



Draft USFS Thunder Basin Cooperative Working Group Process

February 27, 2017

Topic: Black-tailed Prairie Dog Colony Management and the Associated Conservation Assessment and Strategy

1. Rebuild relationships between Governmental entities at local, State and Federal levels.
2. Review and discuss implementation of the Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation Assessment and Strategy. The Strategy may be adapted based on these deliberations.
3. Establish an evaluation system regarding the Working Group's process for check-ins and discussion of next steps.
4. Establish an adaptive management system to establish implementation effectiveness and implementation revision if necessary.
5. Explore other issues of interest to Participants in relation to the Thunder Basin National Grassland and surrounding areas on on-going basis.

Phase 1: Discussion regarding Charter, Interests and Issues in relation to Black-tailed prairie dog colony management

Cooperative Working Group creates a Charter that will guide the Working Group purpose, process, participants, outcomes and communications.

Working Group will establish the interests that governmental entities have in relation to black-tailed prairie dog colony management.

Working Group will establish the issues to discuss in future meetings regarding Black-tailed prairie-dog colony management.

Establish Information Needs.

Phase 2: Detailed Discussion regarding the Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation Assessment and Management Strategy

The Cooperative Working Group will address the Black-tailed prairie dog Conservation Assessment and Strategy (Prairie Dog Management Strategy) in more detail.

1. Review the Black-tailed Prairie Dog Strategy.
2. Determine and fill Information Needs.
3. Create Implementation Action Plan based on the Strategy:
 - a. Options for Implementation
 - b. Trade-offs Discussion
 - c. Explore agreement with options.



4. Create an adaptive management plan for project implementation, evaluation and continued cooperation for through 2019.

Phase 3: Continue Cooperation on Other Topics

The Thunder Basin Cooperative Working Group will explore other issues of mutual interest to discuss:

1. Explore and decide on next topics.
2. For each topic deliberate: Interests, Issues, Information Needs, Options, Trade-Offs and Agreement with options.



Thunder Basin Cooperative Working Group			
Phase and Purpose	Phase 1: Discussion regarding Charter, Interests and Issues in relation to the prairie-dog colony management	Phase 2: Detailed Discussion regarding the Black-Tailed Conservation Assessment and Management Strategy	Phase 3: Continue Cooperation on Other Topics
	Meeting 1: Charter, Interests, Issues and Information	Meeting 2: Charter, Review Prairie Dog Strategy, Explore Information, Start Creating Options based on Issues. Meeting 3: Explore Information, Start Creating Options based on Issues. Meeting 4: Explore Information, Start Creating Options based on Issues. Meeting 5: Discuss Trade-Offs and Explore Agreement.	Meeting 6: Determine Adaptive Management Process for Prairie Dog Strategy project implementation. Explore next topics.
Product	Provide the Working Group with the opportunity to discover the issues, why they are important and create a process that will address them.	A list of implementation options for use by all land managers regarding prairie dog management and the level of agreement with each option.	Ongoing meetings to explore implementation of Strategy.