



USFS Over-Snow Vehicle Rule Update

September 2015

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Colorado Mountain Club

Backcountry Snowsports Initiative

www.cmc.org/BSI



OSV Rule Updates



- * Rule Passed - Jan 2015
- * Directives from D.C. - expected Jan 2016
 - * Will include requirements for Motor Vehicle Use Maps
Color Scheme, Topography, Features

➤ Region-wide assessment team will analyze current decisions, identify priority planning areas

Next steps for Forests:

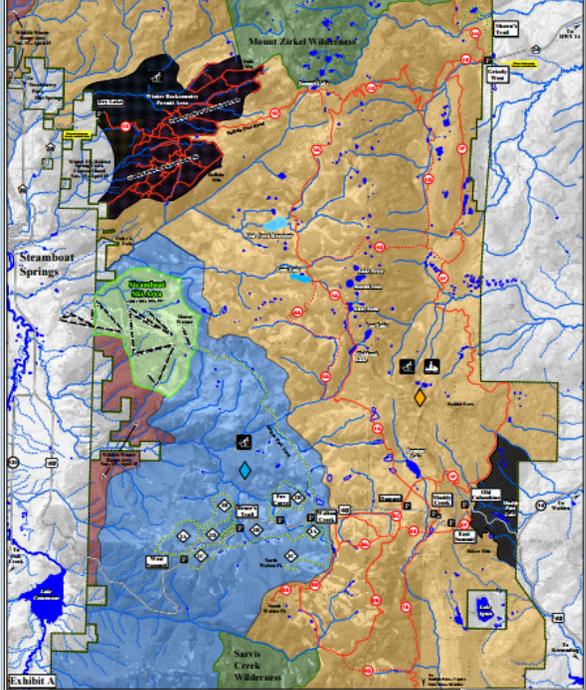
* Prior Decision:

- Publish Winter Travel Maps

* No Prior Decision:

- Winter Travel Planning
- Public Input
- Decision
- Publish Winter Travel Maps

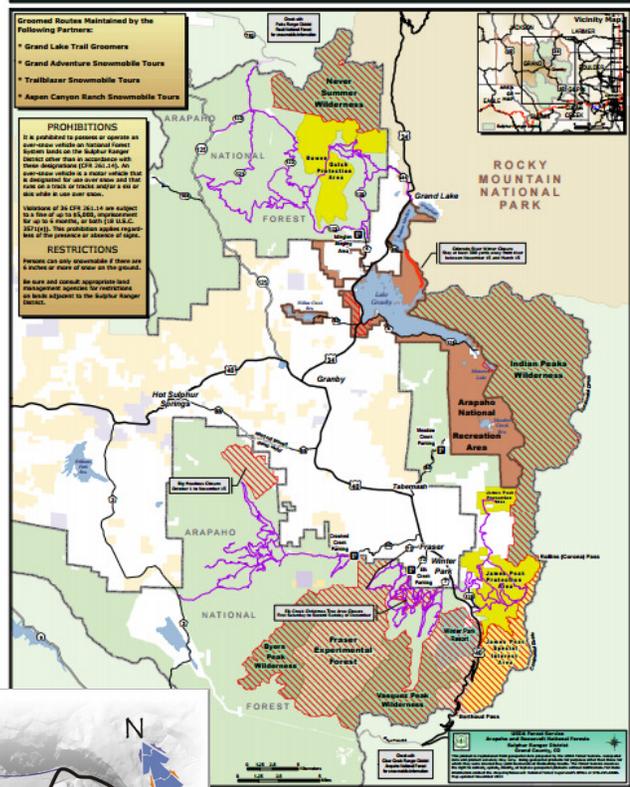
Rabbit Ears Pass / Buffalo Pass Winter Recreation Area



- Greened Snowmobile Route
- Unpowered Snowmobile Route
- Ski Routes
- Backcountry Permit Area
- Designated Routes
- Forest Boundary
- Lynx / Wildlife Corridor
- Voluntary Restrictions on All Winter Use
- Water Backcountry Permit Area, Permits Required For All Use
- Closed to Motorized Use, Non-Motorized Use Not Advised
- Municipal Water Supply, PLEASE Stay Off Lakes And Reservoirs
- Non-Motorized Area
- Motorized Use Prohibited
- Motorized / Mixed Use Area
- Combined Commercial/ Mixed Use Area
- Wilderness Area
- Motorized Use Prohibited
- Parking Areas
- Camping at Muddy Creek (NO)

Sample of Current Maps

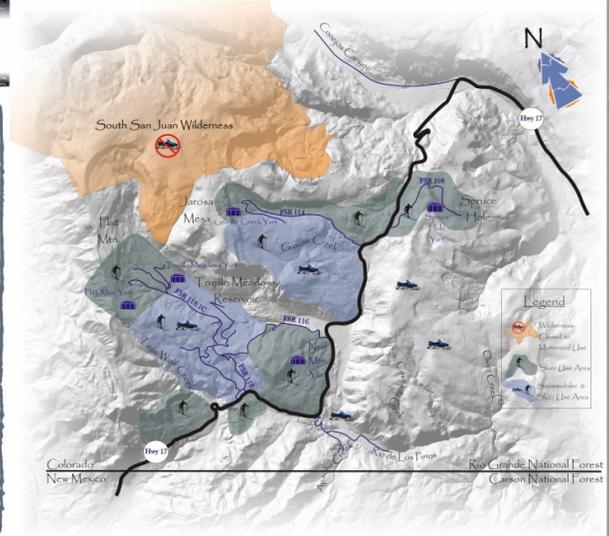
Snowmobile Use Map Arapaho National Forest - Sulphur Ranger District



Rio Grande National Forest

Cumbres & LaManga Winter Recreation

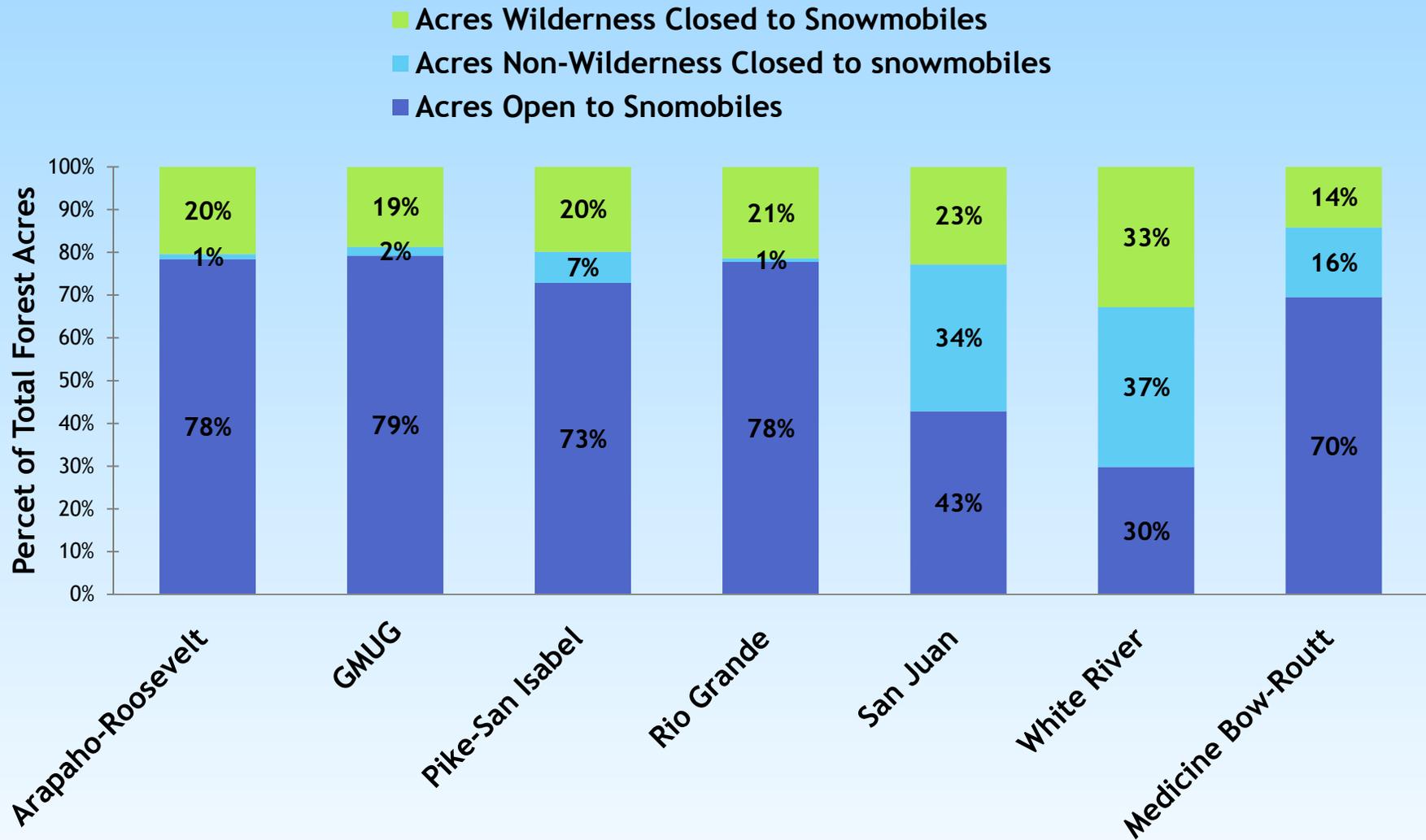
We can work together! There has been growing conflict between skiers and snowmobilers in this area and we are concerned this is compromising recreation safety. The map to the right identifies voluntary use areas in order to reduce conflicts. Skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers, please abide by this map so that all winter recreationists may enjoy this special area.



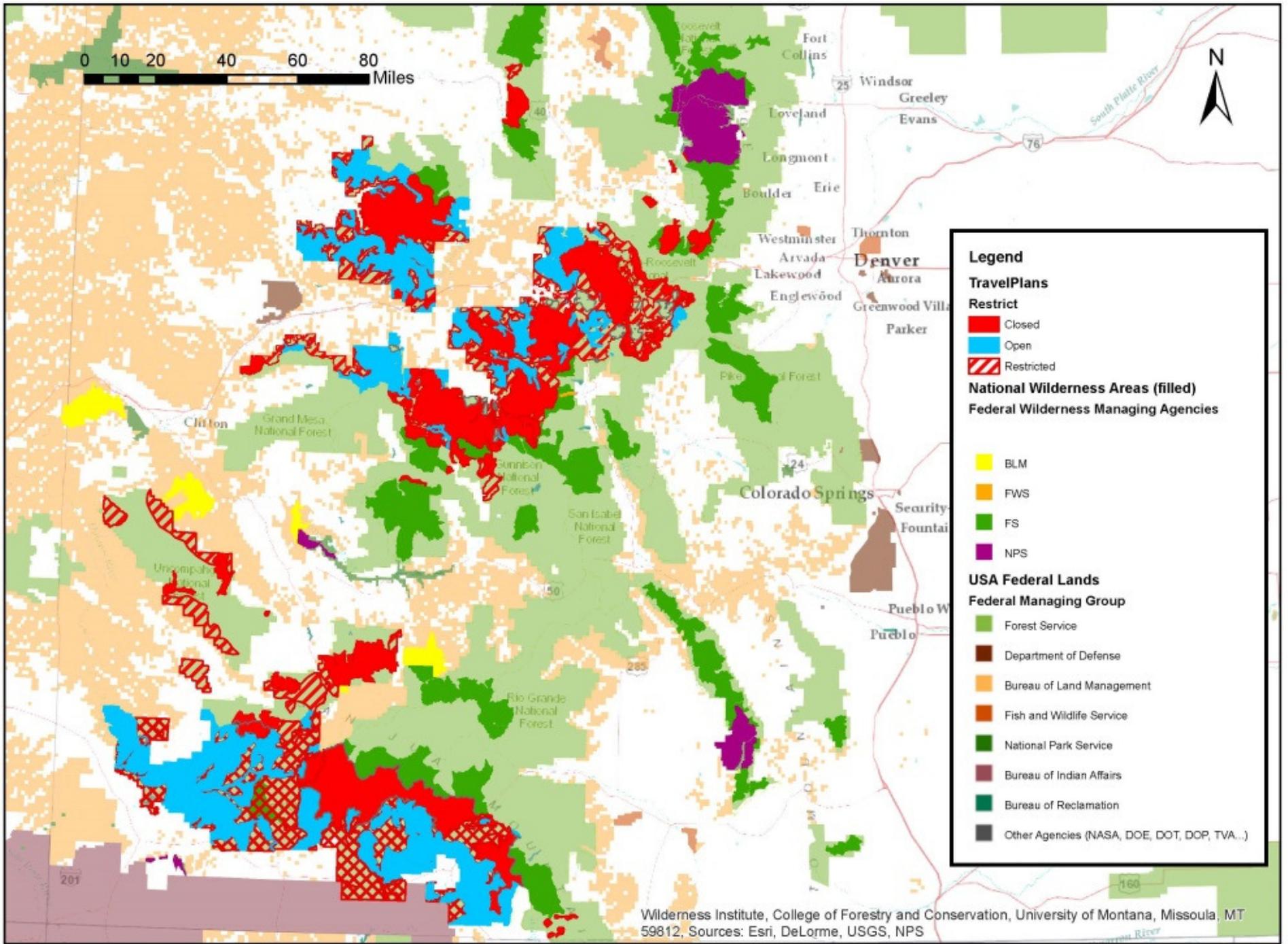
No consistent color scheme, feature clarity, or type of restrictions.

Analysis of Current Conditions

Colorado Forests - 2015 Winter Travel Restrictions



Data from Winter Wildlands Alliance "Winter Recreation on National Forest Lands" (2015)

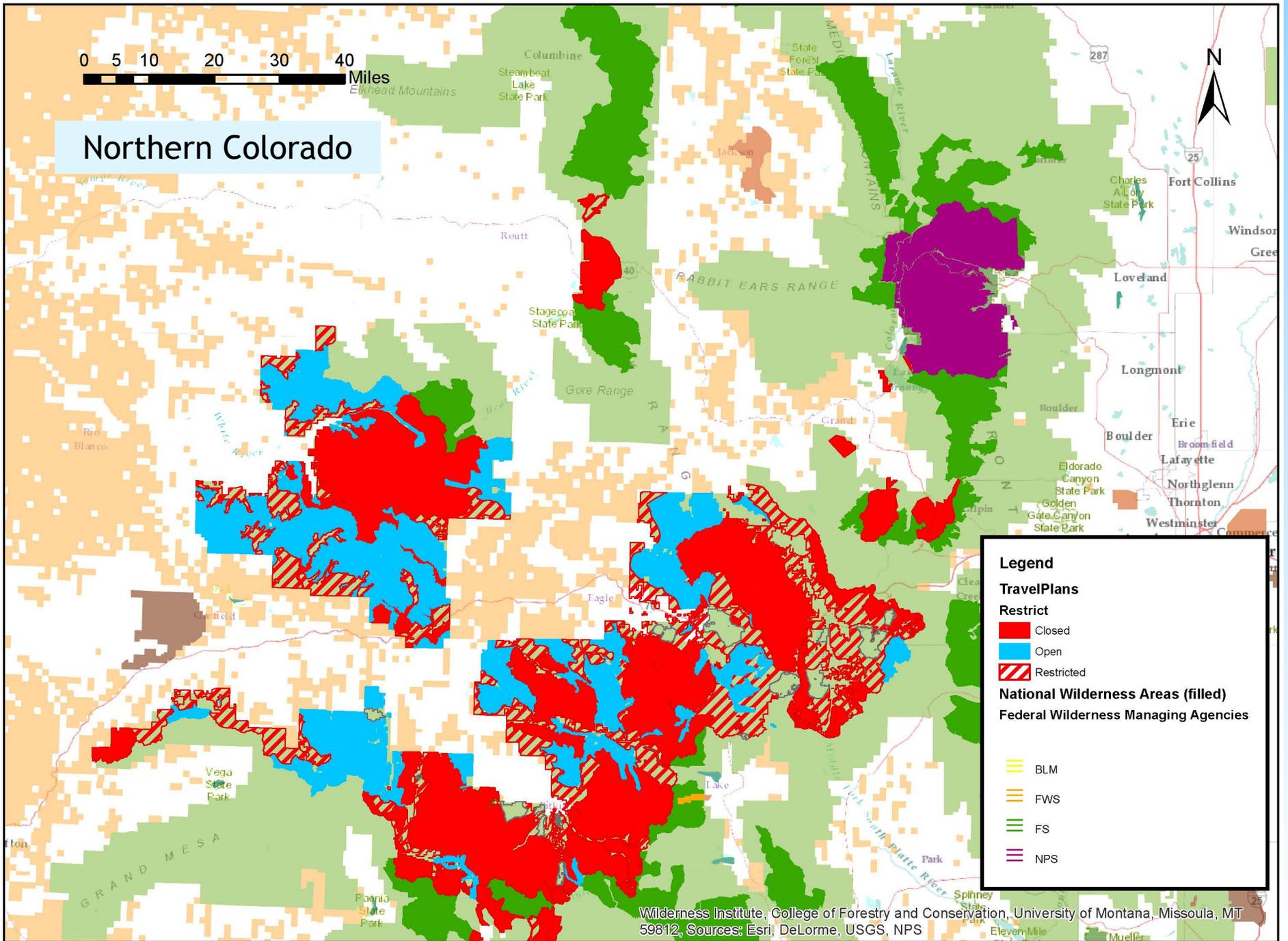


Current OSV Restrictions in Colorado

- * Closed = closed to motorized vehicles. Includes all Wilderness areas, some experimental forests and resource management areas
- * Restricted = motorized vehicles restricted to designated routes (roads and motorized trails).
- * Open = motorized travel unrestricted. Currently any Forest Service land without a closed or restricted designation (shown in light green on all maps) is effectively open.
- * White River National Forest is the only CO forest with a comprehensive winter travel plan

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Northern Colorado



Legend

Travel Plans

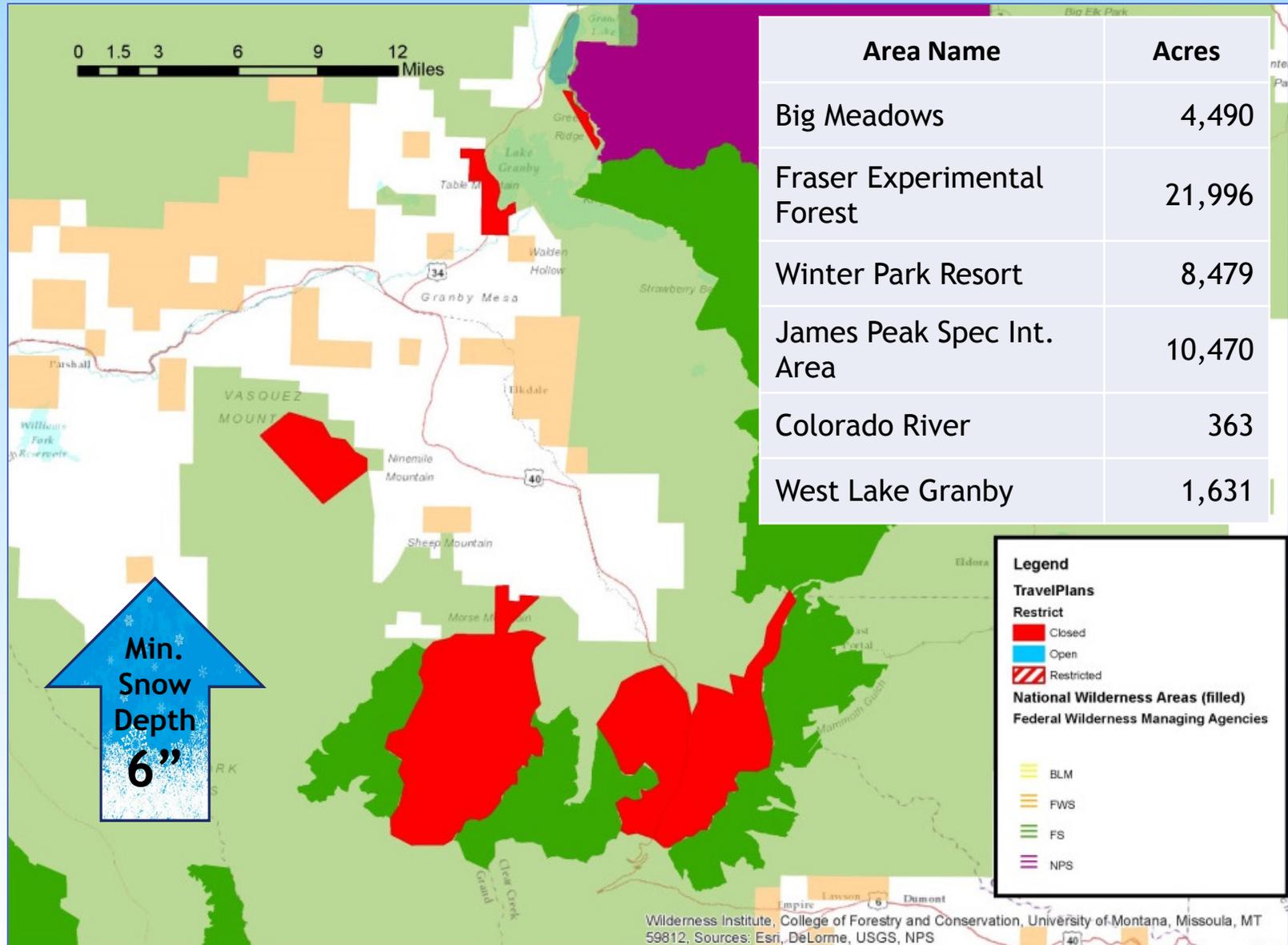
- Red: Closed
- Blue: Open
- Red with diagonal lines: Restricted

National Wilderness Areas (filled)

Federal Wilderness Managing Agencies

- Yellow: BLM
- Orange: FWS
- Green: FS
- Purple: NPS

Arapaho-Roosevelt (Sulfur RD)



Routt National Forest

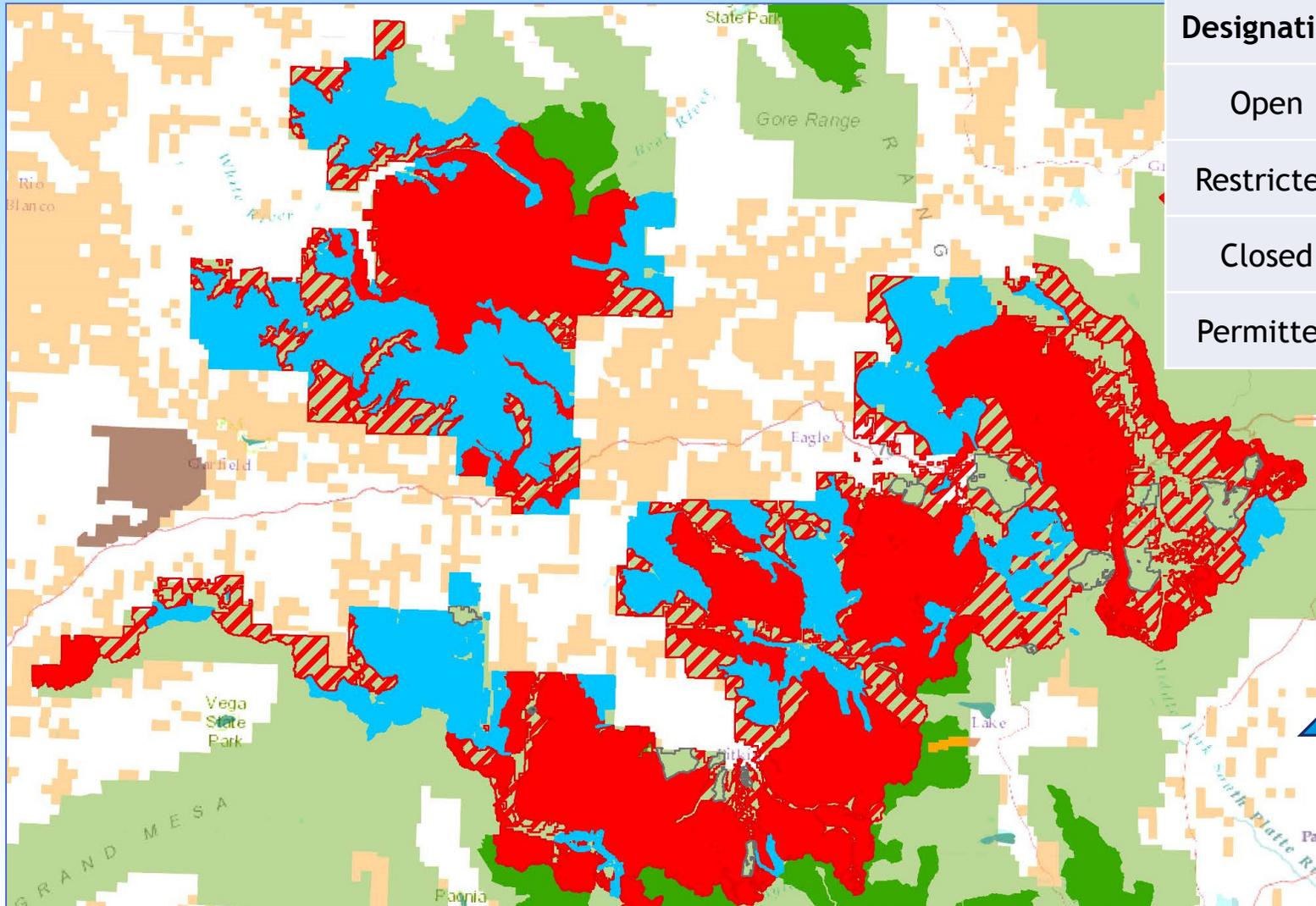


2005 Forest Plan Amendment

Area Name	Designation	Acres
Rabbit Ears Pass	Closed	33,295
Buffalo Pass	Restricted	3,801
Dry Lake	Closed	1,666

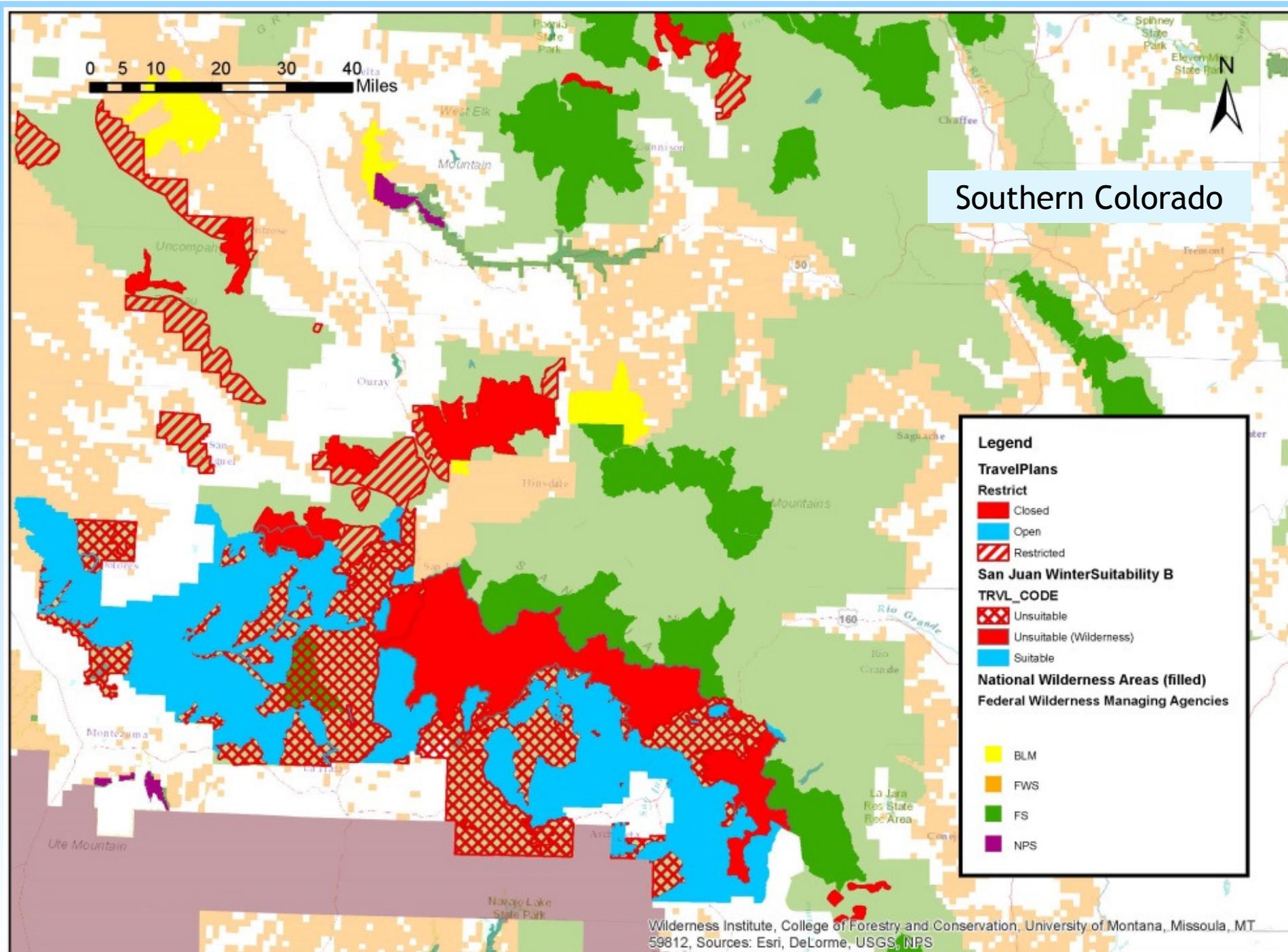


White River National Forest



Designation	Acres
Open	695,723
Restricted	517,963
Closed	1,017,638
Permitted	54,907





San Juan NF

*2013 Suitability Study
(closures not currently
implemented)*

Unsuitable - 743,554

Wilderness - 424,426

Suitable - 926,649

Rio Grande NF

*Cumbres/La Manga Pass, Wolf
Creek Pass*

Seasonal Wildlife Restrictions

Closed - 14,390

Wilderness - 392,407

Restricted - 394

Open - 1,429,477

Pike/San Isabel

*Currently unable to identify any
decisions or maps that demonstrate
these closures*

Closed - 163,039

Wilderness - 445,339

Open - 1,631,237

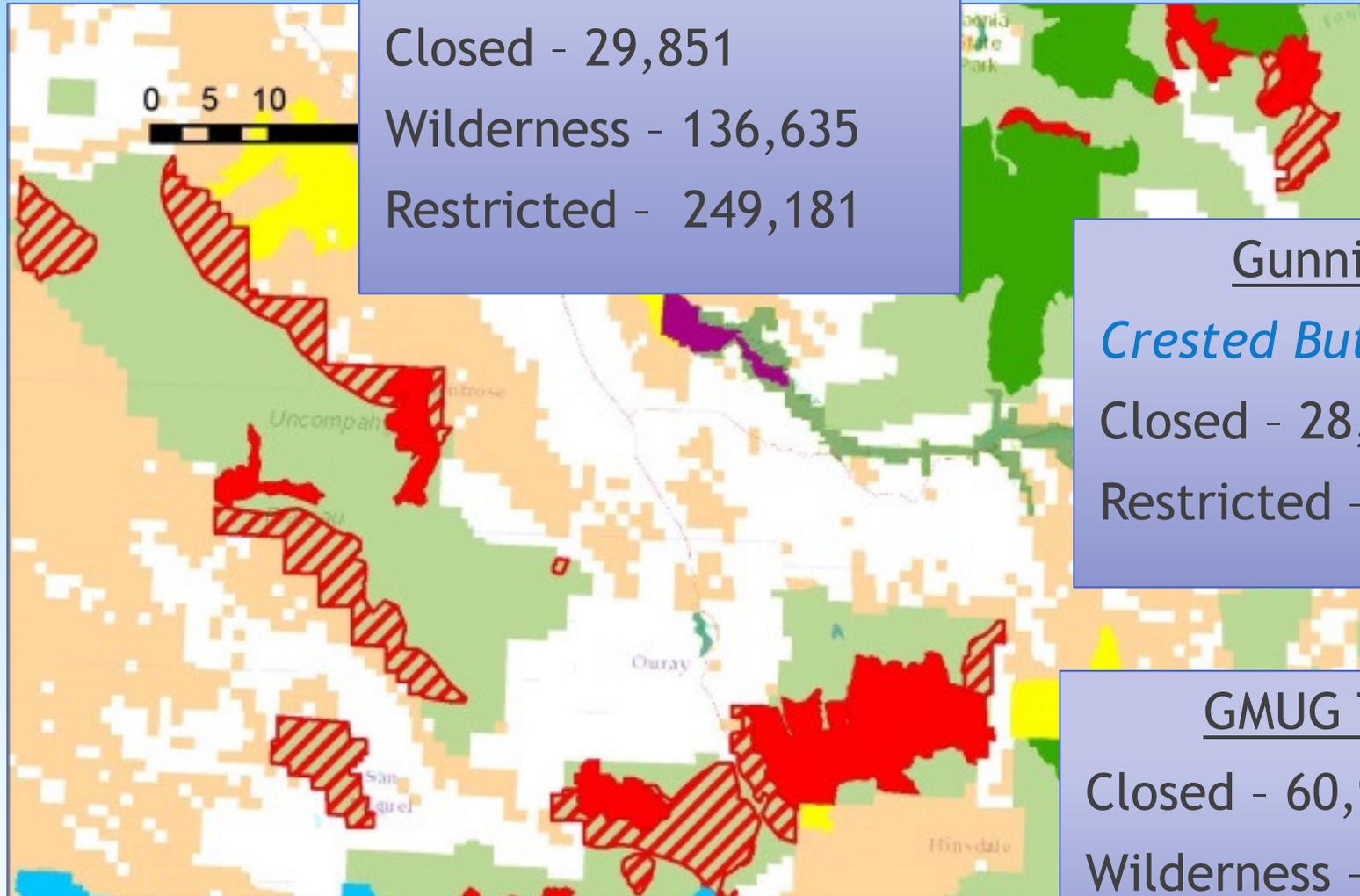
Uncompaghre

2002 Winter Travel Plan

Closed - 29,851

Wilderness - 136,635

Restricted - 249,181



Gunnison

Crested Butte Area

Closed - 28,452

Restricted - 16,310

GMUG Total

Closed - 60,934

Wilderness - 553,680

Open - 2,349,684

What's Next?

Analysis of which existing closures will meet new OSV rule requirements

Mapping Workshops

- Oct 15 Crested Butte
- Webinars coming soon!

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Communication with local USFS district staff

Forest Planning - Rio Grande, GMUG