



PC: Janette Powell

# The Mountaineers Winter Camping Course 2024



Field Trip Preview



Sun and Fun information for Snowshoe Winter Camping Field Trip

# Previewing the Winter Camping Field Trip

- Gear Checklist
- Driving to Field Trip
- Where/When to Meet
- Checking In
- Road Conditions
- Weather Forecast
- Avalanche Forecast
- Location of Trailhead
- Backpacking to Camp area
- Select/Setting Up Camp
- Ask for Help
- Breaking Down Camp
- Backpacking to Trailhead
- Checking Out

Stuff we will talk  
about tonight



# Gear Checklist

Make sure you have all necessary gear before heading out!

For example:

- Boots and gaiters
- Snowshoes / shovel
- Trekking poles with snow baskets
- Warm clothes
- Food + extra hot drink mix
- Sleeping pad + bag
- Tent
- (all of the 10 essentials)
- Blue bags
- Working stove (that you know how to use)
- Phone/battery
- lip balm/hand lotion/ski goggles/

# Day of Trip Checklist

## Example checklist

- Get up early enough not to be in a rush
- EAT A GOOD BREAKFAST!
- Last check of weather/avalanche conditions
- Check road conditions (WSDOT)
- Make/buy and pack a lunch
- Fill water bottles with warm water
- Make hot drinks in thermos
- Make sure you have all gear, etc.
- Drive to field trip location
- Get all of your snowshoeing gear on/ready
- Meet at the trailhead

# Driving to Field Trip

- You are on your own driving to Mt. Baker, Heather Meadows
- Be sure you have a full tank of gas
- WSDOT offers some good winter driving tips

<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/fulltext/winter/winter-driving-what-to-carry.pdf>



There's an app for that



**WSDOT**

Washington State  
Department of Tran...

OPEN



# When/Where to Meet

- Meet at 9:00 am in Heather Meadows Parking lot, Mt. Baker Ski area
- PARKING OPTIONS
  - Mountaineers Lodge
  - Pay for unoccupied vehicle parking at Heather Meadows  
[ <https://www.roverpass.com/account/> ]



# Checking In

- Look for your trip leaders in the parking lot
- They will be the “Mountaineer looking” people hanging out by cars without skis
- They will be carrying wands with orange flags
- Let them know you have arrived



# Road Conditions

- WSDOT has a web page
  - <https://www.wsdot.com/traffic/default.aspx>
  - And a smartphone app with pass conditions  
<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/know-before-you-go/mobile-app>

< Search



**WSDOT**

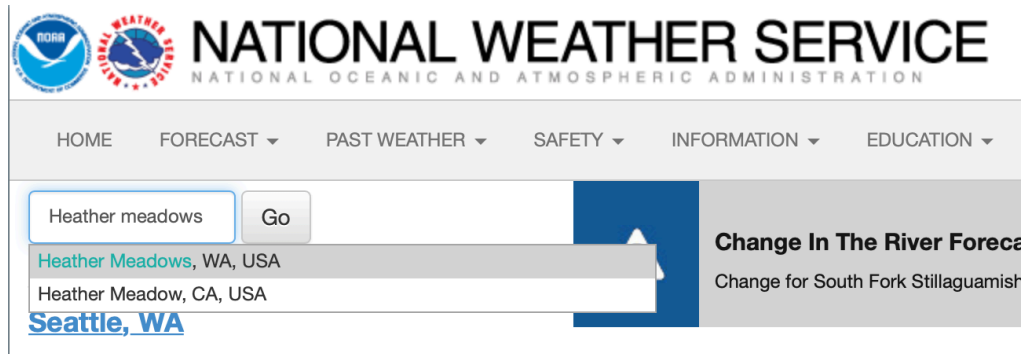
Washington State  
Department of Transpor...

OPEN



# Weather Forecast

- Weather forecasts - Heather Meadows  
<http://weather.gov/>



The screenshot shows the National Weather Service website header with the NOAA logo and the text "NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, FORECAST, PAST WEATHER, SAFETY, INFORMATION, and EDUCATION. A search bar contains the text "Heather meadows" and a "Go" button. A dropdown menu shows search results: "Heather Meadows, WA, USA", "Heather Meadow, CA, USA", and "Seattle, WA". To the right of the search bar, there is a blue arrow pointing up and a grey box with the text "Change In The River Forecast Change for South Fork Stillaguamish".

**Wednesday  
Night**



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 28 °F

**Thursday**



Chance Snow

High: 34 °F

**Thursday  
Night**



Chance Snow

Low: 32 °F

**Friday**



Slight Chance  
Snow then  
Mostly Cloudy

High: 35 °F

**Friday  
Night**



Chance Snow

Low: 32 °F

**Saturday**



Snow

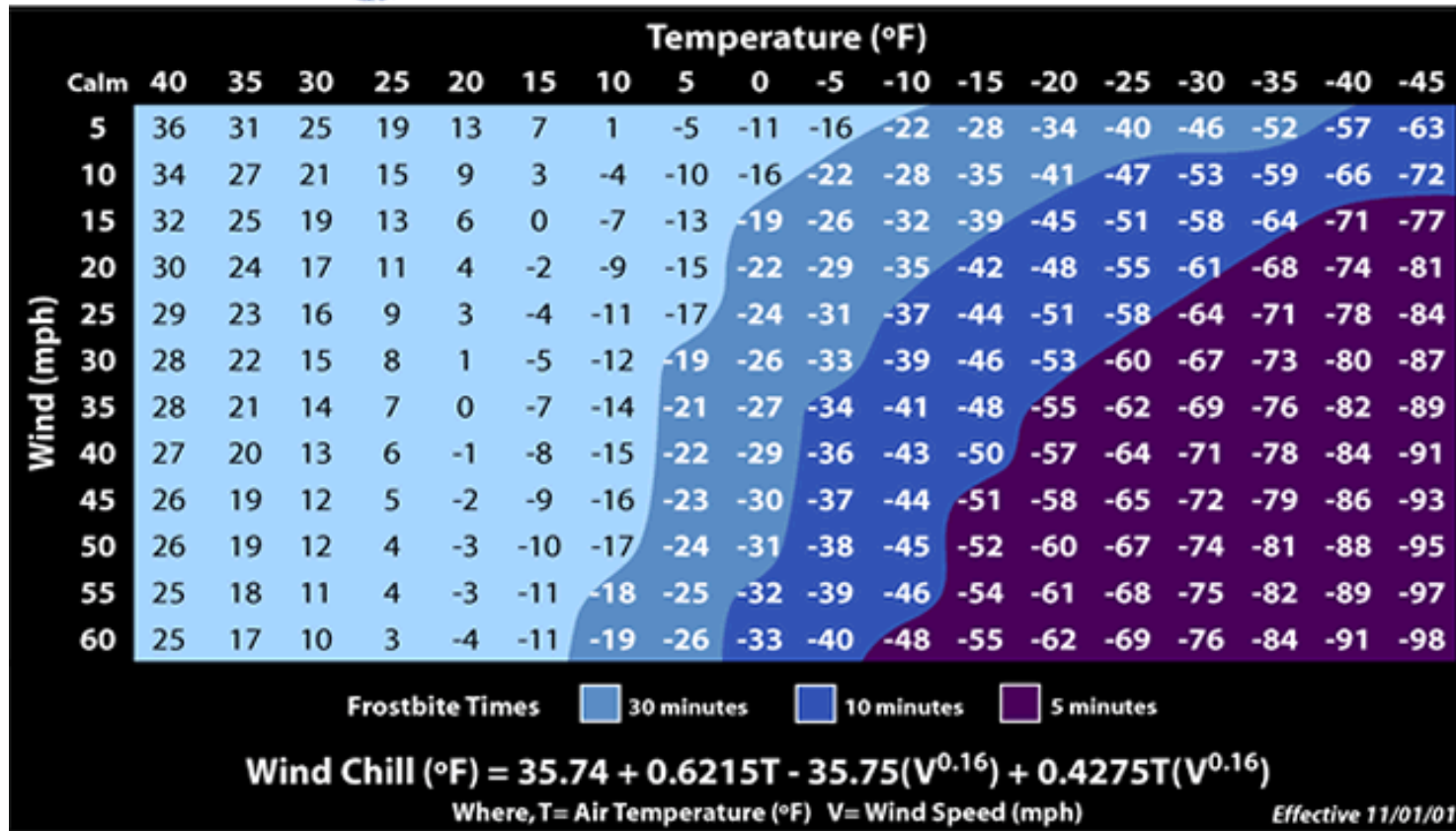
High: 33 °F

# Windchill Chart

- The wind matters when it is cold outside!



## Wind Chill Chart



# Avalanche Forecast

- NWAC Avalanche Forecast

<https://nwac.us/>



**Avy: Avalanche & Weather Info**

NWAC and SAC Avy...

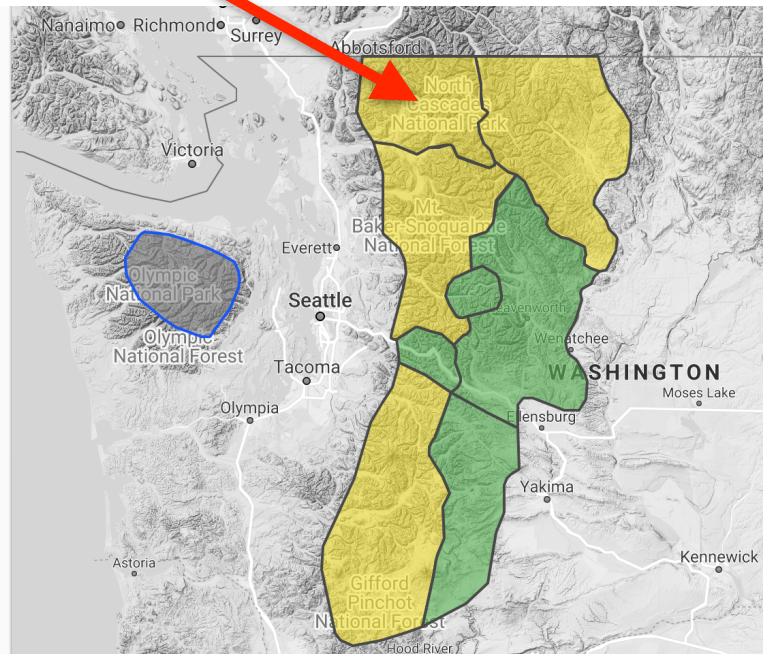
Open



## THE BOTTOM LINE

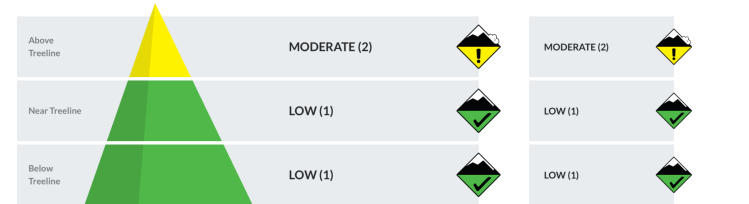
You can find shallow slabs of wind drifted snow above treeline. Evaluate the bond of new slabs to the old snow surface while climbing into exposed alpine terrain. Prepare for challenging travel on a frozen crust below the new snow.

## WEST SLOPES NORTH (Mt. Baker)



### AVALANCHE DANGER

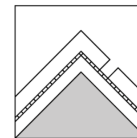
Tuesday, February 15, 2022



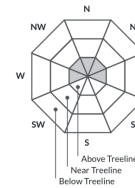
### OUTLOOK

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

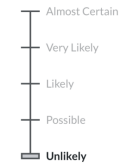
### AVALANCHE PROBLEM #1



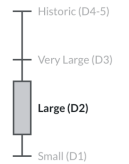
Persistent Slab



ASPECT/ELEVATION



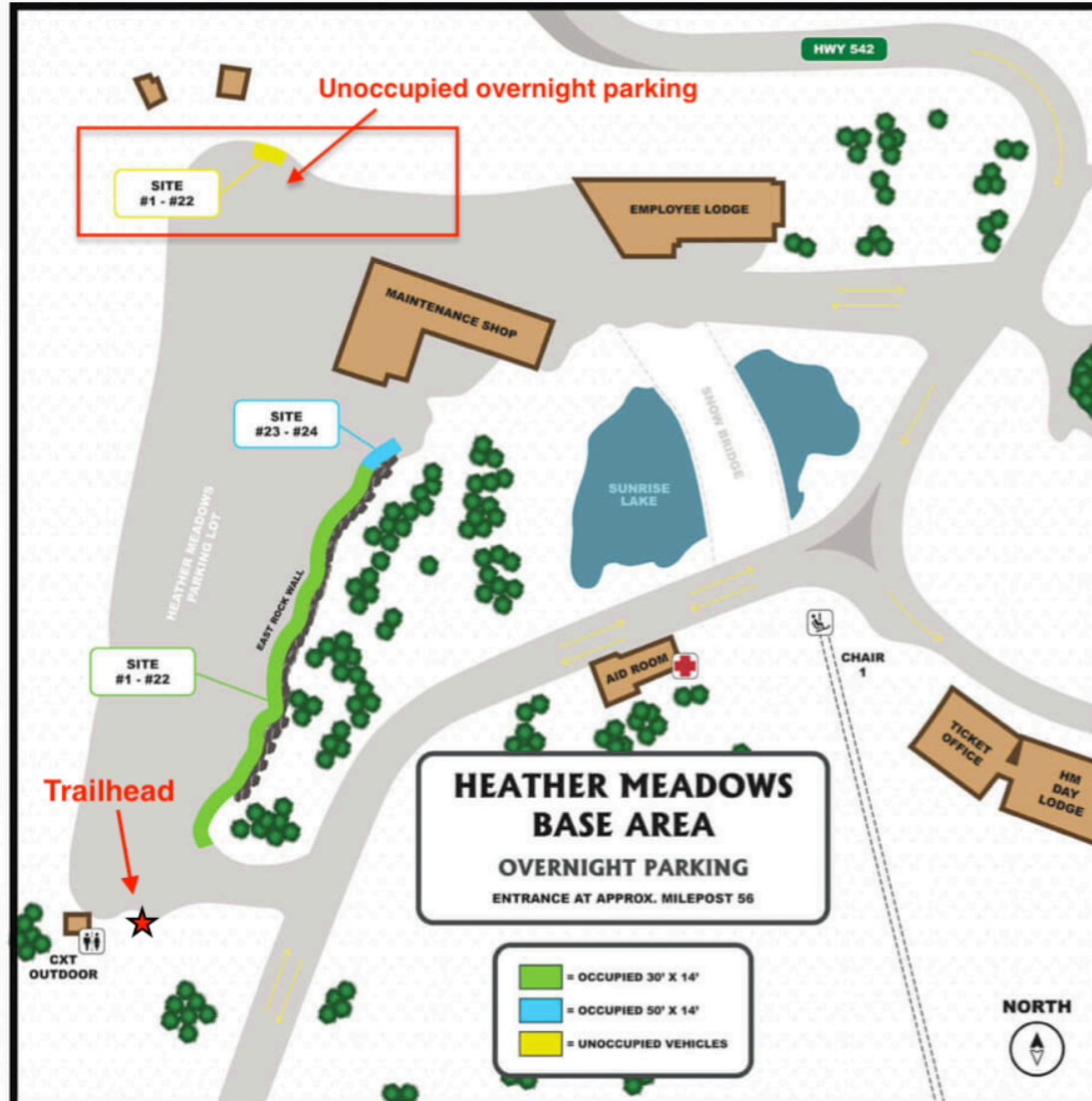
LIKELIHOOD



SIZE

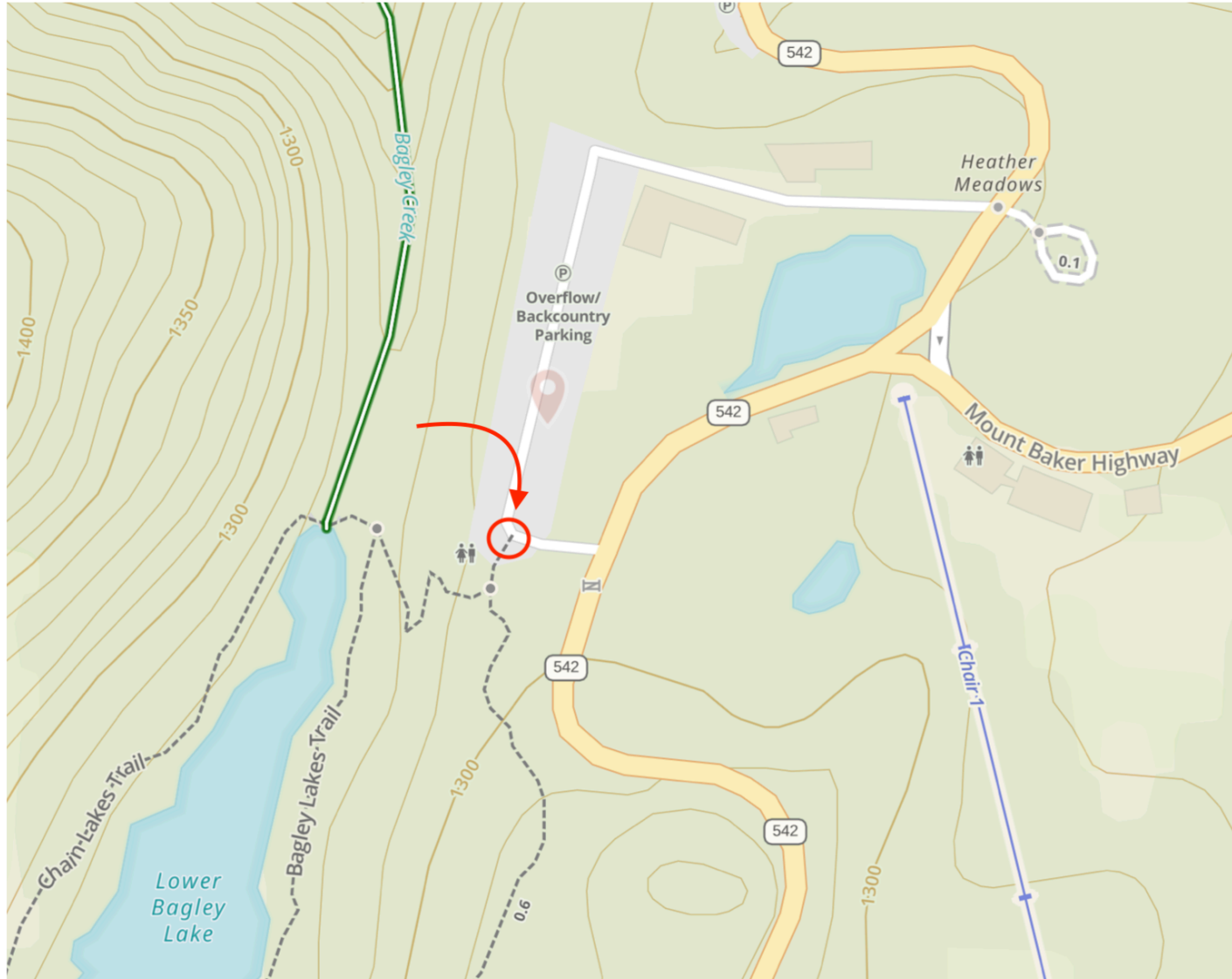
# Location of Trailhead - 1

## Heather Meadows map



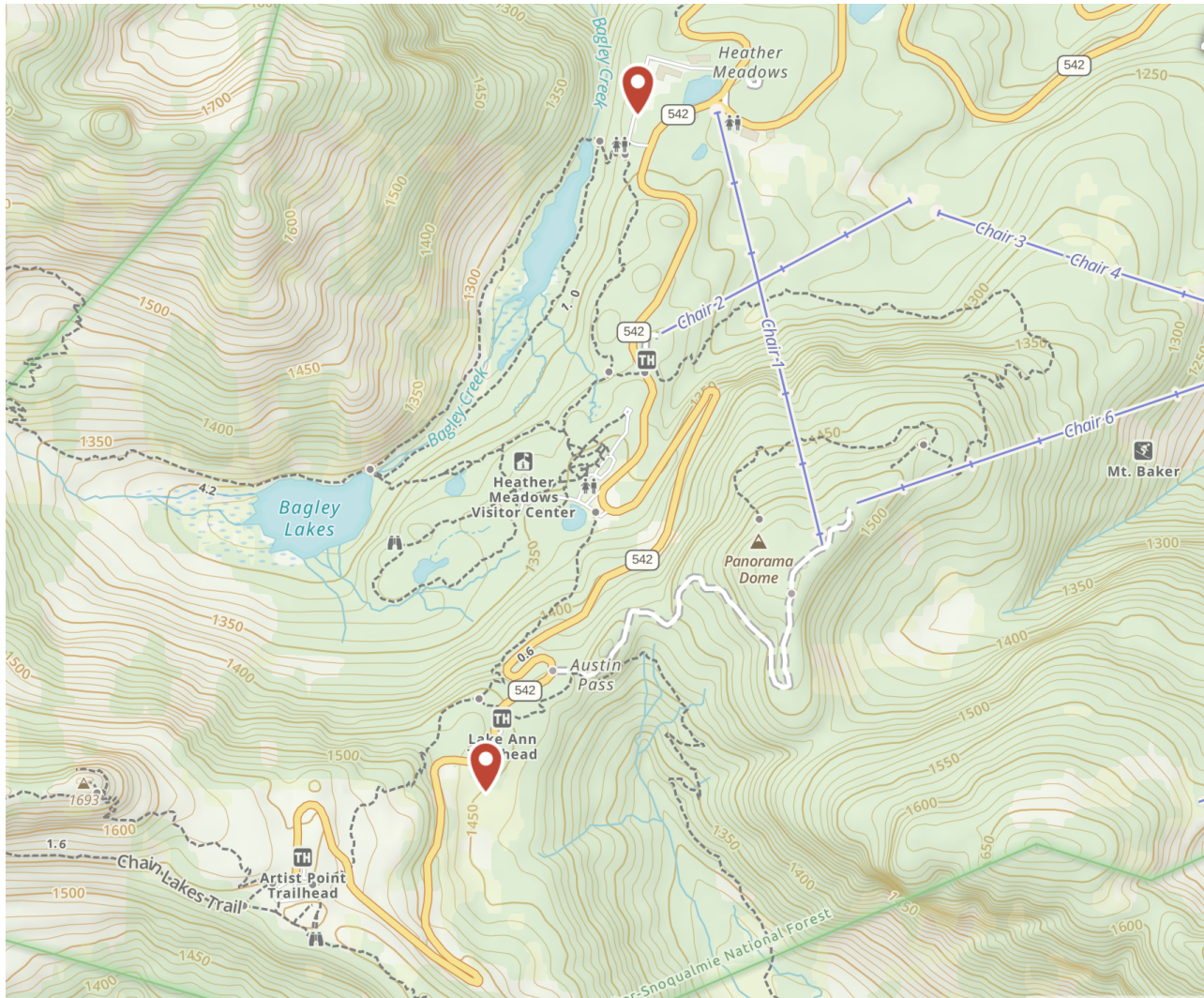
# Location of Trailhead - 2

- The start of the trail at South end of parking lot

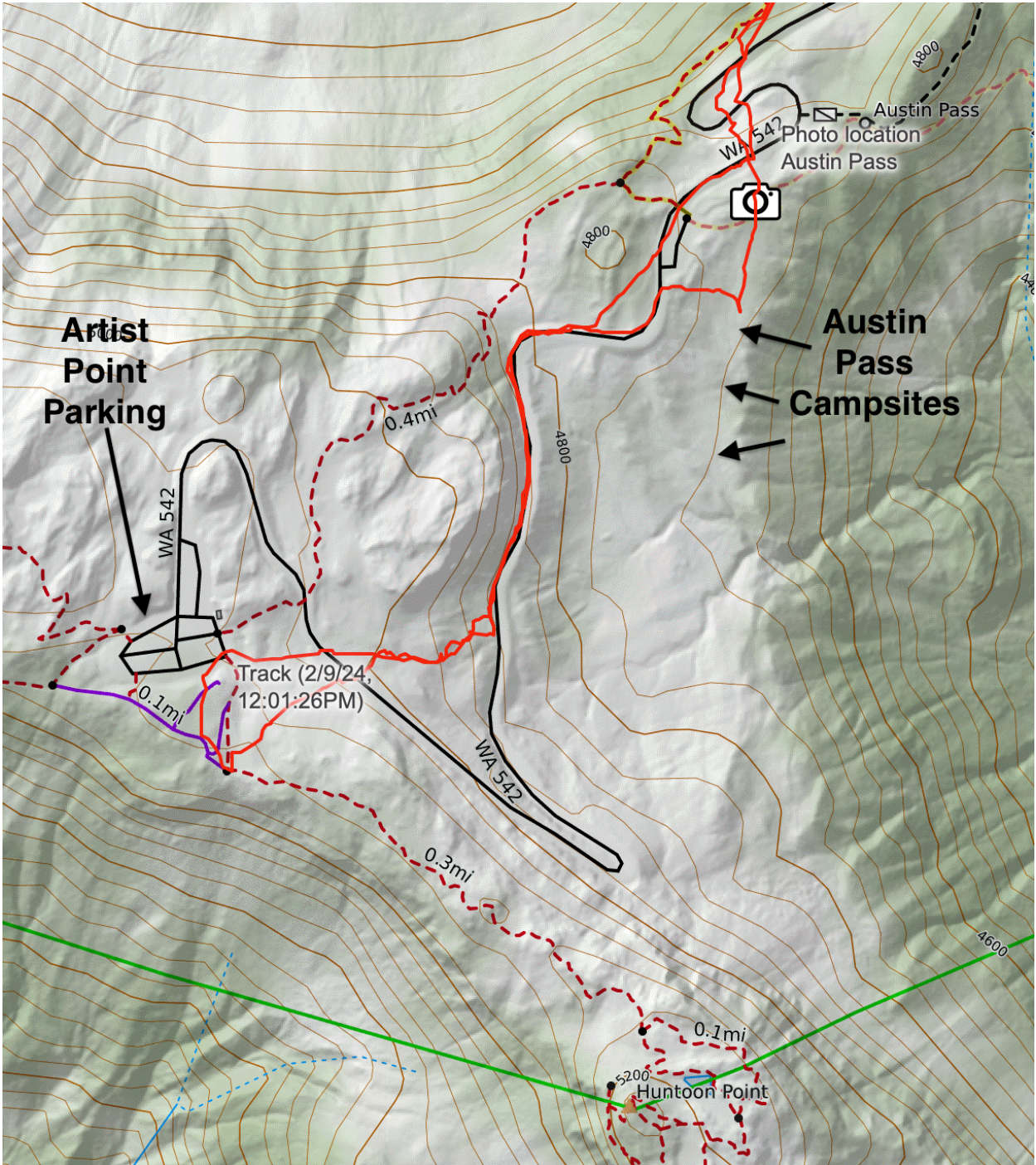


# Backpacking to Austin Pass

- Approximately 1 miles and 600' elevation gain
- Nice and easy, don't start too fast







# Campsite Selection



# Setting Up Camp

- Pack down tent site in the snow
- Wait 20-30 minutes
- Pitch your tent



# Tent and Wind Protection



# Ask for Help

- Don't hesitate to ask your instructor for help
- That's what we're here for
- If you are cold and having difficulty getting warm, ask for help!!



# Breaking Down Camp

- Leave No Trace
- Fill in holes
- Pick up all trash/waste



# Backpacking Back to Trailhead

- We will all travel out together.



# Checking Out

- When everyone is back at trailhead your trip leader will make sure you are checked out
- Field trip is officially over at the trailhead





# Winter Camping

- The main purpose of the field trip is to have fun and stay warm and safe in winter backcountry



Thanks for Listening



The End