

# Campsite restrictions near water sources within wilderness in Colorado

Chris Stoskopf | Dr. Nordman | Grand Valley State University

## Introduction

How can we increase/decrease potential campsites strictly based on the 100' buffer around potable water sources.

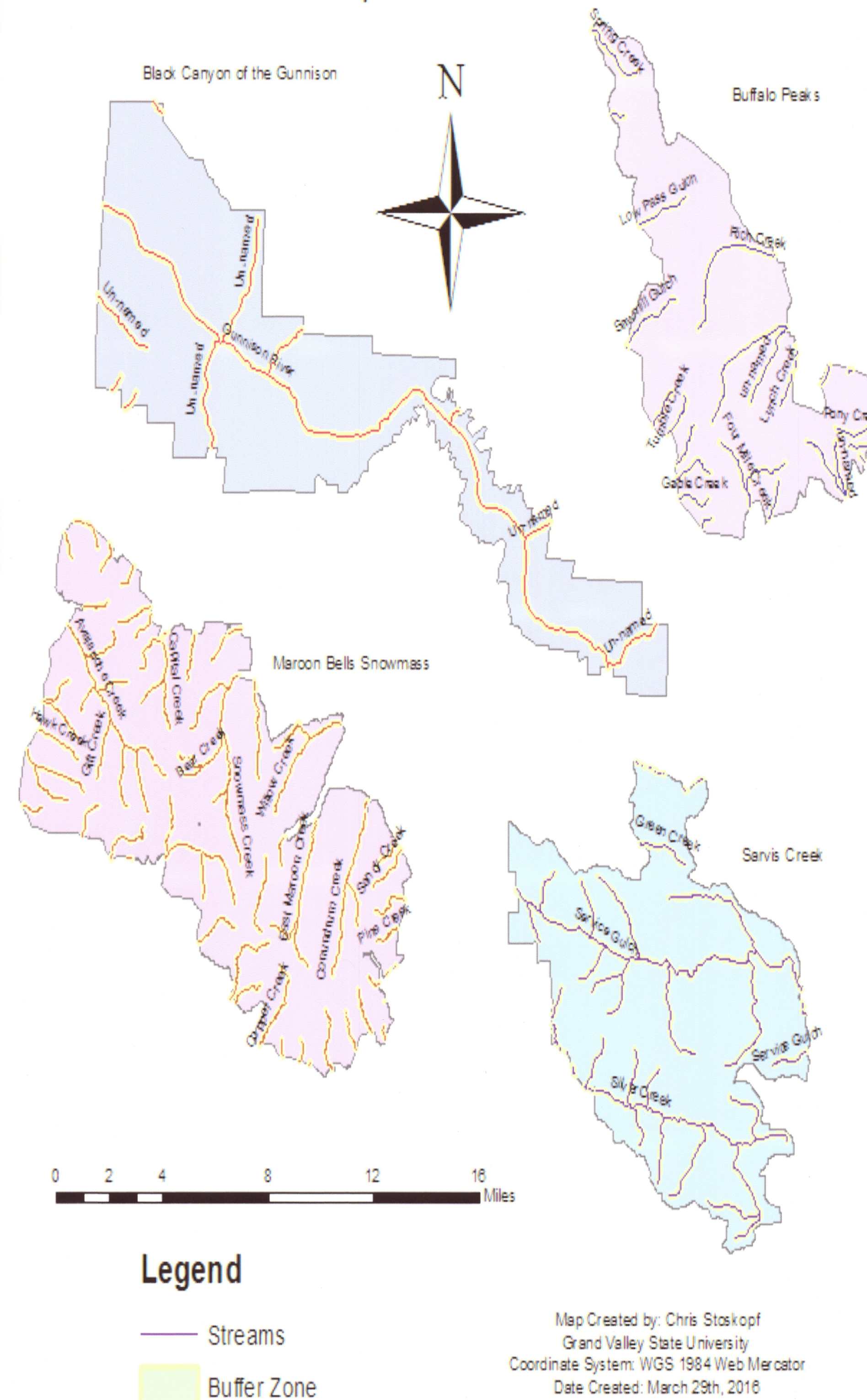
## Goals

- Increase the number of potential campsites by 3 in each wilderness, in 2018.
- Increase public use by the year 2018.
- Decrease buffer zone size by 25' within the year 2017 within each wilderness.

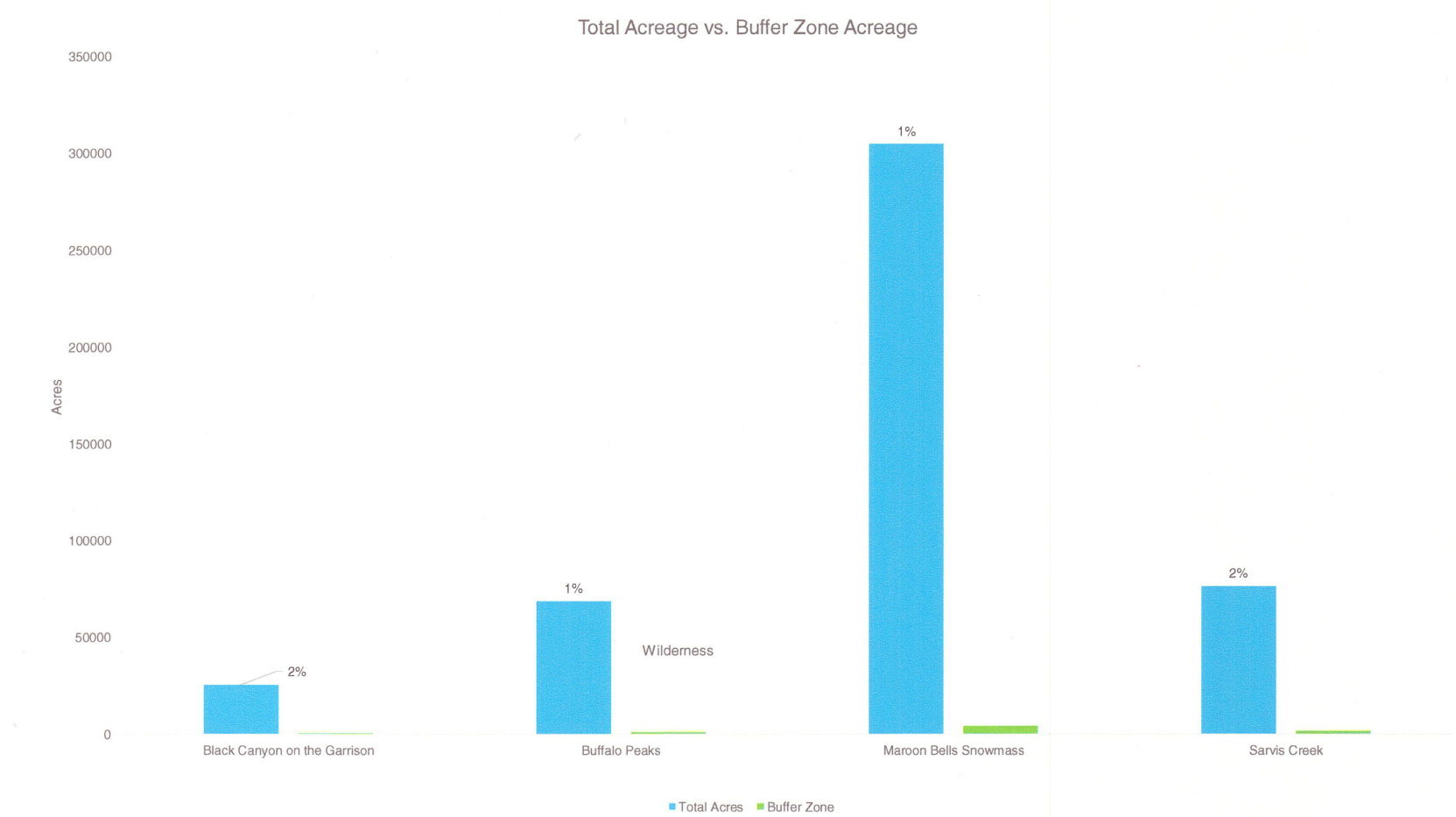
## Locations

- **Buffalo Peaks**
  - This is a forest surrounded by forest consisting of coniferous tree species: spruce, Douglas fir, and aspen to name a few. The common native mammals include beavers, elk and black bears. These mammals roam around a 41, 282 acre boundary. This was designated wilderness in 1993.
- **Hermosa Creek**
  - This is the most biologically diverse 37, 203 acre wilderness within Colorado. It contains an old plantation of Ponderosa Pine. This wilderness is a popular wilderness particularly with campers and hikers. This was designated as a wilderness in 2014.
- **Maroon Bells-Snowmass**
  - The biggest wilderness within this management plan at 181, 963 acres allows campers and hikers to experience a diverse experience. One problem associated with this wilderness is continual use from campers, hikers and one day users. There is a typical hot spot within this wilderness that most recreators will visit which is the hot springs. Human impact is an extreme problem around these hot springs. This was a designated wilderness the same year as the Wilderness Act in 1964.
- **Sarvis Creek**
  - This wilderness is a total of 44, 463 acres that was also founded in 1993. It is a thick forest consisting of primarily lodge pole pine trees and other coniferous species. The Yampa River runs through this wilderness. There is a risk from falling trees caused by the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

## Buffer zones around potable water sources in wilderness



## Results



- Figure one provides a visual representation of each wilderness with all respect streams in each wilderness. These maps were created using ArcGIS under the WGS 1984 Web Mercator coordinate system. Around each stream a 100' buffer zone was created to show this respective rule/regulation.

## Conclusion

- Based on the research and data, an increase to the 100' buffer zone would not only increase ecological stability but will also not damper potential campsites for recreators.

## Works Cited

- **Colorado Data.** Retrieved April 4, 2016, from <http://coloradoview.org/cwis438/websites/coloradoview/data.php?websiteid=15>