

What has the U.S. Forest Service done from June 2016 through October 2017 concerning range management, weeds and invasive species, Black-tailed prairie dog colonies, and short-grass prairie restoration projects?

June 2016

- Sage grouse habitat assessment Thunder Basin Grassland
- Noxious weed control agreements completed for Weston, Campbell, Platte, and Albany counties

July 2016

- Sage grouse habitat assessment Thunder Basin Grassland and Laramie Peak Unit
- Assisted with researchers in prairie dog colonies
- Meetings with State of Wyoming and grazing associations concerning sage grouse habitat assessments
- Prairie Dog Control contract completed. Includes lethal and non-lethal methods
- Drought condition monitoring on Grassland, especially Weston County area
- Long term range monitoring on Laramie Peak Unit

August 2016

- Short term range monitoring Grassland and Laramie Peak
- Planning for water developments on Thunder Basin and Inyan Kara grazing associations.

September 2016

- County W&P meet and Slade Franklin to review prairie dog control decision screens
- Prairie Dog Control lethal contract awarded
- Thunder Basin Grazing Association Board meeting

October 2016

- Implemented prairie dog control 1,640-acres completed
- Forest wide meetings to review sage grouse habitat assessments

November 2016

- Participated in a meeting at the Fiddleback Ranch to discuss cooperative and collaborative efforts in growing grass and controlling Black-tailed prairie dog colonies.
- Grassland permit administration training for range staff
- All Researchers meet to review how the summer went
- Meetings on how to update the Resource Area Management Plans (RAMPs) on the Grassland
- Meeting to review Forest wide sage grouse habitat assessments and how to conduct the suitability evaluations

December 2016

- Inyan Kara Grazing Association board meeting
- Work on Resource Area Management Plans
- Noxious Weed Training in Laramie

January 2017

- Received information on 4W Ranch's interest in planting annuals, and began working with the Thunder Basin Grazing Association and the 4W Ranch.
- Thunder Basin and Inyan Kara grazing association annual meetings
- Implement Spring Creek vegetation treatment
- Modify existing noxious weed agreements
- New noxious weed agreement for Converse County

February 2017

- Thunder Basin Cooperative Effort Meetings
 - Thunder Basin Cooperative Working Group
- Spring Creek Grazing Association annual meeting
- Sage grouse habitat assessment suitability

March 2017

- Thunder Basin and Inyan Kara grazing associations board meetings
- Sage grouse habitat assessment suitability and work on Allotment Management Plans
- New contract for prairie dog colony control
- Monitoring input for noxious weed agreements
- Meet with secretary Spring Creek Grazing Association to update files and records
- Assisted with contract for spraying invasive weeds on Grassland

April 2017

- Thunder Basin Cooperative Effort Meetings
 - Thunder Basin Collaborative Learning Series Public Workshop
 - Received initial map of places with Black-tailed prairie dog colonies on various land ownership, and preferred areas for lethal and non-lethal control in 2017.
 - Thunder Basin Cooperative Working Group
 - Added information to the maps developed in the Public Workshop.
- Participated in scheduled Thunder Basin Grazing Association board meeting.
 - Asked the board to take the above maps from the meetings and add information so that we can coordinate and cooperate in Black-tailed prairie dog control efforts this year. The board scheduled a meeting in June.
- Met with 4W Ranch to look at restoration projects he has done on his private and what we can do to restore rangeland health on parts of National Grassland

May 2017

- Prairie Dog Freedom of Information Act request
- Weston County W&P board meeting
- Spring Creek Grazing Association board meeting
- Sage grouse implementation meeting with Joe Budd
- Sage grouse habitat assessments on Grassland

June 2017

- Participated in the Thunder Basin Grazing Association's identification and prioritization of Black-tailed prairie dog control efforts this year.
- Thunder Basin Cooperative Effort Meetings
 - Thunder Basin Cooperative Working Group
- Sage grouse habitat assessments on Grassland
- Meeting with permittee on Grassland to look at alternatives for prairie dog management

July 2017

- Sage grouse habitat assessments on Grassland and Laramie Peak Unit
- Short term range monitoring
- Noxious weed spraying
- Prairie dog colony monitoring for plague
- Meeting with Weston Co. W&P and Inyan Kara Grazing Association to discuss prairie dog management
- Cooperation with Converse County W&P, Prairie Dog Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife, World Wildlife Fund, Thunder Basin Grasslands and Prairie Ecosystem Association, and Thunder Basin Grazing Association in designing and locating a passive prairie dog colony control project.

August 2017

- Finalized 5-year agreement with Converse, Campbell, and Weston Counties for Black-tailed prairie dog colony control efforts.
- Processed the requests on the maps from the Thunder Basin Collaborative Effort meetings and meetings with the grazing associations.
- Modified Converse County W&P noxious weed agreement
- Spring Creek Grazing Association board meeting
- Meeting with researchers to plan fire research on Grassland
- Noxious weed spraying

September 2017

- Thunder Basin Cooperative Effort Meetings
 - Thunder Basin Collaborative Learning Series Public Workshop
 - Thunder Basin Cooperative Working Group
- Authorized Converse, Campbell, and Weston counties' Weed & Pest Districts to lethally control approximately 6,000-acres of prairie dog colonies.
- Spring Creek vegetation treatment planning meet
- Noxious weed spraying

October 2017

- Authorized:
 - Thunder Basin Grazing Association's Seebaum cactus spraying project;
 - Thunder Basin Grazing Association's Fiddleback cactus spraying project;
 - Thunder Basin Grazing Association's 4W restoration project.