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Comments: Black-Footed Ferret Surveys A black-footed ferret survey, following U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines, is required in most areas before aluminum phosphide tablets and gas cartridges can be used for prairie dog control.

It is illegal to kill a black-footed ferret, an endangered species that feeds almost exclusively on prairie dogs. It is estimated that one female ferret and her young require about 200 prairie dogs for food per year.

The ferrets would die if eating poisoned prairie dogs, as would the other predators of prairie dogs. This is all very disturbing

REPORTS BELOW FROM COLORADO UNIVERSITY EXTENSION:

Effects on Rangeland

The role of prairie dogs in reducing available range forage for livestock is not well studied. Several factors can influence forage reduction, including geographic location, rainfall, dominant grass species and duration of prairie dog habitation. Recent research suggests effects ranging from 20 to 30 percent less forage to an increase in the percentage of grass species preferred by Prairie dogs.

Ecological and Economic Importance

Prairie dog mound and burrow

Figure 4: Prairie dog mound and burrow

Prairie dog burrows serve as homes for burrowing owls, cottontail rabbits, and other animals. In Oklahoma, 89 vertebrate species were associated with prairie dog towns. Prairie dogs are a major food source for predators, including the endangered black-footed ferret, badgers, coyotes, foxes, prairie falcons, ferruginous hawks, and eagles.

The burrowing activity of prairie dogs provides the greatest ecological benefit by decreasing soil compaction, increasing water intake, aerating the soil and promoting soil formation. Their foraging vegetation and clipping activities can alter the vegetation in the colony by favoring certain grass and forb species. Grass species favored by prairie dogs include western wheatgrass, buffalograss and grama grasses. Prairie dogs also provide recreation for photographers, hunters, and naturalists.

SO, THE HUMAN EXTERMINATION OF PRAIRIE DOGS IS NOT A WISE DECISION, BASED ON SCIENCE.
WE, TAXPAYERS DO NOT WANT OUR FUNDS USED IN THESE
DESTRUCTIVE MANNERS.