



**Pacific Northwest Region**  
**Gifford Pinchot National Forest**  
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# News Release

## Final Decision for Goat Mountain Hardrock Mineral Prospecting Permits

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The Forest Service (FS) has released a final decision to consent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to issue prospecting permit applications to Ascot USA, Inc. for geotechnical exploration within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The area is in the vicinity of Goat Mountain northeast of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. The BLM must now decide whether to issue the prospecting permits.

This decision is based on the environmental assessment (EA), and follows a 45-day pre-decisional administrative review process (objection) period where objections were addressed prior to making the final decision.

The BLM has prepared a modified environmental assessment (EA) in cooperation with the Forest Service. The modified EA, and related information are available at: <http://1.usa.gov/1NFp1eT>. The Forest Service Decision Notice/FONSI is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46996>.

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