



# News Release

## Forest Service

White Mountain National Forest

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[www.fs.fed.usda.gov/whitemountain](http://www.fs.fed.usda.gov/whitemountain)



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## USDA Forest Service Places a Closure Order for Tuckerman, Huntington and Gulf of Slides

Campton, NH. April 2, 2020 — The USDA Forest Service has announced an official closure order for Tuckerman and Huntington Ravine as well as for the Gulf of Slides, Appalachian Mountain Club Visitors Center grounds, parking lots, and facilities at Pinkham Notch. This closure is in addition to the annual closure of the Tuckerman Ravine Trail above Lunch Rocks, which will remain in place until the snow melts.

“This decision was not made lightly,” said White Mountain National Forest Deputy Forest Supervisor Diane Taliaferro. “We are committed to the health and safety of our visitors, staff and volunteer groups who offer their time to help search and rescue efforts. These actions were taken based on the best available medical advice to limit gatherings of large numbers of people and to promote social distancing.”

High risk activities such as skiing or climbing in complex avalanche terrain with extreme weather conditions creates an unnecessary risk. Rescue efforts create the opportunity to further spread the virus through close contact among patients and rescuers. Therefore, the Mount Washington Avalanche Center (MWAC) has suspended avalanche forecasting. The increased risk for recreating during this time is self-assumed.

The MWAC is a partnership between the White Mountain National Forest, White Mountain Avalanche Education Foundation, Friends of Tuckerman Ravine and other community organizations. The Forest has coordinated with local communities, groups along with State and Local Government officials during this decision process.

As the Forest Service works through an unpredictable and rapidly changing situation, health and safety are the number one priority. The Forest is committed to the continuity of our mission, as well as continuing to support local communities, while doing its part to minimize the impacts and spread of COVID-19. These actions have been taken based on the best available medical advice per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and to promote social distancing.

For more information, please visit [www.fs.usda.gov/whitemountain](http://www.fs.usda.gov/whitemountain)

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