



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Soda Springs Ranger District

410 East Hooper Avenue
Soda Springs, ID 83276
208-547-4356

File Code: 2210

Date: 2012

Robert Ball
Ball Bros. Sheep Co.
2583 East 2105 North
Hamer, ID 3425

Dear Robert;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Bacon Creek, Eagle Cr./Morgan Meadows, Keenan City, White Creek, McCoy Creek, West Jensen Creek and Bridge Creek Sheep Allotments**. These Instructions are a guide for management on these allotments during the **2012** grazing season. We have also included your Actual Use Form, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by **November 30, 2012**.

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit

Special Instructions

This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.



Grazing Schedule

The 2012 order of rotation is outlined in this section. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted dependant on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. Please contact us 5 days prior to when your sheep will enter the Forest.

Allotment and # of Sheep this year	Permitted Season of Use	Actual Season of Use	Livestock Class	Permitted Head Months	Authorized Head Months	Unit Rotation
Lower Bacon Creek (1100)	6/21-9/15	6/21-9/15	Ewes/Lambs	3,146	3,146	Counter-Clockwise
White Creek (1100)	7/1-9/15	7/1-9/15	Ewes/Lambs	2,785	2,785	Counter-Clockwise
Keenan City (900)	7/1-9/15	8/31-9/19	Ewes/Lambs	2,530	592⁶	Counter-Clockwise
McCoy Creek¹ (900)	6/21-9/5	6/21-9/5	Ewes/Lambs	2,531	2,278 (90%)	Counter-Clockwise
Eagle Cr/Morgan Mdws² (900) (1800)	7/1-9/15	7/16-9/15	Ewes/Lambs ²	2,531	1,835	Counter-Clockwise
		9/20-9/30	Dry Ewes ³		651	Counter-Clockwise
Bridge Creek⁴ (900)	9/15-9/30	7/1-7/16	Ewes/Lambs	526	473	Clockwise
West Jensen⁵ (1000)	6/26-8/31	6/26-8/31	Ewes/Lambs	2,203	2,203	Clockwise
Total				16,248*	13,963**	

*With Horses included. **Add HM's for two horses with each group of sheep for same time periods.

1. The McCoy Creek sheep will enter the allotment on 6/21, and stay until 8/31. On 8/31 they will move through the Keenan City allotment on their way to Eagle Creek.
2. Sheep will enter the Eagle Creek/Morgan Meadows Allotment on 7/16, approximately 16 days after the allotted on date due to using the Bridge Creek Allotment first. Lambs will then be shipped, ewes culled and combined with Keenan City by September 15th. Combined herd will remain on Keenan city for 4 days.
3. The McCoy Creek sheep will reach the Eagle Creek/Morgan meadows corrals on 9/15. Upon reaching the Corrals the lambs will be shipped, ewes culled, and the dry ewes will then be combined with the Eagle Creek/Morgan Meadows band for a total of 1600 sheep, they will stay on Keenan city for 4 days then finish on Eagle Creek/ Morgan Meadows. The Term Grazing Permit allows for this.
4. The Bridge Creek Sheep Allotment is used for two weeks in conjunction with the Eagle Creek/Morgan Meadows Allotment. The Bridge Creek Allotment will be used from 7/1-7/16. On 7/16, the sheep will then enter the Eagle Creek/Morgan Meadows allotment where they will continue with the above outlined rotation. The reason for this is that there is a lack of water on the allotment in the fall and hauling water would cause greater impacts on areas near the Bridge Creek road. The Term Grazing Permit allows for this as well.
5. The West Jensen Sheep will use the five remaining days on the McCoy Creek allotment in order to facilitate shipping the lambs.
6. Keenan City will have 1,939 Head Months of non-use this year.

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. If riparian or upland monitoring shows that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will need to be moved. The Forest Service officer in charge of your allotment must approve any extension to the grazing season. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

Wolf Recovery Management

Wolves in Idaho are no longer under the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act. On May 5, 2011, wolf management in all of Idaho reverted to state management under state code [36-1107](#) and [Idaho's 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan](#).

Simply put, the law says wolves molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals may be disposed of by livestock or domestic animal owners, their employees, agents and animal damage control personnel. No permit from Fish and Game is necessary. The incident must be reported to the Fish and Game director within 72 hours, with additional reasonable time allowed if access to the site where taken is limited. Wolves so taken shall remain the property of the state. Livestock and domestic animal owners may take all nonlethal steps they deem necessary to protect their property. A permit must be obtained from the director to control wolves not molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals. Control is also permitted by owners, their employees and agents pursuant to the Idaho department of fish and game harvest rules. "Molesting" means the actions of a wolf that are annoying, disturbing or persecuting, especially with hostile intent or injurious effect, or chasing, driving, flushing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, or stalking or lying in wait for, livestock or domestic animals.

Proper Use Guidelines

Proper use guidelines for your allotments follow the standards set forth in the 2003 Revised Forest Plan (RFP), or site specific standards will be established using the Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG) as opportunities allow.

Upland Utilization Guidelines

Upland grazing standards and guides are based on the community type and whether or not they fall under critical winter range, winter range or non-winter range. Community Types and their relevance to winter range were mapped in the *Caribou RFP*. Site specific standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will be addressed in this AOI and Allotment Management Plan (AMP). When establishing the standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will follow directions set forth in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Upland Forage Utilization

	Type of Upland Area	
	Winter Range	Non winter range
Grass and Herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	20	35

There is a small area of 'winter range' south of Eagle Creek on the Eagle Cr./Morgan Meadows allotment. There is also "winter range" on the Diamond Creek front on the Lower Bacon allotment (see attached maps).

Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

Table 2 below, shall be used for riparian grazing on your allotments. These site-specific standards are implemented on the allotment using the most current Caribou Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG). There are some site specific standards listed below in table 3.

Table 2. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

The first number represents the percent of total weight of key species. The second number represents the height of standing riparian vegetation at the time of measurement.

Three measurements are commonly used to monitor livestock grazing impacts in riparian areas. They include stubble height, woody utilization, and key species utilization. Allowable disturbance levels will be tailored to each stream depending on whether the stream is 'Functioning', 'Functioning-at-Risk', or 'Non-functioning'. Parameters are measured in key areas along the riparian habitat. The following list (table 3) describes the parameters, where the measurements occur, and how they will be analyzed:

Utilization will be based on stubble height for native species in the AIZ, or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 3 below, lists the streams associated with your allotments. Next to the Stream name you will see the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) designation. This designation is how we derive the site specific standards for each riparian area.

Site specific monitoring of each stream listed below will be used to determine when proper use has been reached. Once the allowable use standard is met, regardless of numbers of animals or time, livestock will be moved. Timing and intensity of use are the key elements of implementing

the riparian grazing standards and guides. The streams not listed below will use the RFP standards that can be found in your term grazing permit.

Table 3. Proper Functioning Condition Rating and Applicable Standards

Stream	Stream Condition Rating	Greenline Stubble Height	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
Eagle Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5	55/45/35
N. Fk Eagle	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Willow Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (moderate)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Spring Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5	55/45/35
McCoy Cr	Functioning-at-Risk (low)	4/5/6	45/35/20
Barnes Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (moderate)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Box Can. Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Horse Creek	Functioning	2/3/4	65/55/45
White Creek *	Functioning	3/4/5	55/45/35
Boulder Creek *	Functioning	3/4/5	55/45/35
Timothy Creek	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Cabin Creek	Functioning-at-Risk (moderate)	3/4/5	55/45/35

*Streams with sensitive species or other factors (303_d listed) require that the resiliency level be increased one level.

Permittee Responsibilities

1. "Once-over" grazing and open herding is to be practiced on all allotments.
2. Sheep are to bed in new locations each night. Sheep should be encouraged to bed in places other than ridges.
3. Sheep should not be allowed to bed near streams, ponds, springs, or on Forest System roads or trails. Noon bedding in riparian areas is not allowed. Sheep are to be bedded in new locations each night. They should avoid bedding in mulesear and tarweed patches. They should be encouraged to water early in the day and then be moved off water.
4. Ensure the herder leaves a sanitary and clean campsite.
5. Salt should be placed in areas away from water, riparian areas, forest plantations, ridges, shade-up areas, Forest System roads and trails, and bed grounds. Salt in a different location each year and remove bags after use.
6. When trailing Forest System roads will be used rather than the old sheep driveways. When trailing on Forest Service Lands. Contact the Soda Springs Office prior to trailing on in the spring, and trailing off in the fall.

7. Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day while trailing, on Forest land, to or from their allotments
8. Sheep are not to overnight in the same location where a previous band has stayed earlier the same year.
9. Report all fires to the District Office immediately (208) 547-4356.
10. Any hay, straw, or other feed brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free". If you are found to be using uncertified hay or straw, a violation notice and/or permit action may be taken.
11. All improvements are listed in Part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to livestock entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

Water Development Maintenance Standards

Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.
- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Level troughs and reset when needed.
- Wildlife escape ramps should be installed on all troughs. Contact the District for ramps.

Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

Compliance

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with part 1, Item 3, and Part 2, Item 8 (a). Situations may develop during the grazing system which require changes to these

instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Forms to be Completed

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2012.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office	Cell
Jack Isaacs District Ranger	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-1108	208)313-7328
Garth Nelson Range Specialist	208) 547-1113	208)313-7910

**Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
Eagle Creek/ Morgan Meadows, Keenan City, Lower Bacon
Creek, White Creek, West Jensen, McCoy Creek, Bridge
Creek S&G Allotments
2012**



Accepted By:

Robert Ball

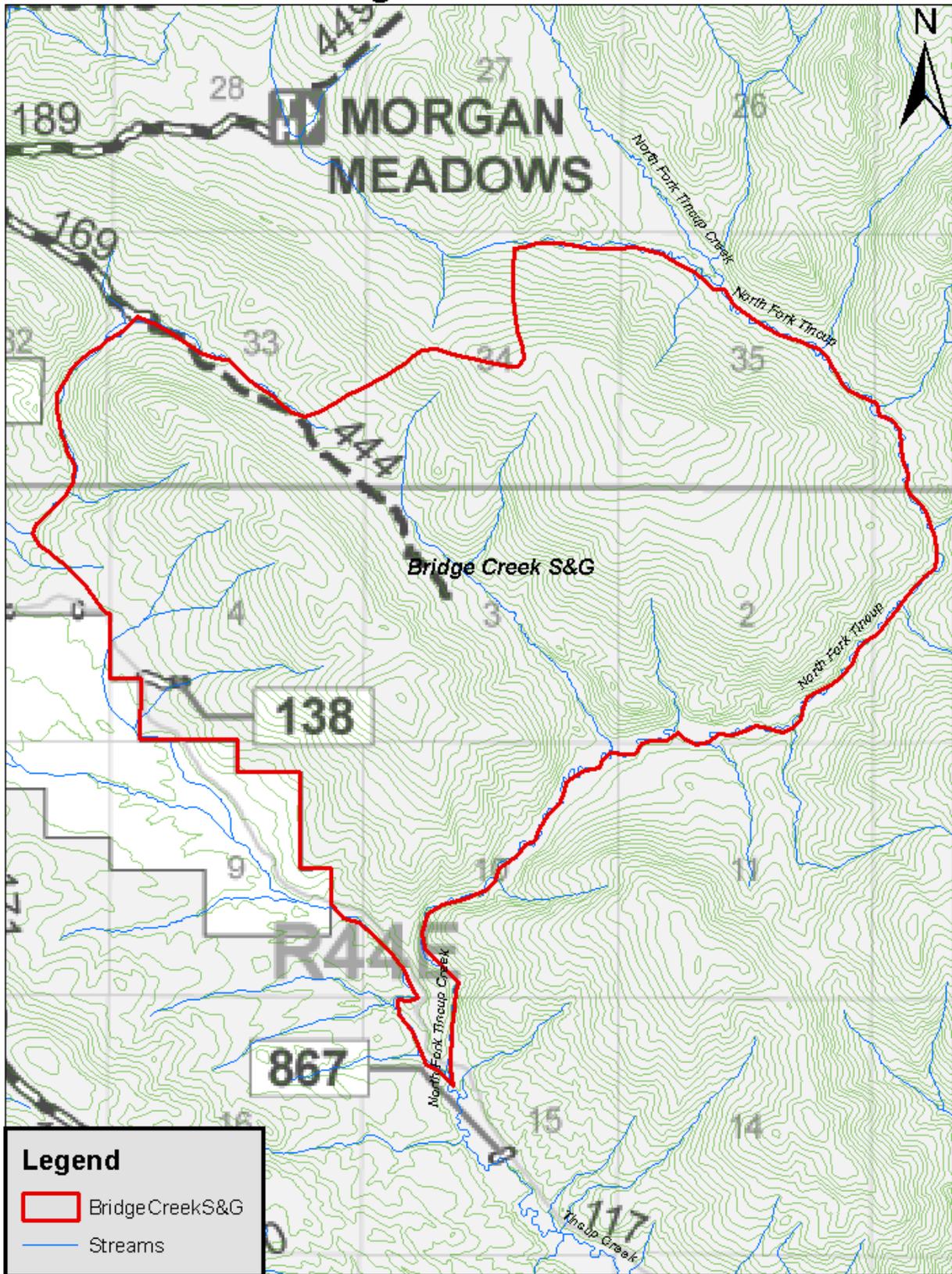
Date

Approved By:

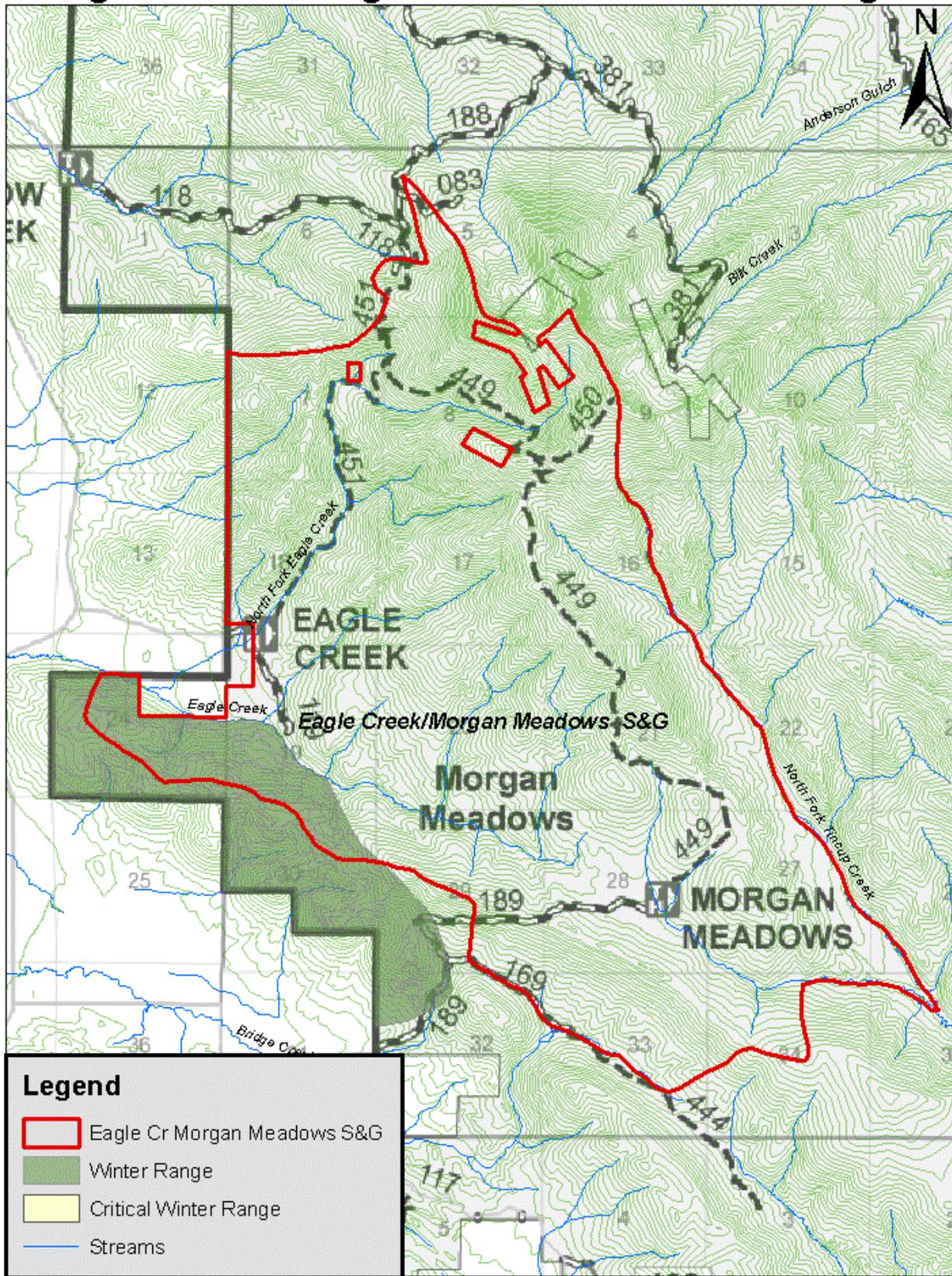
**Jack L Isaacs
District Ranger**

Date

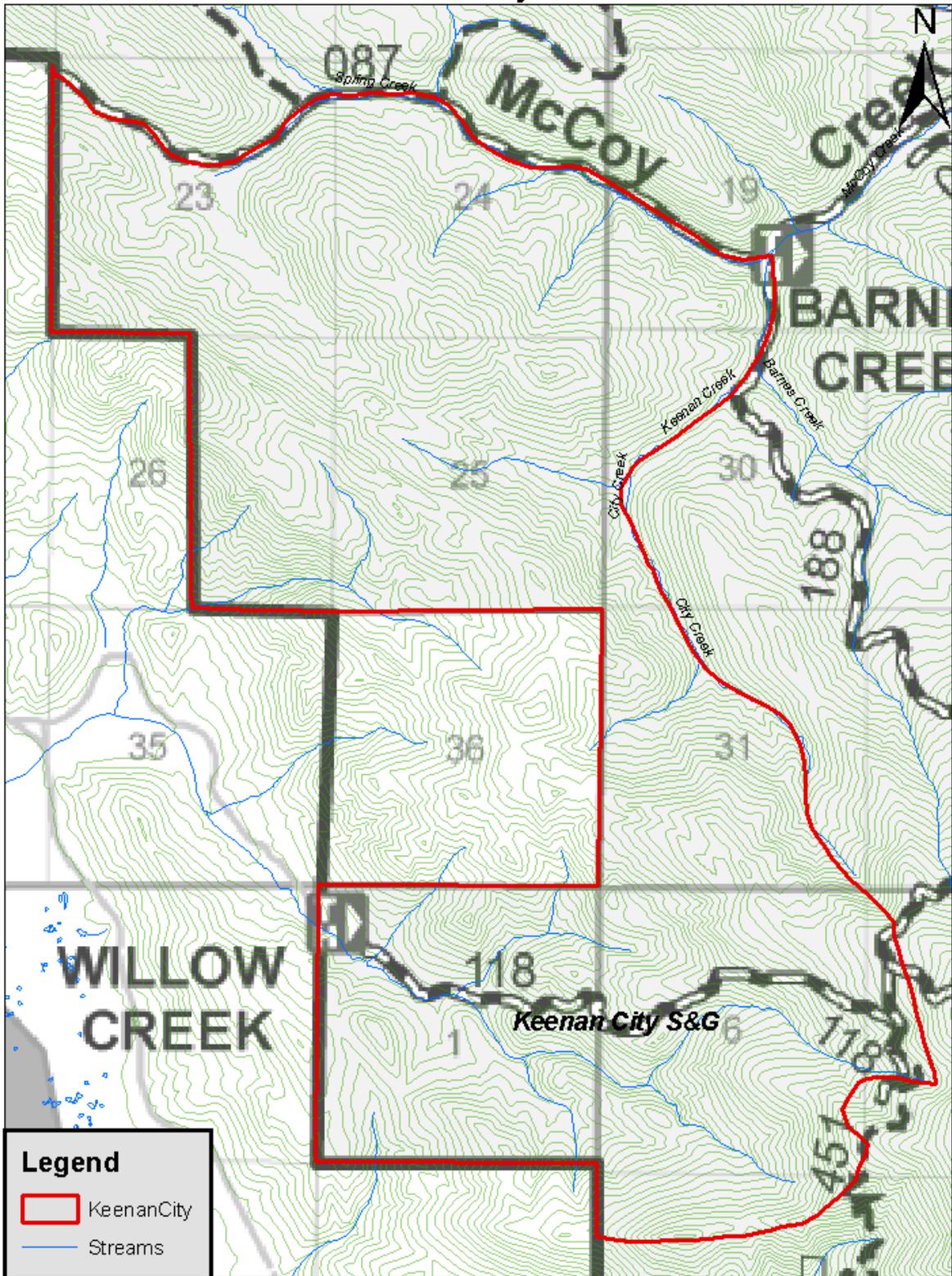
Bridge Creek S&G



Eagle Creek/Morgan Meadows Winter Range



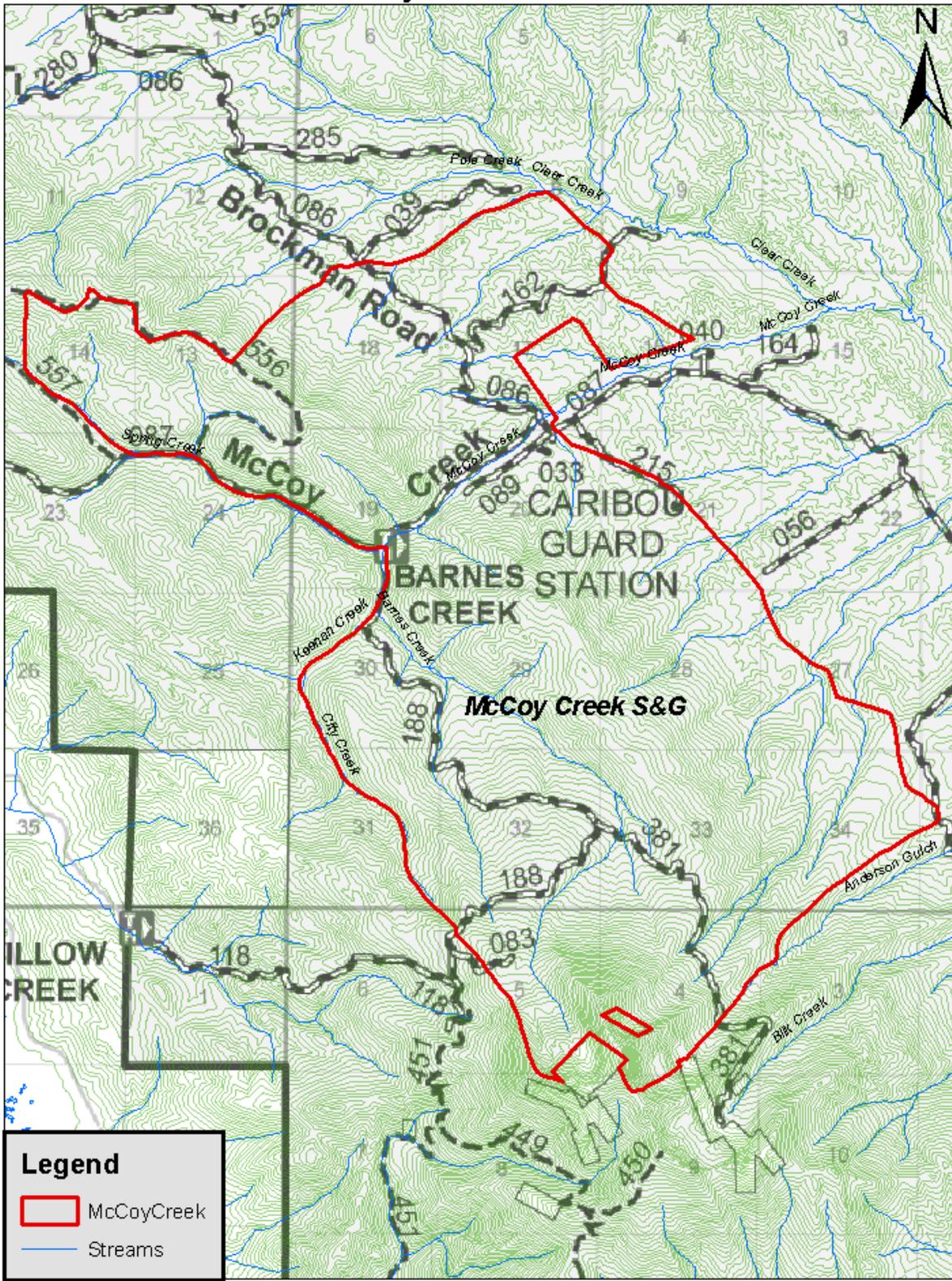
Keenan City S&G



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

G. Nelson 4/2012

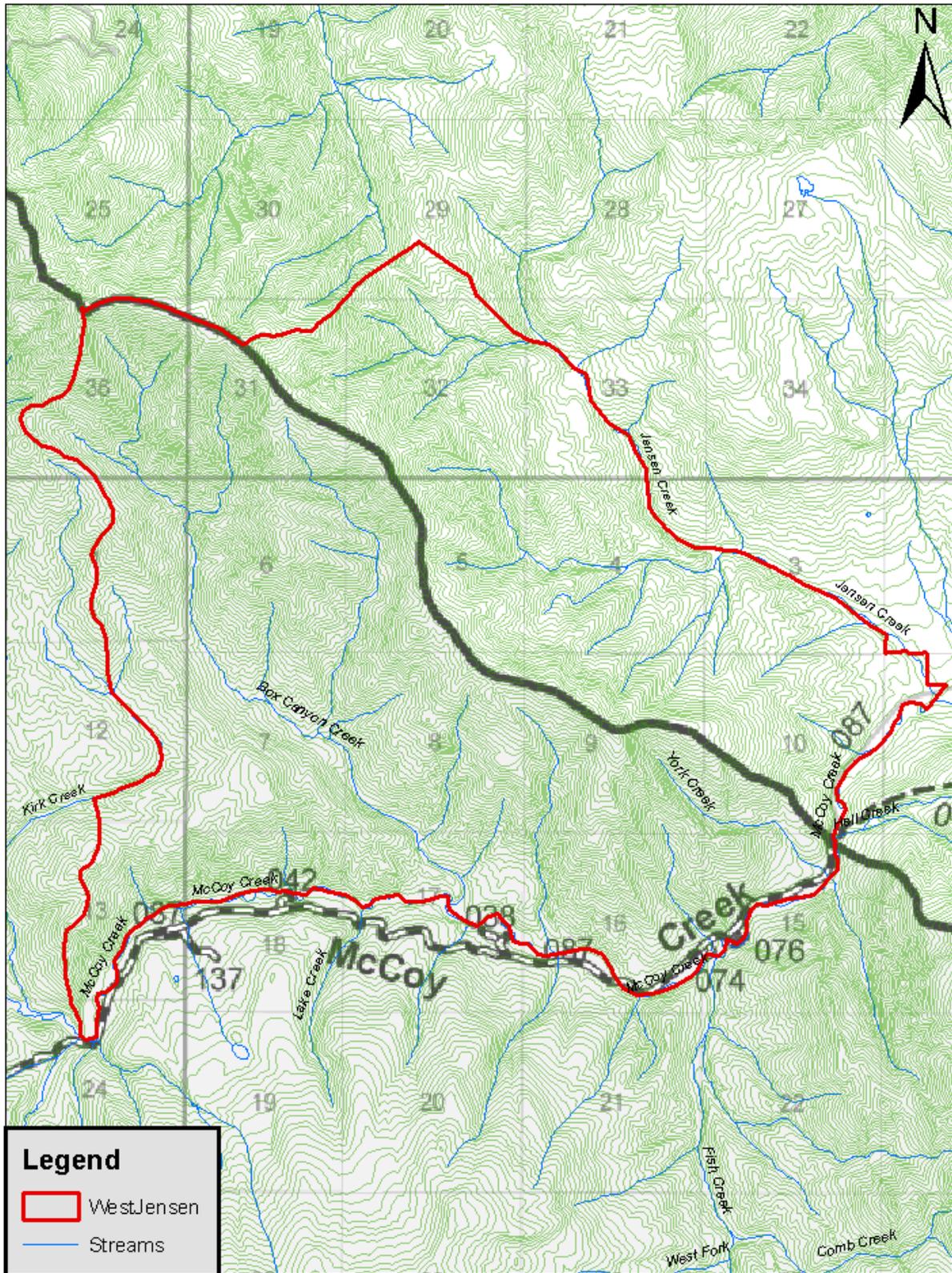
McCoy Creek S&G



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

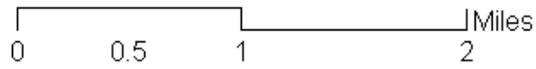
G. Nelson 4/2012

West Jensen S&G



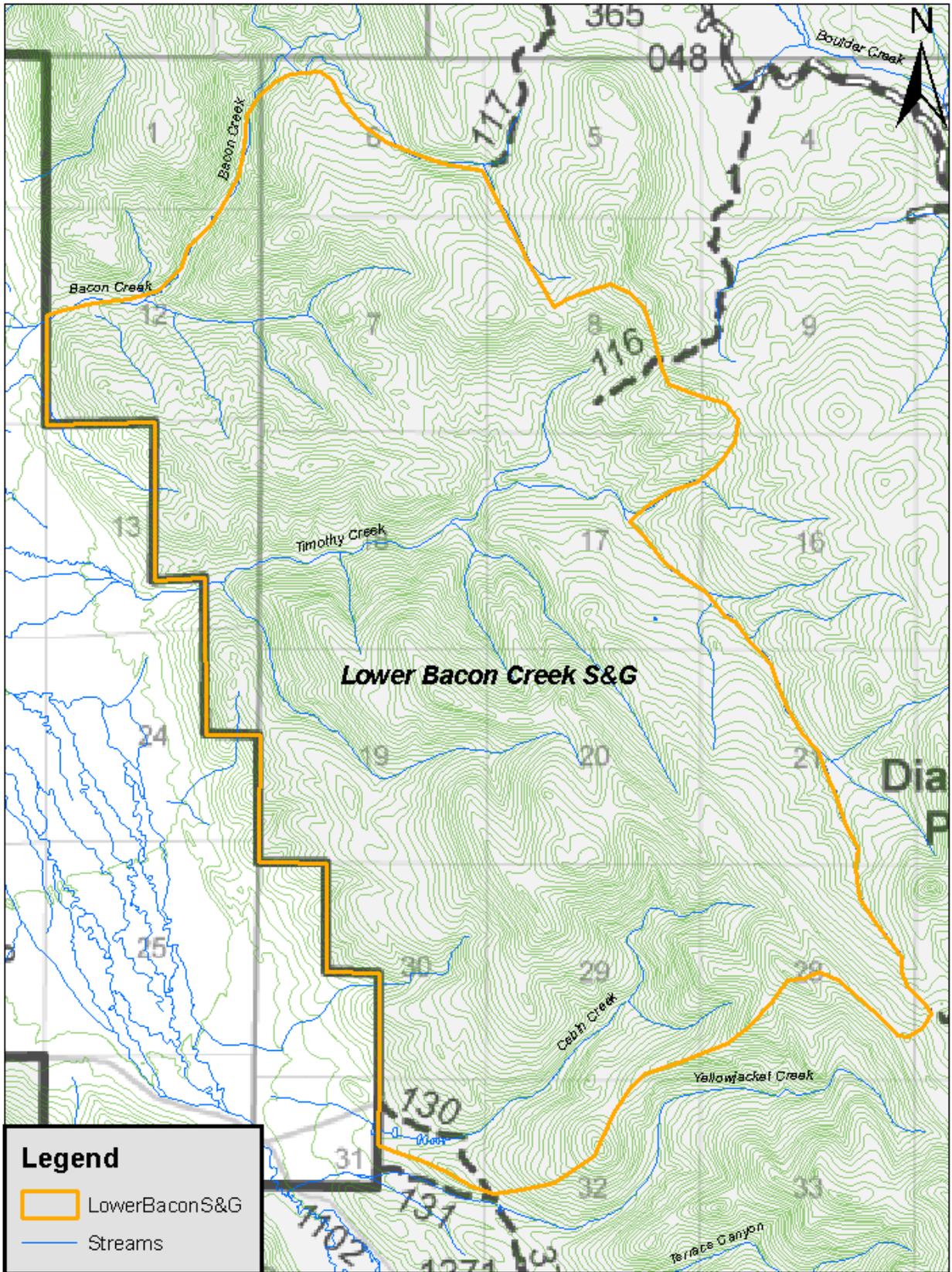
Legend

- WestJensen
- Streams



G. Nelson 4/2012

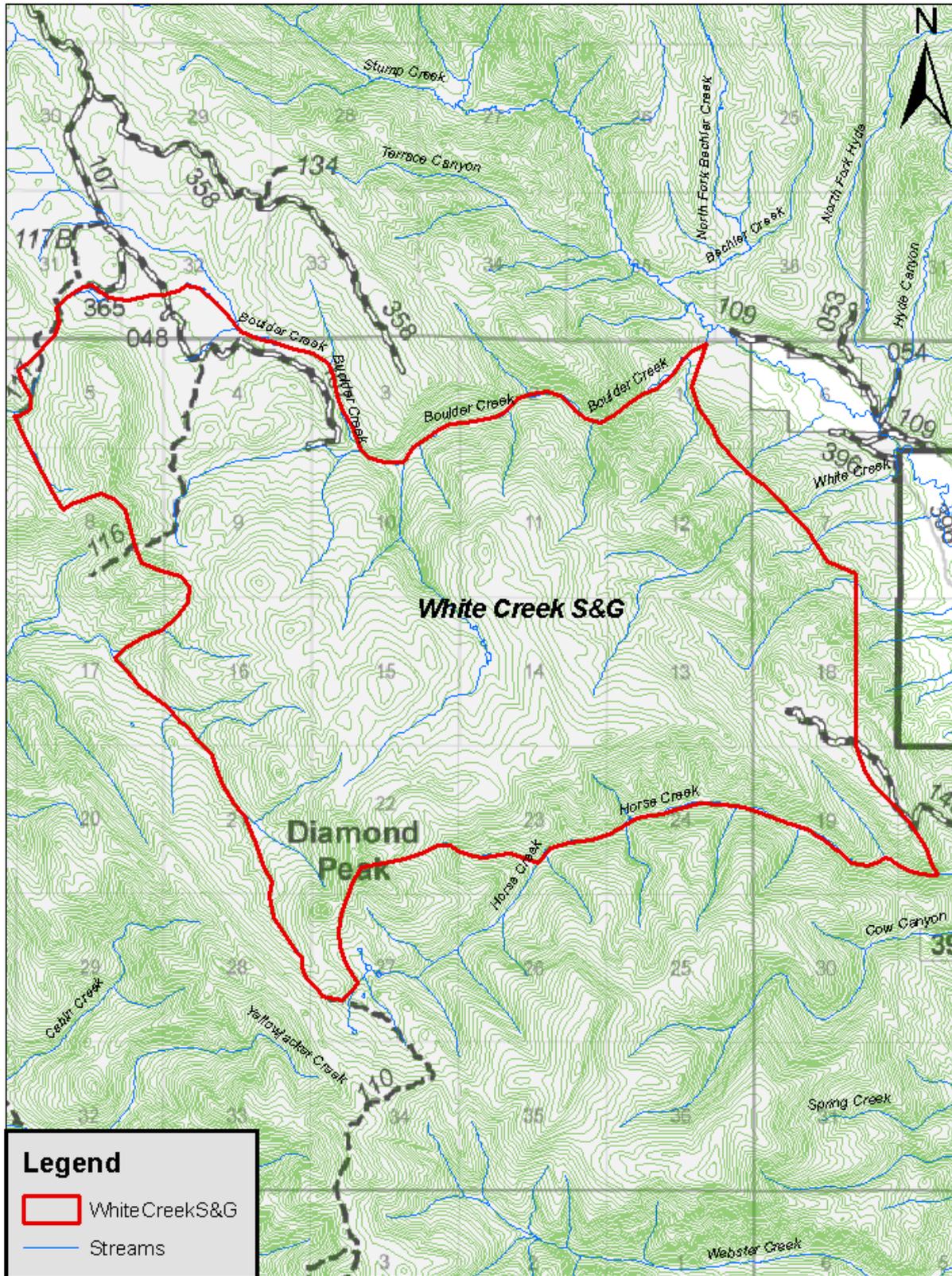
Lower Bacon S&G



0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

G. Nelson 4/2012

White Creek S&G



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

G. Nelson 4/2012