

# Decision Notice

## Finding of No Significant Impact

### New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse

### Habitat Protection Project

USDA Forest Service  
Jemez Ranger District, Your National Forest  
Sandoval County, New Mexico

## Decision and Reasons for the Decision

### Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*) met the definition of an endangered species and published the final rule to list the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (NMMJM) as an endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (Federal Register /Vol. 79, No. 111 /Tuesday, June 10, 2014). The USF&WS found that the jumping mouse currently faces numerous high magnitude threats and qualifies for listing, based on present, threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat. The listing became effective on July 10, 2014. Occupied NMMJM habitat was identified and designated as part of the final rule. A final rule for the designation of critical habitat was published March 16, 2016 and became effective April 15, 2016.

The NMMJM is active only during the warm growing season of the grasses and forbs on which it depends. The NMMJM is a true hibernator, usually entering hibernation in September or October and emerging the following May or June. The jumping mouse hibernates about 8 or 9 months out of the year, longer than most animals. The activity period for a montane population studied at Fenton Lake, New Mexico, was active from early June to first week in October, with adult jumping mice entering into hibernation about 1 month prior to juveniles. The NMMJM requires dense riparian herbaceous vegetation associated with perennial (persistent) flowing water and adjacent uplands that can support the vegetation characteristics needed for foraging, breeding, and hibernating (USFWS 2013 a).

This proposal is to manage habitat to maintain viable populations of wildlife and improve habitat for selected species as described in the Santa Fe National Forest Plan, specifically: the need for this project is to address the forest plan goals such as “manage threatened and endangered animal, fish, and plant habitats to achieve delisting in a manner consistent with goals established with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)” (Forest Plan, Forest Wide Prescriptions, Wildlife, page 64), and “evaluating these lands and identifying opportunities to contribute to threatened and endangered species recovery objectives.”(Forest Plan Management Direction p. 122).

In 2013, the USFWS, issued a proposed rule and preliminary determination to list the NMMJM as endangered. Since then, USFWS has finalized the determination that the NMMJM is endangered, and designated occupied habitat. A final rule for the designation of critical habitat was published March 16, 2016 and will become effective April 15, 2016. According to the listing decision, the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse “has an overall low viability (*probability of persistence*) in the near term (between now and the next 10 years) and a decreasing viability in

the long-term future (beyond 10 years)... The New Mexico meadow jumping mouse has exceptionally specialized habitat requirements to support these life-history needs and maintain adequate population sizes.... Because the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse requires such specific suitable habitat conditions, populations have a high potential for extirpation when habitat is altered or eliminated... The primary sources of current and future habitat losses include grazing pressure (which removes the needed vegetation)... Additional sources of habitat loss are likely to occur from ...highway reconstruction,... and unregulated recreation. These multiple sources of habitat loss are not acting independently, but produce cumulative impacts that magnify the effects of habitat loss on New Mexico meadow jumping mouse populations (Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse; Endangered Status Jun 10, 201450 CFR Part 17) ”

In light of the listing of the NMMJM, we intend to protect and improve habitat conditions for the mouse within the San Diego and Cebolla/San Antonio Allotments in order to increase species viability. The purpose of this analysis is to allow for the protection of the NMMJM habitat while continuing grazing.

## **Decision**

Based upon my review of all alternatives, I have decided to implement Alternative 2 which best balances between protecting the NMMJM and still allow cattle grazing.

The Proposed Action Alternative expects to protect critical habitat when designated by the following measures:

- Construct approximately 1 mile of fence from New Mexico State Highway 4 to New Mexico State Highway 126 on the Cebolla/San Antonio Allotment;
- Install two cattle guards over Forest Road 105 and CFF 199 on the Cebolla/San Antonio Allotment;
- Construct 4 miles of fence on the east side of the Rio Cebolla on the Cebolla/San Antonio Allotment to exclude cattle;
- Construct a cross fence across the Rio Cebolla on the Cebolla/San Antonio Allotment at the northern end of identified critical habitat;
- Convert a temporary closure order to long-term (10 years) closure order in the NMMJM occupied habitat;
- Convert the barbed wire fence on the perimeter of the closure order to permanent pipe fences in the four existing enclosures along the Rio Cebolla near FR 376 on the San Diego Allotment when funding becomes available. This action includes removal of the barbed wire fence that is currently in place; when funding becomes available.

- Construct an additional pipe fence to enclose 5.5 acres of occupied habitat between the Lake Fork Corral and the third enclosure noted above on the San Diego Allotment. The additional acreage would be included in the long-term closure order; when funding becomes available.
- Construct approximately one mile of barbed wire fence on Schoolhouse Mesa on the San Diego Allotment;
- Construct approximately 4 miles of barbed wire fence on Lake Fork Mesas on the San Diego Allotment; and
- Build a new corral in the Lake Fork Pasture on the San Diego Allotment at an appropriate location agreed upon by all resources.

These actions include construction and maintenance of associated fences and cattle guards for their intended purpose.

Fence construction will involve the removal of trees in various sizes within a 20 feet wide path over an approximate 10 mile total install. The removal of trees is required for installation and ease of maintenance over time.

Initially, to protect the NMMJM and designated critical habitat and not disturb Mexican spotted owl (MSO) and the active season for the Jemez Mountain Salamander (JMS) during the breeding season, in this alternative we propose to install temporary electric fences where permanent fences are proposed. This will allow livestock to enter allotments on scheduled dates and concurrently provide protection for the NMMJM until permanent fences can be constructed. The electric fence will involve a minimally invasive installation method and will occur in late spring (snowmelt dependent) sometime prior to the NMMJM active season (June through September). The electric fences will be built to include signs for the notification and protection of public.

The Forest Service will ensure that employees are dedicated to monitoring infrastructure and compliance on the affected allotments during the active grazing season. This monitoring will include all of the fences and enclosures constructed for the protection of the NMMJM. It will include the entire electric, pipe, and barbed wire fences that will be constructed in 2016 and 2017 to ensure that they exclude livestock from NMMJM designated critical habitat.

Under the closure order there is an exemption to allow permitted activities, including restoration projects; however, such activities may require a separate NEPA analysis and decision (36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e)).

Additionally, after consultation with USFWS, the following conservation measures will be applied to promote, develop, and retain critical habitat primary constituent elements (PCEs) for the NMMJM:

1. Grazing will be authorized in the Fenton Pasture of the San Diego Allotment (15 days in the spring and 15 days in the fall as stated in the Term Grazing Permit and current Annual Operating Instructions) in such a way as to maintain the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse PCEs. When livestock are authorized in the pasture the Forest Service will conduct weekly vegetation monitoring checks on the pasture including the vegetation components of the PCEs to ensure compliance with this BO. To ensure permit compliance, compliance checks will be made weekly throughout the

grazing season. As part of this monitoring effort, the Forest Service will establish three permanent photo-monitoring plots within the critical habitat boundary. Photos will be taken prior to cattle entry and monthly thereafter until cattle leave in the fall. Photos will be provided to the Service as part of the routine reporting required by this BO (Term and Condition 1.1).

- a. If vegetation and photo monitoring for two consecutive grazing seasons documents maintenance of New Mexico meadow jumping mouse PCEs fencing between the Fenton pasture and the Cebolla Pasture will not be needed. If it has been demonstrated that the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse PCEs have not been maintained then fencing between the pastures will commence as described in the informal consultation (Cons. # 02ENNM00-2016-I-0252; Appendix 1).
2. Grazing will be authorized outside of livestock exclosures in the Cebolla Riparian Pasture of the San Diego Allotment ( in the spring and fall as stated in the Term Grazing Permit and current Annual Operating Instructions) in such a way as to maintain the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse PCEs. When livestock are authorized in the pasture the Forest Service will conduct weekly vegetation monitoring checks on the 2.2 ha (5.5 ac) of occupied habitat outside the exclosure near the gathering corral including the vegetation components of the PCEs to ensure compliance with this BO. To ensure permit compliance, compliance checks will be made weekly throughout the grazing season. As part of this monitoring effort, the Forest Service will establish three permanent photo monitoring plots within the critical habitat boundary and/or in the 2.2 ha (5.5 ac) of occupied habitat outside the exclosure. Photos will be taken prior to cattle entry and monthly thereafter until cattle leave in the fall. Photos will be provided to the Service as part of the routine reporting required by this BO (Term and Condition 1.1).
- a. If vegetation and photo monitoring in the Cebolla Riparian Pasture outside of exclosures for 2 consecutive grazing seasons documents maintenance of New Mexico meadow jumping mouse PCEs, additional fencing in the Cebolla Pasture 2.2 ha (5.5 ac) will not be needed. If it has been demonstrated that the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse PCEs have not been maintained in this area then additional fencing will commence as described in the informal consultation (Cons. # 02ENNM00-2016-I-0252; Appendix 1).

When compared to the other alternative (i.e., No Action Alternative), this alternative will best balance between protecting the mouse and still allowing cattle to graze.

### **Mitigations for Alternatives**

The mitigation measures listed below are practices that the ID Team developed during this analysis to address site-specific environmental concerns that were not sufficiently addressed by existing management requirements.

Mitigation is a tool to ameliorate an undesirable environmental effect; it is identified and included as part of each alternative, and the analysis of environmental effects is based upon the application and effectiveness of that mitigation.

Mitigation measures were developed to ease some of the potential environmental impacts the various alternatives may cause and to respond to public comments of the proposal. The mitigation measures may be applied to any of the action alternatives.

### **Heritage**

- Discovery of any undocumented cultural resources during project implementation will result in immediate cessation of any ground disturbing activities in the locale and notification of the Forest Archaeologist.

### **Wildlife**

- Complete goshawk surveys according to protocol prior to any construction activity. If found to be present limit human disturbance and activities in or near nest sites and post-fledgling areas during breeding season (March 1 through September 30).
- Limit human activity in goshawk nesting areas during breeding season.
- As much as possible, avoid equipment use and human activity in prairie dog mounds and main colony use area.
- With the exception of the two cattle guards and temporary electric fence, project activity within NMMJM, MSO or JMS habitat will not occur during the below times:
  - NMMJM Habitat: Active Season: June 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> (electric fence will be installed prior to June 1)
  - MSO Habitat: Breeding Season: March 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - JMS Habitat: Rainy/Active Season: July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 15 (June 15 through October 30, is the usual, but fencing would be difficult to complete after October 30<sup>th</sup>)
- All permanent fences will be wildlife friendly using New Mexico Game and Fish design recommendations. Further, certain visualization techniques (e.g. PVC pipe on top fence wire or vinyl tabs placed on wire) will be used to increase visibility and minimize entrapment and will be placed where signs of extensive elk and/or deer crossing or trailing are obvious. (Fence Guides are available and are a part of the projects administrative record).
- For the temporary electric fence; the least invasive methods (e.g. handsaws) and route will be taken to greatly limit disturbance for the MSO and JMS.
- Rebuilding and/or relocating the Lake Fork and Fogon corrals and associated activities will require site-specific clearance from the District Biologist prior to installation.
- No cutting of trees > 9 inch diameter at breast height (dbh) to limit the amount of habitat disturbance for the MSO and JMS, unless they pose a safety issue.

- Trees that lean away or do not pose an installation, maintenance and/or safety issue will be left alone.
- The tops of fallen trees will be lopped, scattered and/or piled around the fence path. Logs and woody debris will be left on-site in MSO and JMS habitat.
- During fence installations, crews will limit the amount of ground disturbance of rocks, bark, moss mats, woody debris and decaying stumps and logs to the greatest extent possible in MSO and JMS habitat.
- All fence projects and associated activities will require site-specific clearance from the District Biologist prior to installation.
- General habitat elements for all species will be monitored throughout project implementations

### **Recreation**

- Replacing the four temporary fence enclosures surrounding NMMJM occupied habitat with stouter pipe fencing would require one design/mitigation measure. The pipe fencing should be painted brown or left unpainted to oxidize naturally to maintain the scenic integrity of the Jemez National Recreation Area and surrounding wet meadows.
- A gate would be needed at the access road to the on FR 376 to restrict public access into Fogon Canyon. Barrier fence improvements on parallel to FR 376 would be needed to keep the public from driving into Fogon Canyon through wet and dry meadows. Additional signage at Fogon Canyon to keep the public keep public motorized travel on FR 376. In the event that a new corral location close to FR 376 is identified a new gate a barrier fencing improvements may still be needed.

### **Hydrology**

- A hydrologist or watershed specialist will be consulted prior to constructing fences or corrals within or across the aquatic management zone (AMZ). The hydrologist will approve implementation plans and exact feature locations to ensure water quality will be protected.
- A hydrologist or watershed specialist will be consulted prior to using heavy equipment within the AMZ.

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of the project area would be conducted, including both implementation and effectiveness monitoring. The monitoring would also include the participation of the permittee; however, the ultimate responsibility for monitoring the allotment rests with the Forest Service. Although the responsibility for monitoring the allotment is that of the Forest Service, the permittee would have the responsibility for ensuring guidelines are not exceeded.

#### **Implementation Monitoring**

Periodic inspections will be done to ensure compliance with permit Terms and Conditions.

#### **Effectiveness Monitoring**

This will determine if grazing standards and guidelines, grazing prescription, and Allotment Management Plan practices are effective in accomplishing the planned objects.

Range readiness will be monitored before the grazing season begins, stubble heights (residual vegetation) may be measured during the grazing season and utilization will be monitored at the end of the season. These measurements will occur in key areas.

### **Recreation**

Ongoing monitoring of dispersed recreation activities in occupied and designated critical habitats is required. District employees typically monitor developed recreation sites once to multiple times per day. Site hosts are also available five days per week to monitor visitor actions. High use dispersed recreation areas, such as the FR 376 recreation corridor, are monitored at least twice a week during the summer camping season. Monitoring is also augmented on weekends and holidays. Monitoring includes staff from all disciplines and resources, such as recreation, fire, wildlife, range and archeology.

## **Other Alternatives Considered**

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered one other alternative.

### **Alternative 1 - No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative current management would continue. The temporary barbed wire fences protecting occupied habitat would be removed, and occupied and designated critical habitat across both Allotments would continue as is described in the Allotment Management Plans. Occupied habitat would be available for unmanaged dispersed recreation activities.

## **Rational for the Decision**

I have read the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment. I fully understand the environmental effects disclosed therein. In making this decision I fully considered the impacts of protecting the NMMJM with continued grazing and to the recreating public.

This project is the initial step to provide protection for the NMMJM and to allow grazing for the 2016 grazing season. The Forest is developing a long-term conservation strategy for NMMJM, which will in turn inform the long-term NEPA for the affected allotments. The long-term NEPA will also address the grazing management.

I understand the historical and cultural significance of livestock grazing on lands within its boundaries that were once shared as common lands by members of community. The ranching tradition runs deep in Northern New Mexico, and it is sometimes a challenge to reconcile all multiple uses with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Forest's broad intent is to protect the habitat of the NMMJM while continuing to allow grazing on the affected environments. (Forest Plan Management Direction pp. 18, 153, and 167; Jemez National Recreation Area Management Plan pp. 6-7)

I also recognize seasonal restrictions for other threatened and endangered species (specifically, the Mexican Spotted Owl and Jemez Mountain Salamander) will make it difficult to complete

construction of the permanent fences prior to turnout. The Forest proposes to install temporary electric fences with minimally invasive installation requirement to accommodate the 2016 grazing season.

During the summer 2015, the Forest encouraged permittees to request applicant status for consultation with the USFWS on the conservation of the NMMJM and its habitat. In October, the Forest held a series of meetings with permittees on affected allotments to discuss the implications of NMMJM listing on grazing and to explore options and elicit voluntary measures from permittees to protect habitat. The Forest met with permittees on the San Diego Allotment and Cebolla/San Antonio allotments twice during this phase in good-faith effort to develop a strategy that would support grazing while protecting the NMMJM. The draft Biological Assessment (BA) was discussed with the San Diego and Cebolla/San Antonio allotment permittees.

The Forest also met with permittees regarding the NEPA process and applying for Environmental Quality Incentives Program grants through Natural Resources Conservation Services.

Besides alternative 2, the No Action Alternative was considered in detail and one other alternative was considered, but eliminated. Alternative 2 gives us the best balance between protecting the mouse and its habitat and to continue to allow grazing. The No Action Alternative was the alternative used as a baseline for comparing the effects of alternative 2.

Although it is an inconvenience, recreation and grazing are allowed to continue with this alternative. Given the imperiled status of the species and the likelihood of extinction, and until there is data that suggests that different management strategy, we will maintain the closure in the occupied habitat.

## **Public Involvement**

As described in the background, the need for this action arose in June 2014. A proposal to protect NMMJM habitat was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions on January 13, 2016. The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment during scoping January 13, 2016 through February 12, 2016. In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the agency has held various meetings with the permittees starting in spring (April/May) 2013 to discuss issues with the permittee. These meeting include discussions on the listing of the species, installing exclosures, occupied habitat, designated critical habitat, applicant status, NEPA Process, Grant Process, Consultation with USFWS, etc.

The IDT took 4 days to review the public comments through an interdisciplinary process. Each of the comments was reviewed as a group and each of the specialists addressed any comments to their resource. No new issues or alternatives were identified through this review process. The interdisciplinary team identified internal issues regarding effects of the proposed action. Main issues of concern included grazing, archeological site, implementation monitoring and recreation (see EA pages 7-8). To address these concerns, the Forest Service created the alternatives described above.

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based on the interdisciplinary environmental analysis, review of the NEPA criteria for significant effects, and my knowledge of the expected impacts, I have determined this decision will not have

a significant effect on the human environment; therefore an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following factors:

(a) Context – The physical and biological effects of the proposed actions and alternatives described in the environmental assessment are site-specific actions limited to this analysis area. The significance of the proposed action is evaluated within the context of the Jemez Ranger District and Sandoval County.

(b) Intensity – The severity of the environmental effects of the proposed projects, were considered in evaluating intensity (40 CFR 1508.27).

**1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse**

Both beneficial and adverse effects and their significance were discussed for the alternatives considered in detail. Effects were lessened or eliminated through design and mitigation measures. None of the adverse effects were determined to be significant, singularly or in combination. The beneficial effects of the action do not bias my finding of no significant environmental effects. The anticipated environmental effects and their intensity have been disclosed for each alternative in Chapter 3 of the EA (pp. 16-99).

**2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety**

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action Alternative for habitat protection activities do not constitute a threat to public health or safety. The proposed actions result in no significant effects to public health or safety. Habitat protection projects have occurred in the same types of vegetation on the Santa Fe National Forest for many years and there is a high degree of site-specific knowledge on the implementation and effects of habitat protection.

**3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas**

There are no unique characteristics of the geographical area that will be significantly affected by my decision. There are no effects to prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically critical areas (EA, pp. 61-86). There are no effects to designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas (Specialist Report in Project Record). This decision does not include any road building or changes to the current road system. There are no effects to any unique areas (EA, Appendix B). See significance factor #8 for discussion related to historic or cultural resources.

**4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial**

The activities associated with this decision will not significantly affect the quality of human environment, and the effects are unlikely to be highly controversial in a scientific sense. No evidence has been presented that raises substantial questions as to the correctness of the environmental consequences that have been estimated. I have considered the best available science in making this decision. The project record demonstrates a thorough review of relevant scientific information.

The effects on the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial based on the involvement of Forest Service resources specialists, other agencies, and the public. The

public scoping/30-day comment on the draft EA received approximately 50 responses. After reviewing the project record and EA, I am confident the interdisciplinary reviewed the comments and incorporated them into alternatives or addressed them in the appropriate resource section. It is my judgement, while portions of the public disagree with various components of the project and have raised concerns related to the action alternatives, there is no unusual or high degree of controversy related to the effects of this project.

**5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks**

This decision has no known effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. All of the effects on the proposed action are routine to in nature, implementing standard practices and protection measures.

**6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration**

The actions authorized under this Decision Notice pertain to the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse Habitat Protection Project area only. Similar habitat protection projects have occurred in various areas across the National Forest, as well as on private and State lands over the recent past.

This decision responds to a need to construct forest improvements on the Jemez Ranger District to aid in the protection of jumping mouse occupied and designated critical habitats. The decision to implement this project does not give authority to protect NMMJM habitat outside of the project area boundary and does not supersede later, site-specific analysis for NMMJM habitat protection projects in other areas adjacent to this project or elsewhere on the National Forest. The project location is described on page 3-4 of the EA.

**7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts**

There are no significant cumulative effects on this decision along with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable action implemented or planned in the area. The EA describes the anticipated cumulative effects for each of the affected resources (EA pp. 16-99). After reviewing the EA, I am satisfied none of the cumulative effects of my decision are significant.

**8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the national Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources**

An archeological survey and site-record check were completed for the project area. A review of the site information indicates no known historic structures, ruins with standing walls, rock art sites or rock shelters are being impacted by current grazing. Consultation with State Historic Preservation Officer has determined the project will have no adverse effect on heritage resources within the analysis area. The project is not expected to result in significant impacts to archeological and historic properties (EA, pp. 91-97).

**9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973**

Based on this information, we concur that the proposed action for the San Diego and Cebolla/San Antonio Allotments “may affect, is not likely to adversely affect” the jumping mouse. Moreover, we concur that the proposed action for the San Diego and Cebolla/San Antonio Allotments is “not likely to adversely modify” designated critical habitat and “may affect, is not likely to adversely affect” critical habitat if the designation is finalized. Importantly, we note that if there is any deviation from the proposed action (e.g., livestock within fenced riparian areas or grazing outside of the authorized season) or forage use monitoring in the uplands exceeds 35 percent utilization, reinitiating of consultation will be triggered.

Based on this information, we concur that the proposed action for the San Diego and Cebolla/San Antonio Allotments “may affect, is not likely to adversely affect” the MSO or its critical habitat.

Based on this information, we concur that the proposed action for the San Diego and Cebolla/San Antonio Allotments “may affect, is not likely to adversely affect” the salamander or its critical habitat. (Cons. # 02ENNM00-2016-I-0252)

**10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment**

Implementation of the selected alternative or any of the action alternatives considered in detail will not violate any Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. Including:

- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act, as Amended in 1977
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended
- Executive Order 11990 of May, 1977 [Wetlands]
- Executive Order 11988 of May, 1977 [Floodplains]
- Executive Order 13186 of January, 2001 [Migratory Bird Treaty Act]

**Finding of Consistency with Other Laws and Regulations – (see significance factor 10)**

This decision to provide protection for the NMMJM and to allow grazing for the 2016 grazing season is consistent with the intent of the forest plan's long term goals and objectives listed on pages [18-20]. The project was designed in conformance with land and resource management plan standards and incorporates appropriate land and resource management plan guidelines for wildlife, range management, riparian areas, and the Jemez National Recreation Management Area. (Forest Plan Management Direction pp. 18, 153, and 167; Jemez National Recreation Area Management Plan pp. 6-7). This decision is also in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

## **Administrative Review and Objection Rights**

The New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse Habitat Protection Project is an activity implementing a land management plan and not authorized under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) and is subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (Objection Process) pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B.

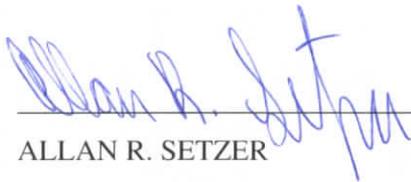
## **Implementation**

If no objections are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, the fifth business day following the end of the objection filing period. When objections are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the reviewing officer has responded in writing to all pending objections, and until all concerns, and instructions identified by the reviewing officer in the objection response have been addressed.

Two objections were received during the project's objection period by Trout Unlimited and New Mexico Trout. An Objection Resolution meeting was held on May 24, 2016 at the Santa Fe National Forest (Forest) Supervisors Office. Being that there is a long history of collaboration and partnership with these two groups and both groups are in support of conservation and recovery for the long term viability of the NMMJM, an objection resolution agreement was finalized. As part of this resolution, the two groups agreed to withdraw their objections in whole.

## Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Allan Setzer, District Ranger, Jemez Ranger District, mailing address: Allan Setzer, Jemez Ranger District Office located at 051 Woodsy Lane, Jemez Springs, NM 87025, Phone: 575-829-3535..



ALLAN R. SETZER

District Ranger

05/28/2016  
Date

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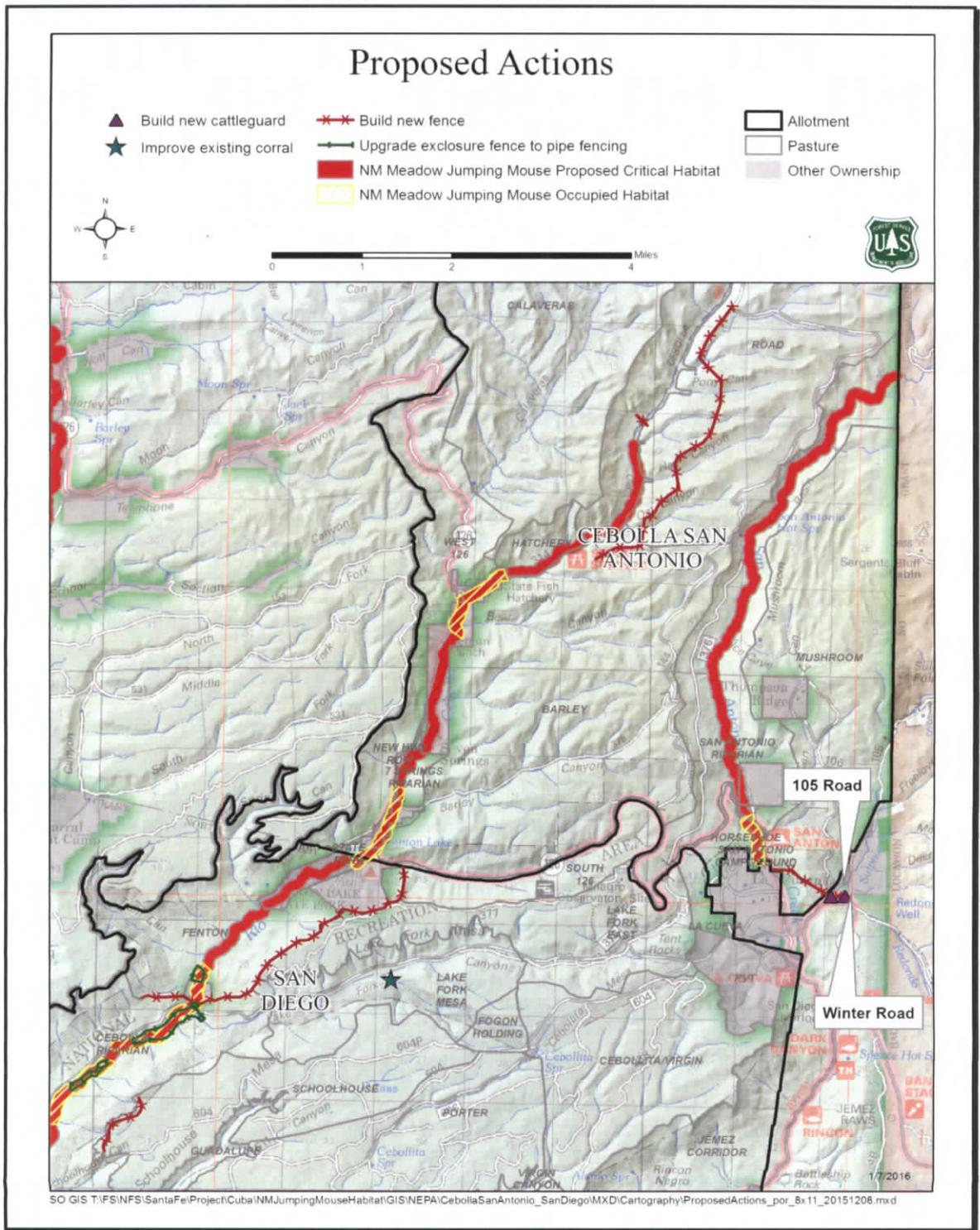


Figure 1. Proposed Action Map