

2023 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 2023 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Boise Basin S&G	Frank Shirts, Jr.	02284
North Fork S&G	Frank Shirts, Jr.	02284

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
Frank Shirts, Jr.	North Fork S&G	3170	Ewe/lambs	5/1 – 10/15
	North Fork S&G	21	Horses	5/1 – 10/15
	North Fork S&G	1400	Ewe/lambs	5/29 – 10/25
	North Fork S&G	14	Pack Stock	5/29 – 10/25
	North Fork S&G	130	Rams	6/1 – 10/1
	Boise Basin S&G	2000	Ewe/lambs	6/1 – 10/20
	Boise Basin S&G	14	Horses	6/1 – 10/20
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	14	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

2023 Authorized Use

Allotment	Band	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
North Fork S&G (Cinch Creek)	1(Renan)	900	Ewe/Lambs	5/17—8/25 (6/16-7/5 on State)
North Fork S&G (Cinch Creek)	1(Renan)	7	Pack/Saddle	5/17—8/13 (6/16-7/5 on State)
North Fork S&G (Cinch Creek)	1(Renan)	1700	Ewes	8/25-10/10 (adding 800)
North Fork S&G (Thorn Creek)	2(Raul)	1800	Ewe/Lambs	6/5 – 10/10
North Fork S&G (Thorn Creek)	2(Raul)	7	Pack/Saddle	6/5 – 10/10
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front-Robie)	3(Juan)	900	Ewe/Lambs	6/5 – 9/1
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front-Robie)	3(Juan)	7	Pack/Saddle	6/5 – 9/1
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front-Grimes)	4(Maximo)	900	Ewe/Lambs	6/6 – 9/1 (8/1-8/15 on State)
Boise Basin S&G (Boise Front-Grimes)	4(Maximo)	7	Pack/Saddle	6/6 – 9/1 (8/1-8/15 on State)
Boise Basin S&G (Mineral Mountain)	5(3+4 combined)	1700	Bucking	9/1-10/10
Boise Basin S&G (Mineral Mountain)	5(3+4 combined)	14	Pack/Saddle	9/1– 10/10

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

Variable Season and 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, 24,939 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 2023 grazing season.

Band Identification:
Sheep Bands

North Fork and Boise Basin Sheep Allotments:

Band 1 Renan – 5/17—8/23 - 900 ewe/lambs – Arrowrock Boat Ramp - ship at Meadow Creek, add 800 replacement ewes

Band 2 Raul – 6/5 -- 8/25 – 1800 Ewe/lambs- Start near Thorn Creek, ship at Crooked River

Band 3 Juan – 6/5 – 10/7 – 900 ewe/lambs – cross at Robie Creek, ship at Clear Creek, combine with Band 4 Maximo- 6/6-9/1 Cross near Grimes creek, ship at Clear Creek, combine with Band 3

Band 5 (Bands 3&4) – 9/1 – 10/10 -- 1700 dry ewes – combine near Clear 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 -- 5/17—10/10 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 2 -- 6/5 – 10/10 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 3 -- 6/5 – 9/1 - 7 head horses/mules

Band 4 -- 6/6 – 9/1 – 7 head of horses/mules

Band 5 -- 9/1-10/10 – 14 head of horses/mules

2023 GRAZING SEASON CHANGES

- HIGHWAY 21 IS GOING TO BE CLOSED—Work is expected to start after the 4th of July holiday and is expected to last about 8 weeks. The work will be along the stretch of highway between Mores Creek Summit and Banner Creek Ridge. IDT plans on working on 2 mile stretches at a time and plans on keeping only those 2 miles closed at a time, but alternate routes likely won't work for shipping trucks anyways.
- Plantations to be avoided (see maps)—Clear Creek, Pilot Peak, Edna Creek Spruce, Beaver Creek, Crooked River, Banner Creek (planting this fall)
- Enduro Ride will take place first weekend of June in the Rabbit Creek Area (see map)

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 several 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 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.

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) Boise Basin Experimental Forest
- 2) Rock Creek Project Area, Rock Creek Natural Area and the Meadow Creek and North Fork Research Natural Areas (Appendix 1) are closed to grazing.
- 3) Sunset Lookout is closed to grazing (Appendix 2) as well as the area around lookout's spring or water supply.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Thorne Butte area (Appendix 4) is closed for resource protection.
- 6) The Enduro Ride will take place again this year. They plan on using the Rabbit Creek Course for 2023
- 7) Beaver Creek Plantation
- 8) Edna Creek Spruce Plantation
- 9) Clear Creek Plantation
- 10) Pilot Peak White bark pine Plantation
- 11) Crooked River Planting Units

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 Doug Hanson (208) 550-5488 or Mike Jennings (208) 550-7783.**

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 Water Trough
 - b. Coulter Stock Pond
 - c. Clear Creek Sheep Corrals
 - d. Elk Creek Livestock Bridge
- 2) North Fork Boise S & G Allotment
 - a. Meadow Creek Sheep Corrals
 - b. Crooked River Sheep Corrals
 - c. Crooked River Livestock Bridge
 - d. Rabbit Creek Livestock Bridge
 - e. Headquarters Pasture and Corrals and Water

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 Idaho City Range Specialist Delaney Lane or the Idaho City District Ranger at 208-392-3700. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to a good season.

Signatures

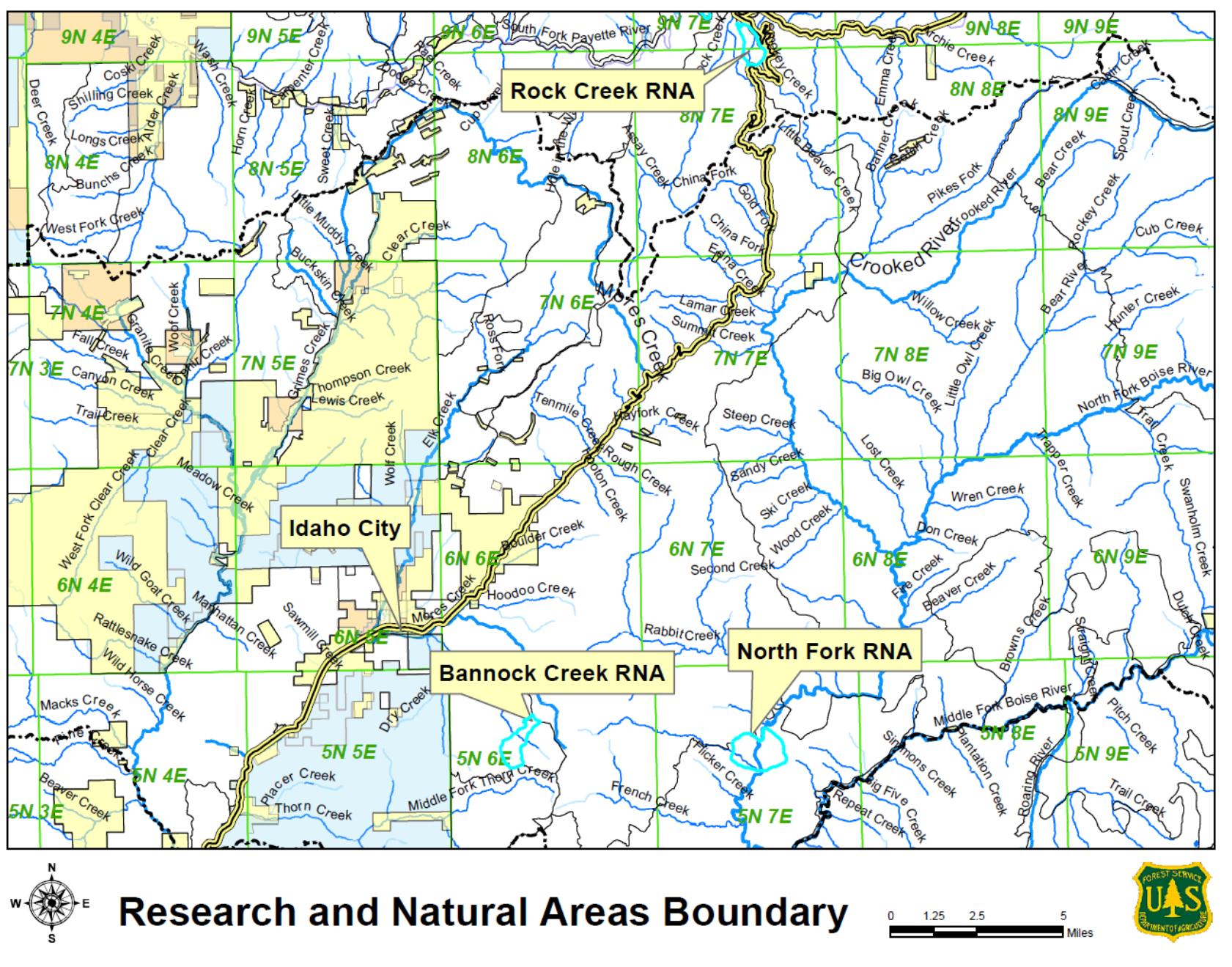
District Ranger

Date

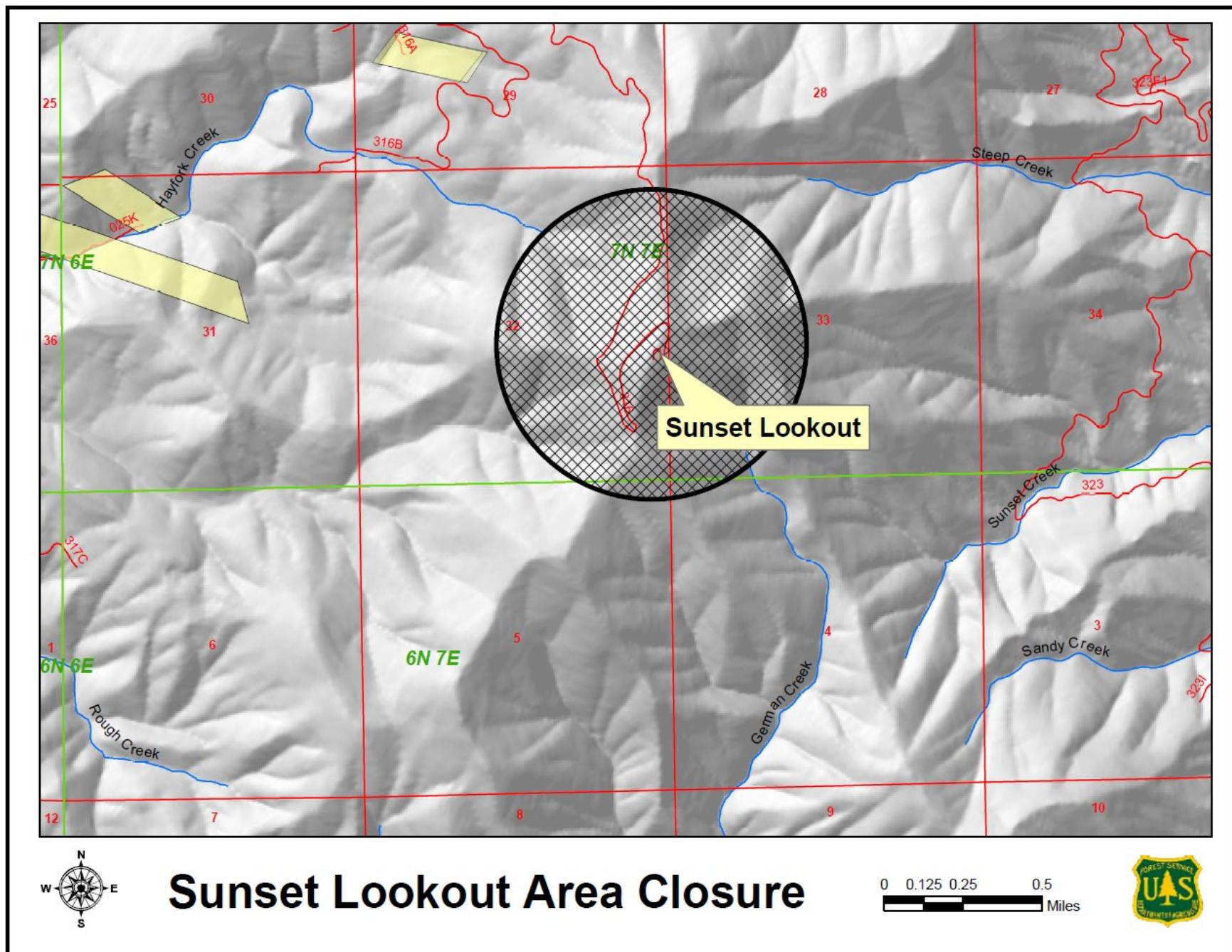
Permittee signature:

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 stipulated in my term grazing permit.

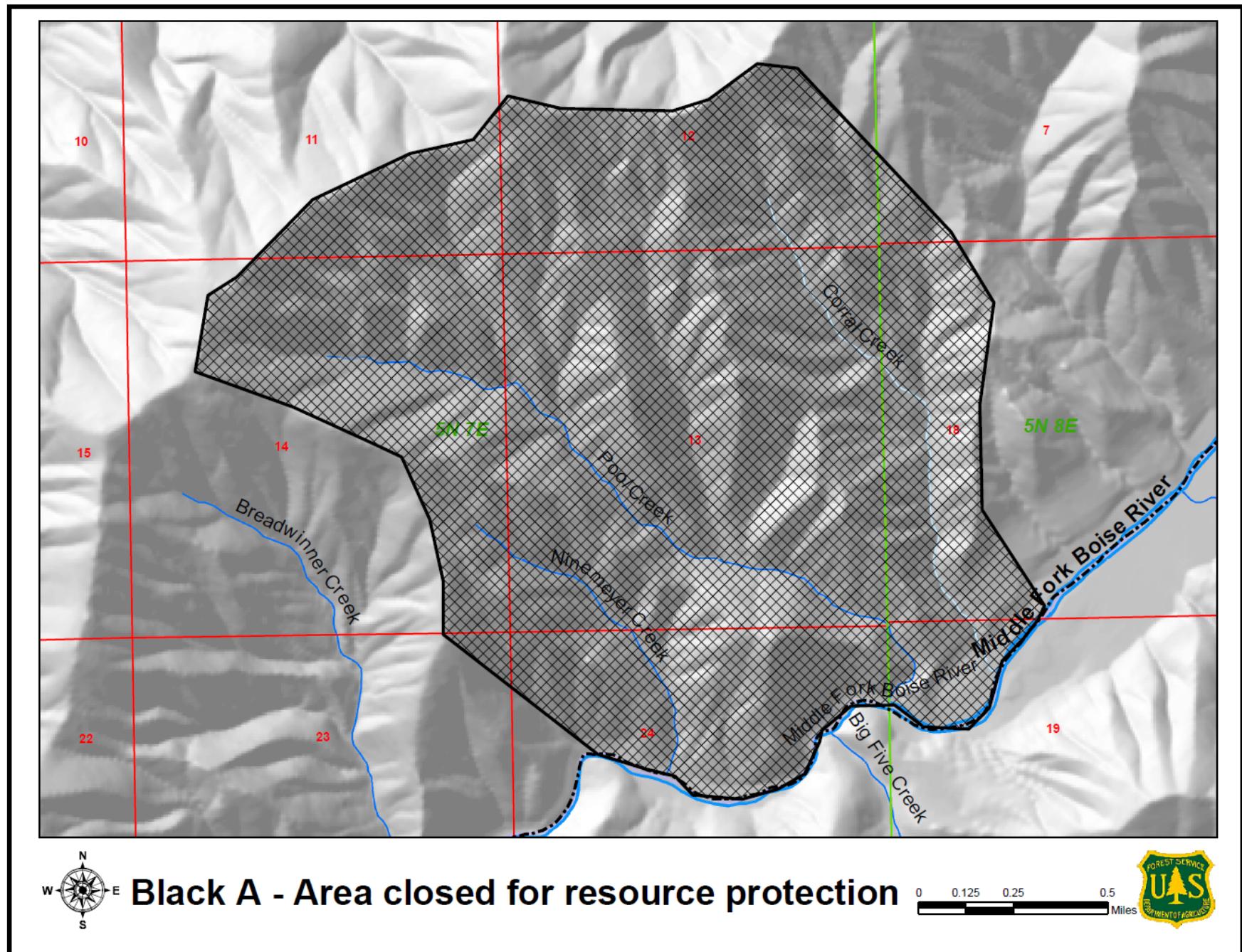
Appendix 1. Research Natural Areas Closed to grazing.



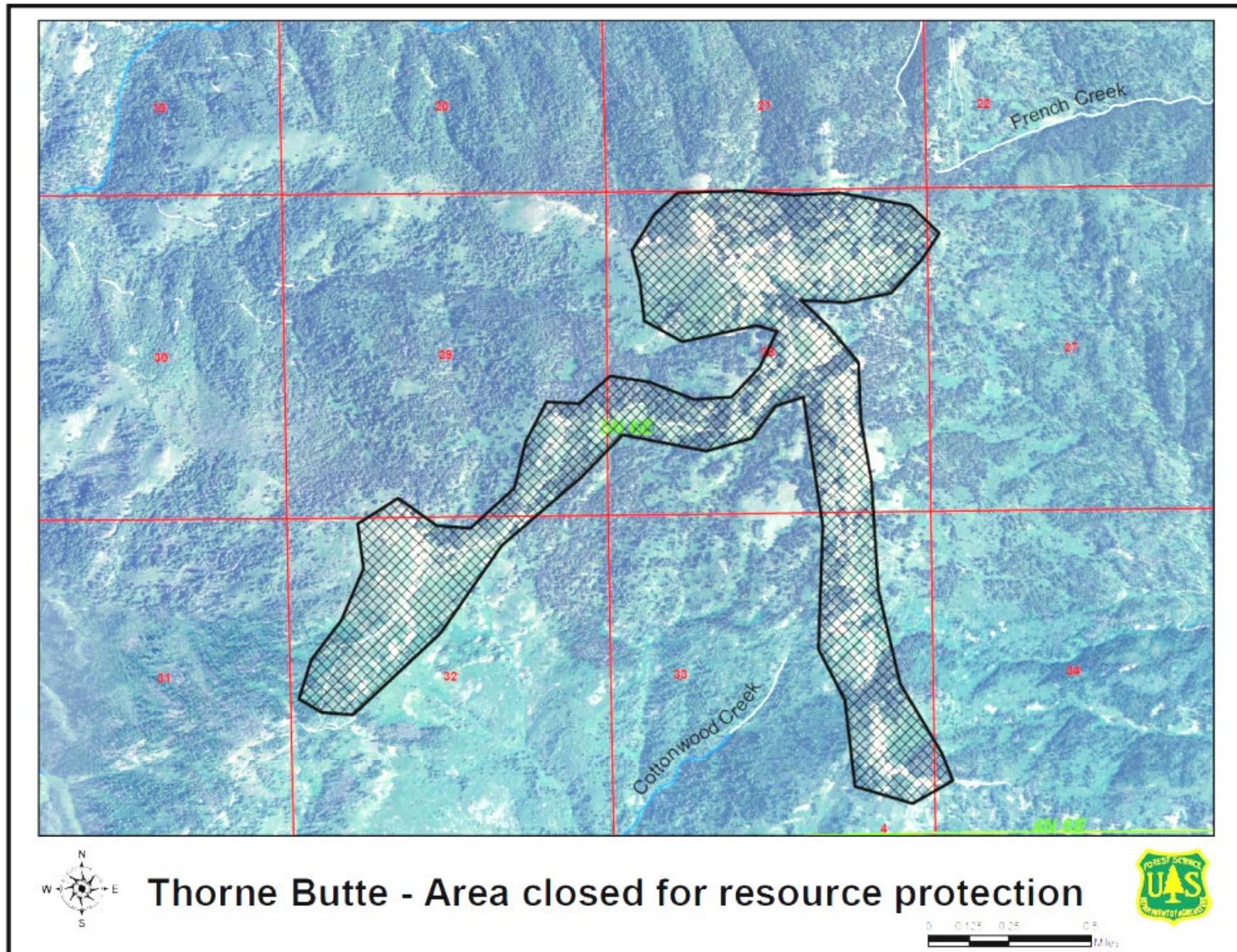
Appendix 2. Sunset Lookout area closure.



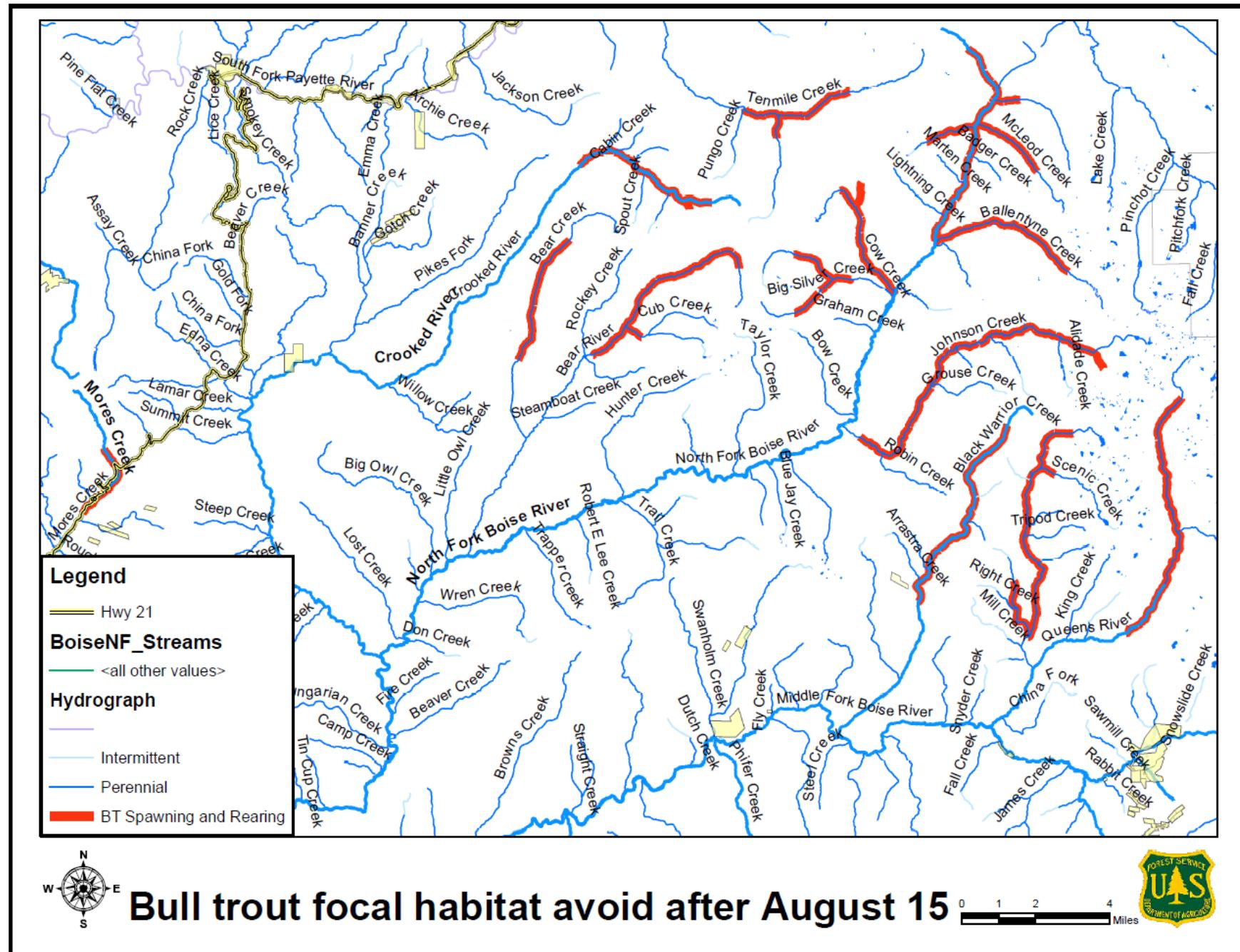
Appendix 3. Black A – Closed for resource protection.



Appendix 4. Thorne Butte area closed for resource protection.



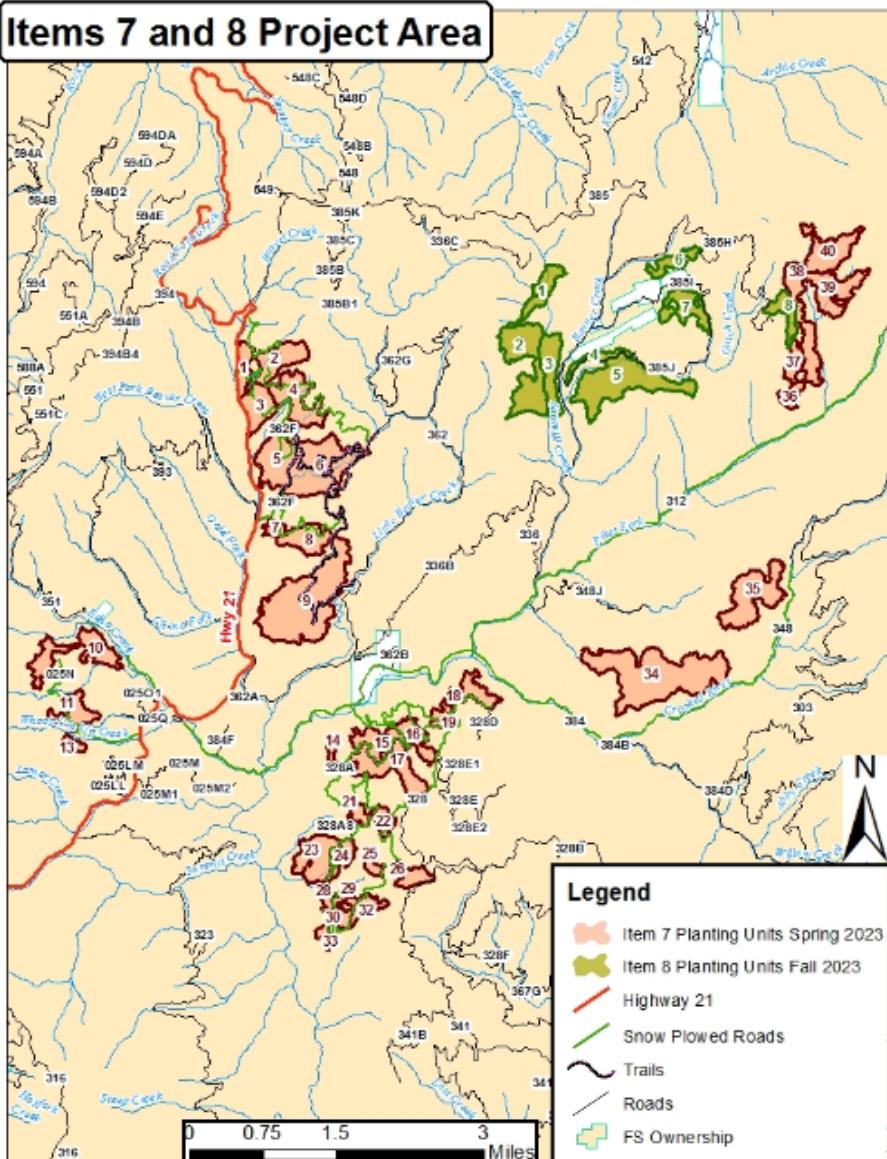
Appendix 5. Bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. Avoid after August 15.



Appendix 6: Items 7 and 8 Project Area. Item 7 is Crooked River and will be planted Spring 2023. Closed until 2026. Item 8 is Banner Creek and will be planted in fall of 2023. Closed until 2026.

Area Description: East of Highway 21 between Beaver Creek and Little Beaver Creek. East and West of 385 road along Sawmill Creek, Banner Creek, and Gotch Creek. North of Pike's Fork Creek and 312 road. 328, 328A, 328E, and 328D road systems. North of 384 and 348 roads and Crooked River.

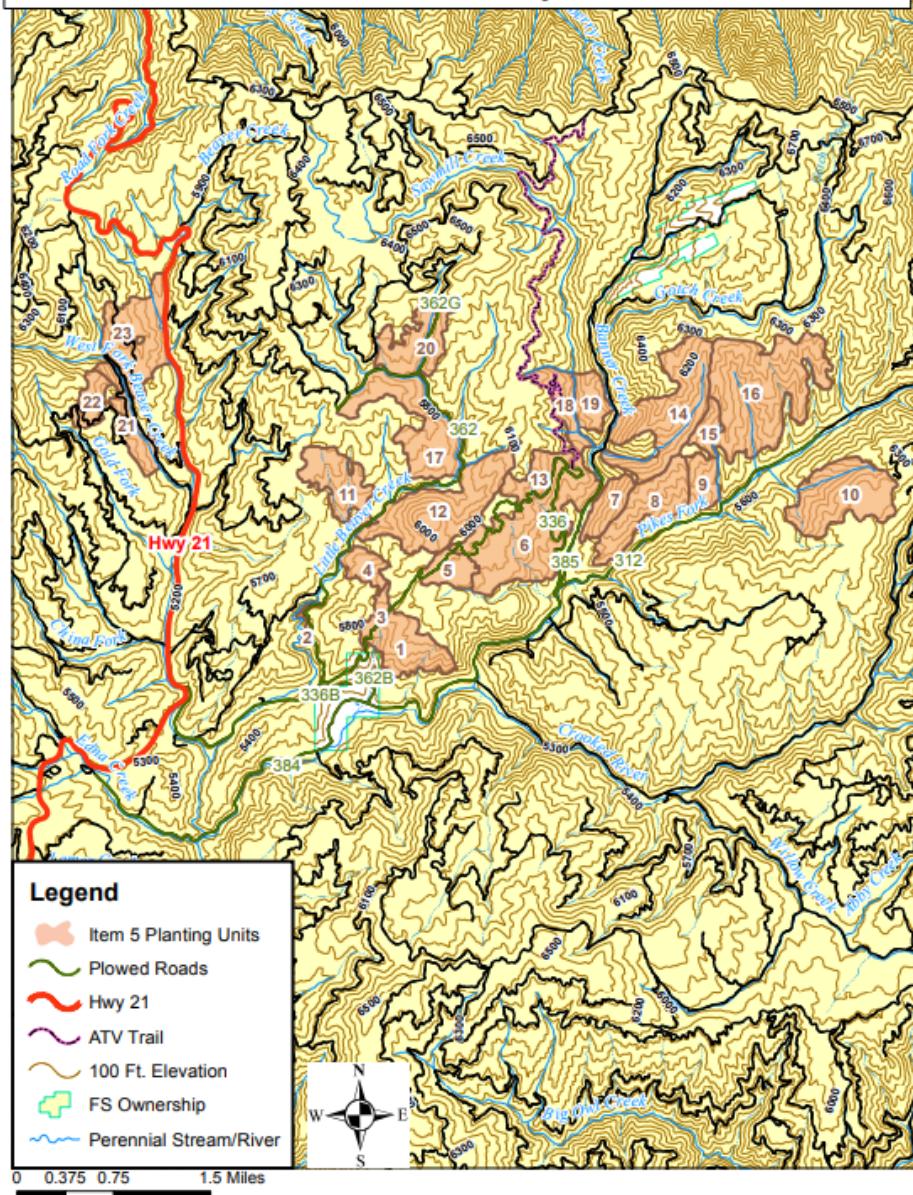
Items 7 and 8 Project Area



Appendix 7: Beaver Creek Spring Project Area. Planted in Spring 2022 closed until 2025.

Area Description: West of Highway 21 along West Fork Beaver Creek. North of Pike's Fork Creek and the 312 road. Along Little Beaver Creek and Banner Creek. South of Pike's Fork Creek and North of Crooked River.

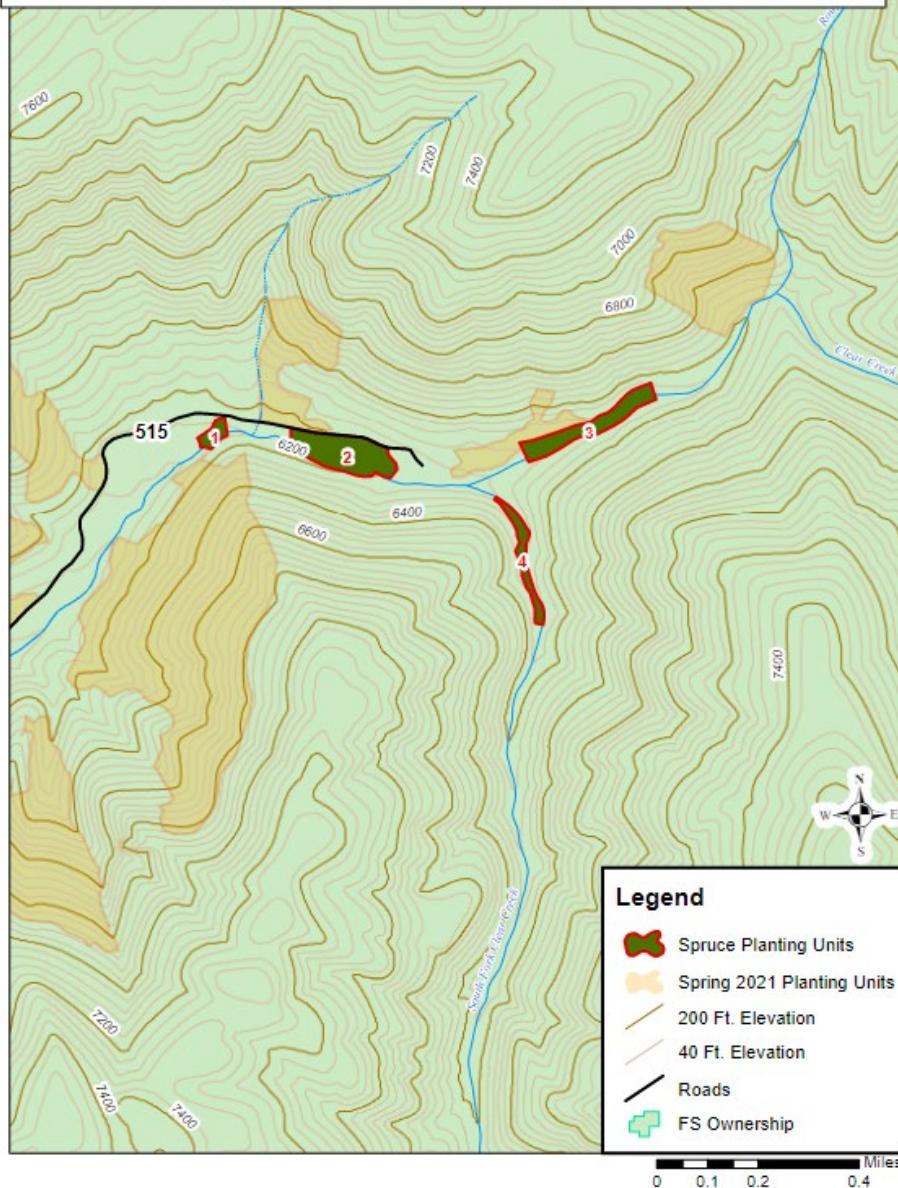
Item 5 Beaver Cr Project Area 2022



Appendix 8: Spruce Lowman 2021: Planted in fall 2021. Closed until 2024.

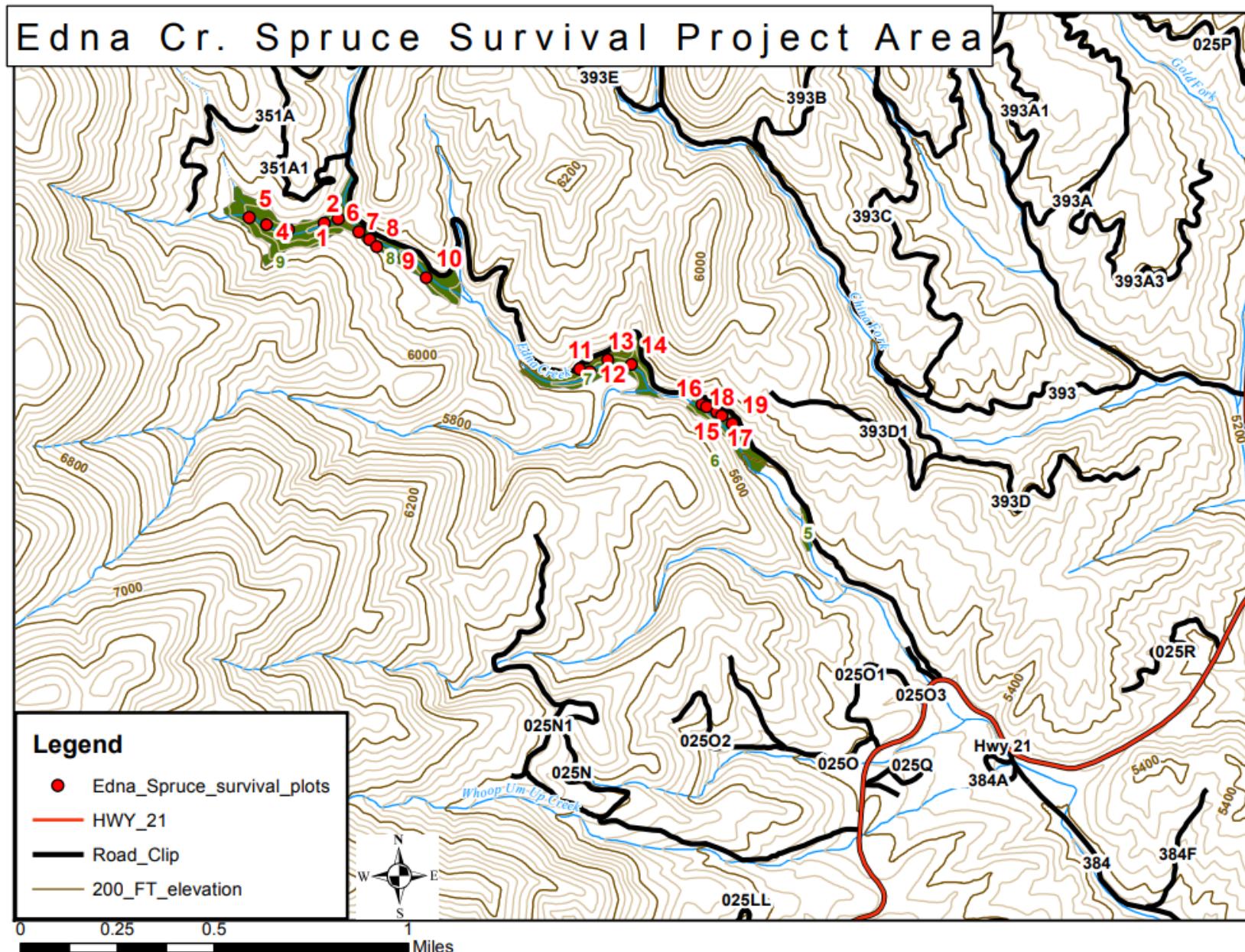
Area Description: Along Clear Creek and South Fork Clear Creek, east of the 515 road.

Item 2 Spruce Planting Lowman, ID

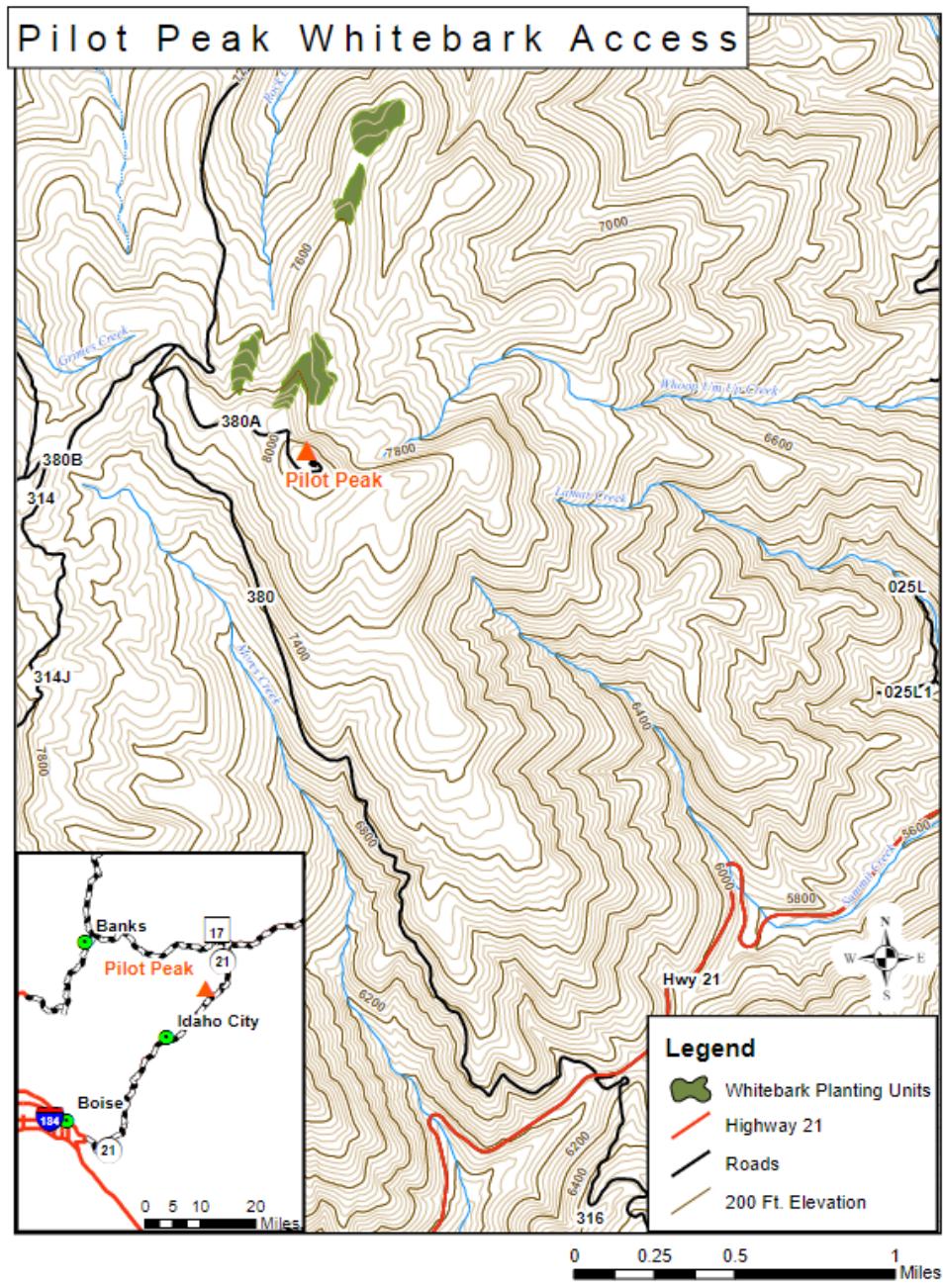


Appendix 9: Spruce Idaho City 2021. Planted in Fall of 2021 closed until 2024.

Area Description: North and South of Edna Creek and 351 road.

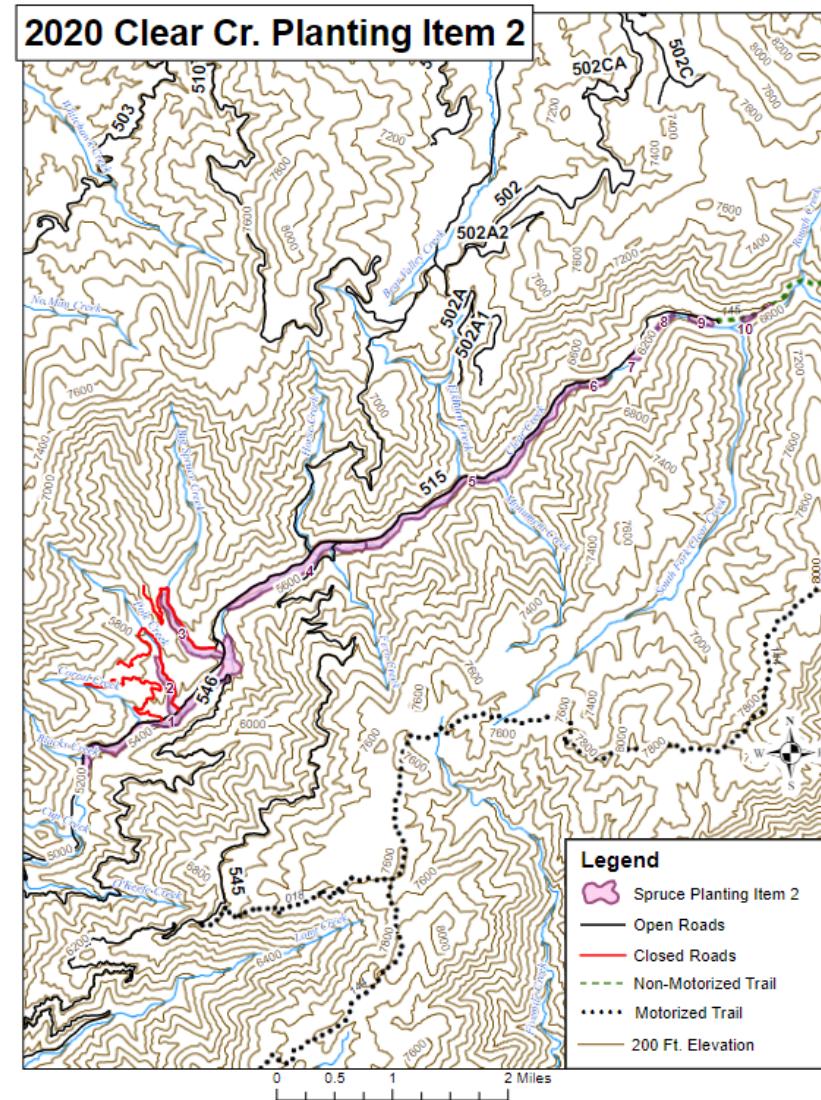
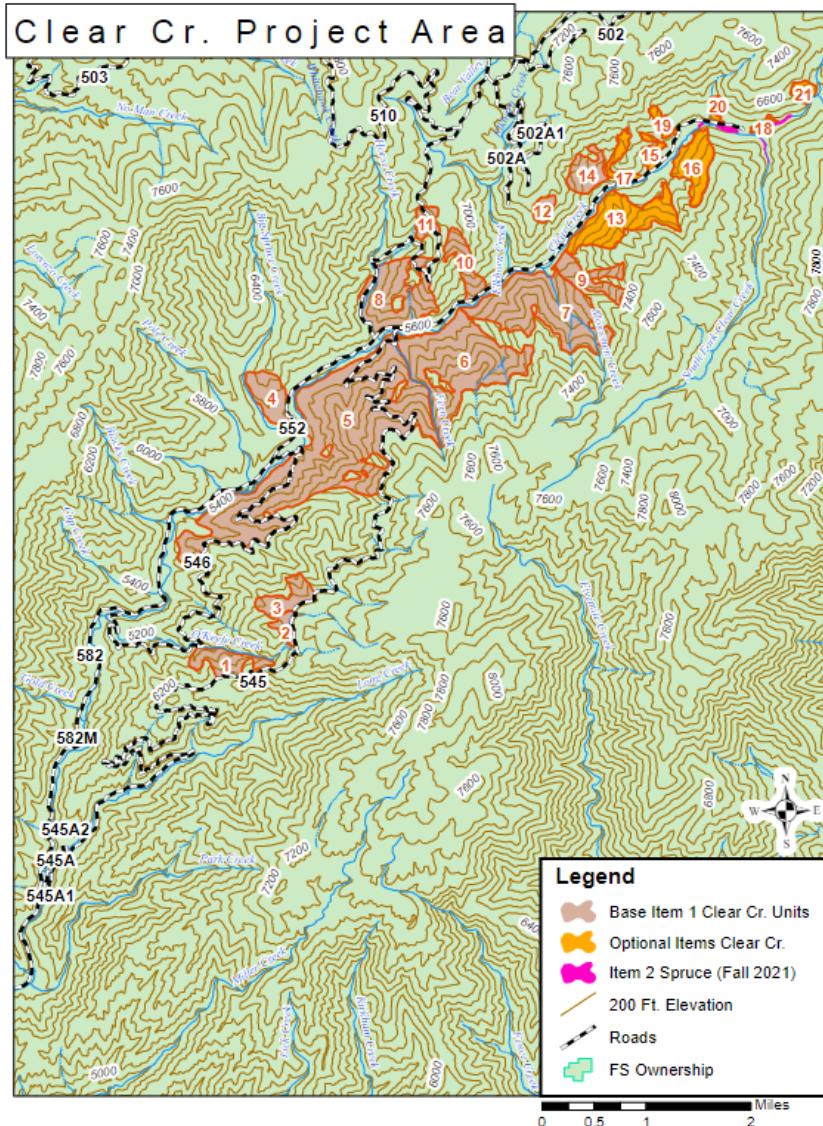


Appendix 10: Pilot Peak Whitebark Access. Planted in fall 2021. Closed until 2024.
Area Description: North of Pilot Peak.

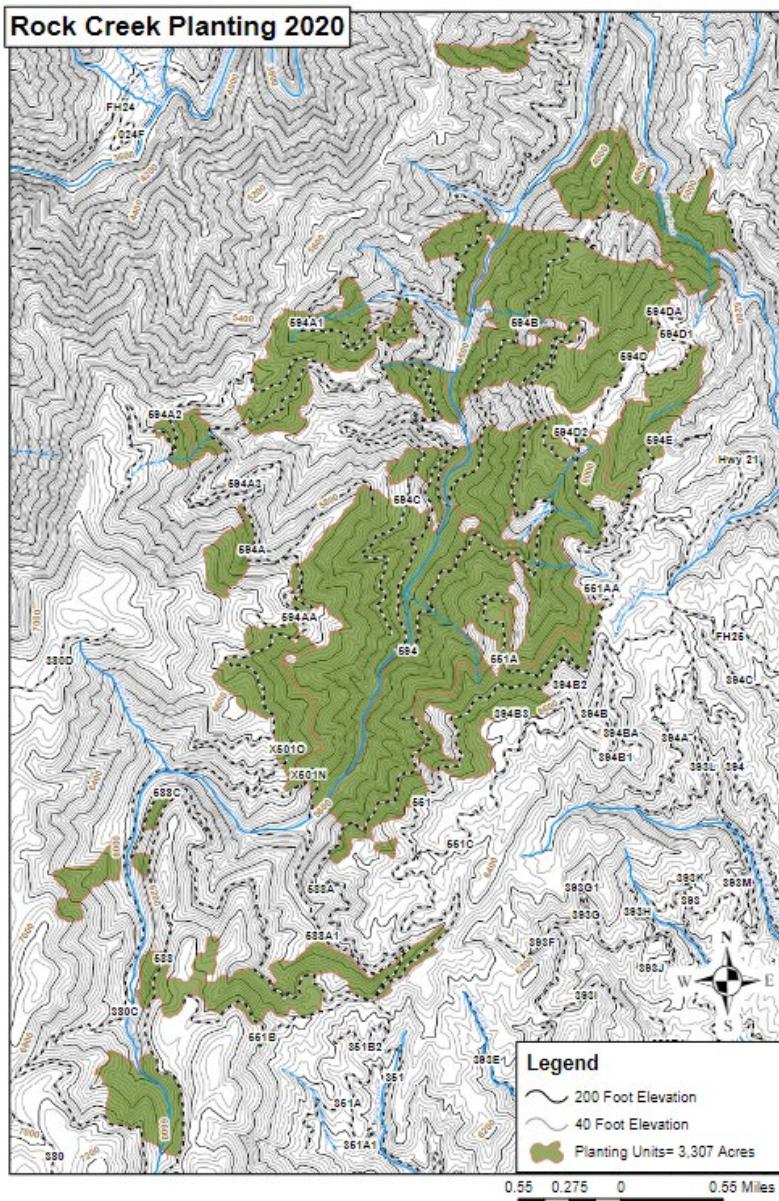


Appendix 11: Clear Creek Project: Planted spring 2021. Closed until 2024.

Area Description: North and South of Clear Creek and along 552 road. East and west of 545 and 546 road.



Appendix 11: Rock Creek Planting 2020. Planted in spring 2020. Avoid these units. No bedding or nooning within units.
Area Description: West of Highway 21 along Rock Creek. Along 594 road system, 551A, 551B, 394B, and 588A.



Appendix 12: 2023 EnduroRide Rabbit Creek Course. June 2-4th. Avoid these trails and roads.

Area Description: East of Highway 21 towards Rabbit Creek Summit, South to Bald Mountain, West to Idaho City, and North towards Sunset Mountain. Roads include: 693, 591, 347, 327, 593, 663, 682, 697, 592, 291, 292, 295, 167, 322

