Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/8/2020 4:59:08 PM First name: Lisa Last name: Archer Organization:

Title:

Comments: As with all ecosystems, the prairie dogs are just a part of the whole, and the human and livestock encroachment on their territories should be considered in relation to their management as well as how their management will affect all the predators that rely on the prairie dogs as a food source. Livestock should be able to peacefully coexist with the prairie dogs just like bison do. The management for local overpopulation of prairie dogs can be to move the prairie dogs to other less populated areas. There should be a blanket authorization to dust for flea control in areas where fleas carry sylvatic plague, which decimates prairie dog populations. This is as much for the more endangered black-footed ferret as it is for the prairie dog itself, since healthy prairie dog populations are a requirement for reintroduction of the black footed ferret which feeds upon the prairie dogs. The Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction Area must be fully restored and protected to support ferret reintroduction on the Thunder Basin grasslands, which will be a start to creating a better functioning ecosystem.