



## THOMAS LAKES TRAIL #1958

**LENGTH:** 3.6 miles one-way (5.8 km)

**BEGINNING ELEVATION:** 8,500 feet  
(2591 m)

**ENDING ELEVATION:** 10,200 feet  
(3109 m)

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**USGS MAP(S):** Sopris

**USE:** Heavy

**RECOMMENDED SEASON(S):** Summer/Fall

**PERMIT INFORMATION:** In order to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands, the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. Each party overnighing in the Maroon Bells-Snomass Wilderness **is required to self-register at the trailhead and to carry a copy of registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

**ACCESS:** From Carbondale travel south on Hwy 133 for approximately 1.4 miles. Make a left turn on Prince Creek Road and go about 6 miles to the fork in the road. Take a right at the fork and follow it for 2 miles. The trailhead is ¼ before Dinkle Lake.

**DAY/BACKPACKING:** Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of trail and stream, and within ¼ mile of Thomas Lakes. *Camping is only at designated and numbered campsites at Thomas Lakes.* There are **NO** campfires within ¼ mile of Thomas Lakes; gas stoves only. Wilderness rules are posted at the trailhead, as well as on the required permit to overnite within the wilderness.

**NARRATIVE:** The trail is very well maintained and in good condition. It is very heavily used on the weekends, so plan accordingly. There are two lakes about ¼ mile apart with ample designated camping in between. The wilderness boundary is just before the first lake so be considerate of others and follow wilderness regulations. The hike is a beautiful one with many wildflower and scenic overlooks. From Thomas Lakes you may choose to climb Mt. Sopris, which is a steep 4 miles from the Lakes.

**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** The Thomas Lakes Trail si located within the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. Please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- \* **BEAR CANISTERS REQUIRED** for all overnight visitors. Approved bear canisters must be capable of holding all scented items (food, toiletries, dog food, garbage, etc.) and should be stored on the ground, out of sight and no less than 100 ft. away from any camp.
- \* **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of consideration for other visitors and wildlife
- \* Camping at designated sites only.
- \* Limit group sizes to 15 people and 25 stock/pack animals.
- \* **Sanitation** - Bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- \* No fires above 10,800 ft. Lightweight camp stoves are recommended. No fires within ¼ mile of Thomas Lakes. **NO FIRES AT THE LAKES!**

**WILDERNESS AREAS** are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not a renewable resource. Any careless act by man can upset this natural balance and result in the destruction of the beauty found in the wilderness. By following the above ethics and regulations you can help protect and preserve the natural features of the Wilderness for future visits. **Please respect the land and rights of others!**

**PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!**



**FOREST ORDER**

**USDA - FOREST SERVICE  
WHITE RIVER AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS  
MAROON BELLS-SNOWMASS WILDERNESS**

Wilderness Occupancy and Use Restrictions

Pursuant to 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 551 and 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §§ 261.50(a) and 261.50(b), the following acts are prohibited within the **Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness** of the White River and Gunnison National Forests, Pitkin and Gunnison Counties, State of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as the Restricted Area. The Restricted Area is further depicted on the attached maps, hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A.

This Order is necessary for the protection of Wilderness character and resources and to protect human safety and property.

**PROHIBITIONS:**

1. Entering or being in the Restricted Area with more than 10 people per group or with more than 15 pack or saddle animals per group. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(a).
2. Camping:
  - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, pond, river or other similar body of water, or any National Forest System Trail;
  - b) Within ¼ mile of Conundrum Hot Springs, Copper Lake, Crater Lake, Geneva Lake, Capitol Lake, and Thomas Lakes, except at designated campsites. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(e).
3. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or wood-burning stove:
  - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, or National Forest System Trail;
  - b) Within ¼ mile of Crater Lake;
  - c) Above 10,800 ft. elevation, as shown on Exhibit A; 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a).
4. Hitching, tethering or hobbling any pack or saddle animal:
  - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, pond, river or other similar body of water or any National Forest System Trail;
  - b) Within ¼ mile of Crater Lake, Conundrum Hot Springs, or Snowmass Lake. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(aa).
6. Possessing a dog, except for working stock dogs and/or dogs used for legal hunting purposes, unless under physical restraint of a leash not to exceed six (6) feet in length. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).
7. Possessing a dog within the Conundrum Creek Valley from Silver Dollar Pond (2.25 miles North of Conundrum Hot Springs) to Triangle Pass (1.5 miles Southwest of Conundrum Hot Springs), including Conundrum Hot Springs, as depicted in Exhibit A. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).

8. Possessing, storing, or transporting any plant material, such as hay or straw.  
**Note:** An exception is allowed for livestock feed that has been processed through chemical or mechanical means in a manner that will destroy viable seeds. Examples of excepted material include: pelletized feed and rolled grains. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(t)
9. Possessing or using a wagon, cart, or other vehicle including a wheelbarrow, bicycle or game cart. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(h)
10. Shortcutting a switchback in a trail. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(e)
11. Entering or being in the Restricted Area without a valid self-registration Wilderness Use Permit for each group or individual camping overnight. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(a)
12. Possessing or storing any food or refuse as specified in the order in the Restricted Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).  
**EXCEPT WHEN:**
  1. The food or refuse is "acceptably stored" or "acceptably possessed" during daytime hours;
  2. The food or refuse is being prepared for eating, being eaten, being transported, being prepared for acceptable storage, or is "acceptably stored" during nighttime hours.

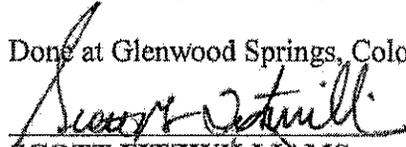
**EXEMPTIONS:**

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt:

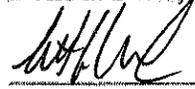
- (1) Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- (2) Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in the performance of an official duty.

This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded, or until December 31, 2020, whichever event occurs first. This Order supersedes, replaces, and rescinds Order No. 2003-08.

Done at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, this 18th day of February, 2016.

  
**SCOTT FITZWILLIAMS**  
 Forest Supervisor, White River National Forest

Done at Delta, Colorado, this 19th day of February, 2016.

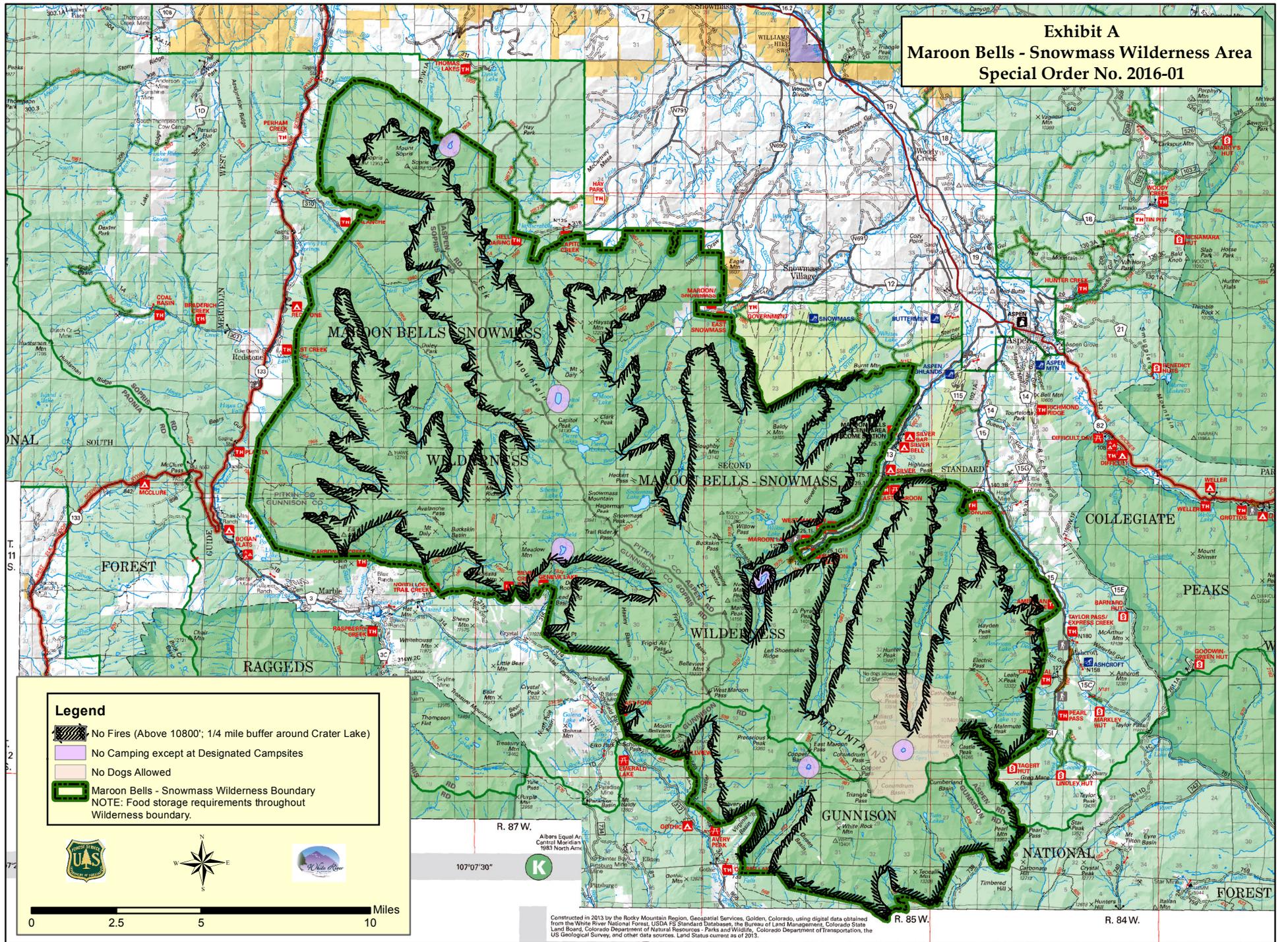
  
**SCOTT ARMENTROUT**  
 Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests

Violations of these regulations is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559 and 3571

Definitions:

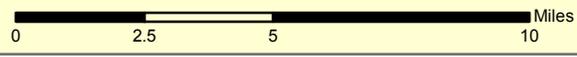
1. "Food and Refuse" means any substance, solid or liquid (excluding water) which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal or any refuse which might attract bears. It includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, canned foods, processed livestock feed and grains, personal hygiene products, and empty food and beverage containers and any item that may attract bears including, but not limited to, trash, food residue, garbage, pet foods/feeders, cooking utensils and equipment, cooking grills, personal care products, and coolers.
2. "Acceptably stored" means:
  - A) Stored in bear-resistant container certified through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Courtesy Inspection Program.
  - B) Stored by other methods approved in a permit issued by the Forest Supervisor responsible for the area where the method is proposed for use.
  - C) Meat carcasses or game parts harvested by hunting that occurred legally under Colorado State Hunting Laws are more than 100 yards from overnight camping site.
3. "Acceptably possessed" means possessed or attended during daytime by a person that is physically present within 100 feet and direct sight of the accessible food, refuse, or item.
4. "Daytime" means ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, Mountain Time.
5. "Nighttime" means ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, Mountain Time.

**Exhibit A**  
**Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness Area**  
**Special Order No. 2016-01**



**Legend**

- No Fires (Above 10800'; 1/4 mile buffer around Crater Lake)
- No Camping except at Designated Campsites
- No Dogs Allowed
- Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness Boundary  
 NOTE: Food storage requirements throughout Wilderness boundary.



R. 87 W.

107°07'30"



Albire Equal Ar. Control Meridian 1983 North Arm

R. 85 W.

R. 85 W.

R. 84 W.

Constructed in 2013 by the Rocky Mountain Region, Geospatial Services, Golden, Colorado, using digital data obtained from the White River National Forest, USDA FS Standard Databases, the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Land Board, Colorado Department of Natural Resources - Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Transportation, the US Geological Survey, and other data sources. Land Status current as of 2013.