

# Wild Sheep Society of BC

Email: [Exec@wildsheepsociety.com](mailto:Exec@wildsheepsociety.com)

Website: [www.wildsheepsociety.com](http://www.wildsheepsociety.com)

## Spences Bridge Sheep Count Volunteer Package



WILD SHEEP SOCIETY  
— OF BRITISH COLUMBIA —

# BIGHORN SHEEP SURVEY

ZONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 START TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
 END TIME \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM LEAD \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARTICIPANT \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARTICIPANT \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARTICIPANT \_\_\_\_\_

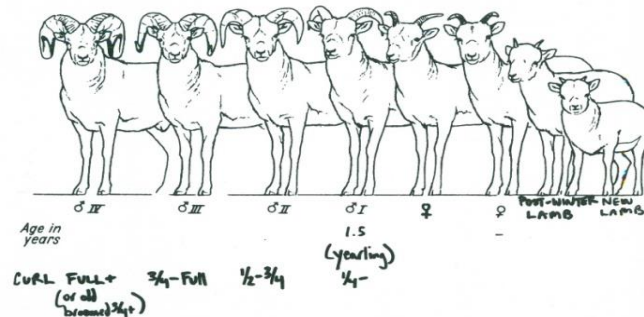
| GROUP NO. | TIME | RAMS |    |     |    |              |       | EWES* | LAMB | Unclassified ADULT | TOTAL SHEEP | COMMENTS |
|-----------|------|------|----|-----|----|--------------|-------|-------|------|--------------------|-------------|----------|
|           |      | I    | II | III | IV | Unclassified | TOTAL |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
|           |      |      |    |     |    |              |       |       |      |                    |             |          |
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## RAM CLASSIFICATIONS

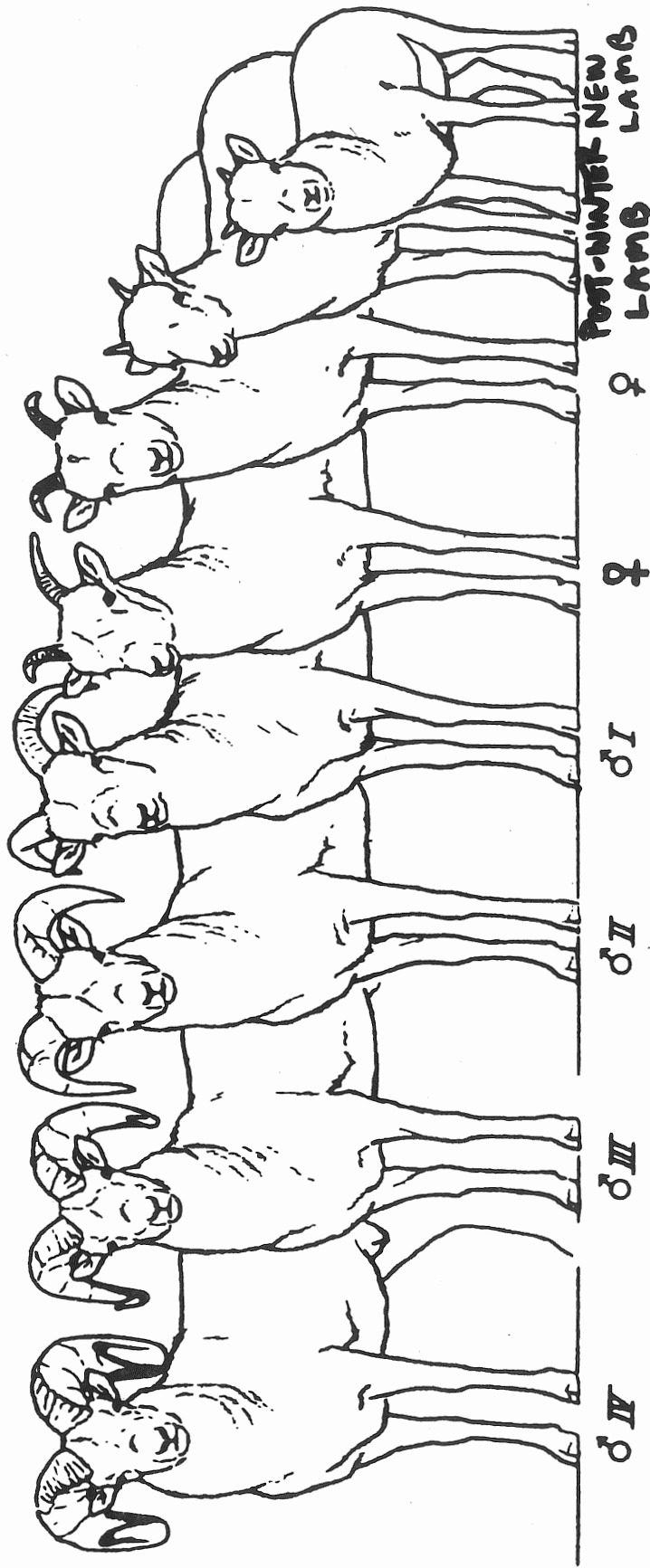
- I - 1/4 to 1/2 curl
- II - 1/2 to 3/4 curl
- III - 3/4 curl to full curl (slightly broomed)
- IV - full curl or better (or older rams & heavily broomed)

\*EWE CATEGORY MAY INCLUDE SOME YEARLING RAMS

## CLASSIFICATIONS FOR SPRING SHEEP SURVEYS



# CLASSIFICATIONS FOR SPRING SHEEP SURVEYS



Age in  
years

(yearling)

$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$ -Full

Full+  
(or old  
browned  $\frac{3}{4}$ yr)

1.5

♂ IV

♂ III

♂ II

♂ I

♀

♀

POST-WINTER NEW  
LAMB

## Bighorn Sheep Ground Survey Guidelines

The following represent a few guidelines to help ensure data collected during multi-zone/multi-observer ground surveys are as accurate and consistent as possible.

1. **Be methodical and take your time when looking for sheep.** Cover your assigned survey zone in an orderly fashion, and spend time observing all areas possible. Even if you don't see sheep at first, they may step out from behind a rocky outcrop or hill and become visible, so please take it slow.
2. **Only record sheep observed within your assigned survey zone.** Zone boundaries are often easily identifiable water features, valleys or roads, and sheep can occur on both sides of these features. If you see sheep on both sides of a zone boundary, or sheep in a zone other than the one you are assigned to, only count and classify the sheep within your zone. *Recording sheep that occur outside of your assigned zone will lead to double-counting of sheep.*
3. Along with recording information on the Bighorn Sheep Survey sheet, **mark all sheep groups sited on the topographic zone map provided** to you, using the Group No. recorded on the survey sheet. The group number on the data sheet should correspond with a number written on the map in the approximate location of the group of sheep.
4. If a group of sheep is moving in a particular direction while being observed, **record the direction of movement on the zone map provided** and note the direction of movement in the "Comments" section of the survey sheet. This is particularly important when sheep are observed near the boundary of a survey zone.
5. **Take your time when counting and classifying sheep.** Please classify sheep as either
  - a. rams
  - b. ewes
  - c. lambs – for spring surveys, any lambs observed will be post-winter lambs (i.e. sheep almost 1 year old)

Writing down "20 ewes and lambs" is far less informative than recording "12 ewes and 8 lambs", so try to distinguish between ewes and lambs. It can be difficult to distinguish post-winter lambs, particularly male lambs, from ewes, particularly young ewes, so please take your time.

If you have the ability, you may further classify rams into different age categories. Classify rams as either Class I, II, III or IV rams.

To assist in the classification of sheep, Appendix I provides some photo samples of different sheep classes.

6. If a group of sheep are close enough, please take photographs of the groups and note the photo numbers in the "Comments" section of the survey sheet. You will need to send in copies of the photos along with the survey sheet.
7. Please print all information neatly and legibly. Also, record all observers first and last names at the top of all data sheets; there may be a need to contact observers after the survey is completed for clarification of data.
8. ***Have fun!***



APPENDIX I  
Classification Photos

Ewe (left) with a ram lamb (right)



Ewe lamb (left), Class I ram (middle), ewe (right)



Ram lamb (left), ewe lamb (right)





Four ewes and one ram lamb (middle)



Two ram lambs (left), one ewe lamb (middle), two ewes (right)





Class II ram



Ewe (left) and Class III ram (right)



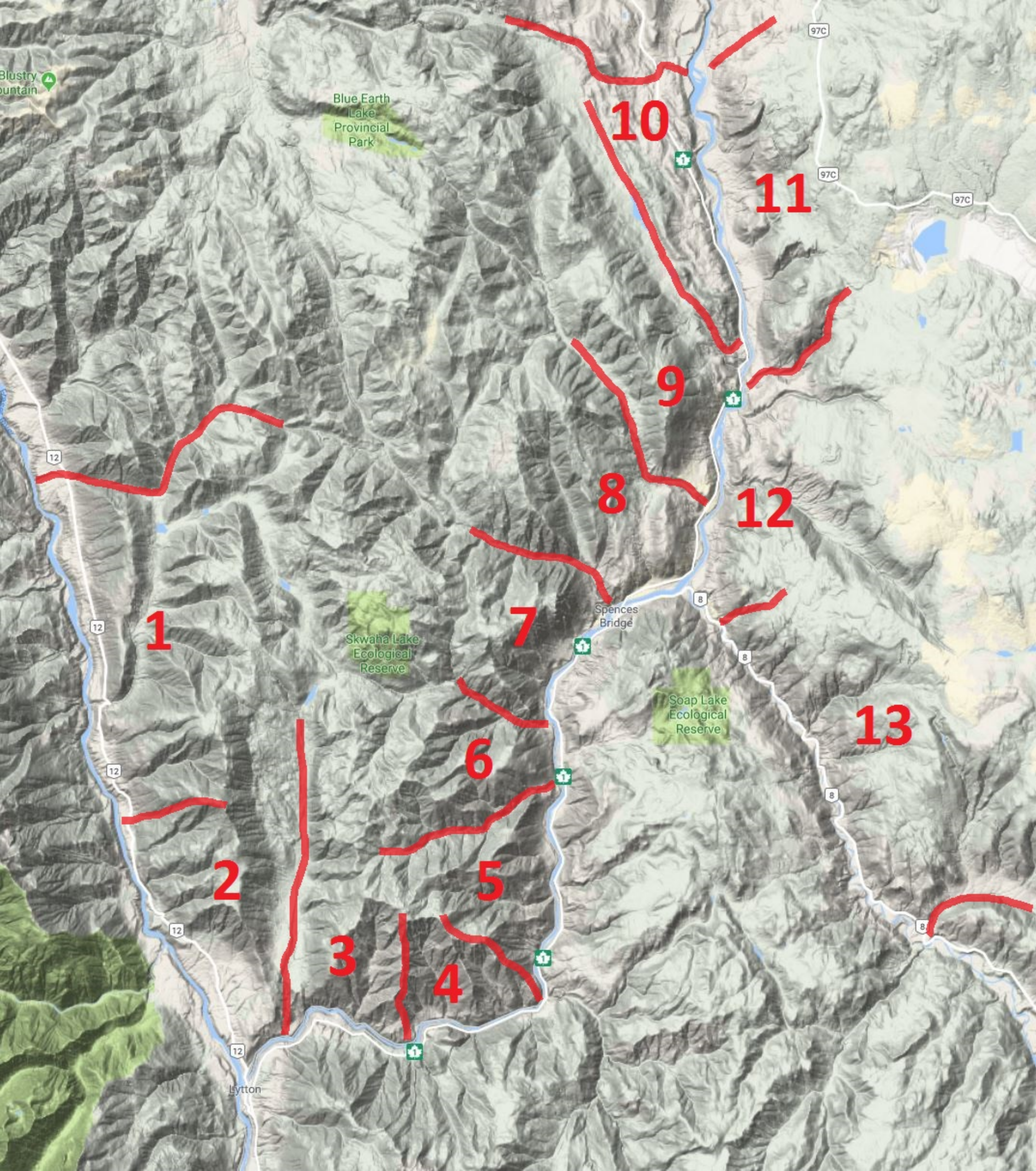
Two Class IV rams



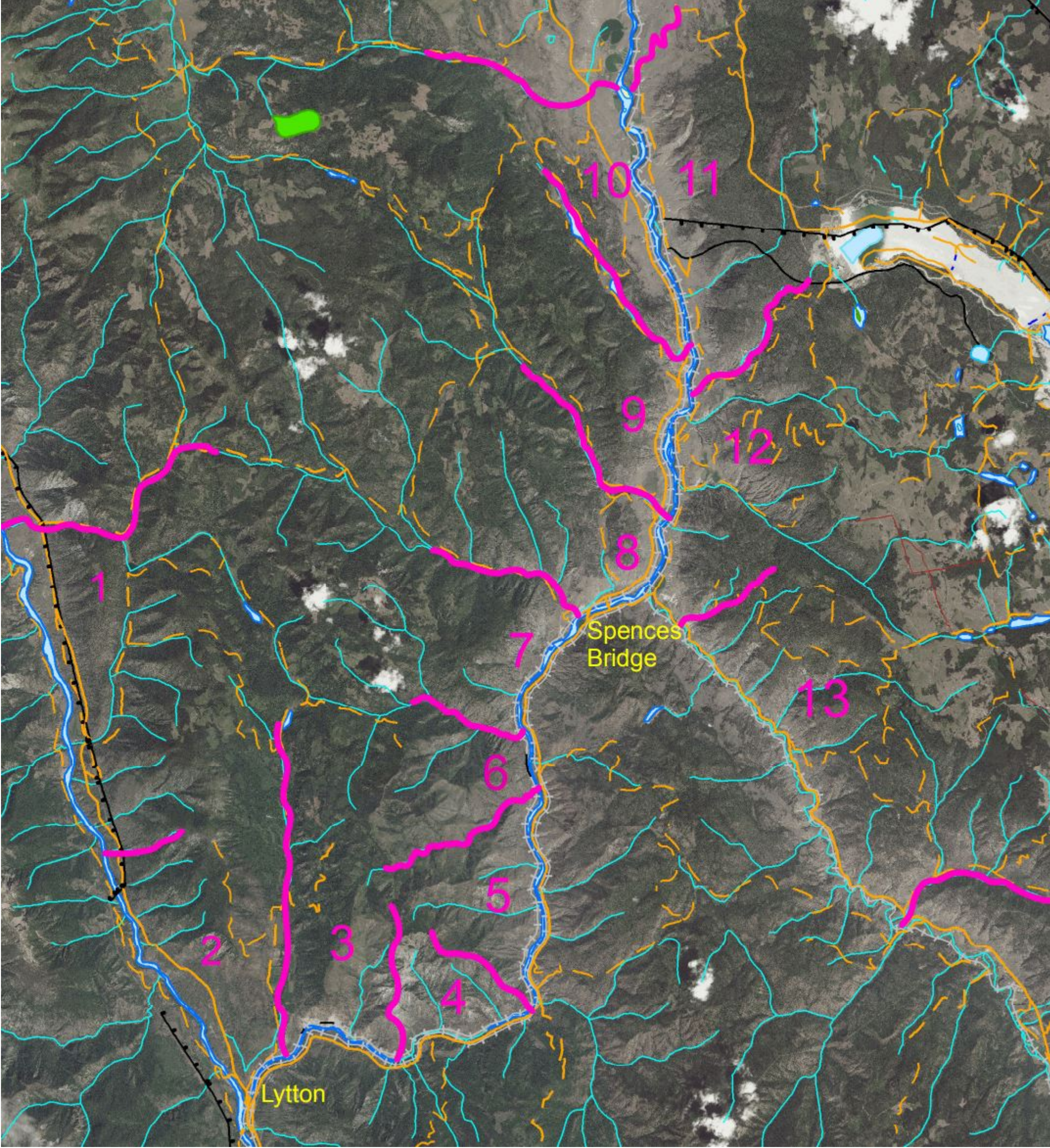
Class IV ram





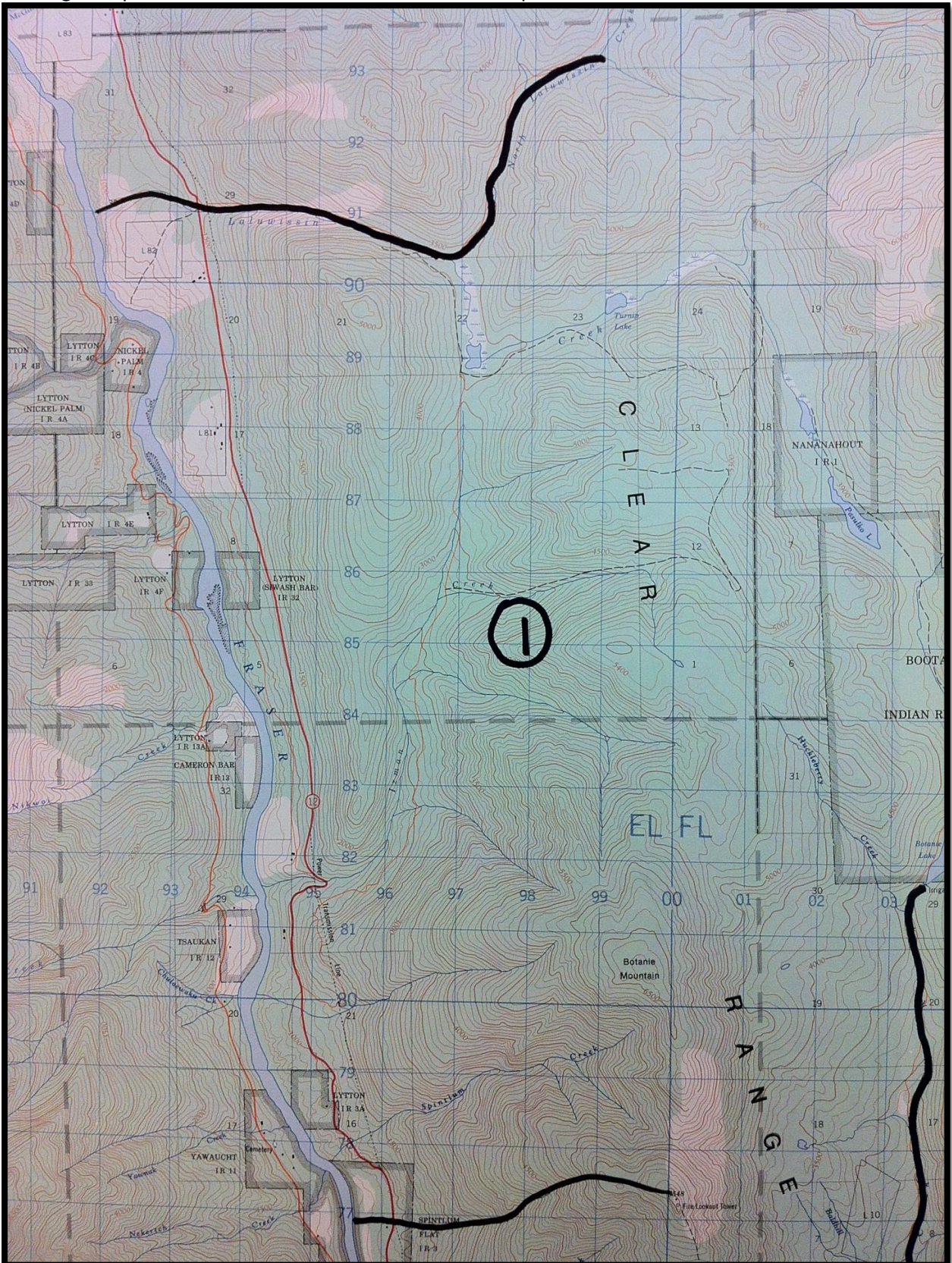






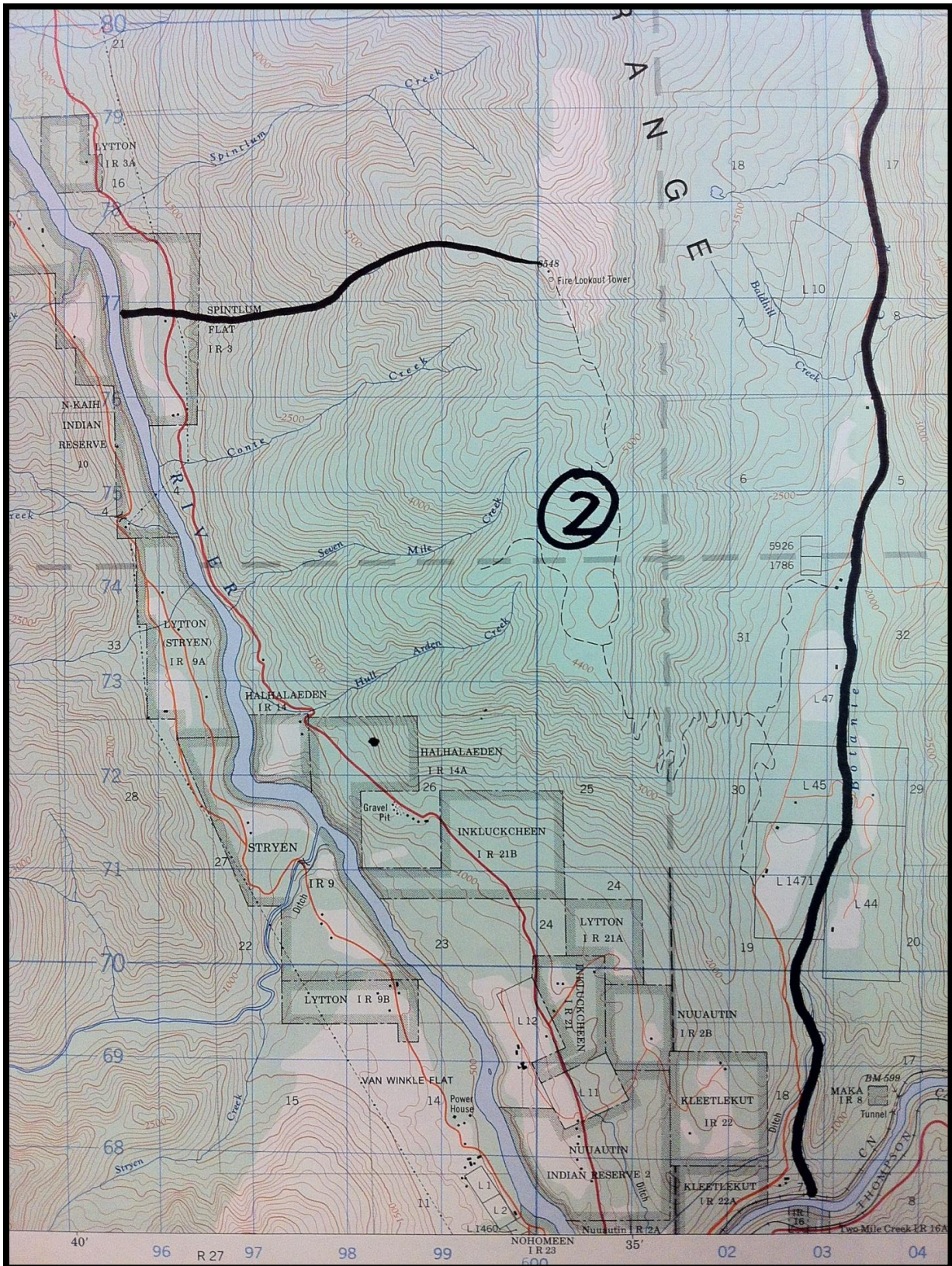


**Area 1:** East of the Fraser River, from the south side of Luluwissin Creek, to the north side of the creek bisecting the Spintlum Flat Indian Reserve and west of the peak with the Fire Lookout Tower.



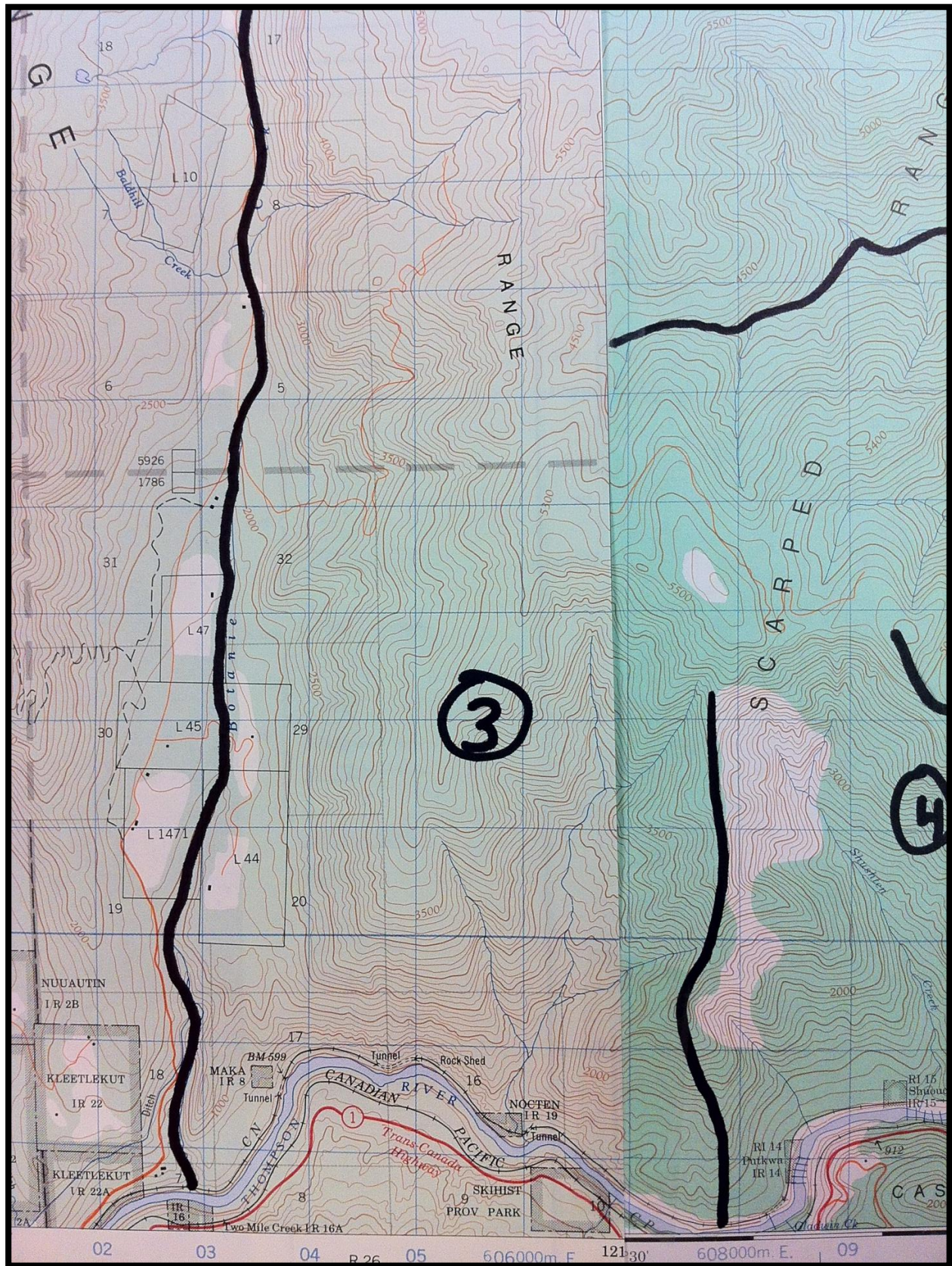


**Area 2:** East of the Fraser River, from the south side of the creek bisecting the Spintlum Flat Indian Reserve and west of the peak with the Fire Lookout Tower, to the west side of Botanie Creek.



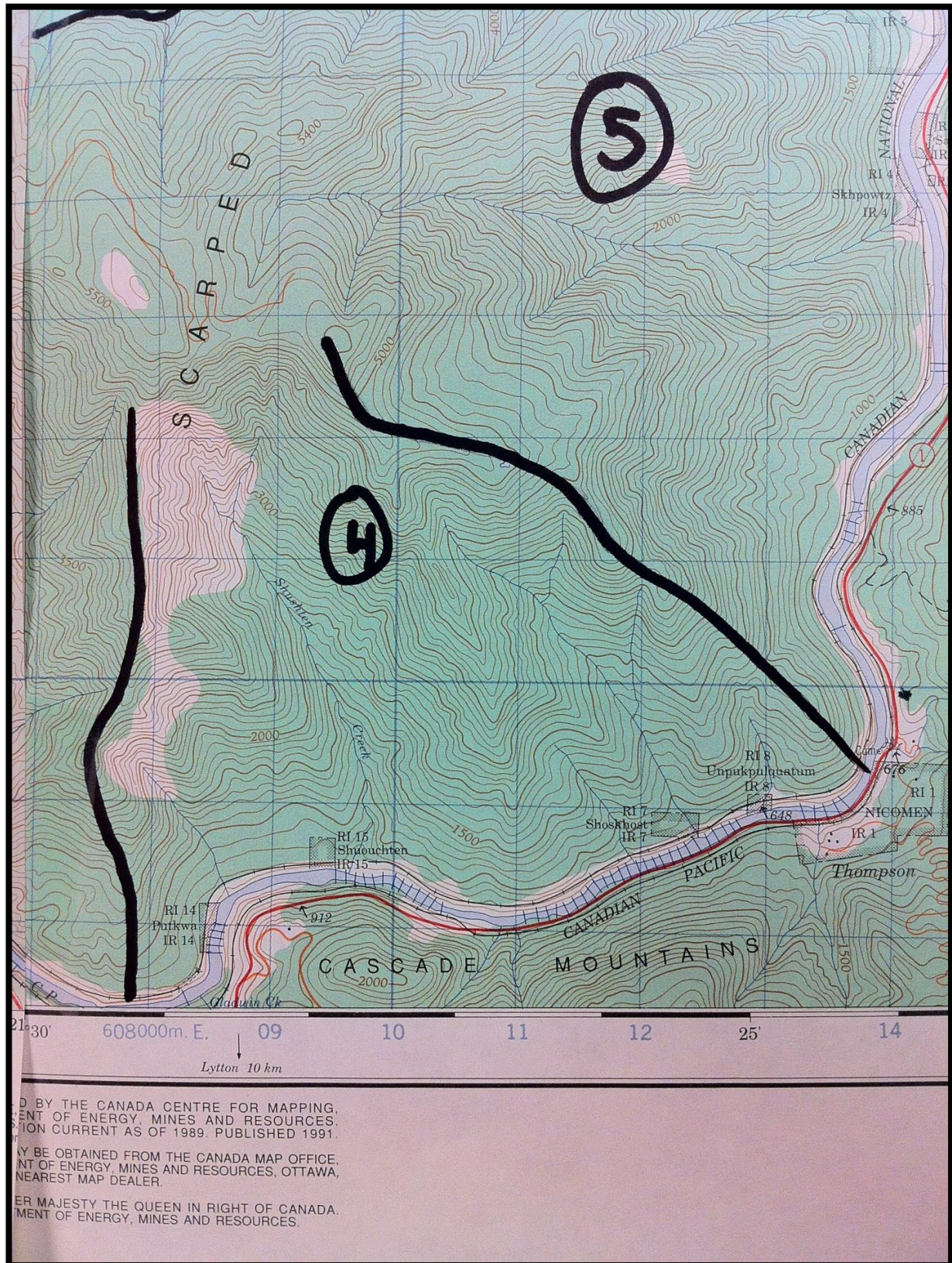


**Area 3:** North of the Thompson River, from the east side of Botanie Creek, to the west side of the ridge/height of land west of the Putkwa Indian Reserve.



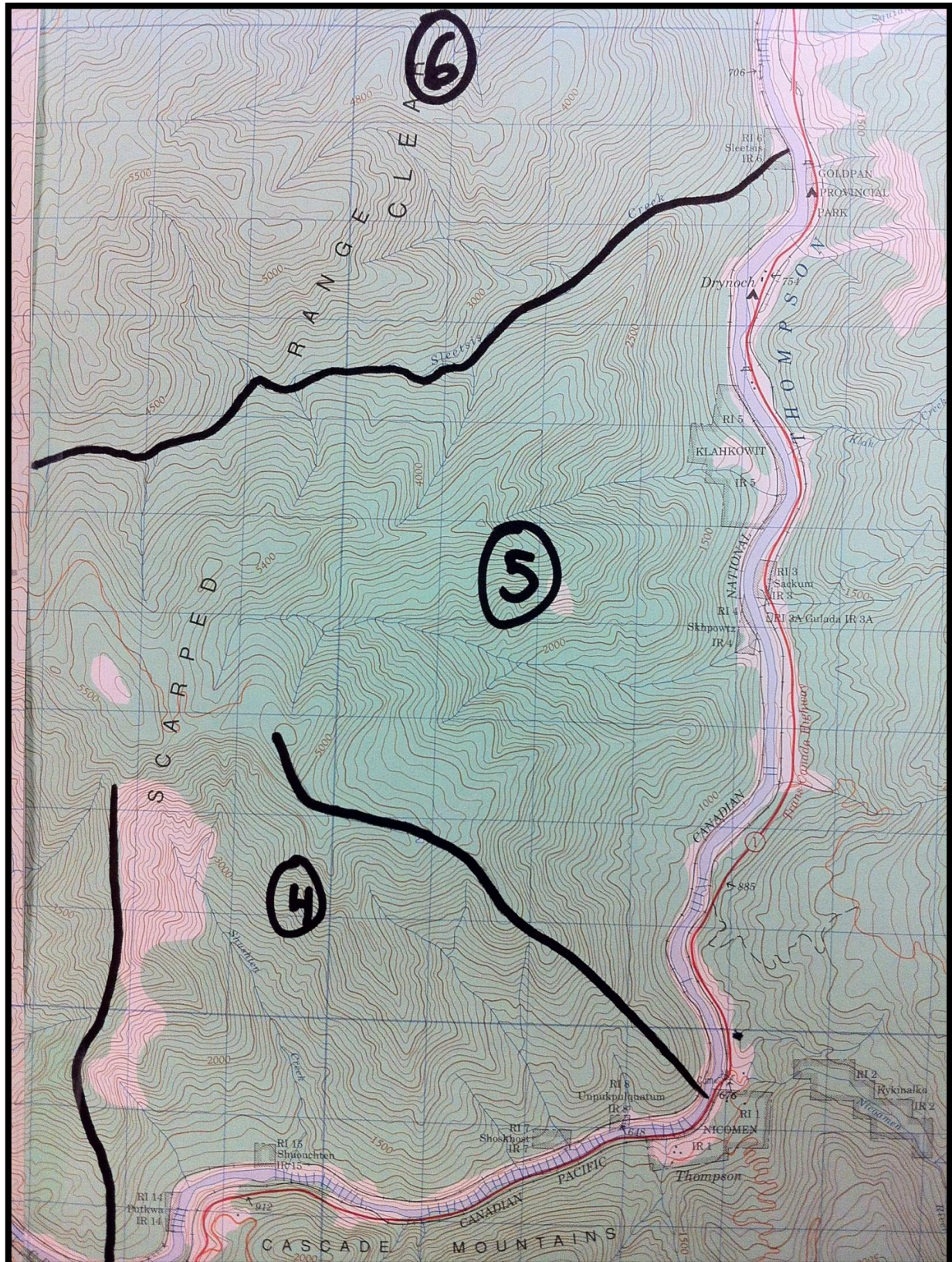


**Area 4:** North of the Thompson River, from the east side of the ridge/height of land west of the Putkwa Indian Reserve, to the west side of the ridge/height of land across from the Nicomen Indian Reserve.



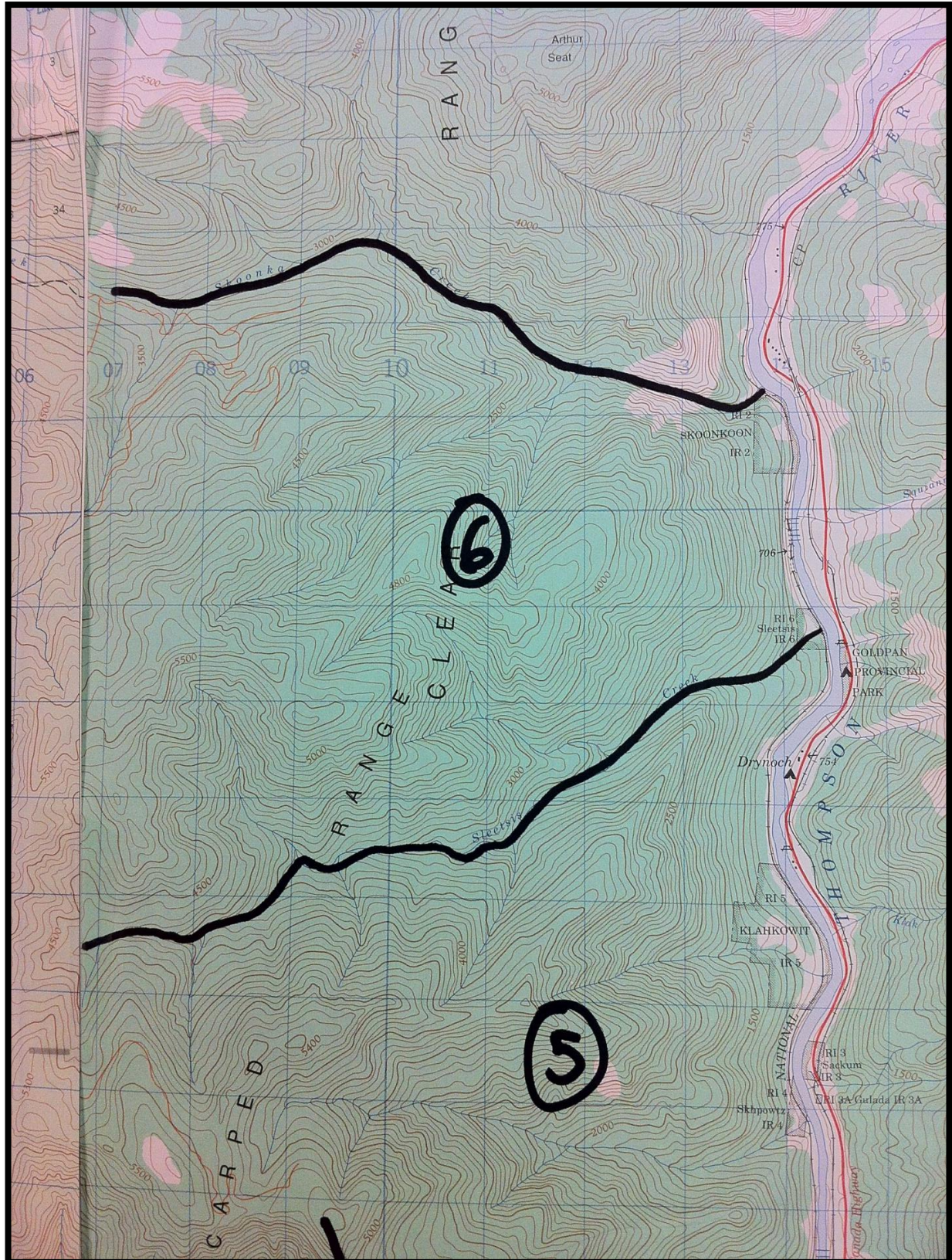


**Area 5:** West of the Thompson River, from the south side of Sleetsis Creek, to the northeast side of the ridge/height of land across from the Nicomen Indian Reserve.



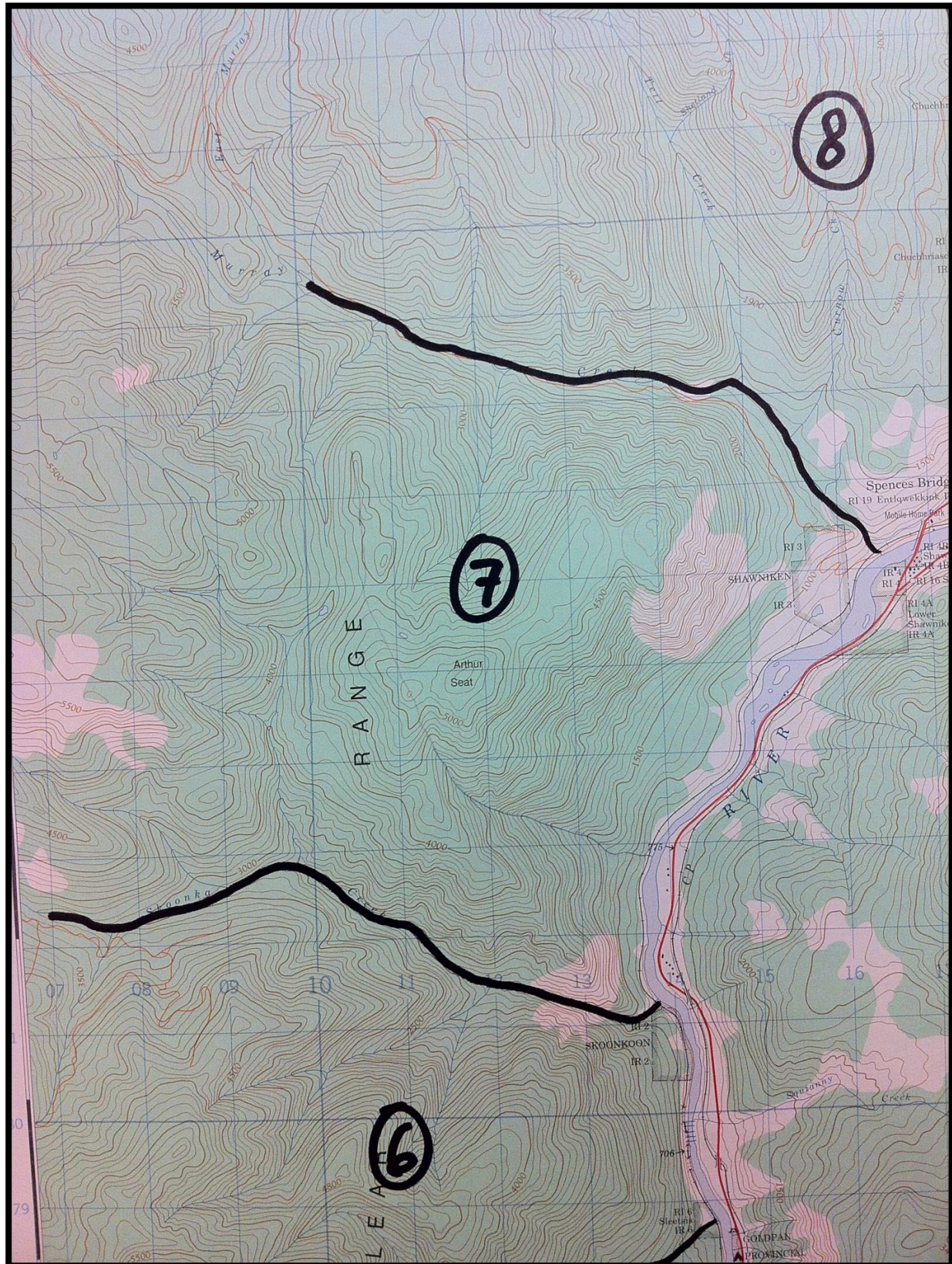


**Area 6:** West of the Thompson River, from the south side of Skoonka Creek, to the north side of Sleetsis Creek.



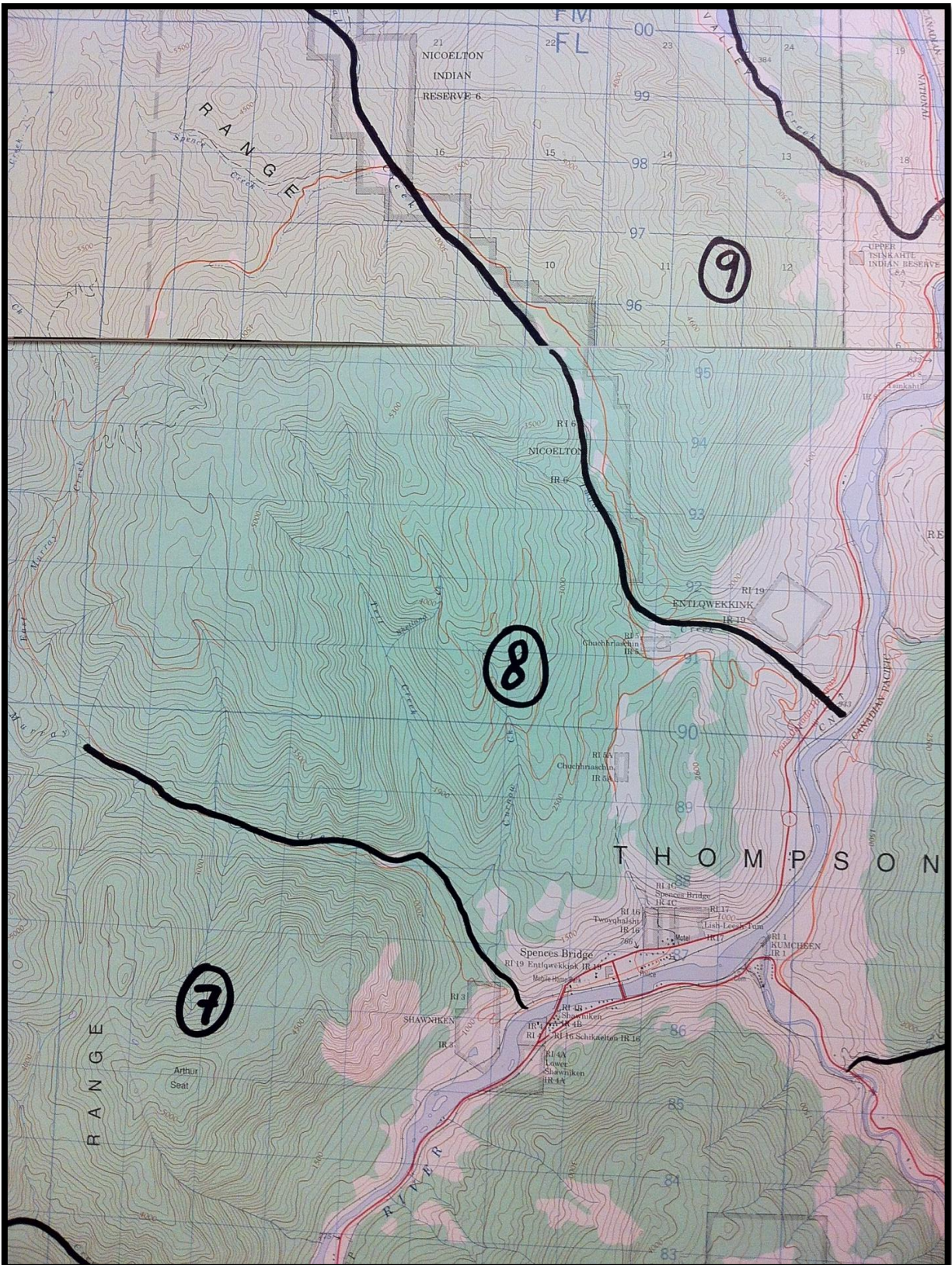


**Area 7:** West of the Thompson River, from the south side of Murray Creek, to the north side of Skoonka Creek.



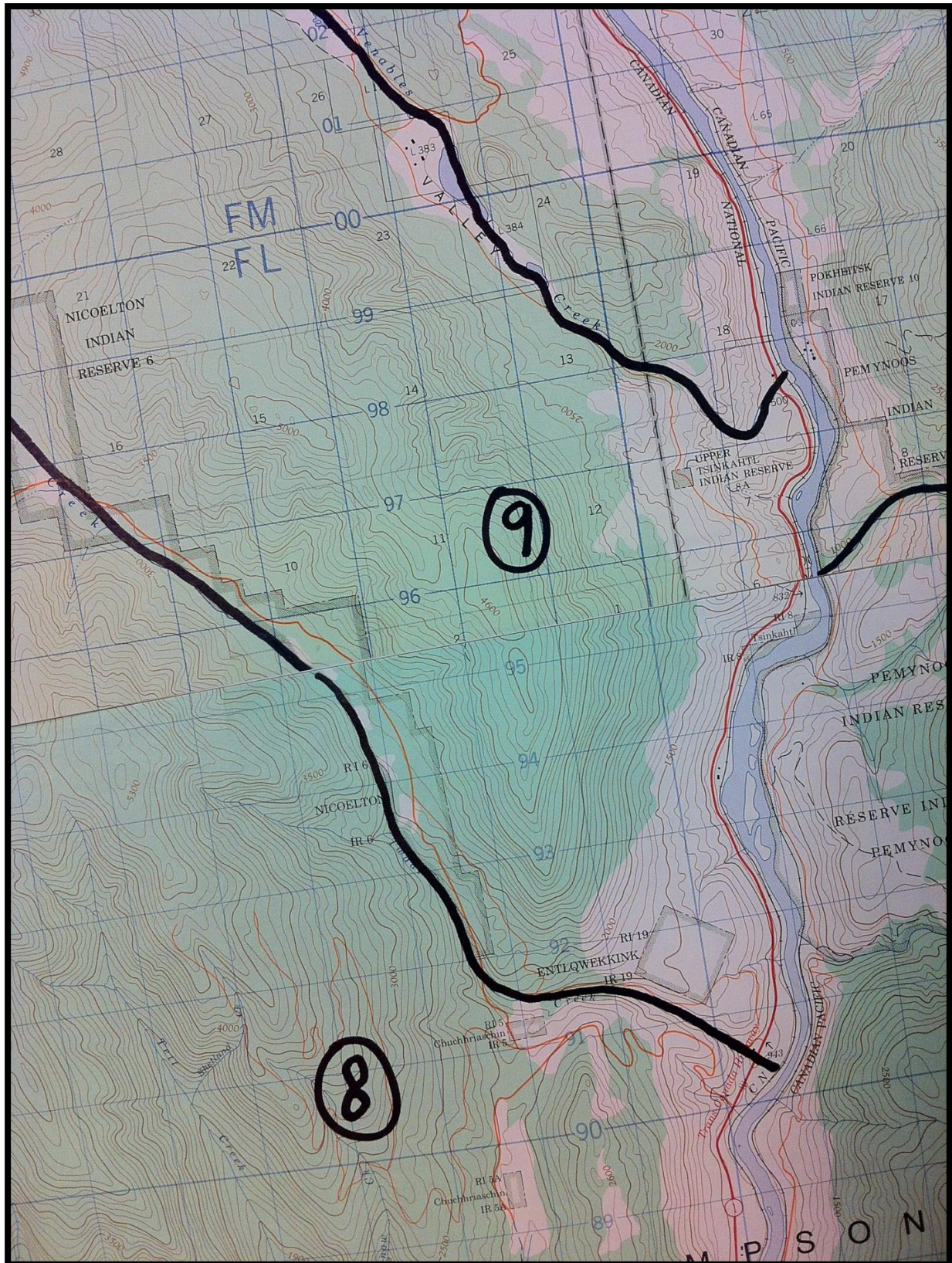


**Area 8:** West of the Thompson River, from the south side of Twaal Creek, to the north side of Murray Creek.



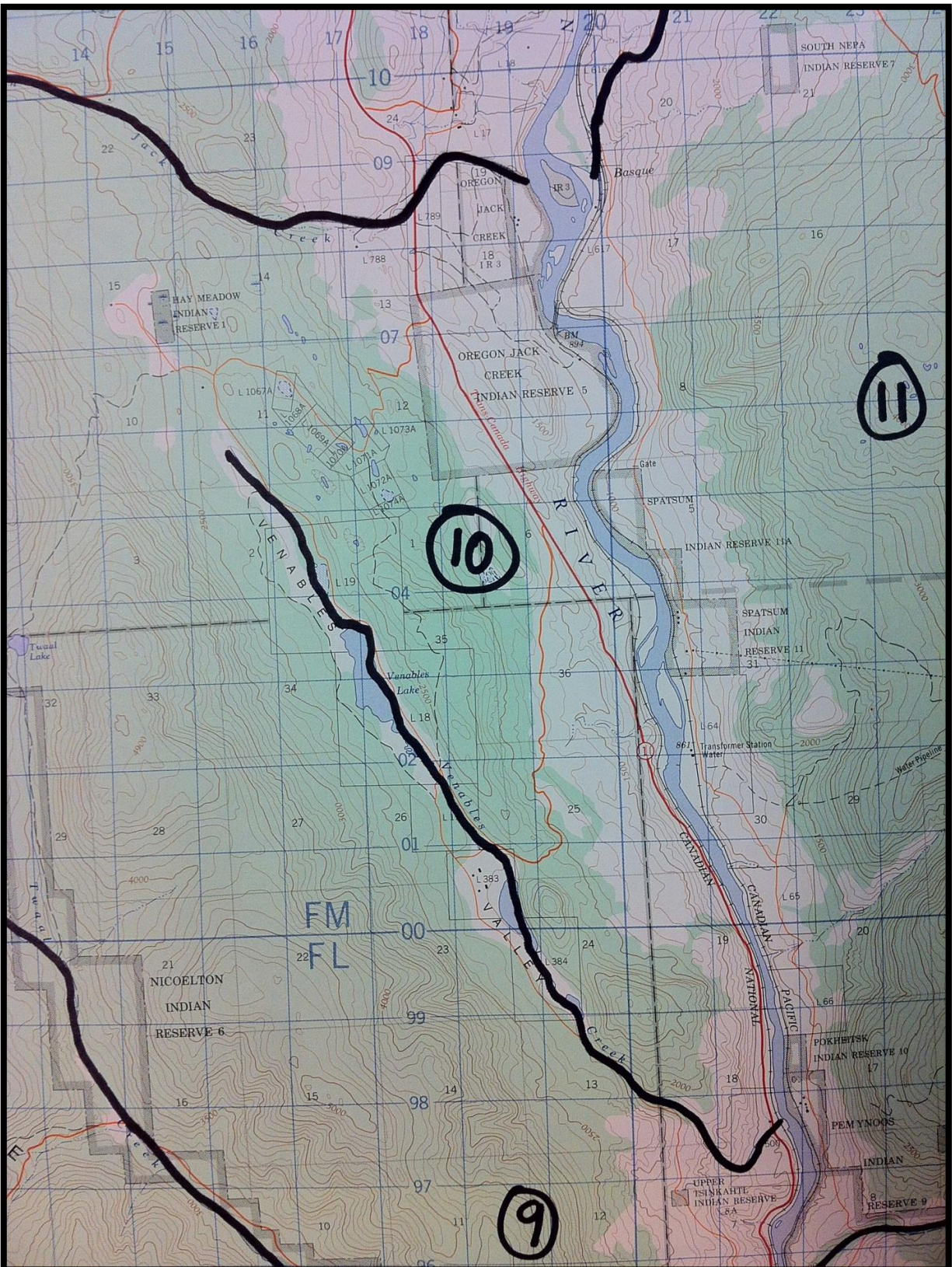


**Area 9:** West of the Thompson River, from the southwest side of Venables Creek, to the north side of Twaal Creek.



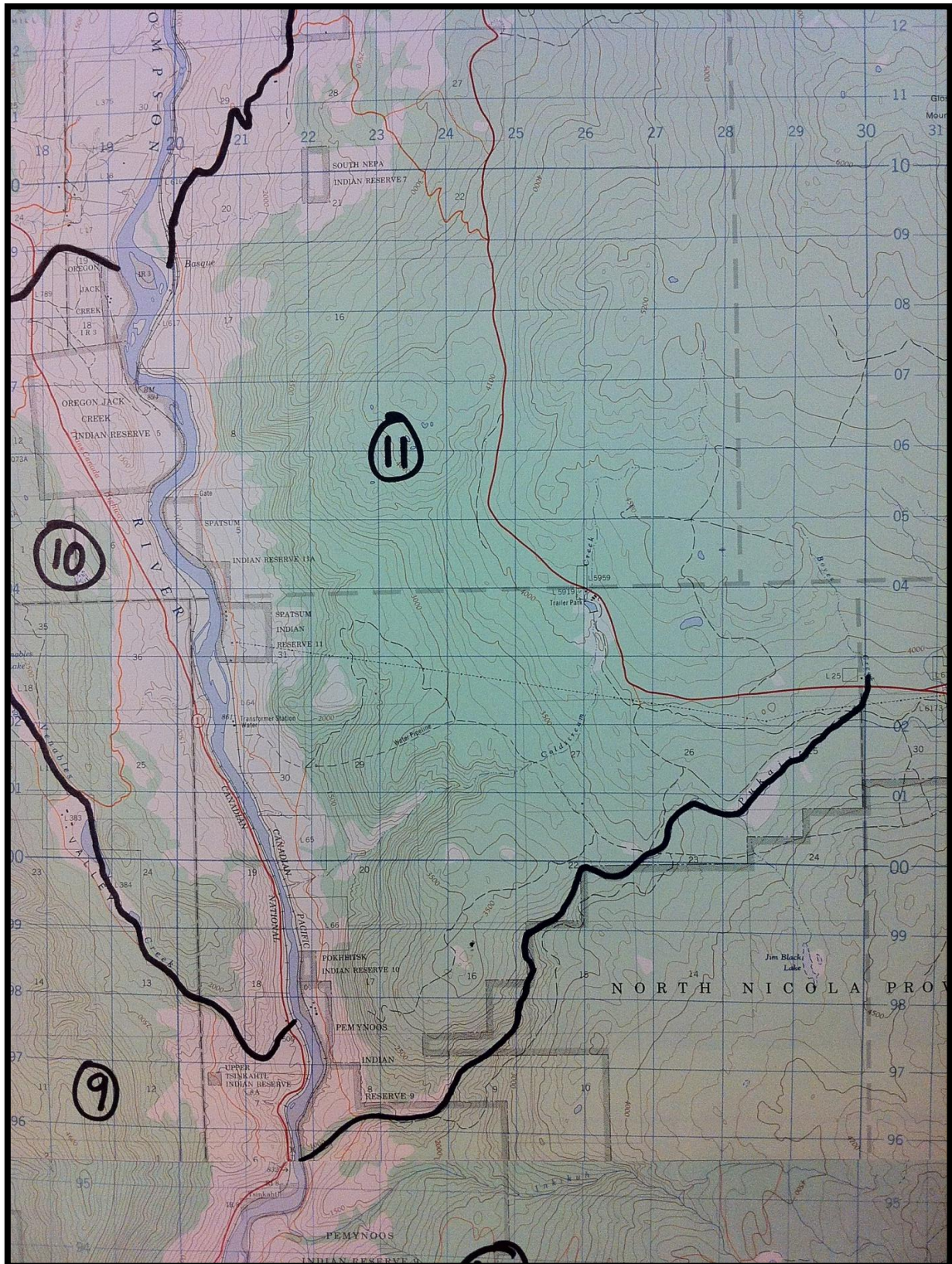


**Area 10:** West of the Thompson River, from the south side of Oregon Jack Creek to the northeast side of Venables Creek.



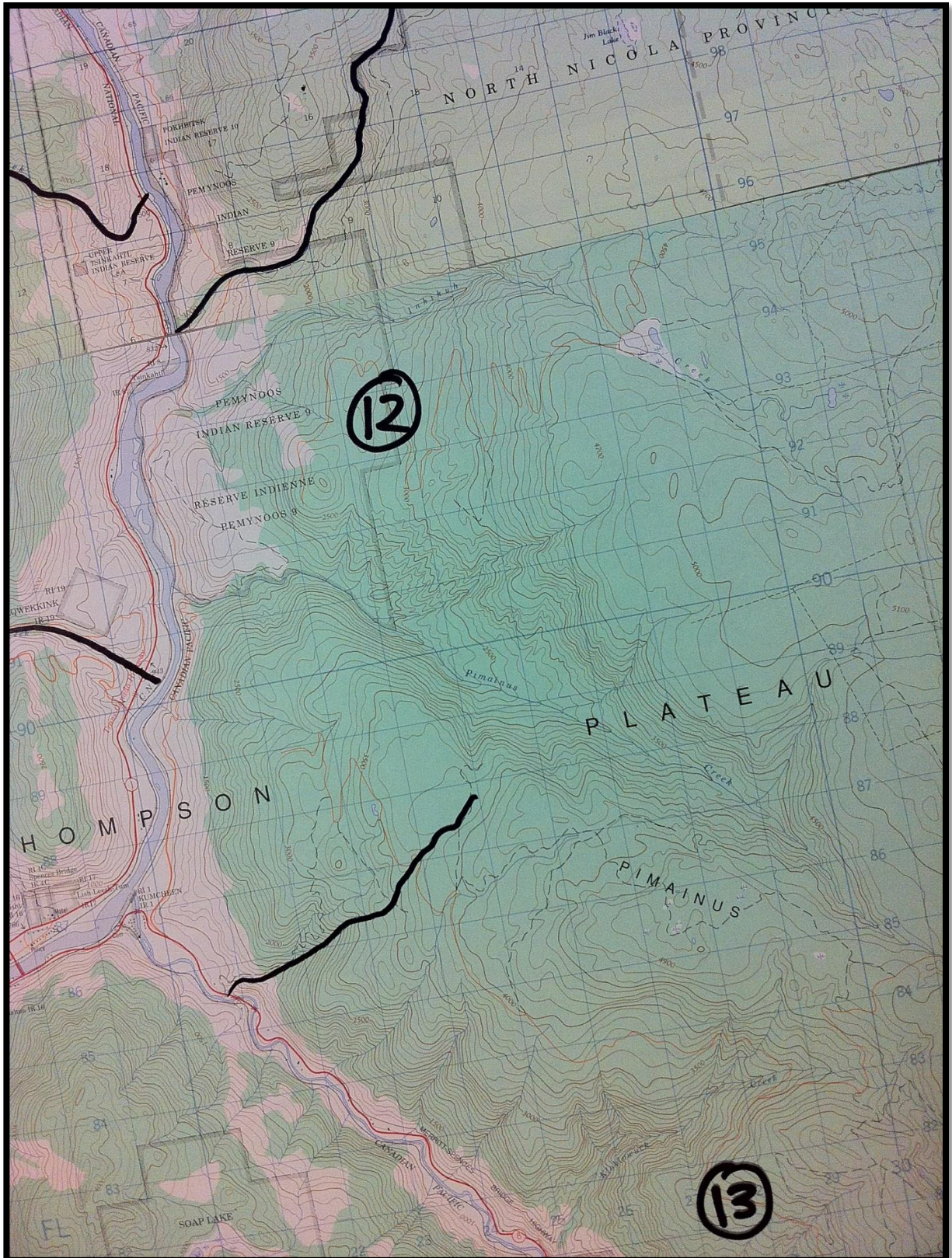


**Area 11:** East of the Thompson River, from the south side of Drinkwater Road (some maps show it as Kirkland Ranch), to the north side of Pukaist Creek.





**Area 12:** East of the Thompson and Nicola rivers, from the south side of Pukaist Creek, to the north side of the creek approximately 2 KM south of the confluence of the Thompson and Nicola rivers.





**Area 13:** East of the Nicola River from the south side of the creek approximately 2 KM south of the confluence of the Thompson and Nicola rivers, to the north side of Skuhun Creek.







# Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia

#101-30799 Simpson Road  
Abbotsford, British Columbia V2T 6X4  
1-250-961-1908  
exec@wildsheepsociety.com  
[www.wildsheepsociety.com](http://www.wildsheepsociety.com)

## SPENCES BRIDGE SHEEP COUNT SAFETY GUIDELINES

### Pre- Work Safety Guidelines

1. Volunteers under 16 years old must have adult supervision.
2. Prior to commencing activities, all volunteers (in case of a minor, a legal guardian) must sign the below **Waiver and Acknowledgement of Risk** form to Coordinator.
3. Volunteers must review the safety and hazards listed below.
4. Ensure that at least 1 volunteer has first aid training and that a basic first aid kit is readily available on site.
5. Ensure a cell phone is available for communication in event of an emergency.
6. If accessing private property- owners have been notified and granted permissions.
7. Provide volunteers with:
  - A pre-event assembly and debrief site
  - A list of phone numbers including local police and ambulance
  - Specific directions to the nearest emergency medical facility and;
  - The specific location of the count area from highway to assist responding police/ambulance
  - Confirm group size and locations
  - Select safe parking areas for volunteers vehicles (review safety and hazards when working within a Hwy R/W)

### On Site Safety Guidelines

1. Volunteers must check 'in' and 'out' with the on-site volunteer coordinator. This can be done by a phone call.
2. Volunteers must always stay on the shoulder and off the travelled portion of the highway.
3. Volunteers must not cross the highway or go into the median.
4. Volunteers must park vehicles in safe locations. I.e pullouts, un-used accesses, wide shoulder areas with good visual clearance in both directions. No blind corners, hills, behind rock faces, beside medians etc.
5. Do not park in areas that can create traffic pinch points. I.e. End of merge lanes, bridge ends, medians, narrow shoulder areas.

### Onsite Safety and Hazard Awareness

1. Rock fall and landslides. Do not park at the base of any vertical or split rock faces or in any apparent drainages active or not.
2. Look and listen for rock fall or landslides and look for areas of recent activity. These can become active with weather changes. **Pay special attention to your surroundings if recent rain or wind activity.**
3. Be aware of oversize loads travelling the Trans Canada Highway. Many of these loads over reach onto the shoulder areas. **DO NOT PARK ON NARROW SHOULDERS, BLIND SPOTS, CORNERS or AGAINST MEDIANS.** Use pullouts, old access roads,

areas where you can pull off past the shoulders, or where wide shoulders are present with long clear site lines.

4. Traffic is travelling 100km/hr or more. Pay attention when leaving vehicle and if walking along highway to your exit point. Walk towards travelling traffic and ensure you are visible.
5. Watch for unstable slopes and areas of instability as traversing the terrain.

## **VOLUNTEER WAIVER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who may claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue and do hereby waive, release and discharge to the fullest extent permissible by law, The Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia or anyone acting on their behalf, for any and all claims or liability for personal injury, death, damage to property or loss of any kind whatever nature or kind and however caused.

I also acknowledge and accept the inherent risks identified above in the Spences Bridge Sheep Count Program, an activity I am being allowed to undertake freely and of my own volition.

Date this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

NOTE: Volunteers under 18 must have their waiver signed by a parent or guardian.