Order No.08-277

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

SPECIAL CLOSURE FOR RESOURCE PROTECTION WITHIN AGUA CHIQUITA- WILLS CANYON –RIO PENASCO- SILVER SPRINGS NEW MEXICO MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE OCCUPIED HABITAT

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a), the following act is prohibited in the area encompassing occupied habitat for the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (jumping mouse) within Agua Chiquita, Rio Penasco, Wills Canyon and Silver Springs riparian area (the "restricted area"), on the Lincoln National Forest, Sacramento Ranger District, Otero County, New Mexico, as described below and as depicted on the attached map, hereby incorporated into this order as Attachment A.

PROHIBITIONS:

1. It is prohibited to go into or be upon the areas of 'occupied habitat' as described below and as depicted on the attached map, Attachment A. **36 C.F.R. § 261.53(a).**

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt:

(1) USDA Forest Service employees or agents working on behalf of the Forest Service who have been authorized by the Forest Service to enter the restricted area.

(2) Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in the performance of an official duty.

RESTRICTED AREA DESCRIBED:

The restricted area encompasses the jumping mouse 'occupied habitat' within the following areas: Agua Chiquita (T. 18 S., R. 12 E. Sec. 25, 26); Rio Penasco (T. 17 S. R. 13 E. Sec. 3); Wills Canyon (T. 17 S. R. 12 E. Sec. 29, 30); Silver Spring (T. 15 S. R. 13 E. Sec. 22) (shown on the attached map). Some of the restricted areas included in the special closure are fenced for livestock management. Livestock access lanes (breaks in fences within protected habitat) are provided in Wills Canyon in order to allow permitted livestock access to water and livestock handling facilities and are considered outside of the restricted area. Any official roads or trails

that cross through occupied habitat also be considered outside of the restricted area and will not be closed.

PURPOSE:

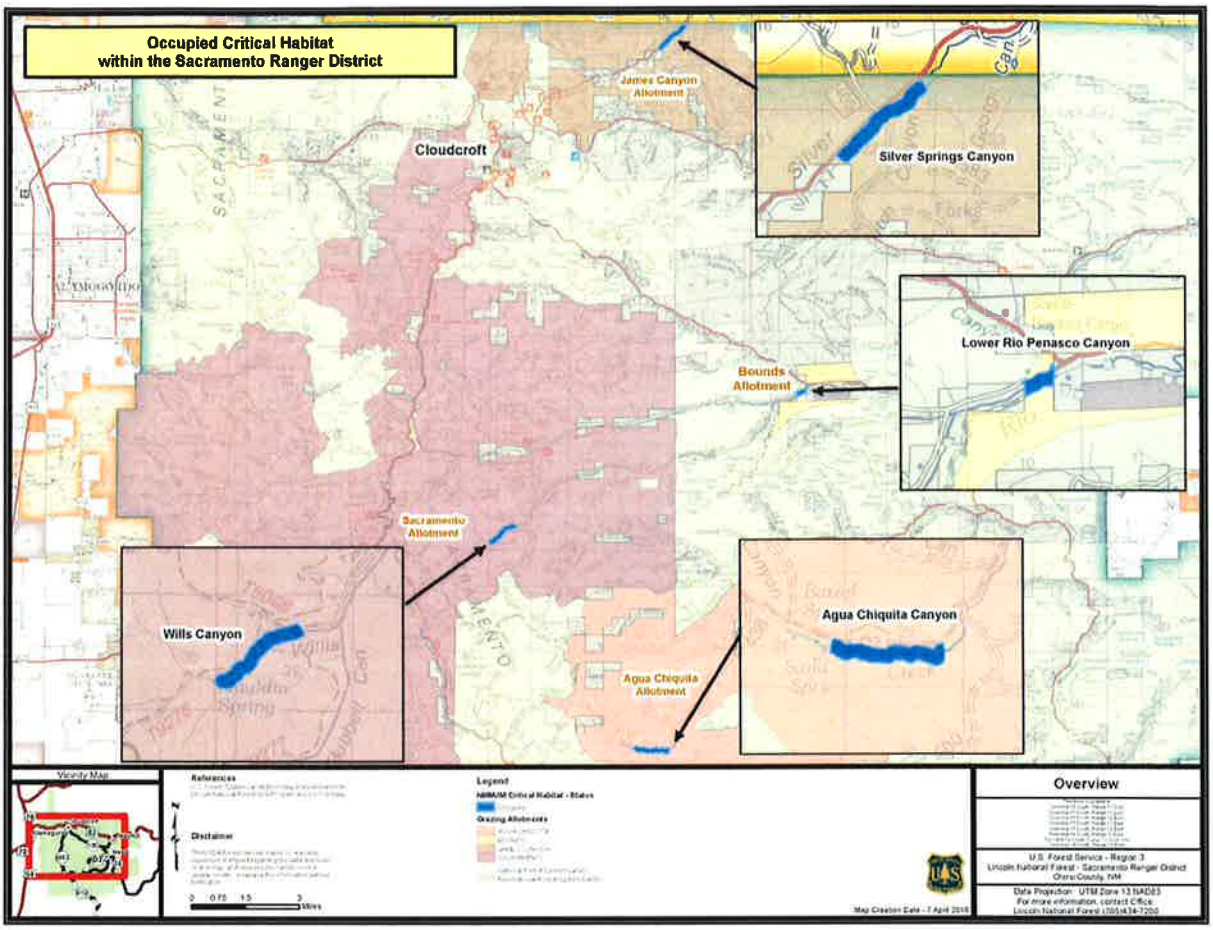
To allow for protection of the endangered jumping mouse occupied habitat within Agua Chiquita, Rio Penasco, Wills Canyon and Silver Springs within the Sacramento Ranger District in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and listing of the jumping mouse as endangered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This order shall be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect seasonally for two years from May 1 - October 31, 2016 and May 1 - October 31, 2017, ending on October 31st, 2017, unless rescinded sooner.
2. This order supersedes, rescinds, and replaces any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this order.
3. Any violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000.00 for individuals and $10,000.00 for organizations, by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b)(6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)].

Signed in Alamogordo, New Mexico, this 22nd day of April, 2016.

TRAVIS G. MOSELEY
Forest Supervisor
Lincoln National Forest



Attachment A. Map of occupied New Mexico meadow jumping mouse critical habitat that will be seasonally closed on the Sacramento Ranger District.