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First name: Blackstone

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in Iowa, but every summer, we visited the Medicine Bow National Forest and surrounding areas. It is still one of the dearest places on earth to me.

The mission of the US Forest Service is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. "

Given that, the Forest Service has no business killing or preventing prairie dogs from accessing their native habitats, either on or off National Grasslands.

If the livestock industry cannot coexist with native wildlife on the Thunder Basin, all livestock should be removed and replaced with free-roaming bison.

Prairie dogs must be restored to their natural densities and historic range.

"Management" of prairie dogs should be limited to nonlethal translocation of prairie dogs to repopulated areas where their population densities are low, and a blanket authorization should be granted to dust for flea control in areas where fleas carry sylvatic plague, which decimates prairie dog populations.

Your duty is toward the wildlife and land, not to private interests and cattle. Please *man up* and protect this area and its wildlife.