

Aspen Ranger District  
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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

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## WEST MAROON TRAIL #1970

**Length:** 6.5 miles one-way (10.5 km)

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Trail Use:** Heavy

**Beginning Elevation:** 9,580 feet (2920 m)

**Ending Elevation:** 12,500 feet (3810 m)

**USGS Map(s):** Maroon Bells

**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 overnighiting** in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness is **required to self-register at the Trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

**DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW:** A trail used very heavily by both day hikers and backpackers, West Maroon offers magnificent views of the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness area, two stream crossings, fields of wildflowers and access to other wilderness areas. This is the starting point for the most popular of the trails to Crested Butte. **If camping at Crater Lake, use designated sites only. Campfires are prohibited and only campstoves are allowed. Camping farther along the trail can be found between the two river crossings.** No Fires are allowed above 10,800 ft. Heavy bear activity in this area, bear canisters are required.

**ACCESS:** From mid-June through September, Maroon Creek Road is restricted to vehicles from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m beyond the T-Lazy 7 Ranch. Take the shuttle from Aspen Highlands Ski Area, which leaves every 20 minutes; dog are allowed on the bus.

The Maroon Bells Scenic Area is a recreation fee area; there is a *mandatory* fee. The Interagency, Senior & Golden Access Passes are honored. From the Hwy 82 Roundabout, just west of Aspen, take the Maroon Creek Road turn. In approximately one mile is Aspen Highlands, *turn left here for the shuttle!* If arriving during non-bus hours, continue another 4 miles to the Welcome Station. The use fee will be collected here, or in the fee tube immediately behind the station if un-manned; continue another 5 miles to the parking lot at Maroon Lake.

**NARRATIVE:** The trail starts at the Maroon Lake parking area traversing through a meadow to the far end of the Lake and a Forest Service bulletin board. The Maroon-Snowmass Trail is to the right. It climbs 1.8 miles through aspen trees to Crater Lake. Take the left fork at the Crater Lake bulletin board. The West Maroon Trail skirts the right side of Crater Lake. After the lake the trail follows the stream for a short distance and then enters the forest. Upon emerging from the forest you will cross a rocky scree field. The first stream crossing is in a little over three miles. This crossing is fairly wide and can be extremely dangerous during high spring runoffs. The trail on the other side is not always visible before crossing. The trail climbs through forest and willow before reaching another stream crossing in an open area. After crossing, the trail angles to the right and climbs steadily through willow and then tundra. This area is very open and the pass can be seen in the distance. The trail continues to climb steeply through switchbacks followed by a long traverse that ends at the top of the Pass. The views are spectacular on a clear day. From the top of the pass the trail descends on the other side to the East Fork Creek Trail and Schofield Park into Crested Butte or Frigid Air Pass.

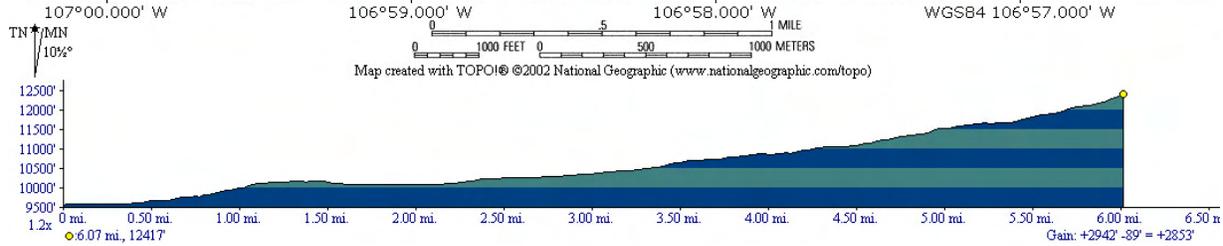
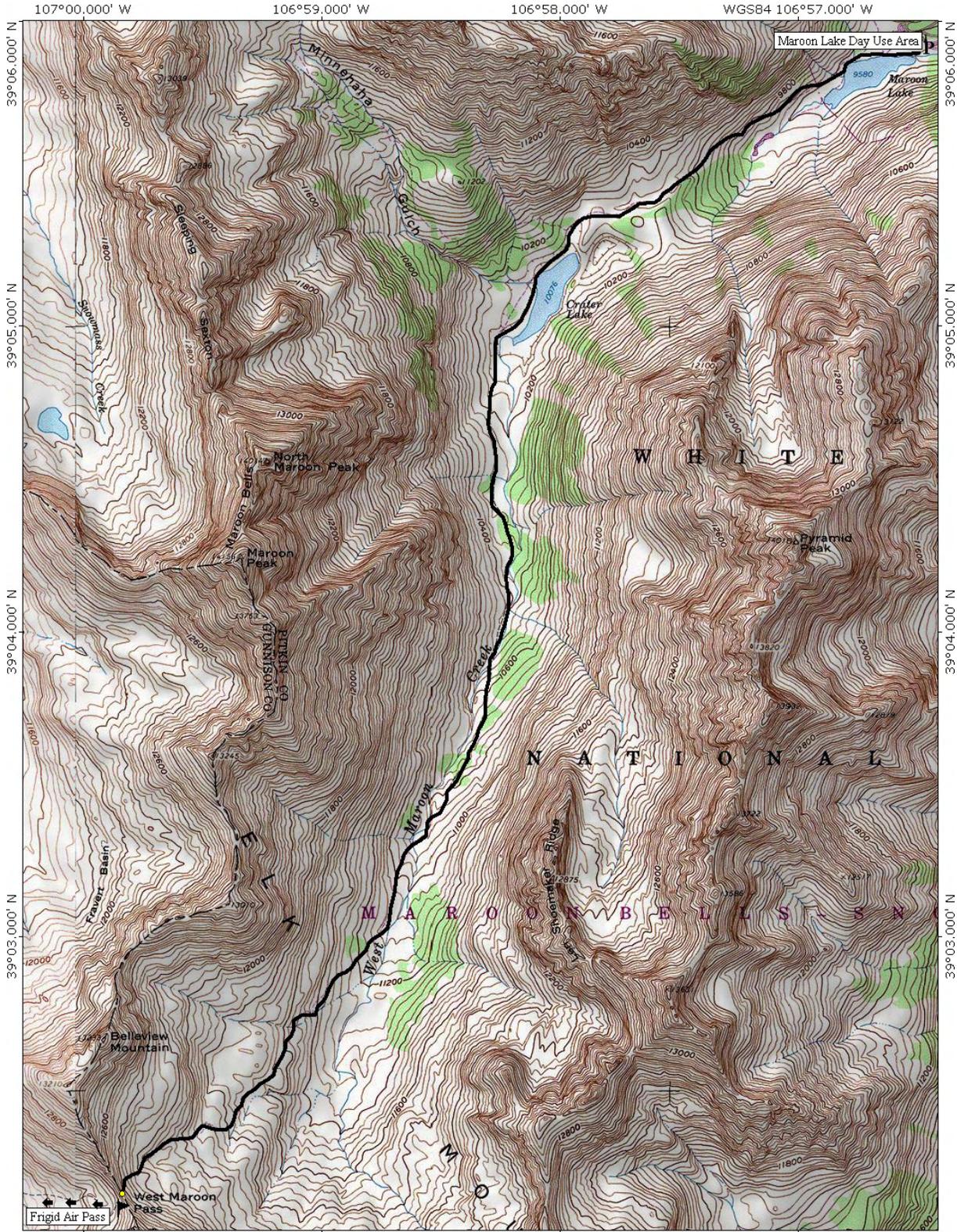
**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** The West Maroon Trail is within the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- \* **BEAR CANISTERS REQUIRED** for all overnight visitors. Approved bear canisters must be capable of holding all scented items (including food, toiletries, garbage, dog food, etc.) and should be stored on the ground and out of sight no less than 100 ft. away from any camp.
- \* **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of consideration for others and wildlife.
- \* Limit group sizes to 10 people and 15 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

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

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your hiking trip.

# ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST WEST MAROON TRAIL #1970



**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.

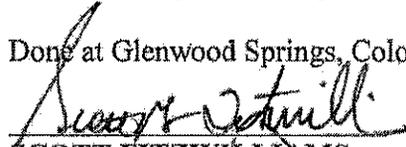
**EXEMPTIONS:**

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.

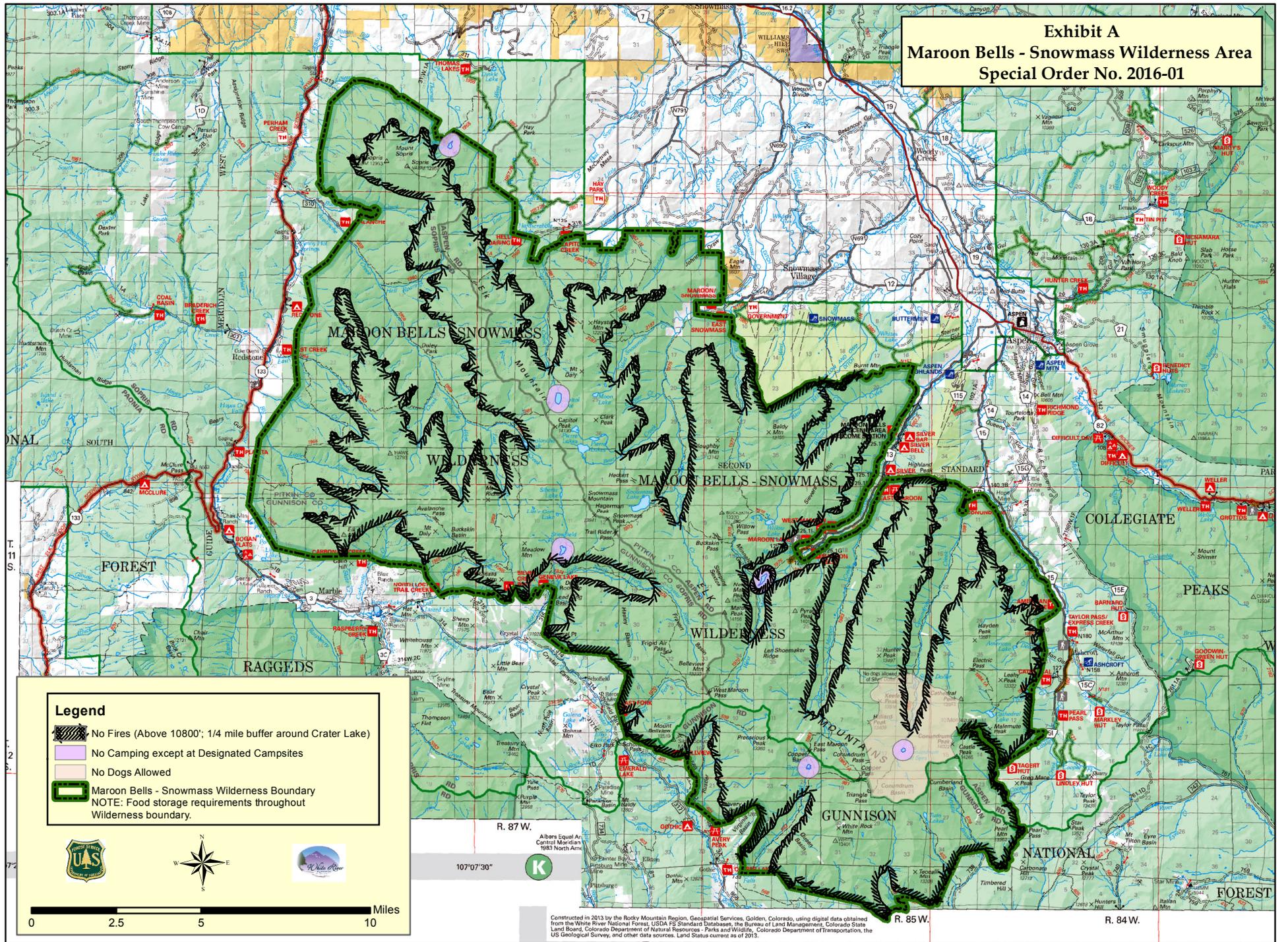
  
**SCOTT ARMENTROUT**  
 Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests

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:

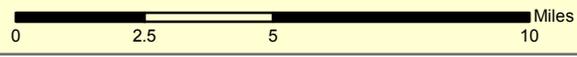
1. "Food and Refuse" means any substance, solid or liquid (excluding water) which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal or any refuse which might attract bears. It includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic 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.

# Food Storage and Sanitation Order

## *Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, White River National Forest*

### Your safety is important

This food storage order was created to help keep you and other forest visitors safe by avoiding encounters with bears and preventing bears from being attracted to camping areas frequented by people.

All food and other items that might attract bears must be stored where bears can't access them at night and during the daytime when they are unattended. "Attended" means that a person is physically present within 100 feet and in direct sight of items that must be stored in a bear-resistant manner.



### These items must be properly stored

- 1) Human food including fresh and canned food, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and unclean cooking equipment and supplies
- 2) This also includes garbage, food scraps, and empty food and beverage containers.
- 3) Attractants including pet food and edible hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste and deodorants.

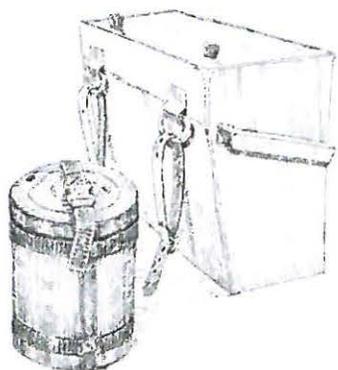
### Proper storage methods

Proper storage methods include placing food and other items in hard-sided bear resistant containers. Legally harvested meat carcasses or game parts must be stored more than 100 yards from overnight camping sites unless acceptably possessed.

### Bear resistant containers

Approved hard-sided bear resistant horse panniers and backpackers' containers that are certified through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Courtesy Inspection Program.

NOTE: Plastic or metal food coolers, soft-sided containers, backpacks, and leather or canvas horse panniers are NOT bear resistant containers.



# Bear Resistant Canisters

Required for overnight camping in Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area  
Recommended for Hunter Fryingpan Wilderness Area

Available at the following locations:

## **Aspen**

Aspen Expeditions (across the plaza)  
\$10/day to rent, plus \$10 cleaning fee upon return  
\$95 to purchase

Four-Mountain Sports (through doors in lobby)  
No rental  
\$85 to purchase

Ute Mountaineer (on Galena St. in Aspen)  
\$8/day to rent  
\$50 (approximately) to purchase

## **Basalt**

Bristlecone (in Willits area near Starbucks)

## **Carbondale**

Ragged Mountain Sports  
902 CO-133 (off Roundabout)  
\$6/day to rent  
\$80 to purchase

## **Glenwood Springs**

Factory Outdoors (on Hwy  
82) No rental  
\$80 to purchase

Summit Canyon Mountaineering (corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Grand  
Ave.) No rental  
\$80 to purchase

## **Front Range**

Various REI locations