



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
SOUTHWESTERN REGION  
REGIONAL OCCUPANCY AND USE RESTRICTIONS**

**PROHIBITIONS:**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited in the areas described in this Order and depicted on the attached Maps (“Restricted Areas”), hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibits A and B, within the Southwestern Region National Forests and National Grasslands in the states of New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma.

1. Entering the Restricted Areas with a “group” in excess of the number specified in any public health order. **36 C.F.R. § 261.58(f)**

**DEFINITIONS**

The term “group” refers to “any collection, assemblage, cluster, or aggregation of persons.”

**EXEMPTIONS:**

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

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

**RESTRICTED AREAS:**

**NEW MEXICO**

Carson National Forest  
Cibola National Forest  
Gila National Forest  
Lincoln National Forest  
Santa Fe National Forest  
Kiowa National Grassland

**OKLAHOMA/TEXAS**

Black Kettle & McClellan National Grasslands  
Rita Blanca National Grasslands

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Order, which reflects federal and state guidance to limit the spread of COVID-19, is to protect public health and safety.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

1. This Order will be effective on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 0001 hrs. and shall remain in effect until October 31, 2020, or until rescinded, whichever event occurs first.
2. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months (*see* 16 U.S.C. § 551, 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(6), 18 U.S.C. § 3581 (b)(7)).
3. Maps identifying the Restricted Areas are attached and made a part of this Order.
4. This Order supersedes, rescinds, and replaces any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order.
5. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Southwestern Region Regional Office located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, telephone number 505-842-3292, and at the following websites and phone numbers:

USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r3/home>

NM Public Health: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

NM Public Health Hotline: 1-855-600-3453

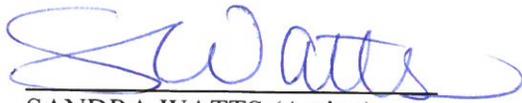
TX Depart of Health Services: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

TX public Health Phone: 1-888963-7111 or Dial 2-1-1 in Texas

OK State Department of Health: <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>

OK State Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline: 1-877-215-8336 or 2-1-1 in OK

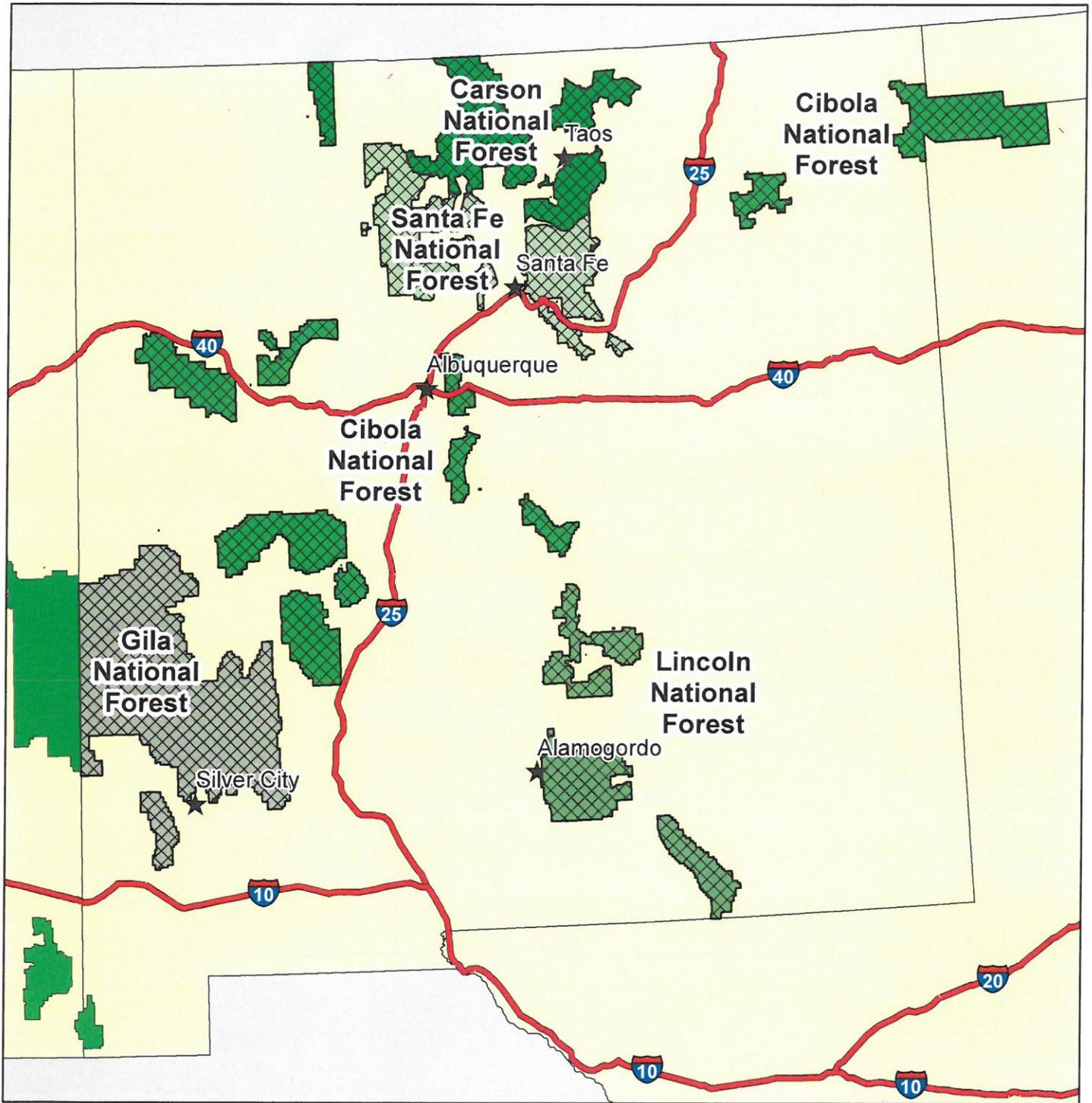
Done at Albuquerque, New Mexico this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020.



SANDRA WATTS (Acting)

Regional Forester

Southwestern Region



**Disclaimer**

The USDA Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USDA Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private land.

Map Author: fdearing 4/14/2020

**National Forests**

- Apache-Sitgreaves NFs
- Coronado NF
- Carson NF
- Cibola NF
- Gila NF
- Lincoln NF
- Santa Fe NF

Forest Order Closure Area

- Administrative Office City
- Interstate

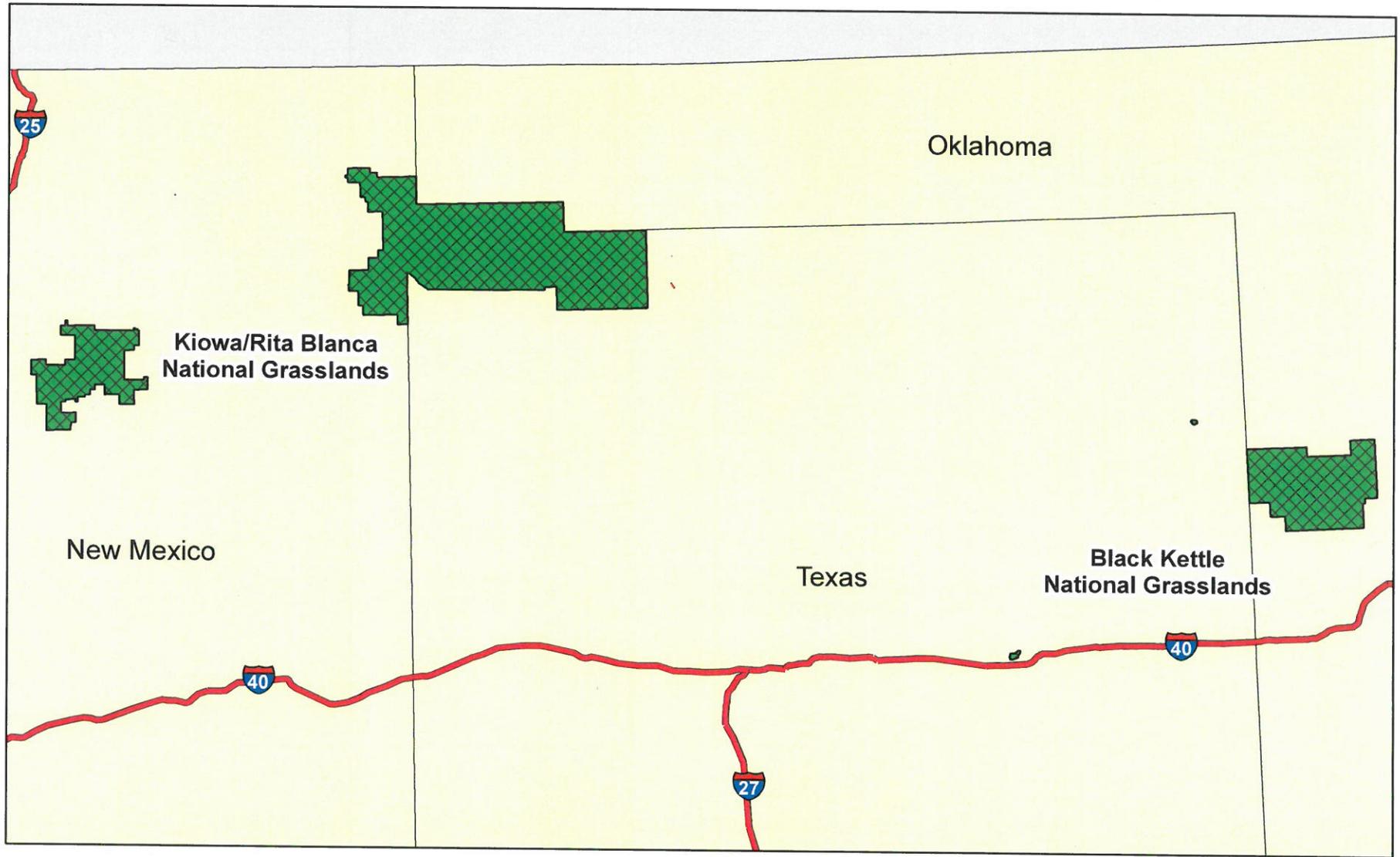
**REGION 03**  
All NM, TX, and OK Region 3 Forest Lands





# Regional Group Size Closure COVID-19 - Order Number: 03-00-00-20-020, Exhibit B

## Southwestern Region - Cibola NF Grasslands



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Map Author: tdearing 4/14/2020

-  Cibola National Forest Lands
-  Forest Order Closure Area
-  Administrative Office City
-  Interstate

