2014
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 2014 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

Allotment	Band	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
North Fork S&G (Cinch Creek)	1(Lorenzo)	950	Ewe/Lambs	5/1—8/2
North Fork S&G	1	7	Pack/Saddle	5/1--8/2
North Fork S&G (Boise Front)	2(Mario) 2(Mario)	950 950	Ewe/Lambs	5/1 – 5/30(50-50) 5/30—8/2
North Fork S&G (Boise Front)	2 2	7 7	Pack/Saddle	5/1 – 5/30 (50-50) 5/30—8/2
North Fork S&G (Meadow Creek)	3 (Mario)	1700	Bucking	8/3 – 10/10 10/11-10/20
North Fork S&G (Meadow Creek)	3	7	Pack/Saddle	8/3 – 10/10 10/11-10/20
North Fork S&G (Thorn Creek)	6(Raul)	900	Ewe/Lambs	6/1 - 8/11
North Fork S&G (Thorn Creek)	6	7	Pack/Saddle	6/1 – 8/11
North Fork S&G (Pine Creek)	7(Juan)	900	Ewe/Lambs	6/5 – 8/11
North Fork S&G (Pine Creek)	7	7	Pack/Saddle	6/5 – 8/11
North Fork S&G (Crooked River)	8(Raul)	1700	Bucking	8/12 – 10/10 10/11 – 10/20 (50-50)
North Fork S&G (Crooked River)	8	7	Pack/Saddle	8/11 – 10/10 10/11 – 10/20 (50-50)
Boise Basin S&G (Bogus Basin)	9(Maximo)	920	Ewe/Lambs Bucking	5/20-6/5 (50-50) 6/6 – 8/18 8/19-10/10 10/11-10/20
Boise Basin S&G (Bogus Basin)	9	7	Pack/Saddle	6/6 – 8/18 8/19-10/20
Boise Basin S&G (Star Ranch)	10	1700	Yearling	8/1 – 10/10
Boise Basin S&G (Star Ranch)	10	7	Pack/Saddle	8/1 – 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 2014 grazing season.

Band Identification: North Fork Boise River Sheep Allotment:
Sheep Bands
Band 1 Lorenzo – 5/1—8/2 - 950 ewe/lambs - Unload at Cinch Creek - ship at Meadow Creek

Band 2 Mario (2) – 5/1 – 8/2 - 950 ewe/lambs – Trail Boise Front & ship at Meadow Creek
Band 3 (Bands 1&2) - 8/3 - 10/20 -1700 dry ewes – ship at Meadow Creek and trail off Forest
Band 4 Justino – Not Grazing due to Trinity Ridge Fire
Band 5 Justino – Not Grazing due to Trinity Ridge Fire
Band 6 Raul – 6/1 – 8/11 -- 900 ewe/lambs – Pine Creek/Bear Run ship at Crooked River
Band 7 Juan – 6/5 – 8/11 – 900 ewe/lambs – Pine Creek and ship at Crooked River
Band 8 Raul (Bands 6&7) – 8/12 – 10/20 – 1700 dry ewes – 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 -- 8/2 - 7 head horses/mules
Band 2 5/1 – 8/2 - 7 head horses/mules
Band 3 8/3 – 10/20 - 7 head horses/mules
Band 4 Not Grazing due to Trinity Ridge Fire
Band 5 Not Grazing due to Trinity Ridge Fire
Band 6 6/1 – 8/11 – 7 head horses/mules
Band 7 6/5 – 8/11 – 7 head horses/mules
Band 8 8/12 – 10/20 – 7 head horses/mules

Band Identification: Boise Basin Sheep Allotment:
Sheep Bands
Band 9 5/20 – 10/20 -- 920 ewe/lambs and Bucking – Bogus Basin and ship at Clear Creek
Band 10 8/1 – 10/10 – 1700 Yearlings – From Star Ranch and truck off Forest

Permitted livestock brands: (if paint brands are used)

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock:
Pack Stock
Band 9 5/20 – 10/20 - 7 head horses/mules
Band 10 8/1 – 10/10 - 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).

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

Band 1 Cinch Creek Ewe/Lamb 940 5/1-8/2
Band 2 Boise Front Ewe/Lamb 950 5/30-8/2

Combined bands at Meadow Creek	Dry Ewes 1700 8/13-10/20
Band 6 Thorn Creek	Ewe/Lamb 960 6/5-8/10
Band 7 Pine Creek	Ewe/Lamb 960 6/5-8/10
Combined bands at Crooked River	Dry Ewes 1700 8/11-10/10
Band 9 Bogus Basin	Ewe/Lamb 940 6/5-8/18
Band 10 Star Ranch	Yearling 1700 6/15-10/10

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. 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 camptender 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 permitee'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 2014 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, 2014.

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 2014 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) Trinity Ridge Fire area (appendix 6) is closed to grazing for resource protection until further notice.

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.

Trinity Ridge Fire
The Trinity Ridge Fire in 2012 affected a portion of the North Fork Allotment. This area (see fire Trinity Ridge Fire Perimeter, appendix 6) is closed to sheep grazing for resource protection until the vegetation has had time to recover. The Idaho City District's resource staff will identify when the area will be reopened to grazing.

Native Seed Collection sites (None Planned)

Plantation protection from trailing and grazing in the Abby Creek area
In as much as possible, avoid grazing and trailing through plantations in the Abby Creek burn area.

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.

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending flocks, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to Todd Grimm, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho (208-378-5077); or local Wildlife Services contacts. 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 (208-465-8465 x350).

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

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

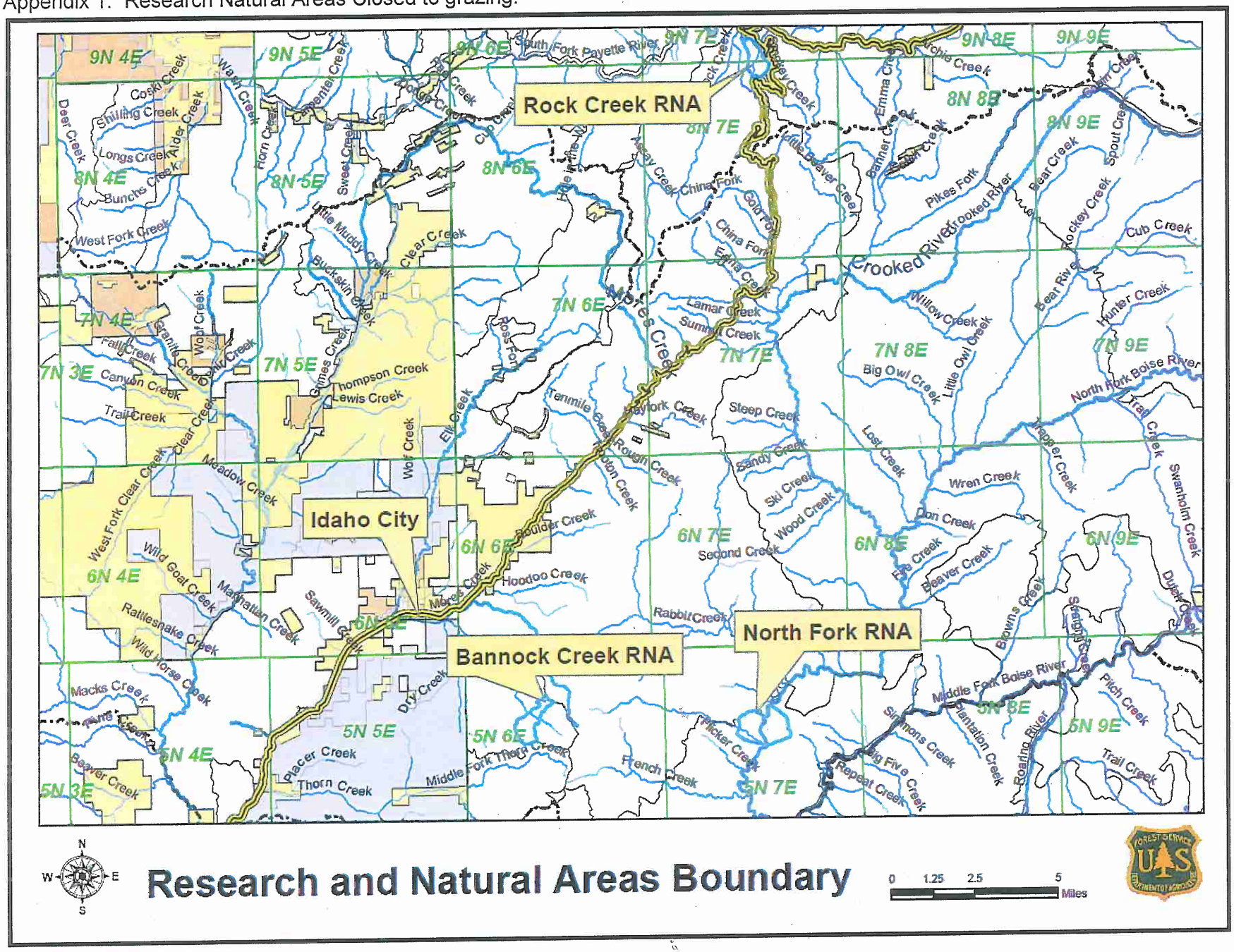
District Ranger

5/5/14
Date

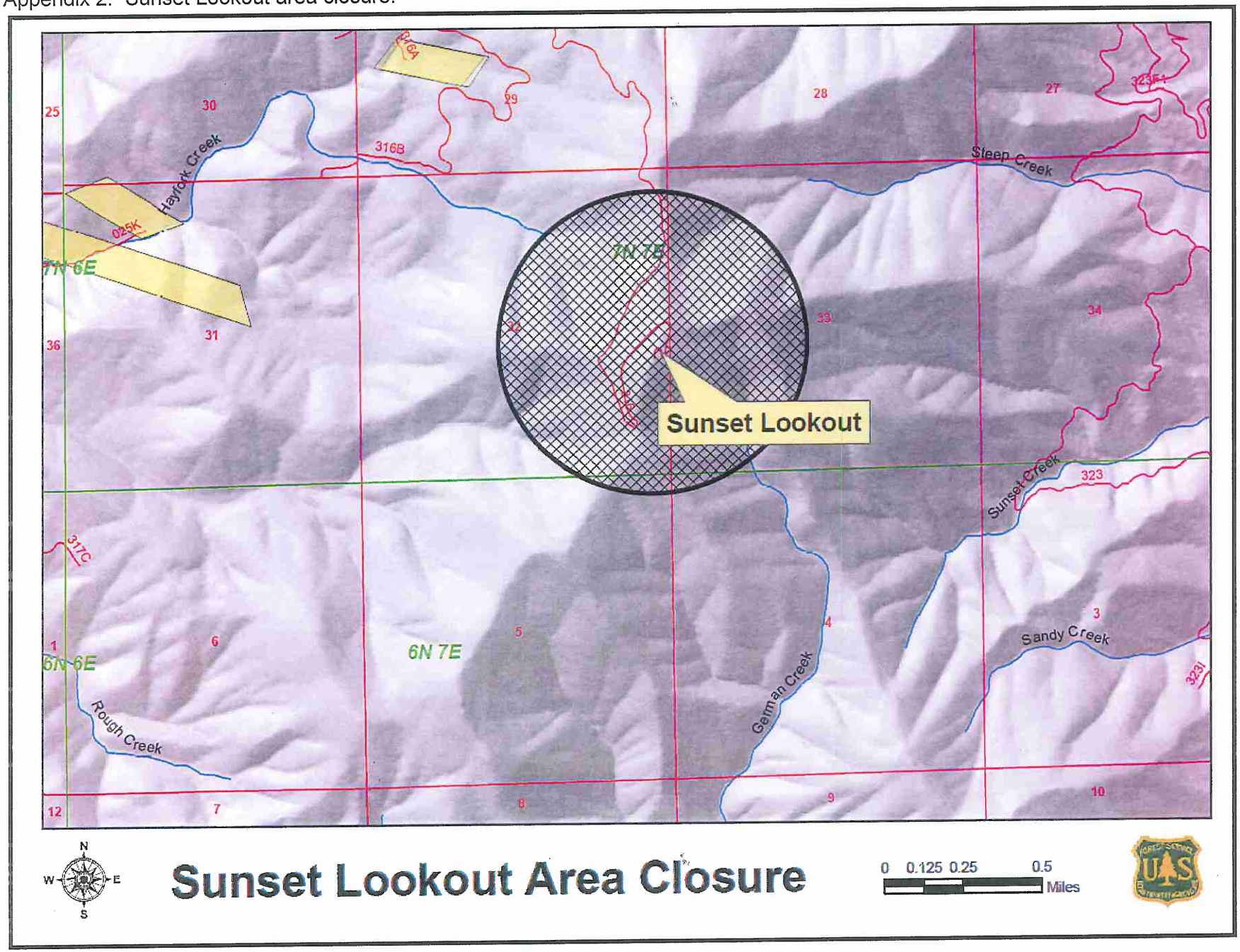
Permittee signature:

I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are part of my term grazing permit and I agree

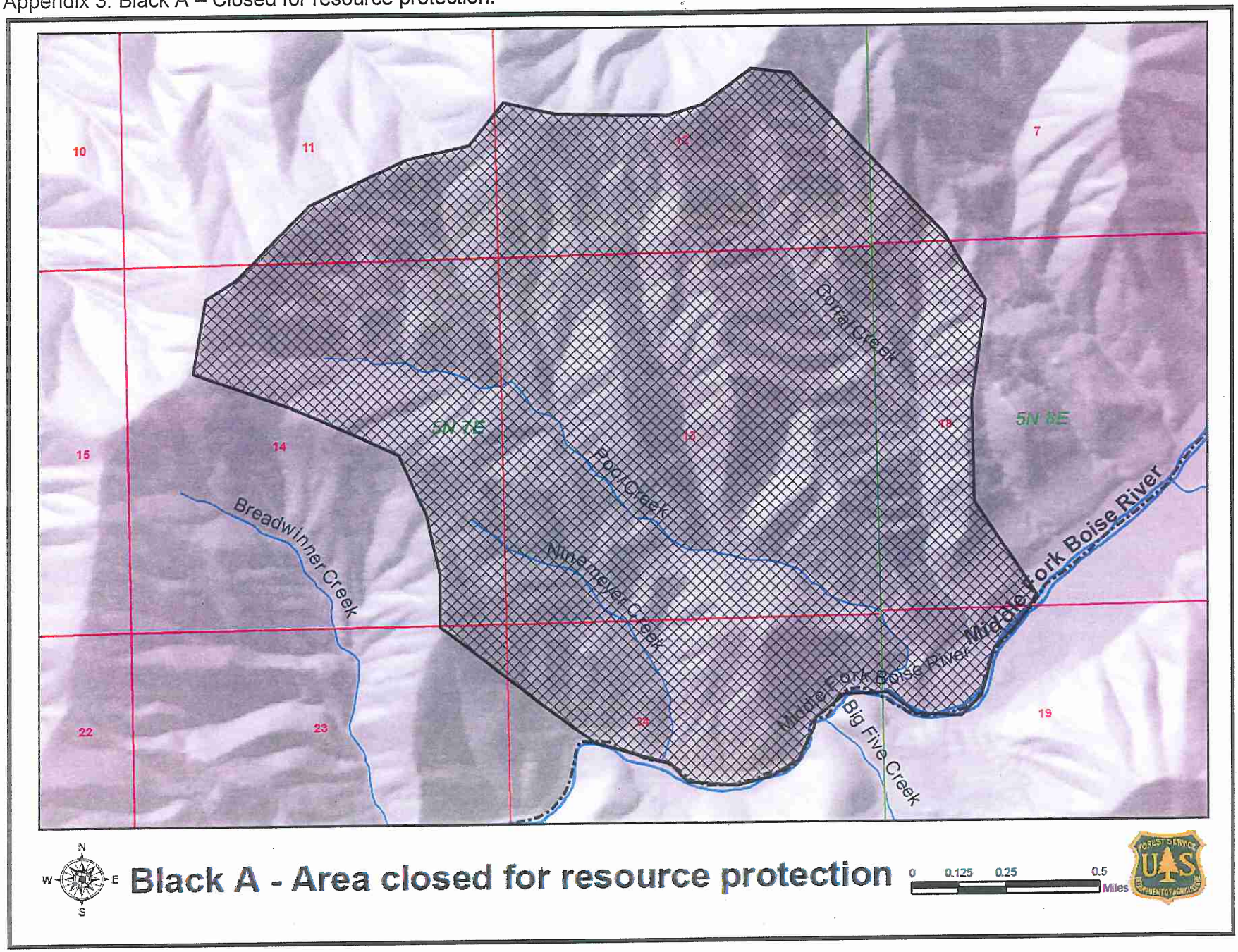
Appendix 1. Research Natural Areas Closed to grazing.



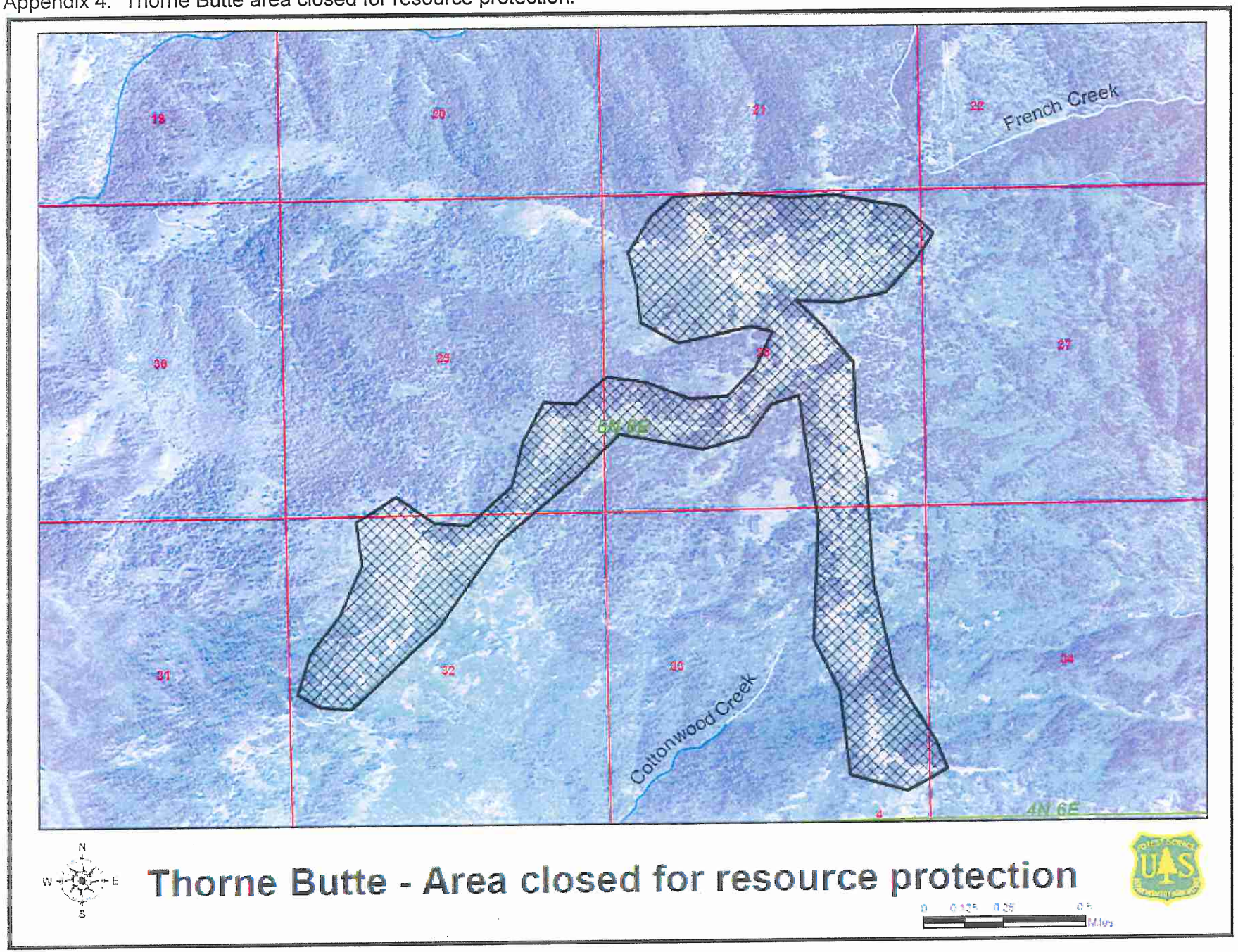
Appendix 2. Sunset Lookout area closure.



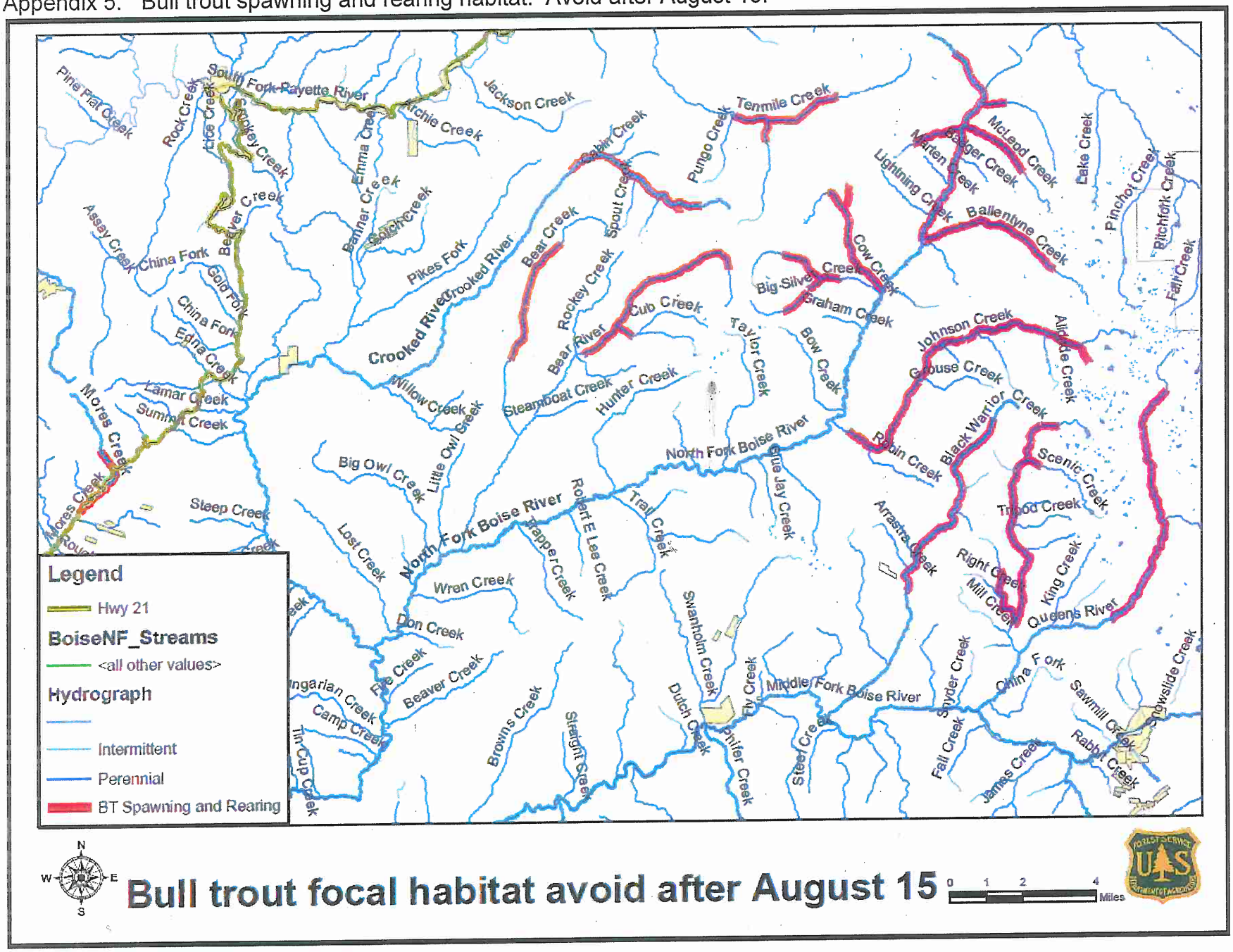
Appendix 3. Black A – Closed for resource protection.



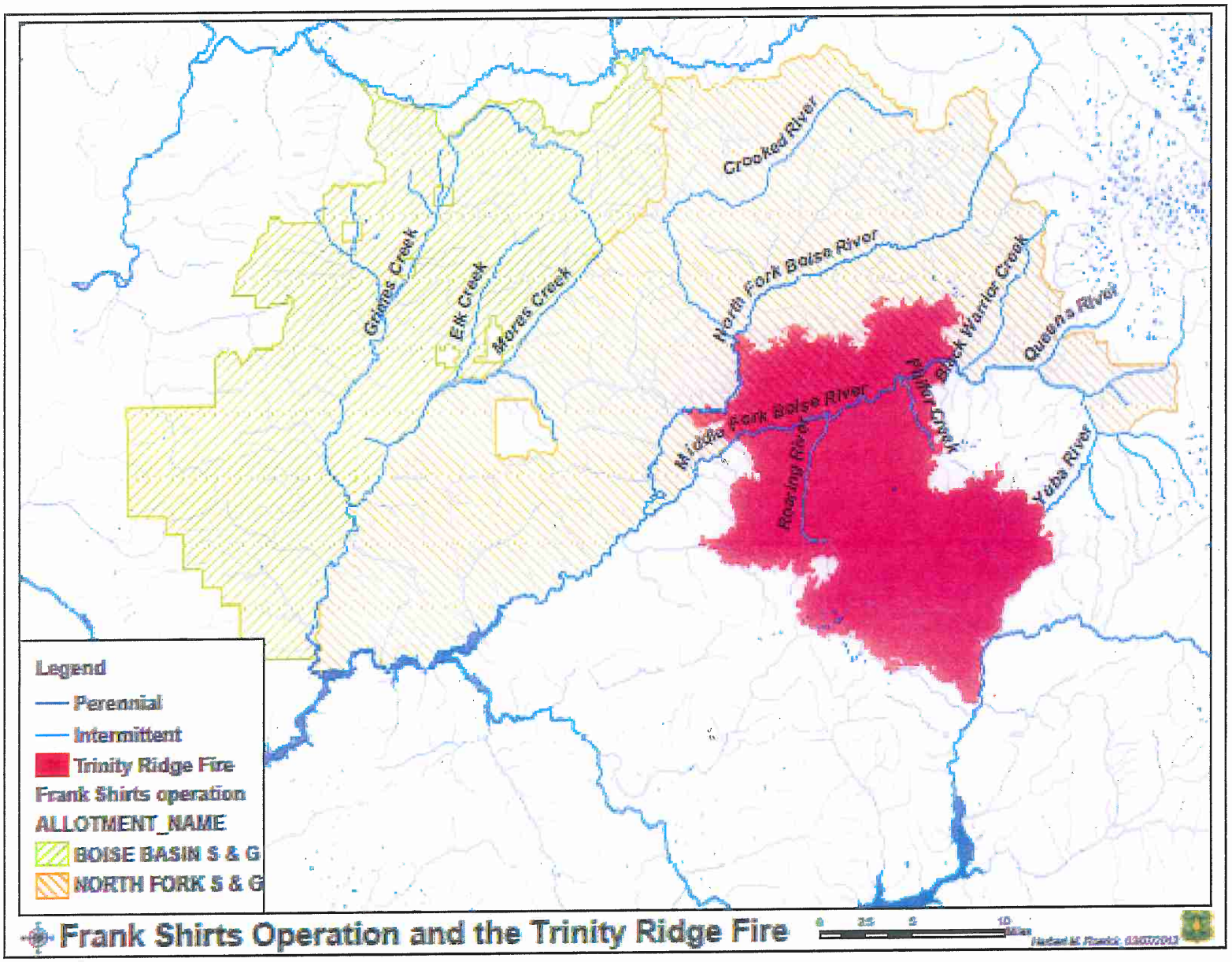
Appendix 4. Thorne Butte area closed for resource protection.

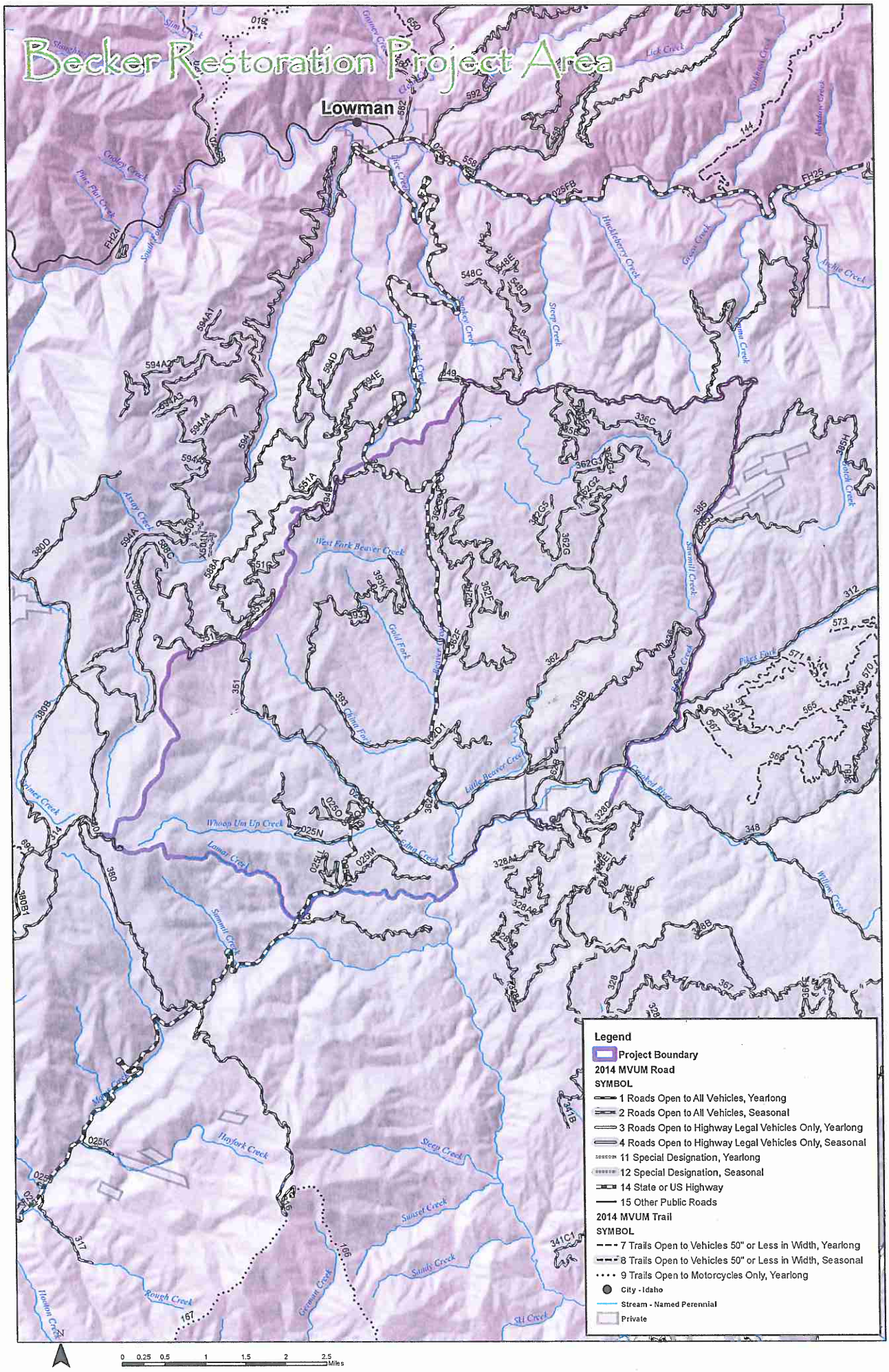


Appendix 5. Bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. Avoid after August 15.



Appendix 6. Trinity Ridge Fire Perimeter.




Becker Restoration Project Area
Lowman
Legend
Project Boundary
2014 MVUM Road
SYMBOL
1 Roads Open to All Vehicles, Yearlong
2 Roads Open to All Vehicles, Seasonal
3 Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only, Yearlong
4 Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only, Seasonal
11 Special Designation, Yearlong
12 Special Designation, Seasonal
14 State or US Highway
15 Other Public Roads
2014 MVUM Trail
SYMBOL
7 Trails Open to Vehicles 50" or Less in Width, Yearlong
8 Trails Open to Vehicles 50" or Less in Width, Seasonal
9 Trails Open to Motorcycles Only, Yearlong
City - Idaho
Stream - Named Perennial
Private
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles