



# Thunder Basin National Grassland Collaborative Learning Workshop #3 Gillette, WY - May 19, 2016

## Notes

### What are the desired conditions for the next 20 years on the Thunder Basin National Grassland?

#### Group 1

- More mitigation potential->habitat enhancement, w buy-in from adjacent private landowners. (Potentially mtn. plovers, raptures, etc.)
- Potential for incentive based programs
- Excellent range conditions w/ healthy ranch economy
- Continued access for recreation
- Continued potential for NR development (oil, gas, coal)
- Regulatory alignment between F.S. & BLM
- Potential for land exchanges to Block F.S. land (make contiguous) to consolidate ownership
- Use EPA & label recommended applications of Rodenticides full list of EPA approved Rodenticides to maintain effectiveness
- Enhance water quality on TB grassland i.e,-Reduce erosion
- Maintaining a healthy native ecosystem, including plants & wildlife, with emphasis on multi-species & not single species management
- Maintain multiple use
- Cactus Control

#### Group 2

- Multiple uses (recreation, energy, economically, wildlife, grazing, mining, etc.)
  - Whatever conditions support multiple uses
- Approaches need to be sustainable (budget, man-power, etc) and balanced and workable with people's work schedules.
- Managing P-dogs to a level that is not destructive ( very subjective definition)
- Keep invasive species (cheatgrass, threawn) out
- Viable grazing program. Establish a threshold of range management and production
- Productive ranches
- Coal production and continue great reclamation of the land

- Oil/Gas industry improve reclamation to the level coal mines have been doing
- Difference in sampling methods

Need to look at:

- Consumption
- Includes clipping?
- Suppression of vegetation
- Economic comparison of poisoning in relation to forage loss
- Look less at where p-dogs are more than density
- Look more at range conditions and forage production, than p-dogs/density -> find threshold beginning management re. # p-dogs
- Put links and resources on website
- Send e-mail w/ questions & resources
- Need more info ie. Laws & regulations
- Break down how to meet goals in future meeting
- Report back MSFS response to meetings

### **Group 3**

- Developed sense of history to help facilitate decision making (consistency, efficiency)
- Multiple use (all uses)
- Recognition of cooperation from private federal landowners Mix
- Continued Rec. use (hunting- wildlife value, quality experience
- Find/define metrics for success
- Prairie Dog Mobility- need more info. – from session 2 info gap
- Protection of Property Grazing/rights./Boundary management & impacts
- Diversity in terms of multiple use
- Long term planning
- A sustainable population of prairie dogs that also sustaining multiple use. Ex. P. Dog population in draught
- Agreed upon metrics for range health
- Collaborative Solutions ex. CBM & Stock grazing & water range improvements
- Prickly Pear management
- Explore solutions using fire management as a tool to improve range conditions
- Acknowledge-micro Ecosystems w/in TBG
- Black Footed Ferrets

### **Group 4**

- Control erosion
- Produce more forage

- Ensure economic stability for residents
- USFS is responsive to local concerns as required by law
- Multiple use objectives are fulfilled w/ qualifications
- Invasive spp. Are under control
  - Cactus
  - Cheatgrass
  - Bulbous bluegrass
  - Etc....
  - Ag pests
- Federal gov't recognizes and abides by state law
- Successful reclamation and restoration of abandoned O&G wells, mines, p.d. colonies
- Federal lands managed for the purpose which they were originally reserved (U.S. v N.M.)
- Balanced Ecosystem
- Greater Sage Grouse is not on the Endangered Species List
- We're taking a common sense approach to land management
- Citizens' health and welfare is protected
- Responsible energy development is part of our economic mix
- General right of livestock grazing will continue into the future

### **Group 5**

- Invasives
  - Disturbed areas
  - Give natives a chance
  - Using monitoring
  - NO CHEATGRASS
  - Mechanical removal (grading cactus)
  - Less chemicals, more biocontrol
- Minerals
  - Need for community funding
  - Reclamation
  - Healthy rangelands/ecosystems
- Recreation
  - Shooting anywhere there are P dogs
  - Closures maintained (all game)
  - Study on shooting (on TBNG)
  - Season? For pdogs
  - Improve big game hunting
  - OHV opportunities
  - Non-motorized “
  - Diverse opportunities
  - More water

- Water
  - More
  - Maintain existing watersheds
  - Water rights w-state/private
  - Water rights w-federal
    - Maybe future learning topic?
- Community
  - Less conflict
- Wildlife
  - Healthy ecosystems
  - Diverse “ “
  - More sage grouse
    - Plans should address predators
  - All options for management considered (lethal & non conflict prevention)
  - Reintroduce ferrets
    - As long as pdogs can be managed
- Lands
  - Reduce/prevent boundary confusions
  - “ “ conflict
    - Land exchange
    - Technology
  - Address costs associated with exchanges/ surveys/ etc
- Economics
  - Reduce loss of \$ from pdogs
  - Incentives for landowners (pdogs)
  - Reduce red tape/ streamline

## Group 6

- If Prairie Dogs, there is grass (density controlled)
- Private land management-respect for rights and for federal-different desired conditions
- Pipelines may go on federal lands
- Refocus on land management for much use & sustainable yield
- Maintain Hi-0 ty reclamation for ranch and wildlife
- Manage for multi-use
- Increase communication, respect for/BW parties
- US FS Streamline process with respect to permits, drilling (also BLM)
  - R/R as in Congress etc.
- Private and State rights protected
  - Incl. state agencies duties- weed & pest, G&F

- Manage for wildlife- Fed & Private lands in sync- water best on private -> do it cooperatively
- Hunting important for visitors – revenue into local community
- Desired benefit is incentivized not a penalty imposed
- Multi Benefit B/W Forest service, private landowners, etc.
- Ecosystem level mgt- treat public & private land holistically recognizing private land rights
  - Better relationships
  - Bigger context
- Public agency emphasis on relationships
- Increase in trust-has been broken-mutual
  - Consensus process
  - ID problems together and solutions
  - Process to remove bias /personal decisions
  - More towards joint decisions
- Partnership in management