



News Release

U.S. Forest Service
Lincoln National Forest
3463 Las Palomas Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310
Voice: 575-434-7200
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln
Twitter: @LincolnUSForest

Media Contact: Denise Ottaviano
575-434-7290
dottaviano@fs.fed.us



Opportunity to Comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse Habitat Improvement Projects

CLOUDCROFT, NM, June 20, 2018– For Immediate Release. The Sacramento Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest is accepting public comment on the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse (NMMJM) Habitat Improvement Projects on the Sacramento Grazing Allotment. The purpose of this proposal is to protect and improve critical habitat for the endangered NMMJM within the Sacramento Grazing Allotment by reducing impacts such as grazing and recreation, which decrease the cover and food essential for the continued survival of the species, while continuing to allow for livestock grazing.

The Lincoln National Forest is proposing to replace temporary enclosure fencing that was completed for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 grazing seasons with permanent enclosure fencing with modifications, construct additional livestock handling facilities, and to develop additional water for livestock and wildlife within the Sacramento Grazing Allotment to reduce impacts on critical habitat for the NMMJM.

A closure order for enclosures with electric fencing would be included as part of the proposal to protect human health and safety, by reducing the risk of electric shock to forest users. The closure order will be lifted when the electric fence is replaced by a permanent fence. The project is expected to be implemented in phases over several years. Full details of the proposed action are available in the draft EA. The draft EA, including maps, is available online under the analysis tab at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51153>.

Specific written comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the *Alamogordo Daily News* (expected 6/20/2018). For more information about the project or how to comment, or to request a hard copy of the draft EA, please contact Aurora Roemmich, NEPA Coordinator, at 575-434-7266 or at auroraroemmich@fs.fed.us or visit the above website. For more information about the Lincoln National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln or follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/LincolnUSForest>

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