

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2020 12:50:47 AM

First name: Melinda

Last name: Mueller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a biologist I strongly oppose any plan that would result in the killing of prairie dogs. This keystone species is crucial to the health of its ecosystem.

I object, as a taxpayer, to grazing rights taking precedence over native wildlife and natural ecosystems on our public lands. There are better ways of responding to plague among prairie dog populations than the ones proposed in this plan. Shrinking the protected area's acreage is a move in the wrong direction for wildlife and ecosystems already under multiple human-caused stresses. My particular expertise regards prairies of Washington State, while makes me acutely aware of how easily such ecosystems are destroyed by unwise conservation decisions.