

**2020 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 2020 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

2020 Authorized Use

Allotment	Band	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
North Fork S&G (Cinch Creek)	1(Raul)	930	Ewe/Lambs	4/29—8/12 (4/29-5/20 on FS, 5/21-6/10 on State, 6/11-8/12 on FS)
North Fork S&G (Cinch Creek)	1(Raul)	7	Pack/Saddle	4/29—8/12 (4/20-5/20 on FS, 5/21-6/10 on State, 6/11-8/12 on FS)
North Fork S&G (Thorn Creek)	2(Juan)	930	Ewe/Lambs	6/6 – 8/12
North Fork S&G (Thorn Creek)	2(Juan)	7	Pack/Saddle	6/6 – 8/12
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front)	3(Maximo)	940	Ewe/Lambs	6/6 – 8/18
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front)	3(Maximo)	7	Pack/Saddle	6/6 – 8/18
Boise Basin S&G (Harris Creek)	4(Renan)	920	Ewe/Lambs	6/1- 8/18
Boise Basin S&G (Harris Creek)	4(Renan)	7	Pack/Saddle	6/1- 8/18
North Fork S&G (Combine 1&2)	4(Raul)	1700	Bucking	8/13 – 10/10
North Fork S&G (Combine 1&2)	4(Raul)	14	Pack/Saddle	8/13 – 10/10
Boise Basin S&G (Mineral Mountain)	3(Maximo)	1750	Bucking	8/19-10/10
Boise Basin S&G (Mineral Mountain)	3(Maximo)	14	Pack/Saddle	8/19 – 10/10

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 2020 grazing season.

Band Identification:

North Fork Boise River Sheep Allotment:

Sheep Bands

Band 1 Raul – 4/29—8/10 - 930 ewe/lambs – Arrowrock Boat Ramp - ship at Crooked River, Bucking band will trail to North Fk of Rabbit Creek, meets with Band 2.

Band 2 Juan – 6/6 -- 8/12 – 930 Ewe/lambs- Cross Robie Creek, ship from Meadow Creek, joins Band 1 at North Fk of Rabbit Creek.

Band 1 Raul (Bands 1&2 combined) – 8/11 – 10/0 -- 1700 dry ewes – Join at North Fk of Rabbit Creek 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 4/29—8/10 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 2 6/6 – 8/12 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 1 8/13 – 10/10 – 14 head of horses/mules

Band Identification:

Boise Basin Sheep Allotment:

Sheep Bands

Band 3 Maximo – 6/6 – 8/18 – 940 ewe/lambs – Boise Front to Warm Springs, ship at Clear Creek, Joins band 4 at Clear Creek.

Band 4 Renan – 6/1 – 8/18 – 920 ewe/lambs – Harris Crk to Granite crk, ship at Clear Creek, Join Band 3 at Clear Creek.

Band 3 Maximo – 8/19 – 10/10 – 1750 dry ewes – Combined Bands 3&4 at Clear Creek then trails off forest near Harris crk Summit

Permitted livestock brands: (if paint brands are used)

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock: Boise Basin Sheep Allotment:

Pack Stock

Band 3 6/6 – 8/18 – 7 head horses/mules

Band 4 6/1 – 8/18 – 7 head horses/mules

Band 3 8/19 – 10/10 – 14 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 \$0.27 per head month. The fee for pack and saddle stock is \$1.35 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. Bills must be paid before livestock enter the allotment.

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 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) Bed grounds 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.
5. There will be logging between Pilot Peak and Pioneerville please proceed with caution.
6. Road 384 will be closed Mon-Fri from 7 am to noon, and 1 pm - 5 pm. Open all weekends and Holidays. Except: starting on Sept 9, 2020 the road will be closely completely at the Beaver Creek culvert site until October 2, 2020

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.

Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

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. (RAST01, p. III-45)

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.

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.
6. The Pioneer Fire area; portions will reopen to grazing this year. Proposed activities for the summer of 2020 will include salvage sales on timber, along the 362 road towards Banner summit and on the west side of Beaver Creek. Monitoring data was collected in 2017 and 2019 that showed areas that may be ready to be grazed and areas that will need more rest. Post fire monitoring will continue to take place within the burn area. Proposed routes may need to be adjusted if resource concerns arise.

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 15th. Trailing, watering, grazing, and bedding of livestock within these areas after Aug. 15th 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.

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.

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. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to Brad Compton (Southwest Region) at (208) 854-8946 or Regan Berkley at (208) 634-8137.

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 contact for this area is Trec Reed. He can be reached at (208) 681-8756. In the event that you cannot reach Trec, Jared Hedelius should be contacted at the Boise District Office at 208-616-5778.

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.

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

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

John Wallace
District Ranger

4/27/2020

Date

4/24/20

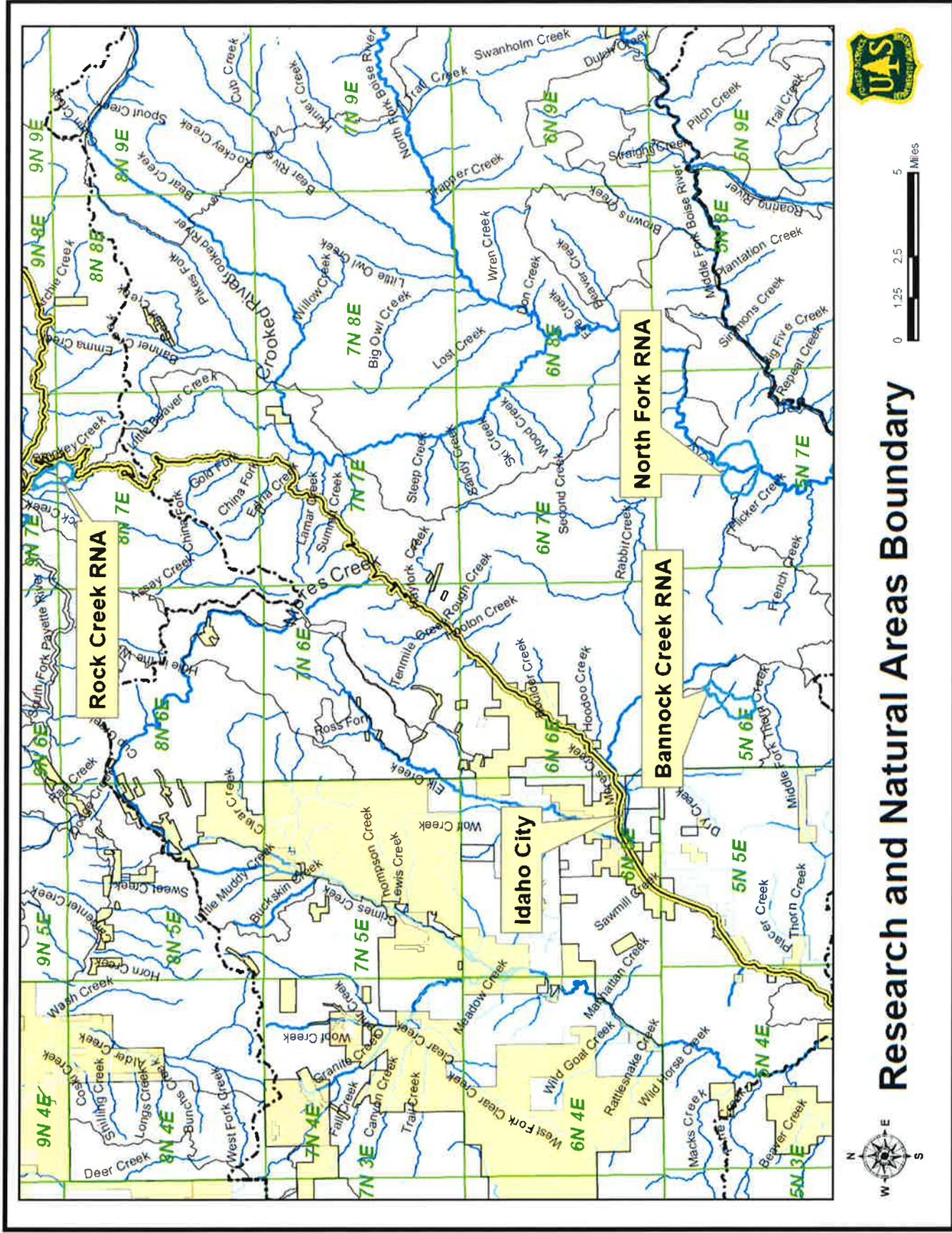
Permittee signature:

Frank Shesl

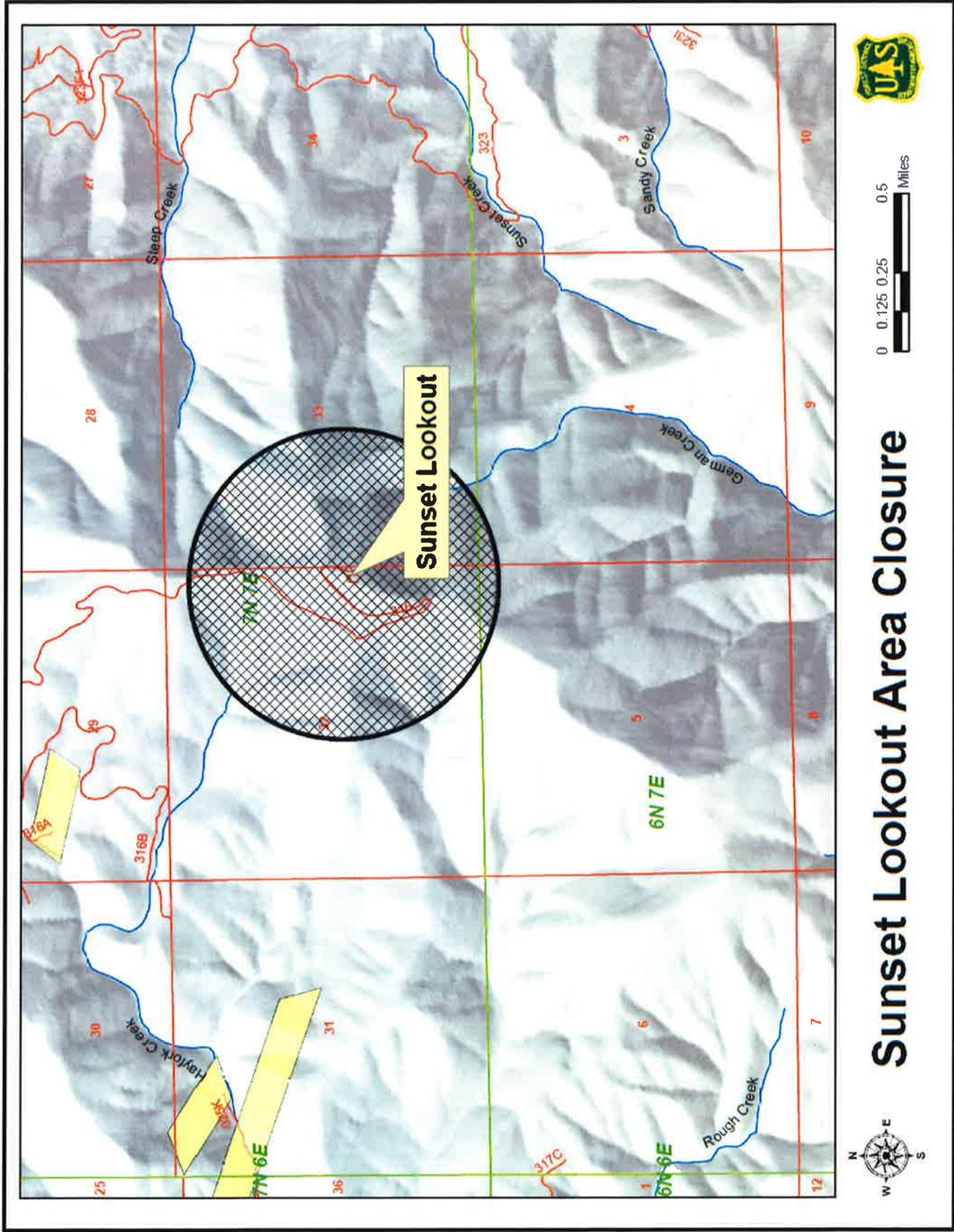
I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are part of my term grazing permit and I agree to manage my livestock grazing operations consistent with this direction and the terms and conditions stipulated in my term grazing permit.

Date

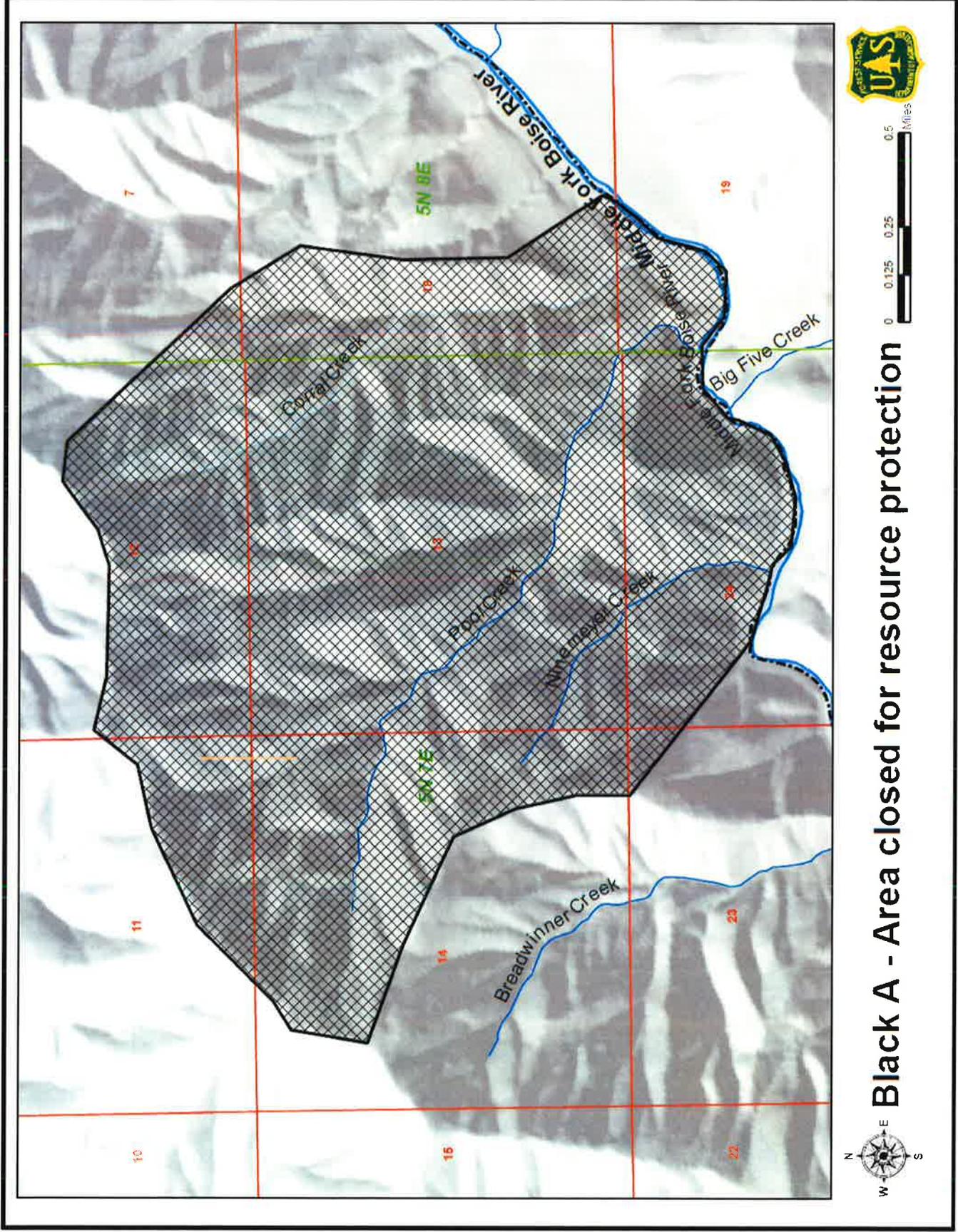
Appendix 1. Research Natural Areas Closed to grazing.



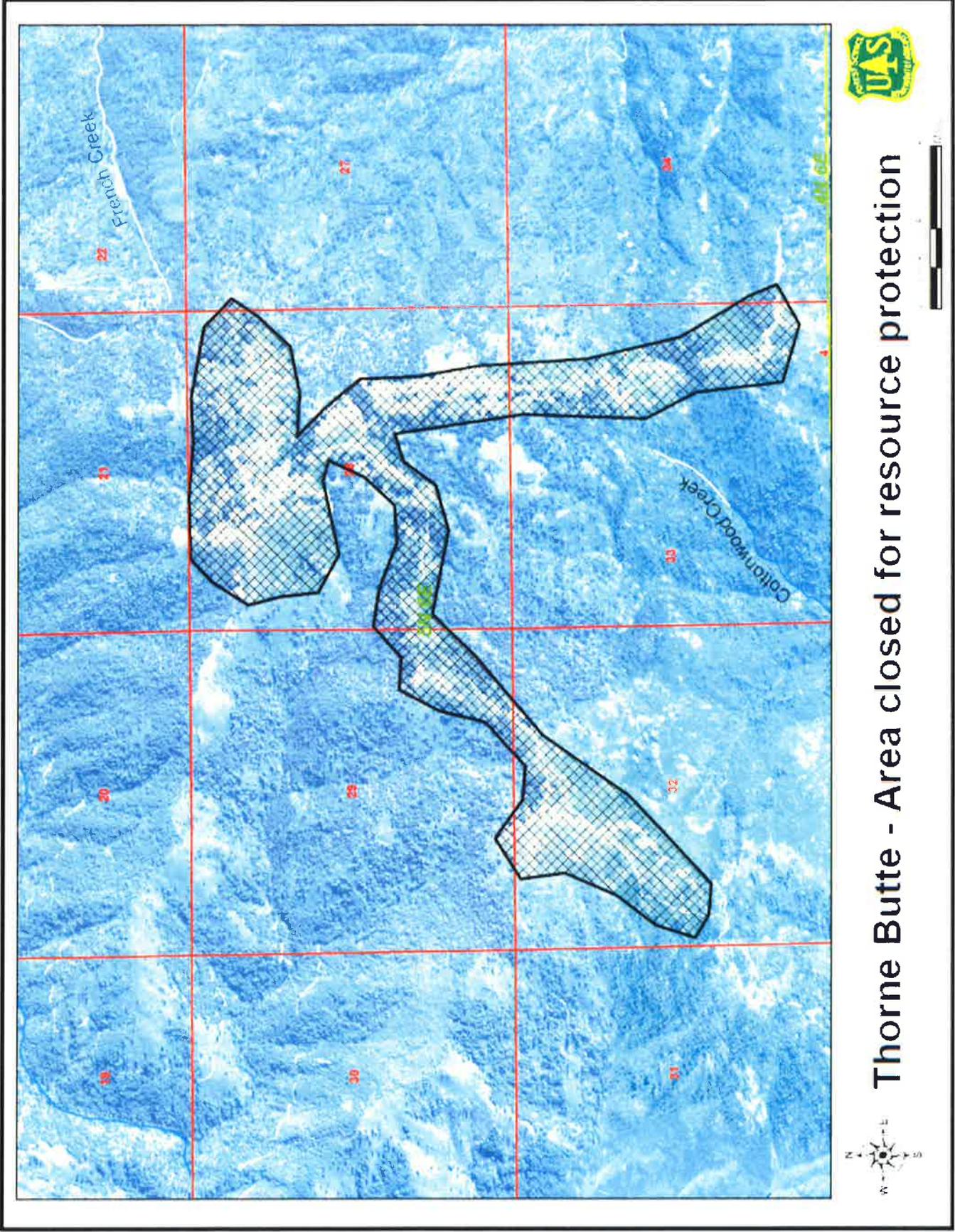
Appendix 2. Sunset Lookout area closure.



Appendix 3. Black A – Closed for resource protection.



Appendix 4. Thorne Butte area closed for resource protection.



Thorne Butte - Area closed for resource protection

