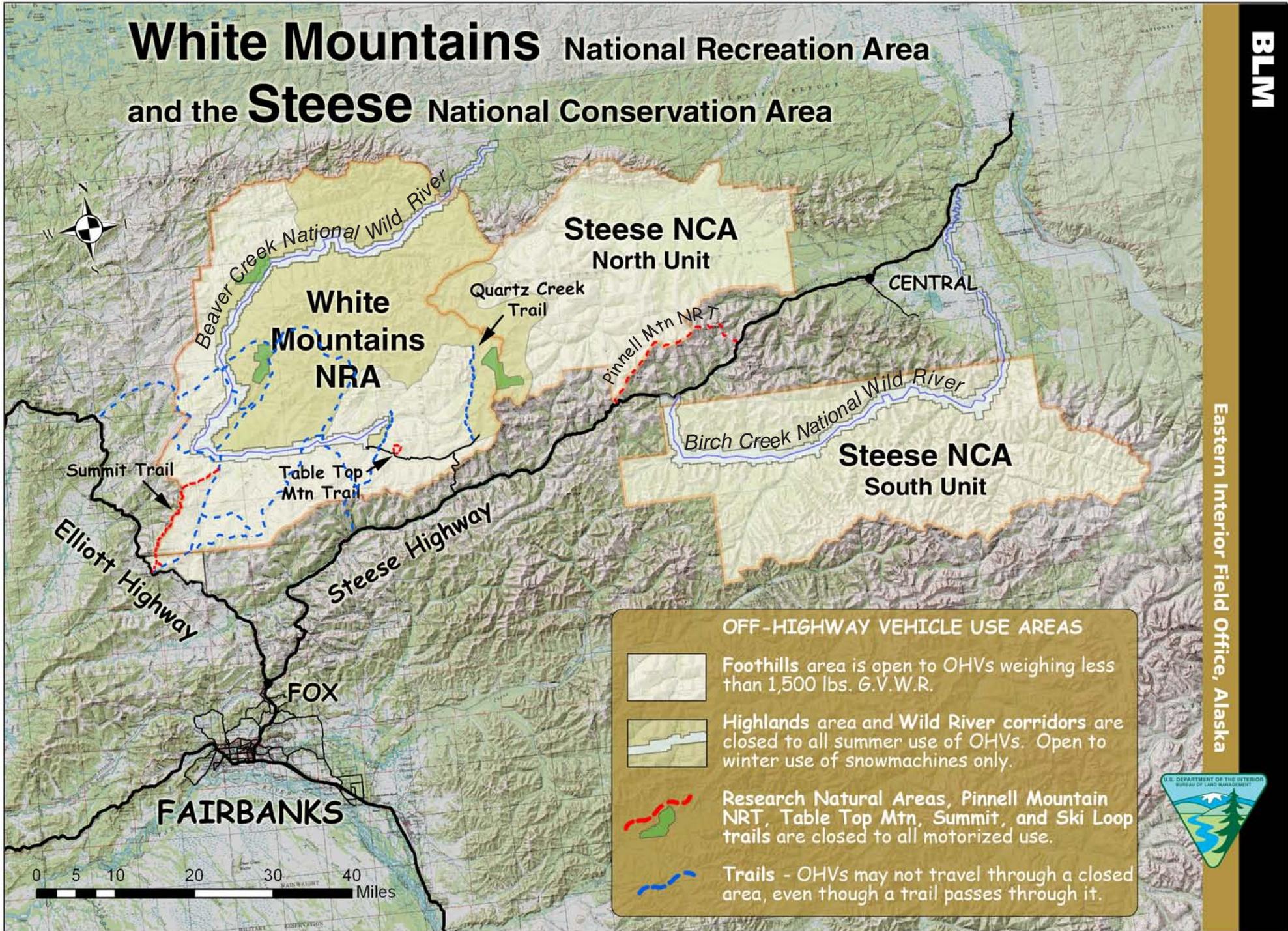


White Mountains National Recreation Area and the Steese National Conservation Area

BLM



Eastern Interior Field Office, Alaska



For more information contact BLM's Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 • tel. (800)437-7021.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE AREAS

WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

STEESE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

BLM

The designation of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use areas applies to all lands and water surfaces within the White Mountains National Recreation Area, BLM-managed lands between the White Mountains National Recreation Area (WMNRA) and the Steese and Elliott Highways, the Steese National Conservation Area (SNCA), and the Beaver Creek and Birch Creek National Wild River corridors as shown on the Off-Highway Vehicle Use Areas Map.

DEFINITIONS: The term “**winter use**” refers to the period of time between October 15 and April 30, inclusive. The term “**summer use**” refers to the remaining period of time between May 1 and October 14. The term “**ATV**” refers to summer off-road vehicles such as 4-wheelers. The term “**snowmachine**” refers to winter off-road vehicles such as snowmobiles. The terms “**off-highway vehicle**” and “**OHV**” refer to both ATVs and snowmachines. The terms “**gross vehicle weight**” and “**GVW**” refer to the loaded weight of the vehicle, including gear, passengers, and fuel. The terms “**gross vehicle weight rating**” and “**GVWR**” mean the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.

A. OHV Use Areas (Limited)

1. The **foothills** area, as shown on the Off-Highway Vehicle Use Areas map, is closed to the use of OHVs that weigh more than 1,500 pounds GVW or have a GVWR greater than 1,500 pounds. The U.S. Creek Road, Nome Creek Road, the mining tailings along Nome Creek, Independence Creek Road, and the Portage Creek Road are open to high-way vehicles.

2. The **highlands** area, as shown on the Off-Highway Vehicle Use Areas map, is managed to protect the wild and natural character of the area. This area is closed to winter use by snowmachines that weigh more than 1,500 pounds GVW or have a GVWR greater than 1,500 pounds. It is closed to all summer use of ATVs. The use of motorized vehicles in the Windy Creek and Fossil Creek drainages in the White Mountains NRA is prohibited from April 15 to August 31 to avoid disturbance to peregrine falcon nesting areas.

3. **Beaver Creek** and **Birch Creek** have been designated, and are managed, as “wild” rivers pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA, PL 90-542). The Beaver Creek and Birch Creek National Wild

Fairbanks District Office, Alaska



River corridors are closed to all summer use of motorized vehicles and to winter use by snowmachines that weigh more than 1,500 pounds GVW or have a GVWR greater than 1,500 pounds.

4. The **Summit Trail** (WMNRA), specifically, the 25-foot trail right-of-way, is managed as a non-motorized recreation trail to protect boardwalk for hikers. It is closed to all motorized vehicle use. In winter, snowmachines weighing less than 1,500 pounds GVW or with a GVWR less than 1,500 pounds are allowed to cross the trail at more or less right angles, incidental to accessing State or Federal lands otherwise open to such use.

B. Areas Closed to OHV Use

1. The four designated **Research Natural Areas** (RNAs) shown on the Off-Highway Vehicle Use Areas Map are closed year-round to all OHV use. **Serpentine Slide**, **Limestone Jags**, and **Mount Prindle** RNAs are located in the White Mountains NRA. The **Big Windy Hot Springs** RNA is the southern unit of the Steese NCA. These areas have been identified as having representative examples of ecosystems or unusual natural features that are of scientific interest for the Ecological Reserve System.

2. The **Ski Loop Trail** (WMNRA), **Table Top Mountain Trail** (WMNRA), and **Pinnell Mountain Trail** (SNCA), specifically, the 50-foot trail rights-of-way, are managed as non-motorized recreation trails to protect boardwalk for hikers. These trails are closed year-round to use of motorized vehicles.

Detailed maps identifying these designated areas are available for viewing at the office listed below.

These designations implement provisions of the White Mountains NRA and Steese NCA Resource Management Plans, and the Beaver Creek and Birch Creek River Management Plans. Operators of OHVs in violation of these designations are subject to the penalties prescribed in 43 CFR subpart 8340.0-7. This is pursuant to 43 CFR subpart 8342 and in accordance with the authority and requirements of Executive Order 11644 and 11989. This order will remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the Fairbanks District Manager.

For more information on OHV use areas, contact:
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Fairbanks District Office
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3899
(907) 474-2200