

2016  
**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**  
**NORTH FORK and BOISE BASIN S&G ALLOTMENTS**  
**Idaho City Ranger District**  
**Boise National Forest**

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on Boise Basin S&G and North Fork S&G allotments during the 2016 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Boise Basin S&G	Frank Shirts, Jr.	00263
North Fork S&G	Frank Shirts, Jr.	00263

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
Frank Shirts, Jr.	Boise Basin S&G	2000	Ewe/lambs	6/1 – 10/20
	Boise Basin S&G	14	Horses	6/1 – 10/20
Frank Shirts, Jr.	North Fork S&G	1400	Ewe/lambs	5/29 – 10/25
	North Fork S&G	3170	Ewe/lambs	6/6 – 10/15
	North Fork S&G	130	Rams	6/1 – 10/1
	North Fork S&G	7	Pack Stock	5/29 – 10/25
	North Fork S&G	21	Horses	6/4 – 10/15
Trailing Provisions (50% On Portion of on/off provisions)				
	Robie Cr and Dead Dog Cr. Units	1100	Ewe/lambs	5/15 – 5/30
	Robie Cr., Dead Dog Cr., Dunningun Cr., and Deer Cr. Units	3470	Ewe/lambs	5/15 – 5/30
	Robie Cr., Dead Dog Cr., Dunningun Cr., and Deer Cr. Units	4570	Dry Ewes	10/15 – 10/30
	Robie Cr and Dead Dog Cr Units	7	Pack Stock	5/15 – 5/30
	Robie Cr., Dead Dog Cr., Dunningun Cr., and Deer Cr. Units	21	Pack Stock	5/15 – 5/30
	Robie Cr., Dead Dog Cr., Dunningun Cr., and Deer Cr. Units	21	Pack Stock	10/15 – 10/30

2016 Authorized Use

Allotment	Band	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
North Fork S&G (Cinch Creek)	1(Clay)	950 ✓	Ewe/Lambs	5/1—8/18
North Fork S&G (Cinch Creek)	1(Clay)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	5/1--8/18
North Fork S&G (Boise Front)	2(Juan)	950 ✓✓	Ewe/Lambs	5/1 - 5/30(50-50)
North Fork S&G (Boise Front)	2(Juan)	950 ✓✓	Ewe/Lambs	5/31—8/10
North Fork S&G (Boise Front)	2(Juan)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	5/1 - 5/30 (50-50)
North Fork S&G (Boise Front)	2(Juan)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	5/31—8/10
North Fork S&G (Thorn Creek)	5(Raul)	940 ✓✓	Ewe/Lambs	6/1 - 8/10
North Fork S&G (Thorn Creek)	5(Raul)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	6/1 - 8/10
North Fork S&G (Crooked River)	6(Raul)	1700 ✓✓	Bucking	8/11 - 10/9
North Fork S&G (Crooked River)	6(Raul)	1700 ✓✓	Bucking	10/10 - 10/20 (50-50)
North Fork S&G (Crooked River)	6(Raul)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	8/11 - 10/9
North Fork S&G (Crooked River)	6(Raul)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	10/10 - 10/20 (50-50)
Boise Basin S&G (Bogus Basin)	7(Maximo)	950 ✓✓	Ewe/Lambs	5/20-6/5 (50-50)
Boise Basin S&G (Bogus Basin)	7(Maximo)	950 ✓✓	Ewe/Lamb	6/6 - 8/18
Boise Basin S&G (Bogus Basin)	7(Maximo)	1700 ✓✓	Bucking	8/19-10/9
Boise Basin S&G (Bogus Basin)	7(Maximo)	1700 ✓✓	Bucking	10/10-10/20 (50-50)
Boise Basin S&G (Clear Creek)	7(Maximo)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	5/20 - 6/5 (50-50)
Boise Basin S&G (Clear Creek)	7(Maximo)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	6/6 - 8/18
Boise Basin S&G (Clear Creek)	7(Maximo)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	8/19 - 10/9
Boise Basin S&G (Clear Creek)	7(Maximo)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	10/10 - 10/20 (50-50)
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front)	8(Rogellio)	1400 ✓✓	Yearling	6/15 - 7/15(50-50)
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front)	8(Rogellio)	1400 ✓✓	Yearling	7/16 - 10/5
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front)	8(Rogellio)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	6/15 - 7/15(50-50)
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front)	8(Rogellio)	7 ✓✓	Pack/Saddle	7/16 - 10/5

Trailing provisions are authorized (50% on portion of on/off provisions) prior to and after the scheduled dates in the above table.

Non-Use: The permittee may run a variable number of sheep up to 9,337 sheep months of grazing use on the Boise Basin S&G Allotment, 20,935 sheep months of grazing use on the North Fork S&G Allotment, and 4808 sheep months of grazing while trailing within the numbers and season identified above. Non-use will not be identified unless no grazing is to occur on an allotment for the 2016 grazing season.

**Band Identification:**

**North Fork Boise River Sheep Allotment:**

Sheep Bands

Band 1 Clay - 5/1—8/18 - 950 ewe/lambs - Arrowrock Boat Ramp - ship at Swanholm

Band 2 Juan - 5/1-8/10 - 950 Ewe/lambs- Boise Front- Crooked River

Band 3 Raul - 6/1 - 8/10 - 940 ewe/lambs - Thorn Creek - ship at Crooked River

Band 4 Raul (Bands 2&3) - 8/11 - 10/20 -- 1700 dry ewes - ship at Crooked River and trail off Forest

Permitted livestock brands: (if paint brands are used)

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock: North Fork Boise River Sheep Allotment:

Pack Stock

Band 1 5/1 -- 8/18 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 2 5/1 -- 8/10 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 3 6/1 -- 8/10 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 4 8/11 -- 10/20 -- 7 head of horses/mules

Band Identification:

Boise Basin Sheep Allotment:

Sheep Bands

Band 5 Maximo - 5/20 -- 8/10 -- 950 ewe/lambs -- Bogus Basin and ship at Clear Creek

Band 6 (Bands 1&5) Maximo - 8/19 -- 10/20 -- 1700 dry ewes -- trail off Forest

Band 7 Juan -- 6/15 -- 10/5 -- Yearlings Trail On Boise Front and Truck Off

Permitted livestock brands: (if paint brands are used)

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock:

Pack Stock

Band 5 5/20 -- 8/10 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 6 8/19 -- 10/20 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 7 6/15 -- 10/5 -- 7 head horses/mules

## COMPLIANCE

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a).

**Procedures For Modifying AOI.** Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or the Idaho City District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

All hay, straw, and mulch products used on the Boise National Forest must be certified as weed free or weed seed free by a qualified inspector of the state of Idaho or neighboring states which have weed-free or crop certification programs ( Region Special Order Number:04-00-097).

## BILLING

**FEES** – The grazing fee for sheep is \$0.42 per head month. The fee for pack and saddle stock is \$2.11 per head month.

**PAYMENT** - Confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process is required and must be received before livestock can enter any National Forest System lands. In order to meet this requirement, bills need to be paid on approximately April 15 of each year.

REFUNDS – If permitted livestock are required to leave the allotment early due to excess utilization, drought or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a refund may be requested. A written request for refund must be submitted to the District Ranger if this situation occurs.

#### LIVESTOCK ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDES

COMMUNICATION – The Range Specialist or Range Technician is the Ranger's Representative for the Idaho City Ranger District. Notify the Range Specialist or Technician at least 5 days in advance of the date, time and place where each band will enter the allotment. The livestock will be counted when being placed on the allotment. The Rancher's Representative must communicate with the Ranger's Representative on a regular basis, and keep the Forest Service informed of sheep numbers, routes, locations, shipping dates, grazing and predatory problems.

MANAGEMENT – High Intensity, low duration once over lightly grazing. Livestock management will emphasize moving sheep in a timely manner: (1) Do not graze or use any area more than once per year. (2) Bedgrounds are to be used only 1 night and camps are to be moved every 3 to 4 days to facilitate the proper movement of the band. (3) Do not "noon," "shade," "bed," or graze sheep and pack stock within 100 yards of riparian areas. (4) After watering the livestock, remove them from the riparian area. (5) Streams, lakes, ponds, rivers or any area within the influence of water must be left with at least a 4-inch stubble height for grasses. Herders should know what is ahead. Practice open or loose herding and minimize the use of herding dogs to decrease soil displacement.

UTILIZATION – If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, sheep will be removed from the allotment early. In addition, it is expected that trailing off the allotments will begin early enough to satisfy the off-forest dates in October.

STREAMBANK UTILIZATION - Will be measured along the "greenline" in riparian areas. The standard of measurement for riparian areas will be maximum use 45 percent, 4 inches stubble height of hydric greenline species remaining after livestock are removed from riparian areas. A safe, easy way to visualize this is "Graze half, and leave half of the grasses. To prevent exceeding these standards, it is important to begin moving livestock slightly before this limit is reached. In the flats or meadows adjoining riparian areas and/or uplands areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan standard of 40 percent utilization for early season and 50 percent for late season pasture use.

UPLAND INSPECTIONS AND UTILIZATION MONITORING – It is the responsibility of the permittee to periodically monitor and document utilization (stubble height) as shown on the attached Monitoring Plan. Monitoring of upper elevations (40-50 percent utilization) will need to be jointly initiated to prevent over-use of the vegetation. The Forest Service will periodically check the permittee's utilization monitoring to ensure good land stewardship and perform documentation. At times, the Permittee and the Forest Service will jointly inspect range conditions.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS – The permittee is responsible for annual maintenance of all range improvements listed in Part 3 of your TERM GRAZING PERMIT. All listed range improvements must be maintained for functionality, and a neat, clean appearance. The Forest Service shall provide all necessary materials for construction or reconstruction of range improvements. You must provide all incidental materials and labor for normal maintenance. Anything above normal maintenance should be discussed with the Ranger's Representative so that a plan for repairs will be completed.

SALTING - The placement of salt is to be used as a management tool in helping to minimize livestock use in riparian areas, tree plantations, and to distribute the livestock. Do not place salt next to roads, trails, and tree plantations or water. Salt must be placed in containers to prevent leaching and trampling of salt grounds. When salting, attempt to use the correct amount so that all salt is

consumed by the livestock that same day. This helps eliminate damage to the soil caused by wildlife use of leftover.

RANGE READINESS – Heavy snows or a prolonged cool spring could result in delays in range readiness. This could require later than scheduled turnout dates. Light snows or unseasonably warm springs could result in an opportunity to begin the grazing season early. The Forest Service will notify you at least 2 weeks in advance of your scheduled turnout date.

CARCASSES - When sheep, saddle or pack animal carcasses are located near campgrounds, roads or water reasonable and appropriate action must be taken to remove any carcasses. The permittee will contact the District Ranger's Representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate for each site specific instance. Although the Forest Service recognizes that disposal of carcasses is not always feasible in many situations there are a number of reasonable options available for the disposal of single or multiple carcasses.

FOREST ROADS and TRAILS - Forest roads and trails used for trailing of sheep and saddle stock must be cleared and restored to their original condition immediately after use.

GARBAGE – All garbage generated by the present herder, or previous herders must be cleaned up by the camp tender for the ranch foreman to haul away. All garbage will be hauled by the Ranch Foreman to a county waste disposal facility. Any garbage left on the permittee's allotment reflects on his and the Forest Service's ability and interest in being a good land steward.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION –

1. In cooperation with the State of Idaho, all feed, hay or straw brought to the allotments must be certified weed-free.
2. Report any known invasive plants in your grazing areas.
3. Report areas you have accidentally over-used so the Forest Service is aware of a critical situation before an unhappy public makes us aware of it. This will keep the Forest Service up to date and provide the opportunity to repair the damage if necessary. In addition, it will reflect more positively on you as a good land manager.
4. It is recommended that the permittee use GPS units to record each camp or utilization monitoring site area during the grazing season.

REQUIRED REPORTING – Enclosed are year-end grazing reports for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2016 grazing season for the North Fork and Boise Basin S&G Allotments. You need to record the date and number of sheep turned onto each allotment, the number and date sheep are removed from the allotment, and estimate the time and cost of management actions including livestock herding and improvement maintenance associated with the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvements. This report should be returned to the Emmett Ranger District no later than December 1, 2016.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN – The Boise Basin and North Fork S&G Allotments will be managed to achieve the Desired Future Conditions as described in the revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest. All permitted actions including grazing will comply with standards shown in this revised Forest Plan.

Utilization standards from the revised Forest Plan are as follows:

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the grazing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

1. Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use of hydric greenline species.
2. Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.

**FIRE** – Never leave campfires unattended. To meet Forest Service requirements, wood smoke, from camp stoves must be filtered through a spark arrestor screen with 3/8 inch or smaller mesh. Employees must be kept informed of the current fire situation and the permittee's fire prevention responsibility. The Forest Service will advise the permittee when special fire restriction orders become effective.

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2016 GRAZING SEASON

### Closed Areas

- 1) Rock Creek Project Area, Rock Creek Natural Area and the Meadow Creek and North Fork Research Natural Areas (Appendix 1) are closed to grazing.
- 2) Sunset Lookout is closed to grazing (Appendix 2) as well as the area around lookout's spring or water supply.
- 3) Black A, grazing unit (Appendix 3) there will be no grazing allowed in Ninemeyer Creek, Pool Creek and the un-named drainage immediately adjacent to, and east of Pool Creek. There have been slides, unrelated to grazing, in these areas. This area is prone to damage due to loose granitic soils, on steep, dry south facing slopes.
- 4) Thorne Butte area (Appendix 4) is closed for resource protection.
- 5) A portion of the Trinity Ridge Fire area (appendix 6) will remain closed to grazing for resource protection until further notice.
- 6) The Enduro Ride will take place June 4-5 this year. The following trails and roads on FS and IDL lands will be used:

BNF Trail 693	BNF Trail 130	BNF Trail 667	Road 322A	BNF Trail 697
IDL Trail 693	BNF Trail 666	Road 315L	Road 322	Road 357
IDL Trail 106	Road 333	(Connector Trail	BNF Trail 291	BNF Trail 669
Road 304T	BNF Trail 683	315L to 315)	Road 357C	BNF Trail 598
IDL Trail 595	Road 315A	BNF Trail 687	Road 322A	BNF Trail 599
Road 304	BNF Trail 684	BNF Trail 688	BNF Trail 291A	BNF Trail 592
BNF Trail 595	Road 326	Road 310	BNF Trail 293	Road 327
BNF Trail 594	BNF Trail 689	Road 327	BNF Trail 294	BNF Trail 694
BNF Trail 593	BNF Trail 686	BNF Trail 291	Road 322E	Road 304T
Road 203	Road 326	Road 321A	BNF Trail 295	Road 304
BNF Trail 663	BNF Trail 682	BNF Trail 291A	BNF Trail 167	Steamboat
Road 203K	BNF Trail 665	BNF Trail 292	Road 327	Trail 591

The short course way home will be from the intersection of Road 327 & 322 up Road 327 all the way to Rabbit Creek Summit then down BNF Trail 597 and back on Road 327 to Mores Creek. They will then ride trail 698 to Road 304 where they will go through Steamboat onto Trail 591 and back to Idaho City. (see attached map)

- 7) IDL has a timber sale this summer in the Spanish Fork and Elk Creek drainages west of Idaho City (see attached map). The sheep will need to stay out of this spring's plantation for three years in T5N. R5E. Sec 14.
- 8) June 10th through June 12th Idaho Rally Group will be utilizing the state roads on the West side of Idaho City and on the Northern roads on the East side of Idaho City.

### **High Elevation Slopes**

High elevation slopes and ridges such as the Coulter Summit, Wilson Peak, Freeman Peak and Pilot Peak areas have a short growing season. Single pass, light browsing in these high elevation areas is desirable to reduce impacts on plant growth and reproduction.

### **Highway 21 corridor**

Do not graze sheep for extended periods along State Highway 21 corridor.

### **Bull trout spawning areas**

Avoid all known bull trout spawning/early rearing areas after August 15<sup>th</sup>. Trailing, watering, grazing, and bedding of livestock within these areas after Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> is prohibited. See Appendix 5, Bull trout focal habitat to avoid after August 15.

### **Aspen stands**

Avoid using aspen stands as bed grounds. Single pass, light browsing in aspen stands would be sufficient to protect and enable continued aspen clone replacement.

Monitoring has observed impacts to isolated aspen clones (stands) from sheep grazing activities. Impacts were primarily in the form of browsing of suckers (vegetative reproducing aspen stems) to the extent that individual suckers were dead or suffered complete consumption of the year's new leader growth. The end result was the stunting and or loss of annual reproductive effort by the residual over story aspen stands. Over time, continued browsing in this manner would effectively prevent replacement of maturing and dying over story aspen trees. In the absence of reproductive replacement, individual aspen clones would be lost.

### **Whiskey Complex Fire**

The Whiskey Complex Fire in 2014 affected a small portion of the Boise Basin Allotment in the Mineral Hill area of the Emmett Ranger District. This area is closed to sheep grazing for resource protection until the vegetation has had time to recover. The Emmett resource staff will identify when the area will be reopened to grazing.

### **Native Seed Collection sites (None Planned)**

### **Guard Dogs**

Use extreme caution with guard dogs to minimize confrontations with recreation/trail users.

### **Wolves**

In cooperation with other government agencies the Forest Service requires the following procedures be implemented each grazing season so that camp tenders are required to:

- 1) Keep camp meat in coolers and not hung where it may be viewed or misconstrued as an attractant for predators.
- 2) Food leftovers, bones, garbage etc. not consumed by dogs accompanying the herders will be burned, buried or packed out with other camp refuse.
- 3) On the occasion of sheep, saddle or pack stock carcasses you must take reasonable and

appropriate action to dispose of them where they will not serve as an attractant to predators. The permittee will contact the District Ranger's Representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate.

- 4) We also recommend that you work with Wildlife Services and USFWS to implement other effective preventative actions to reduce the risk of depredation.

The Forest Service will not tell permittees what they can or cannot do in reference to defending flocks, harassing or shooting wolves. Permittees should continue working with their local wildlife services representative if depredation issues come up.

If you suspect a wolf depredation has occurred on your livestock, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services) should be contacted as soon as possible. The local Wildlife Services for this area is Greg Jones. He can be reached at (541) 212-6260. In the event that you cannot reach Greg, Todd Grimm at the Boise District Office should be contacted at (208) 373-1630.

Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. The wolf biologist for Idaho Fish and Game is Jennifer Struthers. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to her and she can be reached at her office at (208-475-2735) or by cell phone at (208-989-8902).

### **Range Improvements**

- 1) Boise Basin S & G Allotment
  - a. Wilson Peak Water Trough
  - b. Clear Creek Sheep Corrals
  
- 2) North Fork Boise S & G Allotment
  - a. Basket Springs Water Trough
  - b. Meadow Creek Sheep Corrals
  - c. Crooked River Sheep Corrals

The Forest Service shall coordinate targeted preventative measures to be taken within a one-mile buffer of active wolf den or rendezvous sites to reduce spatial overlap of wolves and livestock during the grazing season, with the intent of reducing the risk of wolf-livestock conflicts and depredations. The Range Management Specialist or District Ranger will present known wolf den or rendezvous areas at the annual AOI meeting and will notify permittee(s) if new sites are discovered during the grazing season. Den and rendezvous sites must be documented as actively in use in the current grazing season by a Forest Service District Wildlife Biologist and/or through communications with Idaho Department of Fish and Game. To the extent practicable, the Range Management Specialist will work directly with the permittee on the necessary preventative measures to be taken to minimize or avoid wolf-livestock conflicts. Actions may include, but not limited to:

- Re-routing individual band trailing patterns to avoid denning, rendezvous;
- Escort affected sheep bands through the vicinity denning, rendezvous or other sensitive wolf sites. this may include increased human presence and or additional deterrent actions to deter wolf-livestock conflicts;
- Reduce band exposure in the vicinity of denning, rendezvous or other sensitive wolf sites by increasing rate of band passage or other actions to minimize the length of time of band's presence in those sites;
- Other site-specific actions taken to minimize or avoid wolf-livestock conflicts

If a wolf-livestock conflict occurs, the Range Management Specialist or other designated Forest Service employee will contact the permittee to coordinate targeted preventative measures to try to

reduce further conflicts.

If the permittee is planning on waiving all or part of the permit or changing anything tied to the permit such as base property please notify the Forest Service immediately.

These Annual Operating Instructions for Shirt's Sheep Company's Term Grazing Permit are consistent with the Boise National Forest Plan. If you need further clarification of any portion of these instructions, or need to alter this plan to fit your grazing season, notify the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist at 208-365-7010 or the Idaho City District Ranger at 208-392-6681. We appreciate your cooperation, and look forward to a good season.

Signatures



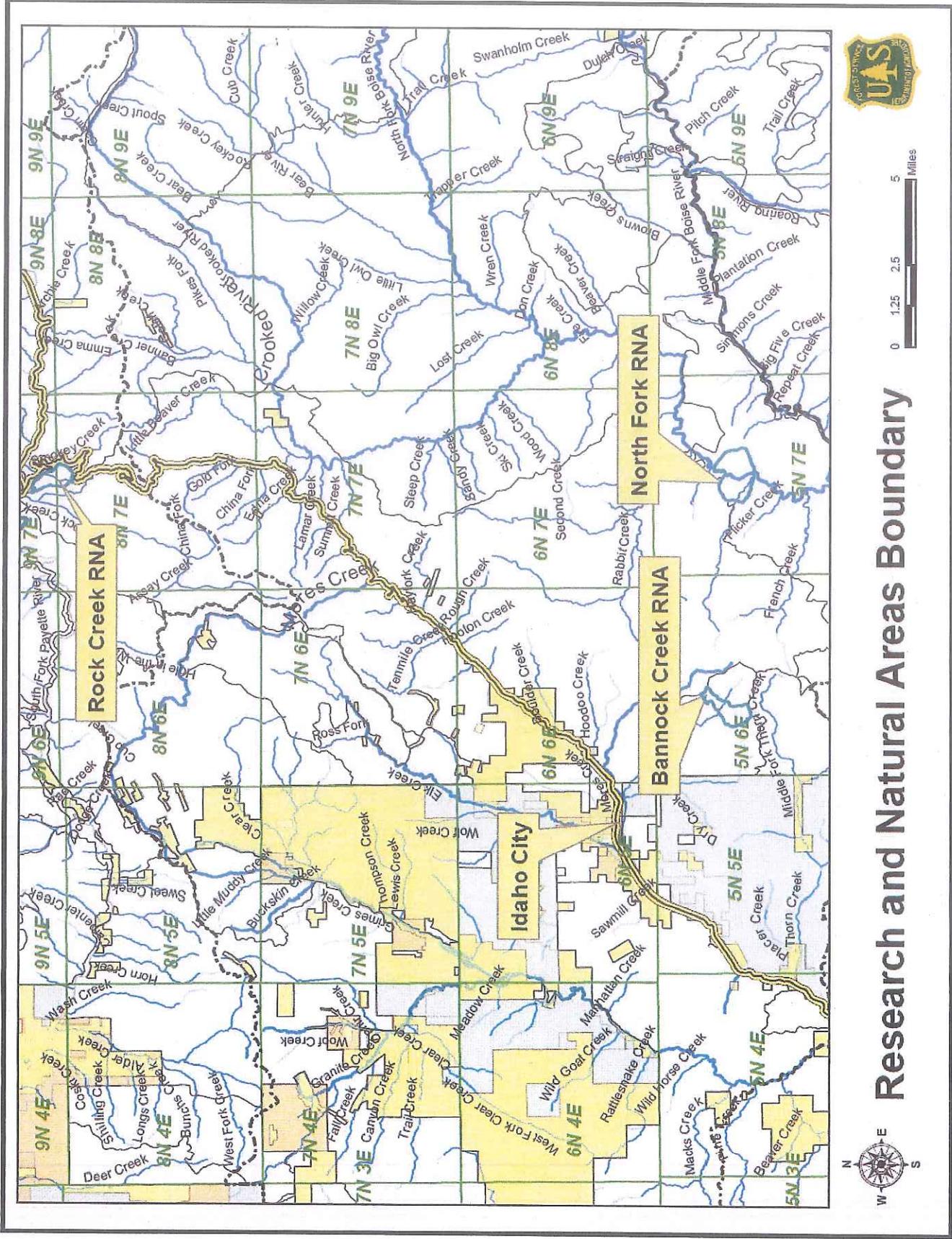
District Ranger

4/12/16  
Date

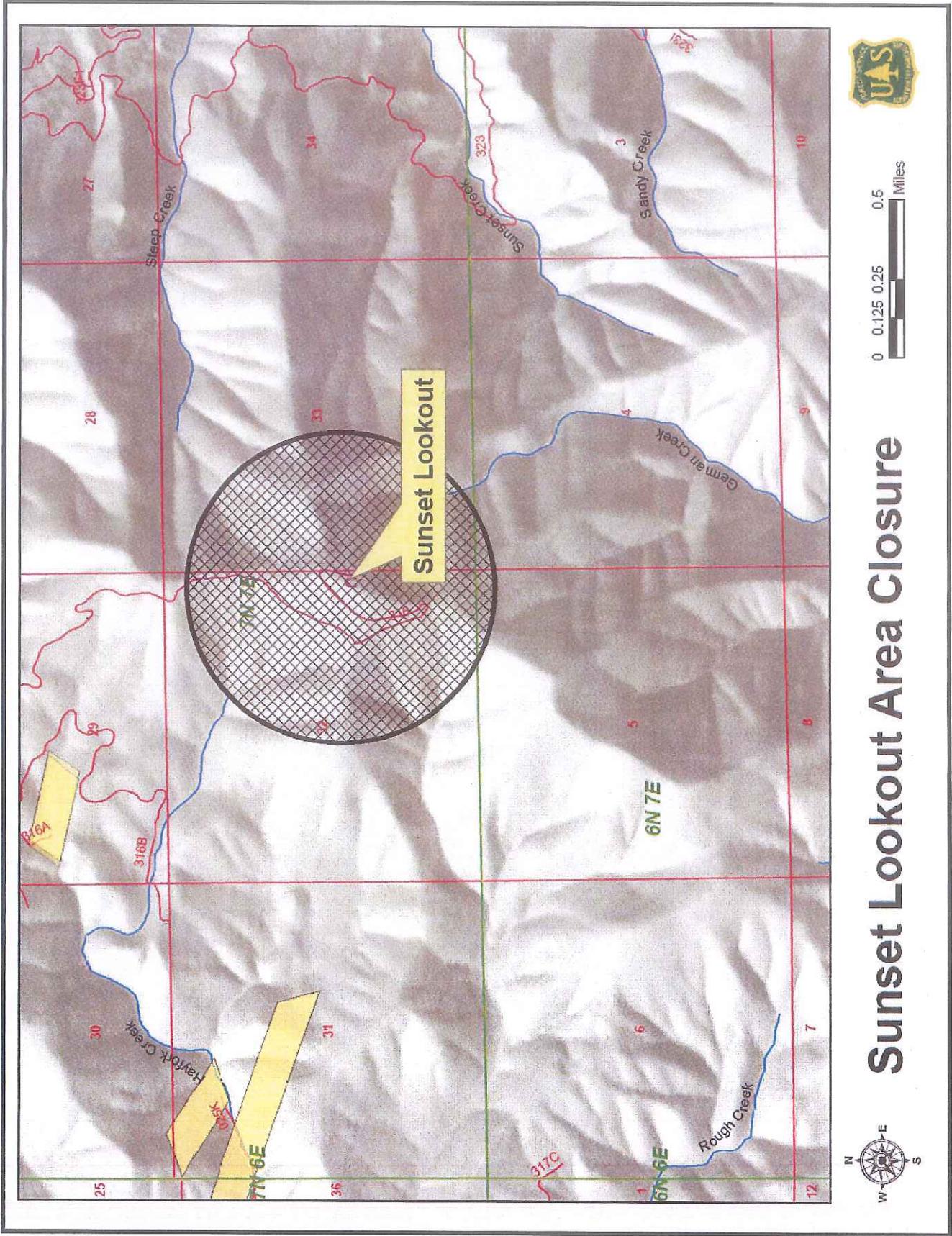
Permittee signature:

I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are part of my term grazing permit and I agree to manage my livestock grazing operations consistent with this direction and the terms and conditions

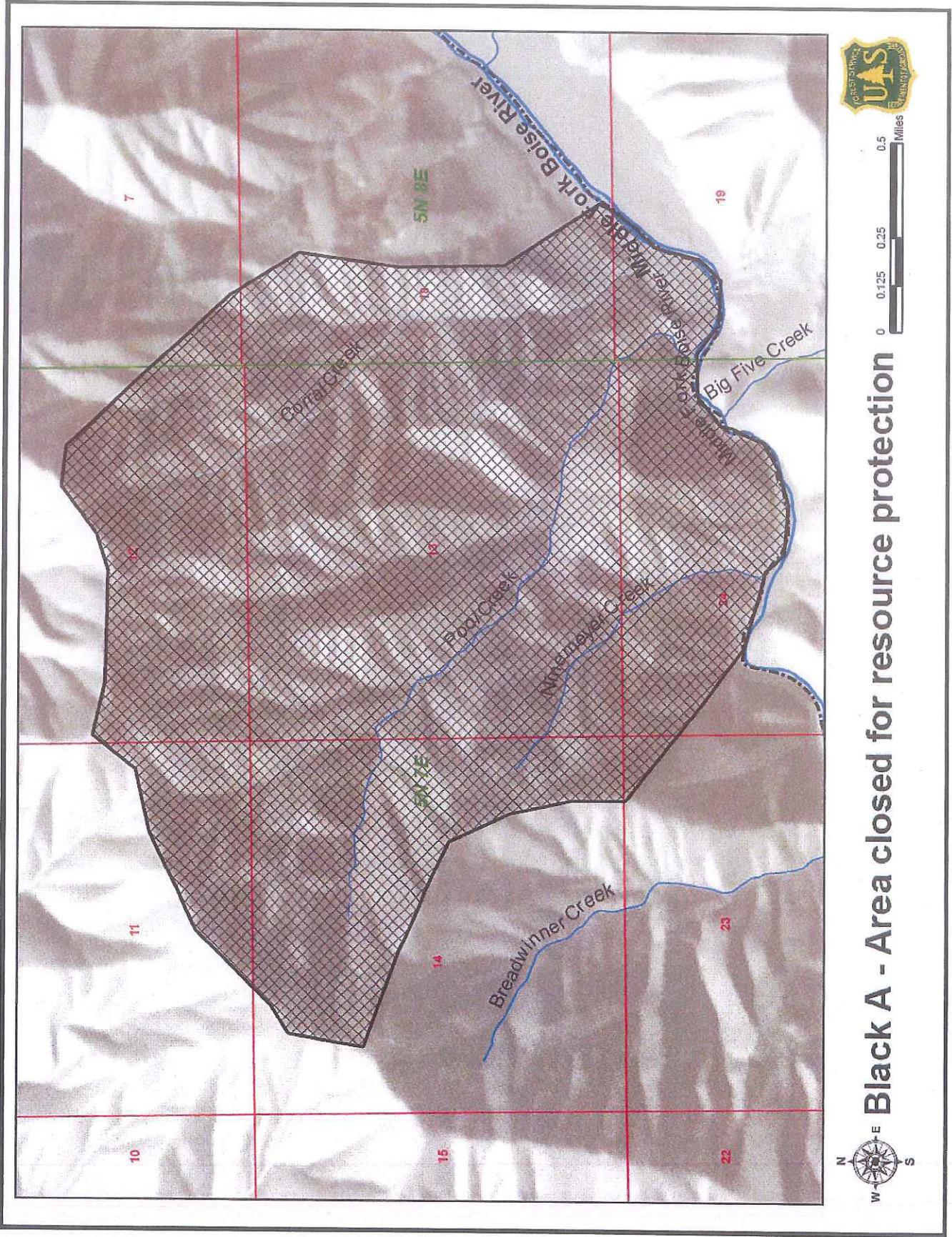
Appendix 1. Research Natural Areas Closed to grazing.



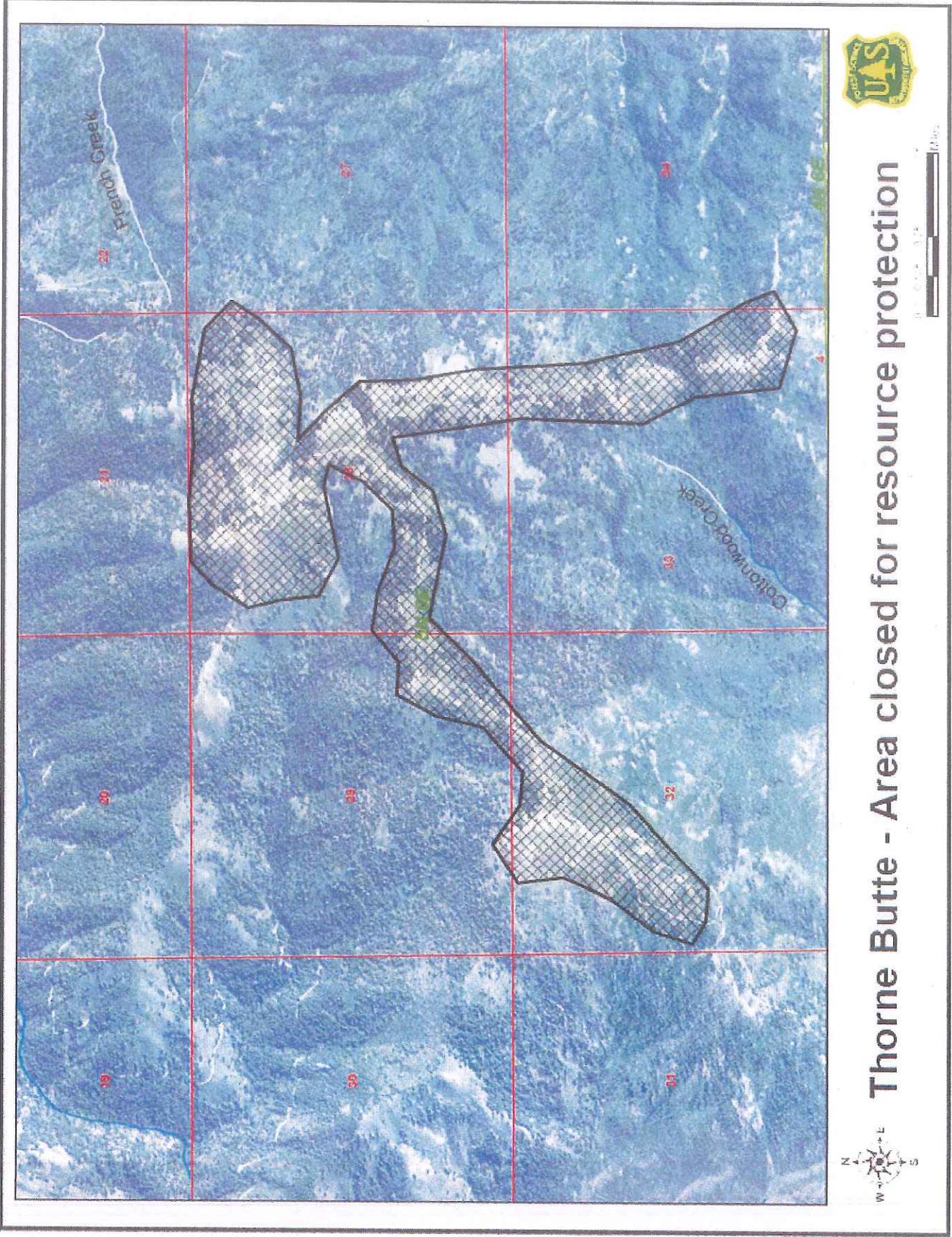
Appendix 2. Sunset Lookout area closure.



Appendix 3. Black A – Closed for resource protection.

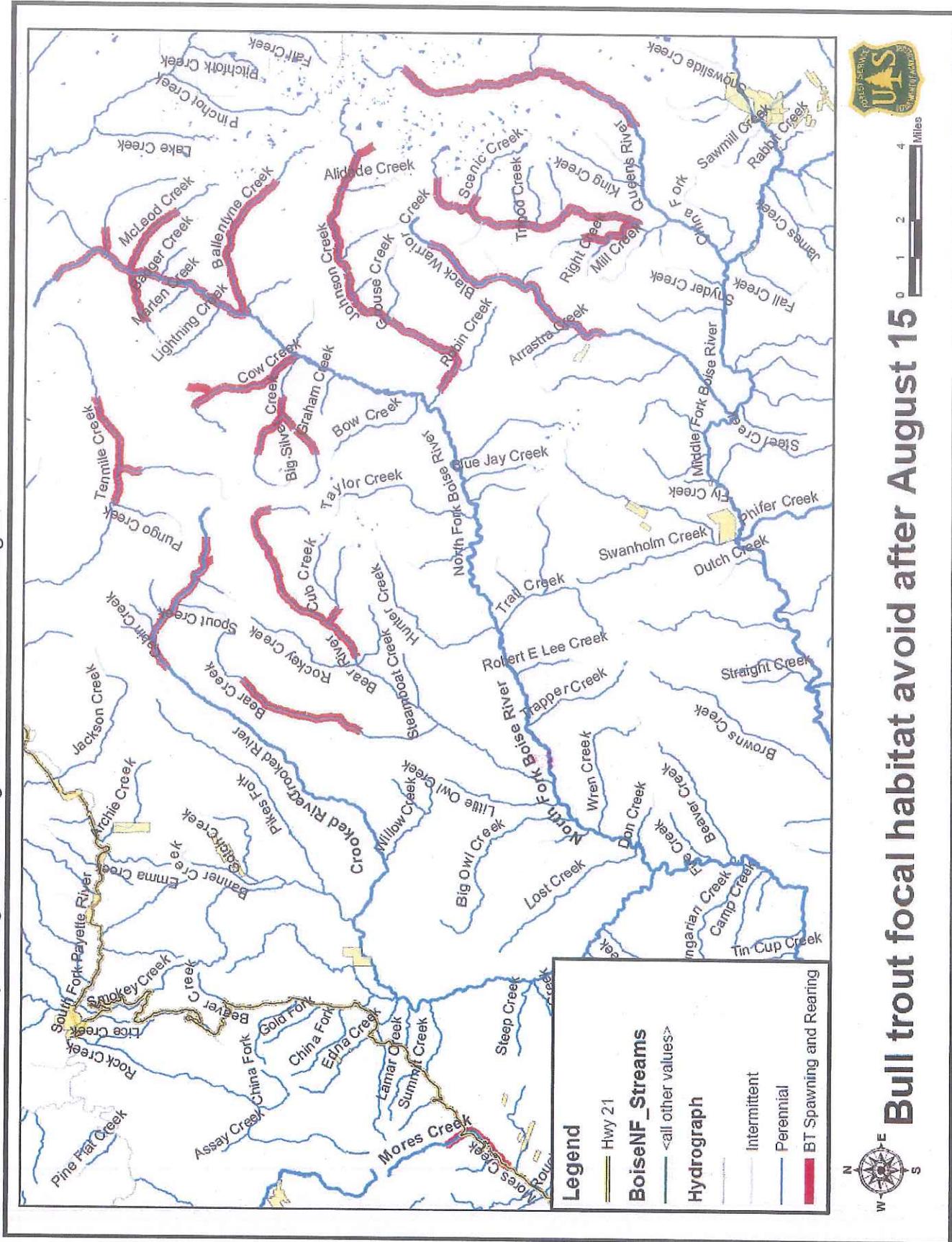


Appendix 4. Thorne Butte area closed for resource protection.



# Thorne Butte - Area closed for resource protection

Appendix 5. Bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. Avoid after August 15.



**Bull trout focal habitat avoid after August 15**

