ORDER
BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG HUNTING CLOSURE
CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST AND GRASSLANDS
RITA BLANCA NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b) the following act is prohibited on the area, roads, and trails as described in this order, and as depicted on the attached map hereby incorporated into this order as Exhibit A (the "restricted area"), all within the Rita Blanca National Grasslands, within Dallam County, in the state of Texas (the "restricted area").

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Hunting of black-tailed prairie dogs (Cynomys ludovicianus) within the designated area. 36 CFR 261.58(v)

   Hunting defined: shooting, shooting at, pursuing, taking, attempting to take, catching or killing of black-tailed prairie dogs.

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 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.

AREA DESCRIBED:

Rita Blanca National Grassland unit RB-21 located in block 5, sections, 7, 8, and 9, Dallam County, Texas.

Rita Blanca National Grassland unit RB-22 located in block 6, sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, Dallam County, Texas.

Rita Blanca National Grassland unit RB-77 located in block 47 ½, sections 41 and 42, Dallam County, Texas.

PURPOSE:

The Rita Blanca National Grassland was selected as a USGS National Wildlife Health Center Sylvatic Plague Vaccine research site. This study will test the effectiveness of the

Sylvatic Plague Vaccine as a method to control plague in prairie dogs. One of the criteria for this research project is prairie dog colonies designated for this study are closed to recreational shooting and other sources of unnatural mortality until the study is concluded.

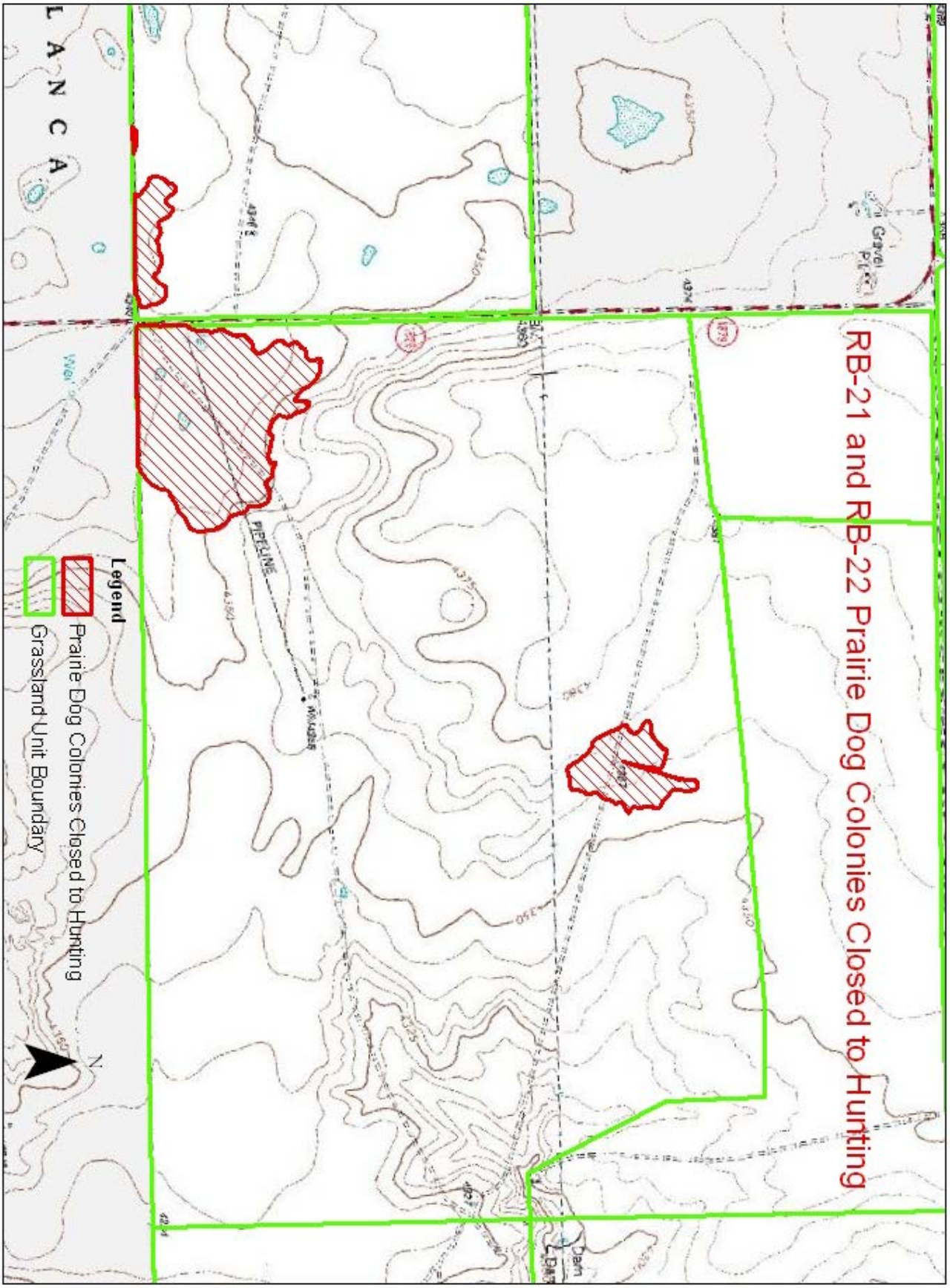
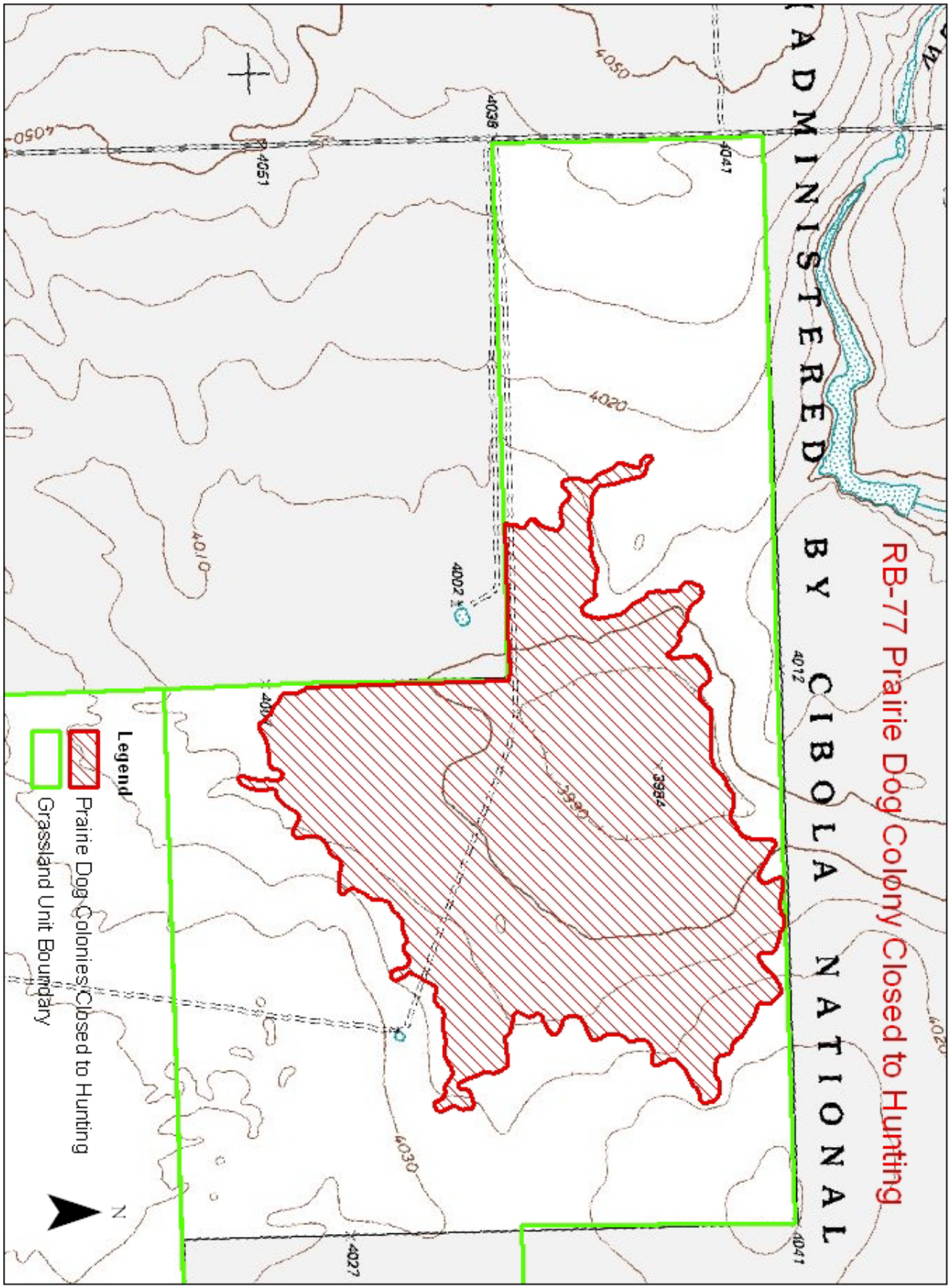
IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This Order will be in effect from the date signed, and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until December 31, 2016, which event ever occurs first.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. [18 U.S.C. §§ 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 28 day of June, 2013

Elaine Kohrman

ELAINE B. KOHRMAN
Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest and Grasslands


RB-21 and RB-22 Prairie Dog Colonies Closed to Hunting
Legend
Prairie Dog Colonies Closed to Hunting
Grassland Unit Boundary
N
PIPELINE
Gravel Pit
Dam
L A N C A

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