



THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND WORKING GROUP

Meeting 3: June 7, 2017

OVERVIEW: PURPOSE AND PROCESS

**COLLABORATIVE LEARNING WORKSHOPS
+ GOVERNMENT COOPERATIVE WORKING GROUP
= PRAIRIE DOG IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- ❖ Reminder of Working Group process structure
- ❖ Results Meetings 1 and 2: Prairie Dog Management Maps
- ❖ Agenda Meeting 3
- ❖ Next Steps in terms of Purpose and Process

COLLABORATION & NEGOTIATION

Two sides to the same coin.

Collaboration is 'negotiation' among many parties.

It is FOTE: a Full, Open and Transparent Exchange.

The result is a collaborative decision.

To make positive gains, one must help other stakeholders make gains too.

Negotiation in this sense is a positive-sum game, not a zero-sum game.



A Consensus-Building Process

Step 1:
Identify
Issues

Step 2:
Identify
Interests

Step 3:
Identify
Options

Step 4:
Identify
Trade-offs

Learn: Explore
Information

The Trade-offs that
meet as many interests
as possible form a
Recommendation.

INTEREST STATEMENTS

- 1. Management is important to learn what works and what does not through clear communication of information and actions.**
- 2. Management is important if done in a collaborative manner to implement solutions.**
- 3. Management is important to protect environmental integrity of the Grasslands and its wildlife populations.**
- 4. Management is important to balance all interests and to ensure efficient and effective governing.**
- 5. Management is important to maintain multiple use on the TBNG.**
- 6. Management is important to ensure no listing of prairie dogs or associated species as a threatened or endangered species.**
- 7. Management is important to control prairie dogs where so desired.**
- 8. Management is important to protect private property rights and property values.**
- 9. Management is important to ensure the long term sustainability of ranching livelihoods and culture.**

ISSUES TO TACKLE

1. Ecosystem Functioning

2. Ferrets

3. Full and Transparent Communications

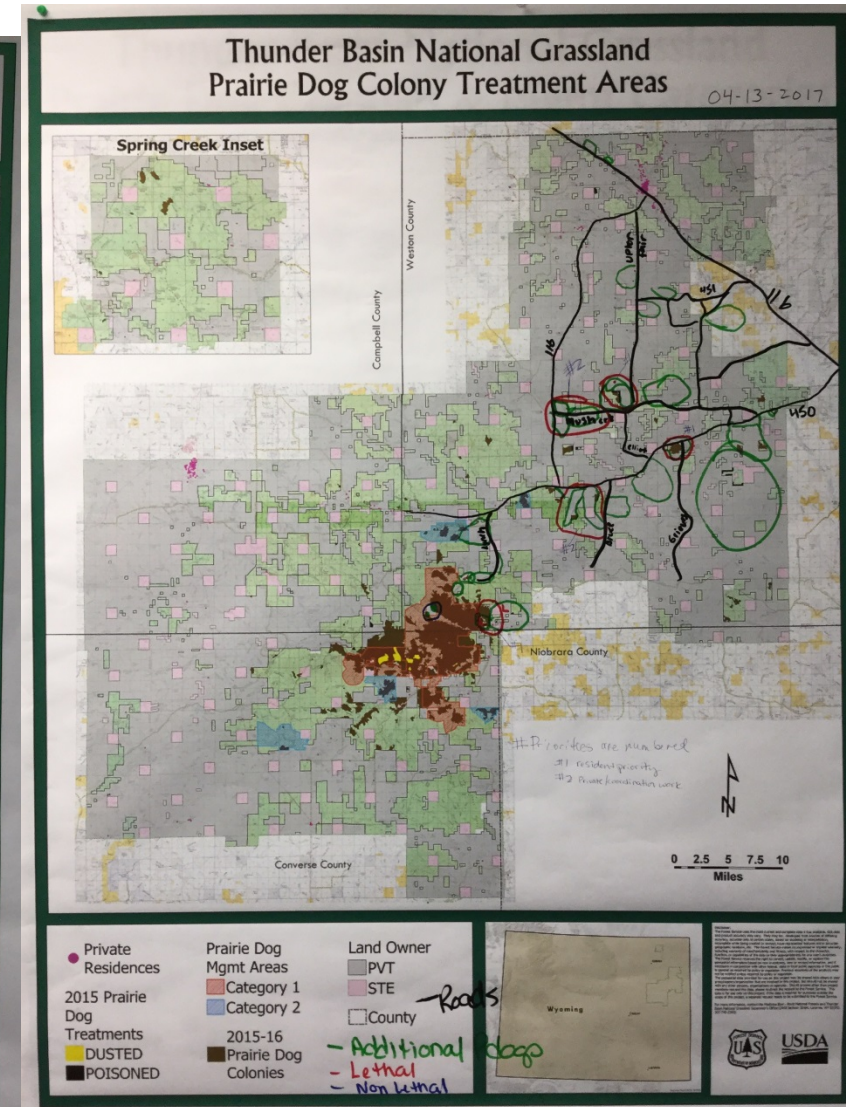
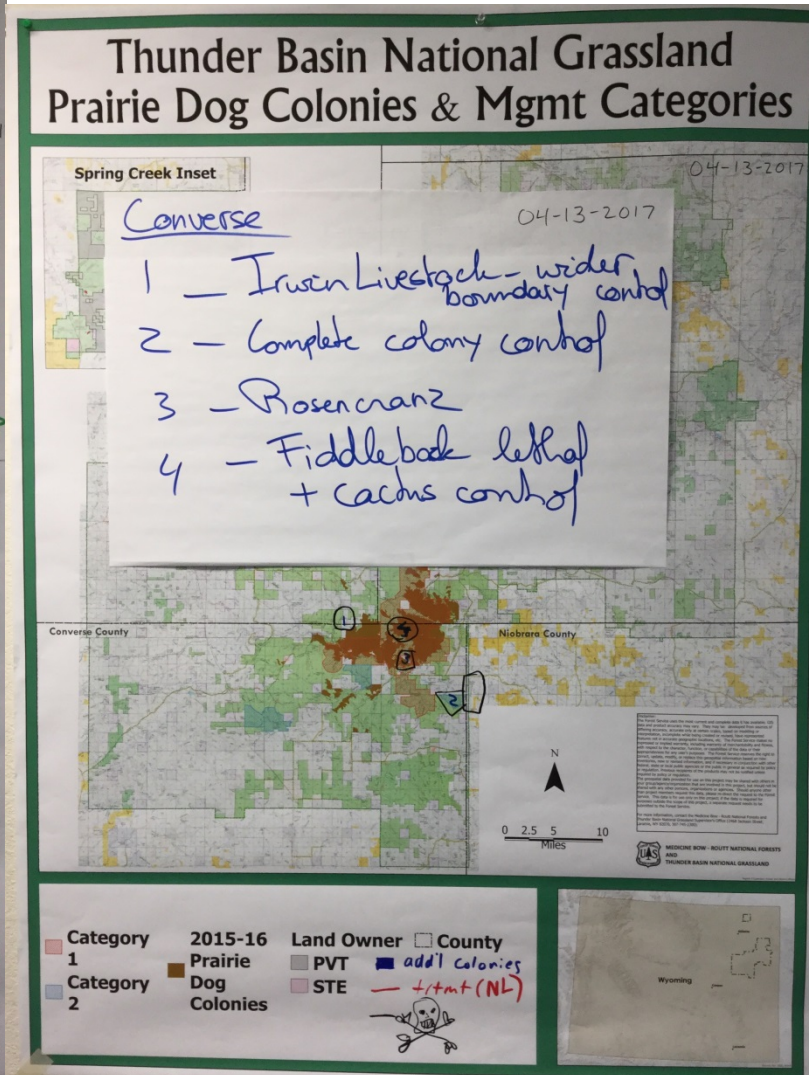
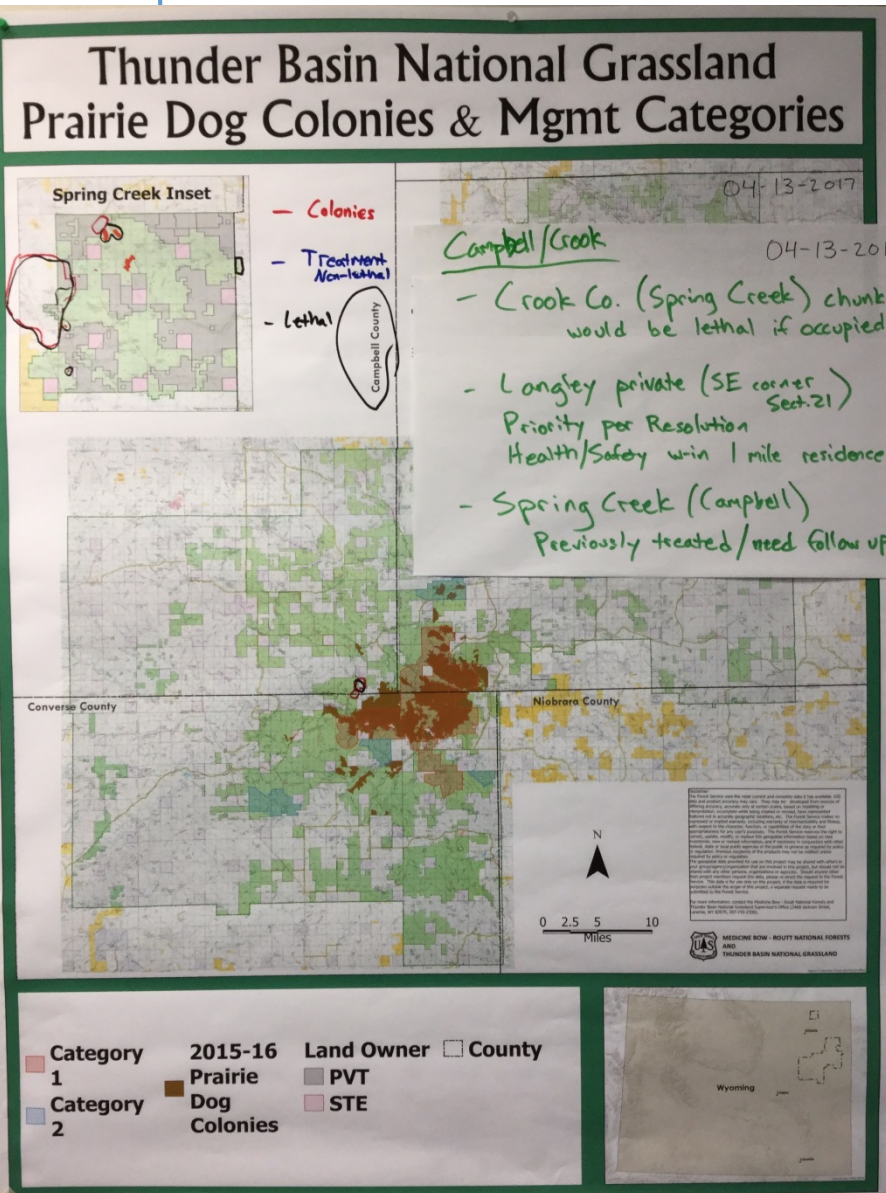
4. Governance

5. Prairie Dog Management

6. Process

7. Socio-Economic Factors

PDOG TREATMENT AREAS IDENTIFIED LAST TIME



INFORMATION NEEDS Short-term priorities

- 1) MANAGING FOR FERRETS: WGFD re ferrets; BFF and USFWS; introduce or not? When?; Are ferrets going to be reintroduced on TBNG (WGFD/FWS); WGFD regarding ferrets **June 7**.
- 2) GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT OF PRAIRIE DOGS: Prairie dogs – how managed, what designation FWS, USFS, WGFD, Wyo Dept. of Ag, and W&P. **June 7**
- 3) USDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: Emergency funding for ranchers in trouble (can Joe talk about this?) **June 7**
- 4) Strategy (Shane) and Grassland plan (time permitting); Desired conditions in plan – examine. Hopefully Shane knows what this means **June 7**
- 5) Follow-up and update on map exercise; Plans regarding prairie dog this summer – USFS – **June 7**
- 6) Expertise to address prairie dog densities; Prairie dog data (densities); Look at prairie dog data (RI); Maps and acreages regarding properties and prairie dog areas. **Aug 23 and 24**
- 7) Toolbox of control methods; Lethal and non-lethal methods (Slade) **June 7**

Mid-term priorities

- ❖ Consequences of lifting shooting ban. Costs and benefits - Aug. 23 and 24
- ❖ OTHER WILDLIFE: Need numbers and densities of p dogs, foxes, and other associated species; WGFD: information on wildlife populations (size/density); WGFD animal surveys on Thunder Basin.
- ❖ Grazing Association funds to USFS: how much? How spent?

Lower priorities

- ❖ Cloud seeding
- ❖ Conservation proposals (conservation groups)
- ❖ Restoration areas (Jessica, Joe, Willow)
- ❖ How to leverage existing resources for restoration
- ❖ Where are sage-grouse core areas located in relation to p dogs?
- ❖ (Vicky: Someone to talk about plague)

Information needs that have been met

- ❖ USFS and Douglas District; how does it work? Staff? Issues they deal with? (April)

TODAY'S AGENDA: CHARTER AND CREATE AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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|---------|---|
| 9:00 am | Introductions |
| 9:15 | Results Meetings 1 and 2 – Jessica Western |
| 9:30 | Updates: Zach Walker: Status Black-footed Ferrets, Shane Walker: Conservation and Prairie-dog Management Efforts and Field Tour with Regional Forester and Other Updates. |
| 10:15 | Presentation regarding Process and Purpose of Working Group – Jessica Western |
| 10:30 | Finalize initial purpose of the Cooperative Working Group – Implementation Plan? – Jessica Western. |
| 11:00 | Proposal for Working Group – Conservation Organizations |
| 11:30 | Considerations regarding lethal and non-lethal methods – Slade Franklin |
| 12:00 | Disaster Relief Information – Joe Budd |
| 12:10 | Lunch |
| 12:40 | Finalize Charter – Jessica Western |
| 2:15 | Discuss an “Implementation Plan”: what components should be included? <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Subject: Plans regarding prairie dogs this summer▪ Subject: Plans to restore forage for livestock and wildlife▪ Subject: Plans to reduce cactus▪ Subject: Other▪ Methods and Timing for each Subject▪ Other. |
| 2:45 | Next Steps and Next Meeting: Prairie Dogs and other Agencies. Other agenda items? |
| 3:00 | Adjourn |

PURPOSE AND PROCESS OF THIS WORKING GROUP

1. Main objective is to create an Implementation Plan that outlines on an annual basis the measures the group recommends to the USFS, State entities, other land managers, non-governmental organizations and others to implement restoration and prairie dog management on the Thunder Basin National Grassland.
2. The Implementation Plan will identify the measures recommended to maintain a suite of sensitive species which the Group does not want listed under the Endangered Species Act, while optimally enabling other uses on the Grassland.
3. After initial creation in 2017, this Implementation Plan will be assessed and adapted as needed by the Working Group on an annual basis and sent to all interested parties as recommendations. It is a living document that reflect needs and conditions every year.
4. Collaborative Learning sessions open to all members of the public continue to provide input to the Working Group for the creation of the Implementation Plan.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: EXAMPLE PLATTE VALLEY MULE DEER HABITAT PLAN

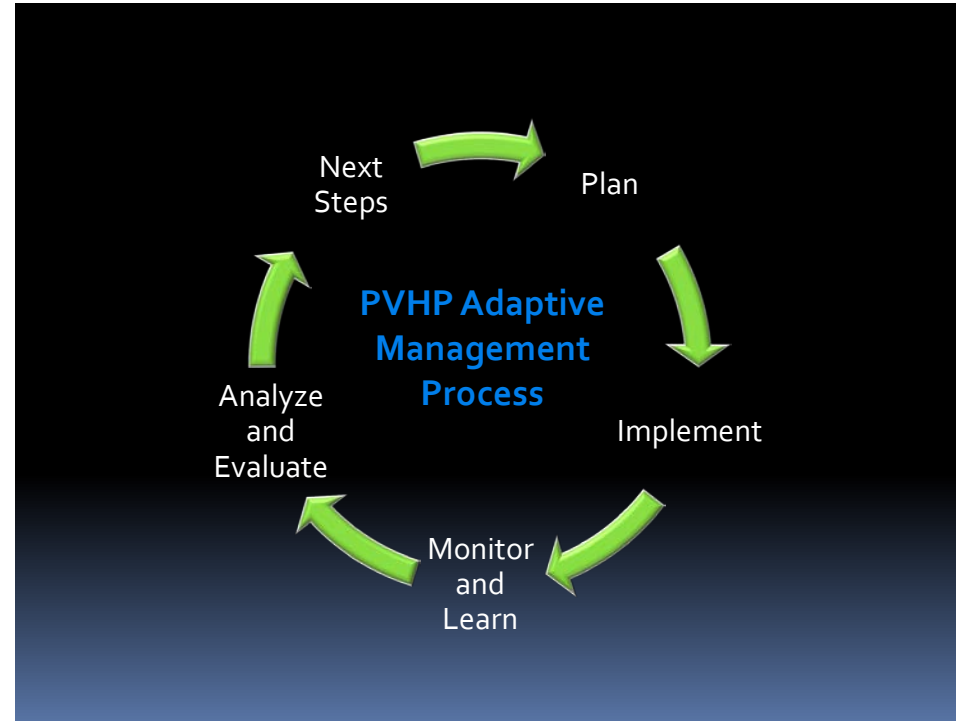


Table 5. Proposed Adaptive Management Schedule for 2013 – 2014.

Period	Action	Subjects	Result
Fall and Winter 2012, Spring 2013	Plan	Vision, Goal, Objectives, Criteria for Success, Adaptive Management, Decision Making Process, Funding Methods, Habitat Strategies, Monitoring Strategies, Next Steps.	PVHP Plan and Working Document
Summer 2013	Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Implementation • Base line and project monitoring • Project Development for Private and Public lands • Transition of facilitation/leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring data • New Projects based on PVHP Strategies.
Fall 2013	Analyze and Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Data • Project Proposals (PVHP and WGFD) • Project Implementation Experiences • New Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Projects for 2014 • Adjusted (if necessary) Implementation based on Experience and Research.
Spring 2014	Plan and Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and Implementation of new Projects for inclusion in next Plan. • Adjusted Monitoring methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the Working Document as needed
Fall 2014	Analyze and Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Data • Project Proposals (PVHP and WGFD) • Project Implementation Experiences • New Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Projects for 2015 • Adjusted (if necessary) Implementation based on Experience and Research.
Ongoing	Planning, Implementation, Evaluating , Analyzing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PVHP can meet whenever it feels a need to convene and discuss any issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberations will improve methods and results will be included in the plan

QUESTIONS?

