Order Number: 03-0434

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST AND GRASSLANDS
KIWANIS MEADOW CLOSURE

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and Title 36 CFR 261.50 (a), the following acts are prohibited within the restricted area on the Sandia Ranger District, Cibola National Forest and Grasslands, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. The restricted area is depicted on the attached map, hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A.

1. Entering into or being upon the restricted area, which is closed for the protection of sensitive natural resources; **36 CFR 261.53 (a).**

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

RESTRICTED AREA

The restricted area is known as Kiwanis Meadow which contains approximately 16.5 acres located within Township 11 North, Range 5 East, Section 6. The restricted area parallels the Kiwanis Meadow road on the western boundary and is set back approximately 100 feet from the Crest Trail (No. 130) on the eastern boundary. The southern boundary of the restricted area is the physical edge of the Sandia Crest and the northern boundary is adjacent to the intersection of Kiwanis Meadow road and Crest Trail.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to restore and protect a fragile alpine meadow ecosystem.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order becomes effective June 18, 2012, and will remain in effect until June 17, 2014 or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.
2. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than $5,000.00 for individuals and $10,000.00 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581]
3. This Order supersedes, rescinds, and replaces any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by the Order.

Done at Albuquerque, New Mexico, this 11th day of June 2012.

Nancy Rose

NANCY ROSE
Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest and Grasslands

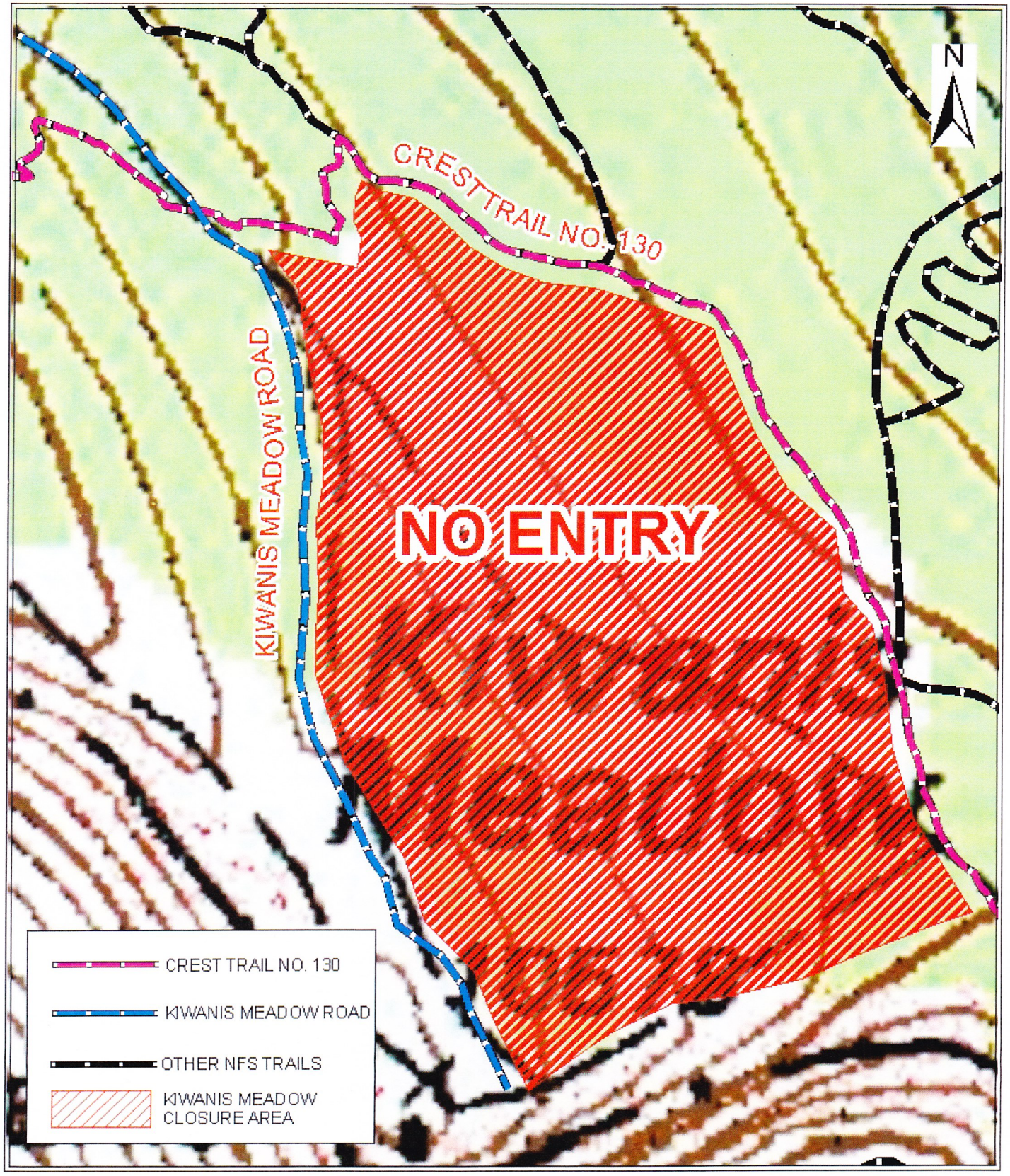
Order Number: 03-0434

Assessment of Need (Justification) and Enforcement Plan

1. Background: Kiwanis Meadow (see attached map – Exhibit A) encompasses a unique ecotype on the Sandia Crest beneficial to wildlife. Prior to closure, the meadow was heavily impacted by foot travel including large areas devoid of vegetation as well as numerous heavily eroded trails. Since closure, the meadow has begun to recover substantially.
2. Intent of Subpart B order: This order is written to protect and further restore resources from entry into a fragile high alpine meadow ecotype in the Sandia Ranger District.
3. NEPA Compliance: This order is being issued pursuant to a Categorical Exclusion 36 CFR 220.6(d).
4. Enforcement Plan: The following activities will occur in order to implement this special order in a manner that results in public acceptance and safety:

Action	Responsible Official	Date
Prepare proposed order	Kerry Wood, Cibola National Forest	5/31/2012
Review proposed order (Law Enforcement)	Geoff Osborn, Patrol Captain, Southwest Region, USFS	6/11/2012
Approve proposed order	Nancy Rose, Forest Supervisor Cibola National Forest	6/11/2012
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51	Volunteers, Forest Service LEOs and FPOs, and all available staffs	6/12/2012
Prepare news release for local media describing the order and management objectives. Post to website/notify COIDC/ copy to each receptionist/frontliner	PAO	6/12/2012
Notices will be used at picnic areas and access points advising of closure for implementation in the 2012 visitor use season.	Appropriate Staff, Law Enforcement Officers Forest Protection Officers Cibola National Forest employees Volunteers	On-going

Nancy Rose
6/11/12

Order Number: 03-0434

Kiwanis Meadow Closure - Sandia Ranger District (Exhibit A)
ORDER# 03-0434