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Organization: Lone Crow Cattle Co LLC

Title: Manager

Comments: Comments on Prairie Dog Amendment

I am a landowner and permittee in the Thunder Basin Grasslands. I was in the working group for the 2009 Prairie Dog Plan and felt like we had worked through disagreements. Thus I was gaining back my trust in the Forest Service.

Since then we see that the plan failed. It failed the Prairie Dogs because they were not managed and towns connected together with allowed Plague to move easier across the landscape and killed most of the Dogs. It failed the grassland vegetation as I watched plumes of dust rising from the ground 5 miles away. It failed the permittees as we were unable to graze our permits and chose to not graze until the vegetation recovered.

Let's try to not make the same mistake twice.

I believe the Prairie Dog management area was too large and the Prairie Dog management area was too large and the Forest Service didn't or couldn't manage the expansion.

I don't want to see the Prairie Dog eradicated or any species, but I believe there can be an area where they can thrive and an area where they aren't allowed to destroy.

I support Proposed Action with some additions.

- * 10,000 acres of Prairie Dog habitat with a trigger point of 8,000 acres to start management tools. Very important to have a definite trigger point so everyone involved knows what it is and action will be taken before explosion occurs.

- * Good that permittee can fund and do the labor of managing if the Forest Service is unable and agrees to. Also if adjacent private land, the landowner is expected to manage their Prairie Dogs. A common reason that things have not been done on Forest Service is - no funding - no satellite colonies - this just creates more problems.

- * Buffer management zone of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile next to private landowners. Buffer zone should be expanded where persistent Prairie Dog encroachment occurs.

- * Use of fumigants and anticoagulant after use of zinc phosphide has failed

- * Need density control available for use if needed, a good management tool

- * Recreational shooting allowed all year. Shooting has proven to destroy colonies.

- * Prairie Dogs have to be managed when encroaching Sage Grouse habitat and core areas.

- * Good that Cheyenne River on South is new boundary - a more natural boundary.

- * 10,000 acres is enough for Prairie Dog, Mountain Flower, and Burrowing Owl habitat acres

- * Active and continued working group is so important. Last time the group was not set up and lack of monitoring and discussions probably aided in the explosion of Prairie Dogs.

- * Vegetation can not be destroyed across the landscape by Prairie Dogs because other wildlife are depending on vegetation also.

- * Thank you

- * Lona Nachtman, Manager of Lone Crow Cattle Co LLC