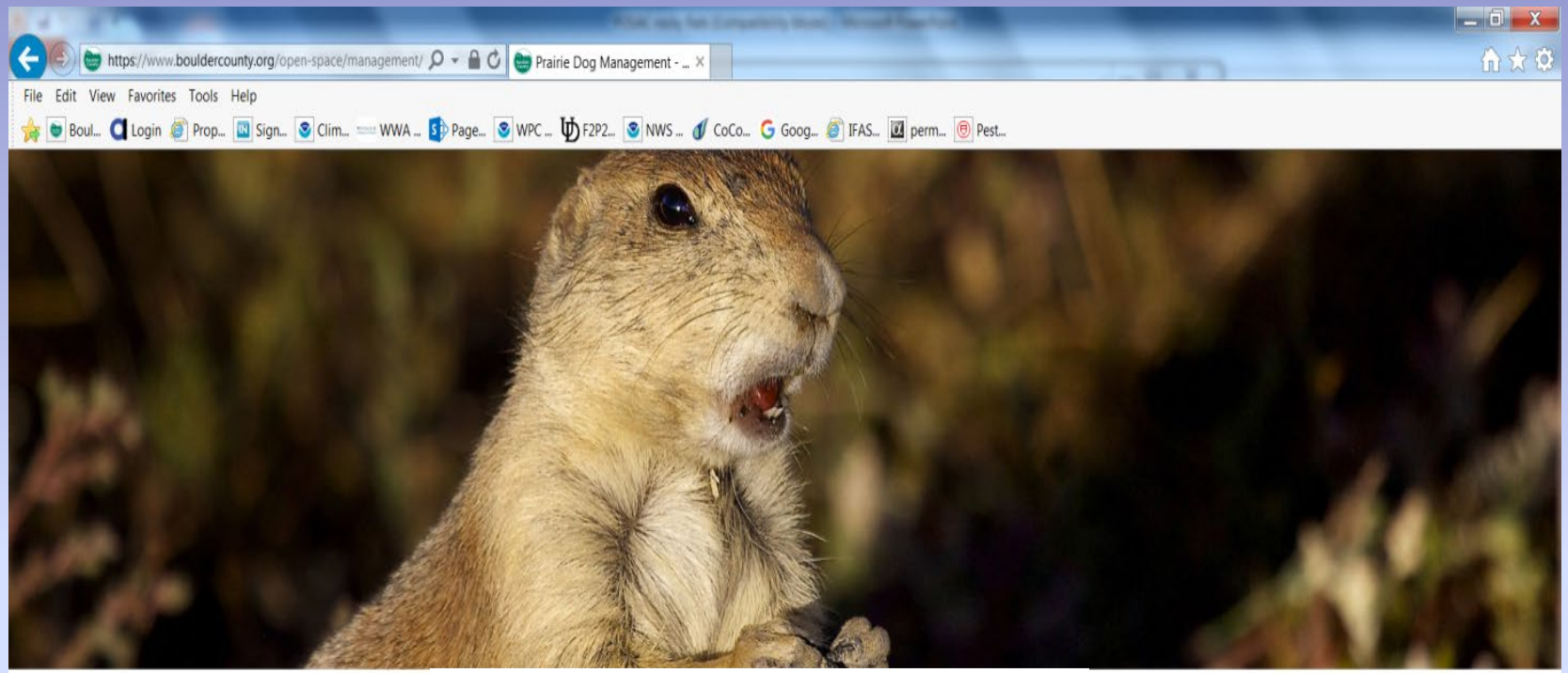
Annual Prairie Dog Meeting 2018

Boulder County Parks & Open Space

Tonight's Agenda

1. Introduction/Policy Context - Jeff 5 minutes
2. POS Future Management - Jeff 5 minutes
3. 2018 Prairie Dog Management Activities
   a. Removal/Control – Rob 5 minutes
   b. Other Activities – Susan 15 minutes
4. National Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Program – John Hughes, USFWS Biologist-20 min
5. BCPOS Revegetation Success Model – Nathan Teich 20 min
6. Wrap Up/Questions

What governs our prairie dog management?



Prairie Dog Ma

Boulder County mana

space properties.

Management Plan

The goal of Boulder County is to pr

On October 15, 2012, the county a

where appropriate on open

plan was updated on February 25, 2016.

APPLICATION PART 1

PERMIT TO CAPTURE, TRANSPORT, HOLD and RELOCATE PRAIRIE DOGS

Re: Wild to Wild Relocation

This application includes: Part 1-Application form; Part 2-Site Description; Part 3- Management Plan; and Part 4-Letters. Permit Special Conditions, which require signatures, are attached.

PROJECT PROPONENT/PRIMARY PERMITTEE:

Organization/agency if any: _____

Primary Contact (name/title): _____

Phone #'s: _____

Address: _____

RELOCATION CONTRACTOR:

Organization/agency if any: _____

Primary Contact (name/title): _____

Phone #'s: _____

Address: _____

Names of other individuals assisting: _____

Date(s) for which permit is requested:

___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Proposed Capture Site(s) and Estimated Number of Prairie Dogs to be Captured:

Name and description of specific site(s)* where capture will take place: _____

What are the goals of that management?

- A plan that reflects the multiple values of the county and its residents
  - The maintenance of croplands for agriculture

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- A plan that reflects the multiple values of the county and its residents
  - The stewardship of natural areas and systems

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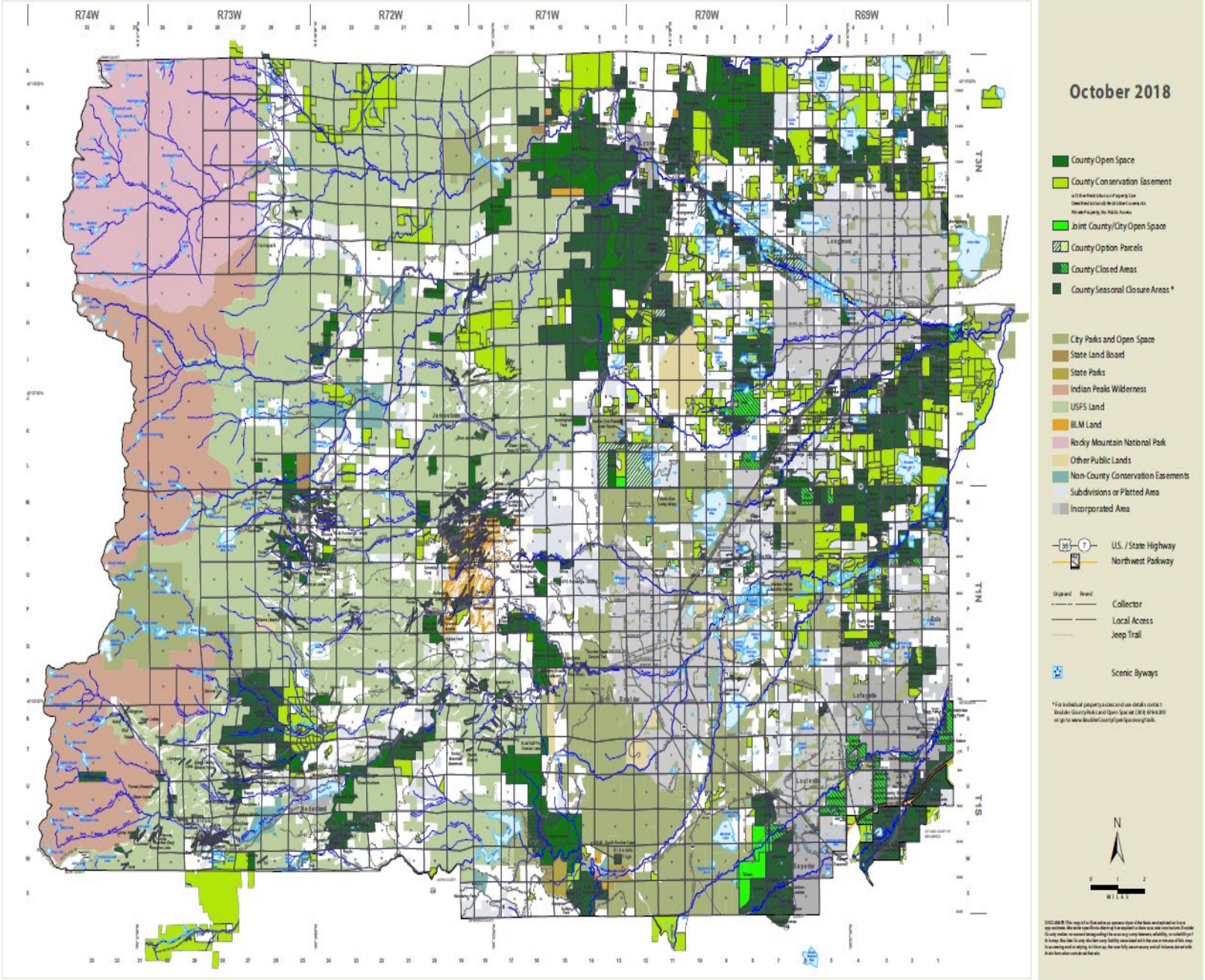
- A plan that reflects the multiple values of the county and its residents
  - The consideration of neighboring landowners

Open Space in Boulder County

Parks & Open Space



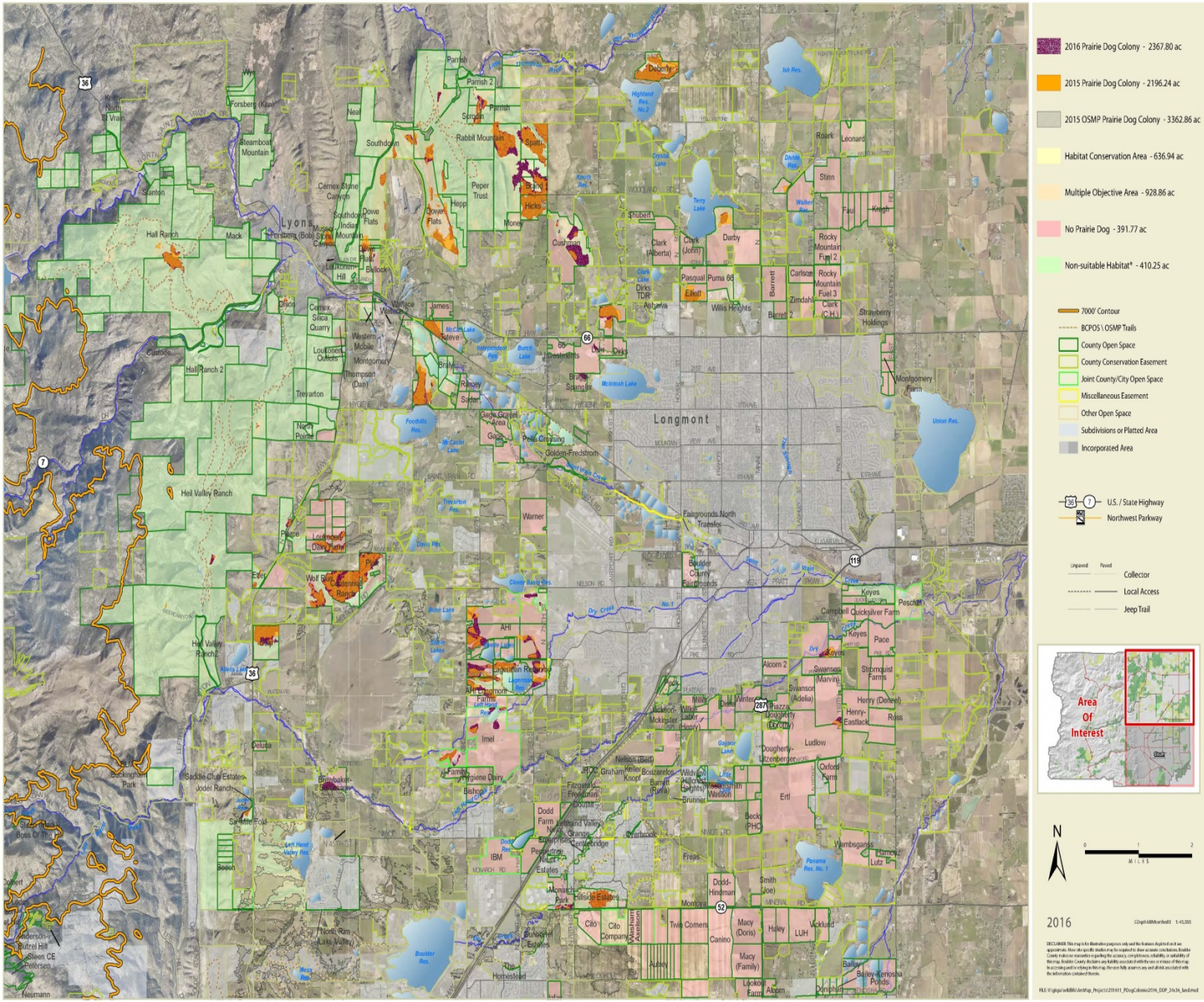
How do we manage our lands for that mix of purposes and uses?

- Assess our properties as a system
- Categorize properties/groups into designations
  - HCA (Habitat Conservation Areas)
  - MOA (Multiple Objective Areas)
  - NPD (No Prairie Dog Areas)

What does that look like?

Prairie Dog Colony Extent on County Open Space: North

Boulder County Parks & Open Space



Prairie Dog Colony Extent on County Open Space: South

Boulder County Parks & Open Space

2016 Prairie Dog Colony - 2367.80 ac

2015 Prairie Dog Colony - 2196.24 ac

2015 OSMP Prairie Dog Colony - 3362.86 ac

Habitat Conservation Area - 636.94 ac

Multiple Objective Area - 928.86 ac

No Prairie Dog - 391.77 ac

Non-suitable Habitat* - 410.25 ac

7000' Contour

BCPOS \ OSMP Trails

County Open Space

County Conservation Easement

Joint County/City Open Space

Miscellaneous Easement

Other Open Space

Subdivisions or Platted Area

Incorporated Area

U.S. / State Highway

Northwest Parkway

Unpaved Paved

Collector

Local Access

Jeep Trail

Area Of Interest

N

0 1 2 MILES

2016

CDrgHARRNorthed3 1:40,000

* Utilizing modeling techniques, Parks and Open Space has defined Non-suitable Habitat (NSH) as areas with slope >10% and riparian or wetland areas. The designation of NSH does NOT trigger any management action, but allows management to determine realistic habitable acreage on the ground. Parks and Open Space continuously update the model with improved spatial and tabular information.

Non-suitable Habitat (NSH) is not mapped on No Prairie Dog (NPD) areas.

2016 NSH breakdown:

246.38 ac MOA

163.87 ac HCA

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustrative purposes only and the features depicted on it are approximate. More site specific studies may be required to draw accurate conclusions. Boulder County makes no warranties regarding the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this map. Boulder County disclaims any liability associated with the use or misuse of this map. In accessing and/or relying on this map, the user fully assumes any and all risk associated with the information contained thereon.

FILE: V:\gisprj\wildlife\ArcMap_Projects\2016\11_PDogColonies\2016_DDP_24x36_landmed

Recent Challenge

- Management on NPD sites
  - 680 acres of prairie dog colonies in 2017
  - Failure to successfully clear properties
  - Populations impacting agricultural operations
- BCPOS Response
  - Continued strategic efforts during 9 months of year

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Prairie Dog Stakeholders' Meeting- 2018 Update

No Prairie Dog (NPD) Acreages

NPD Total Open Space Acreage

- 2017- 17,964 acres
- 2018- 18,454 acres

Prairie Dog Colonies on NPDs

- 2017 - 679 acres
- 2018 - 698 acres

2017 = 3.9% Prairie Dog coverage of total NPD

2018 = 3.8% Prairie Dog coverage of total NPD

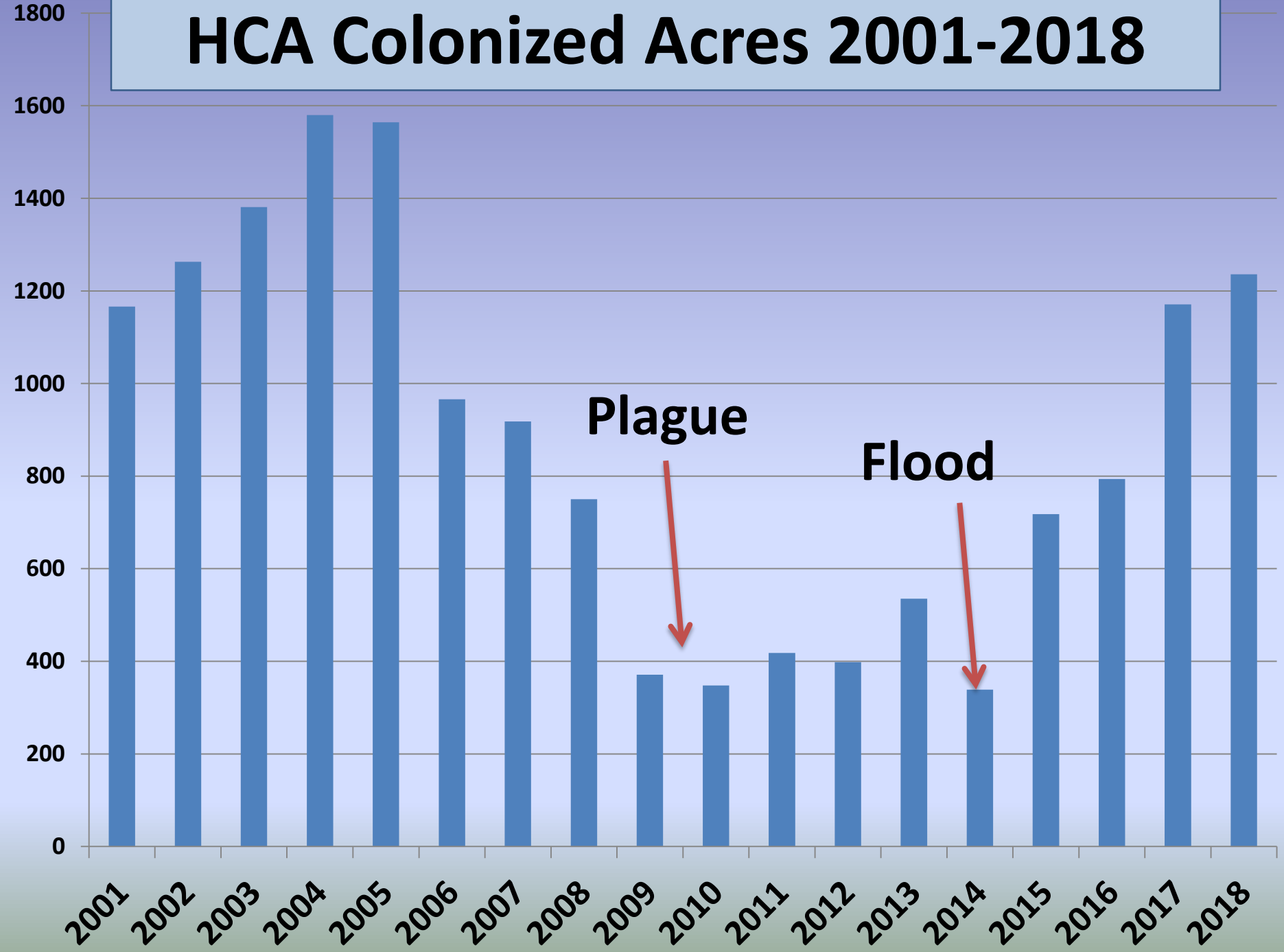
Stakeholders' Meeting-2018 Overview

- Colonized Acreage of Prairie Dogs
- Barrier Fencing
- Relocations Updates
- Burrowing Owls
- Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction

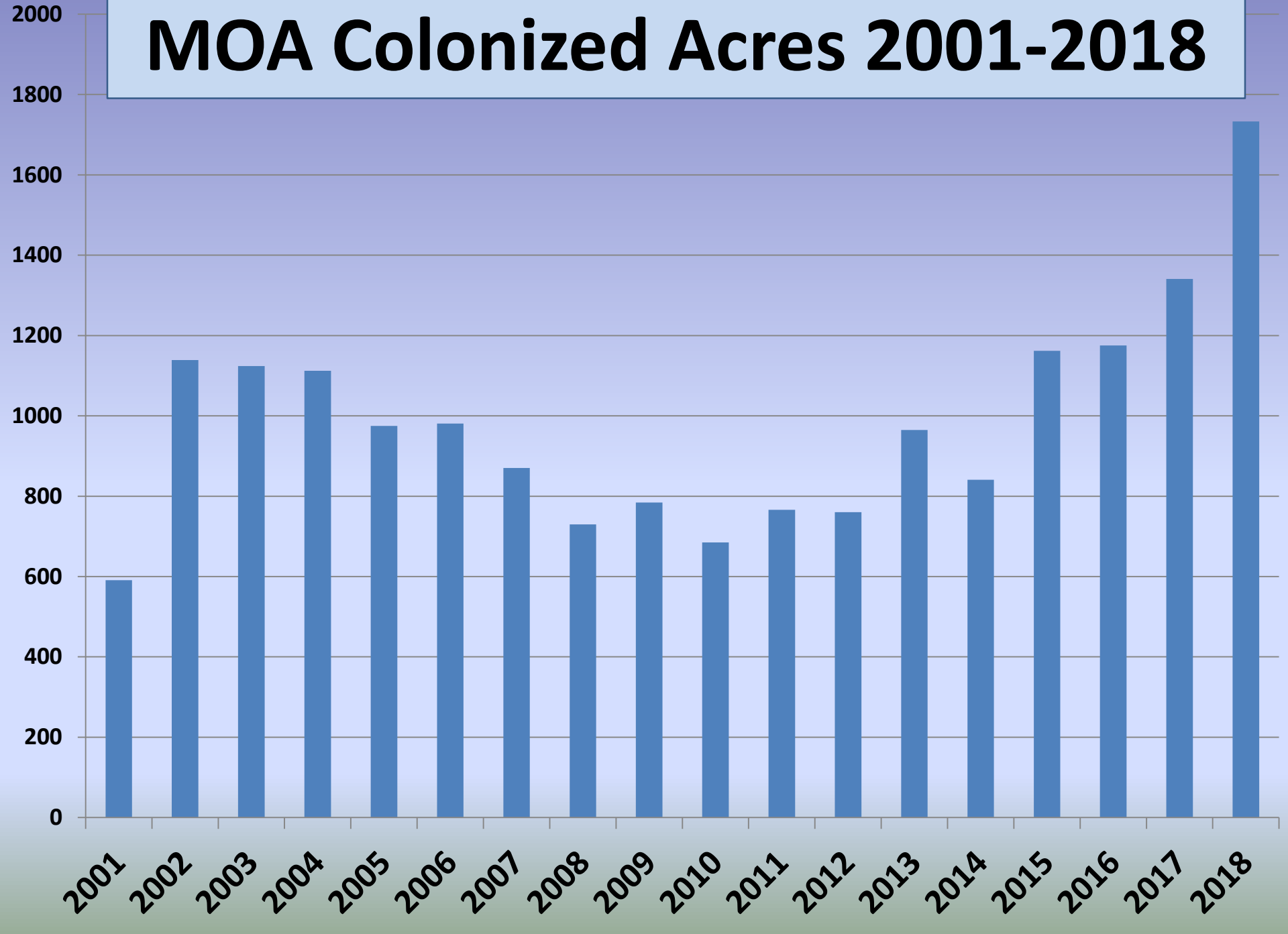
Occupied Prairie Dog Colony Size Per Property Designation Type- 2016 - 2018

Colony Acres	2016	2017	2018
HCA	834	1,171	1,236
MOA	1,175	1,341	1,733
NPD	392	679	698
Totals	2,401	3,132	3,668

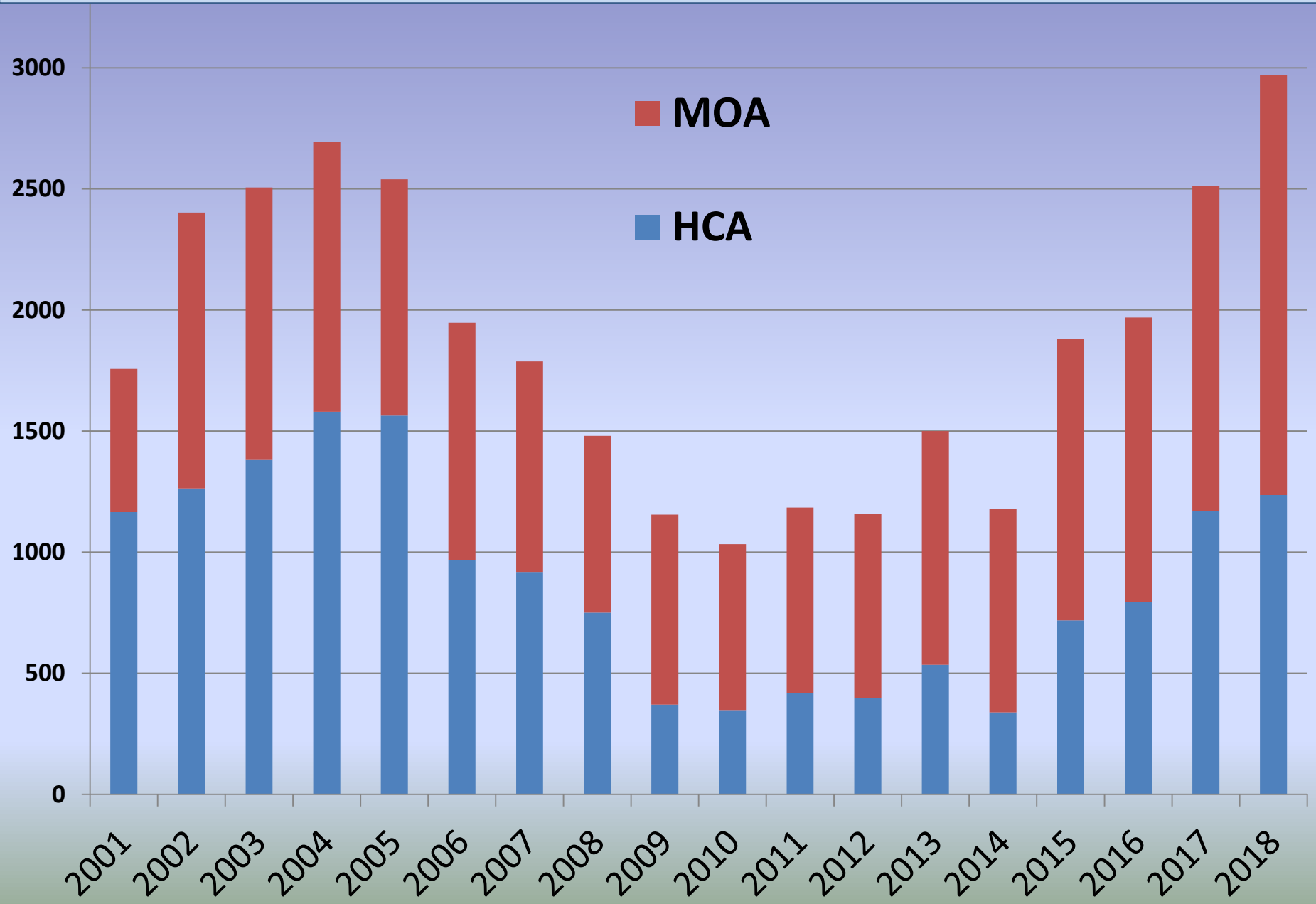
HCA Colonized Acres 2001-2018



MOA Colonized Acres 2001-2018



HCA + MOA Colonized Acres 2001-2018



Prairie Dog Barrier Fencing 2018

- **1,570’ installed with volunteers and staff**
- **~ $3,180 - materials/labor**

Prairie Dog Barrier Fencing 2018

Broomfield North Property

- 450 ft. installed 2017.
- 500 ft. additional installed 2018.

~$750 materials/labor

Prairie Dog Barrier Fencing 2018

Monarch Park

- 100 ft. Repaired and installed, plus gate

~$250 materials/labor

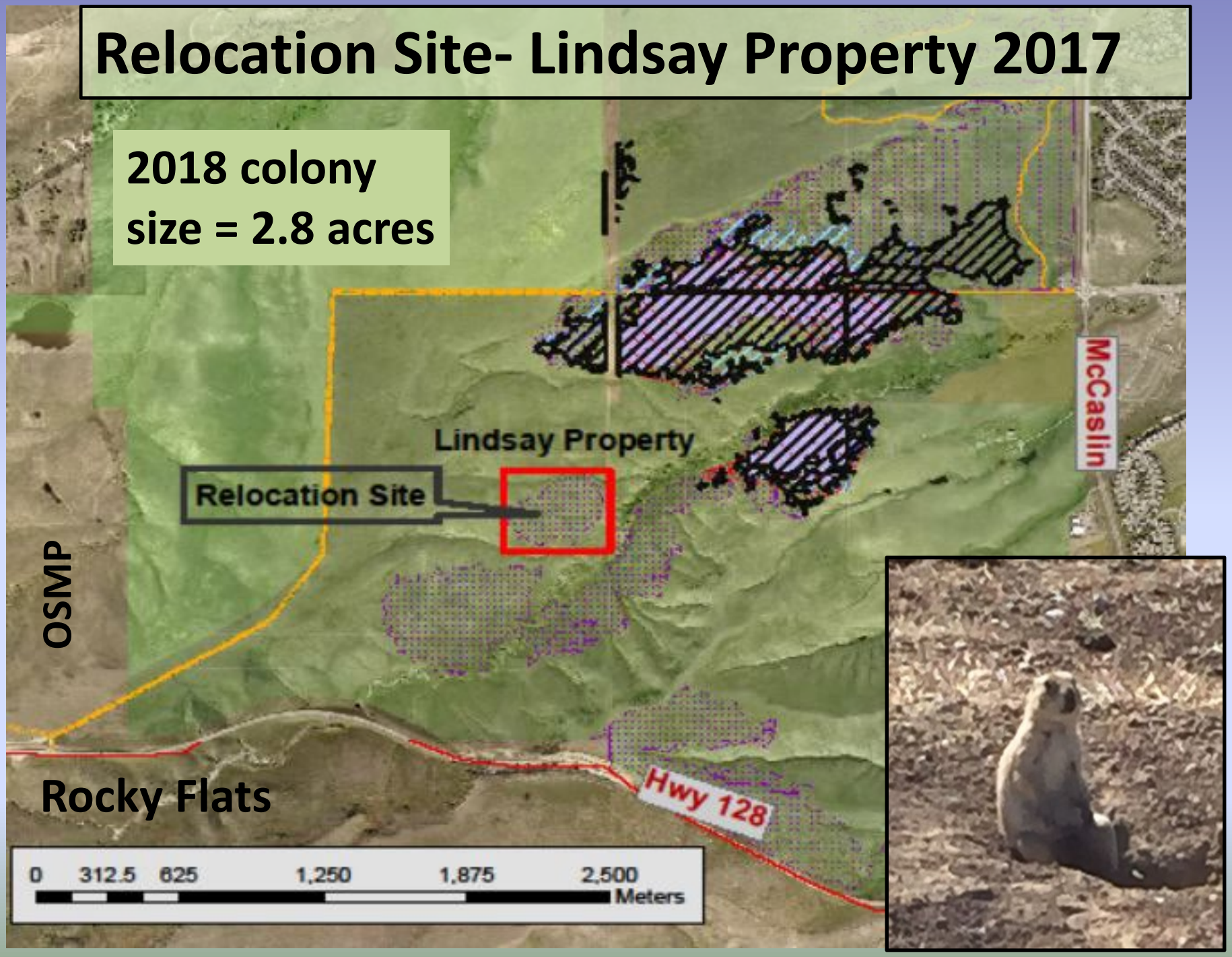
- 970 ft. installed
- 12 Volunteers from CPW

~$2,180 materials/labor

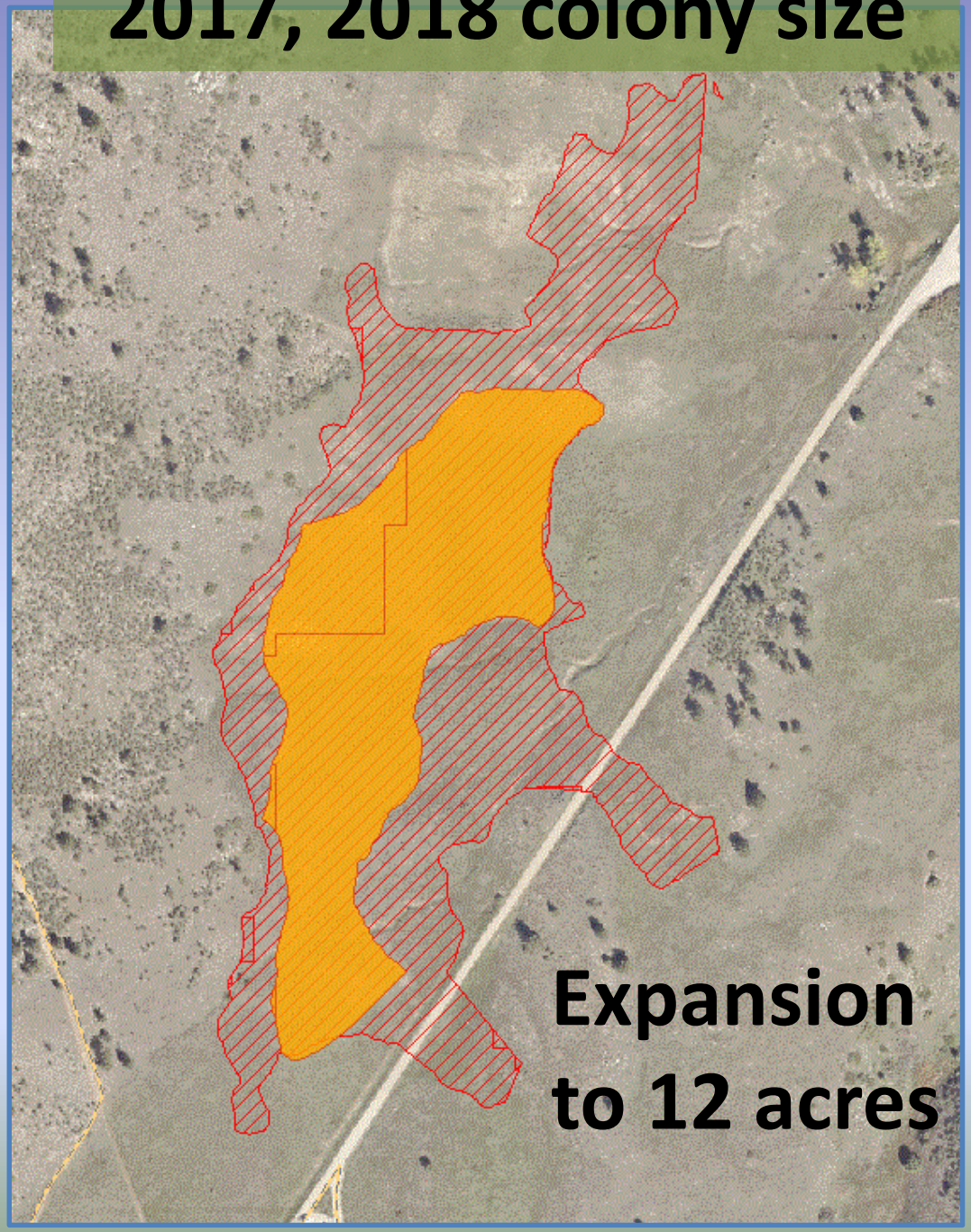
Hirschfeld

RELOCATION UPDATES 2018

Relocation Site- Lindsay Property 2017



Update on 2012 Rabbit Mtn. Relocation



Burrowing Owls 2018
BCPOS and OSMP

Burrowing Owls- BCPOS and OSMP

2018	Nests	Fledglings
	20	65
2017		
	12	27
2016		
	5	16
2015		
	3	14
2014		
	3	18
2013		
	8	17

Burrowing Owls- Management 2018

- Temporary Trail Closure
- Coordination with Tenants

Plague Abatement Strategies

- Delta Dust used on all BCPOS colonies within the South Central Grasslands and Rabbit Mountain.
- Applied by BCPOS staff.

- **Sylvatic Plague Vaccine (SPV) was distributed on all BCPOS colonies within the South Central Grasslands and Rabbit Mountain. Colorado Parks and Wildlife assisted in the distribution.**

South Grasslands:

- **330 acres**

Rabbit Mountain:

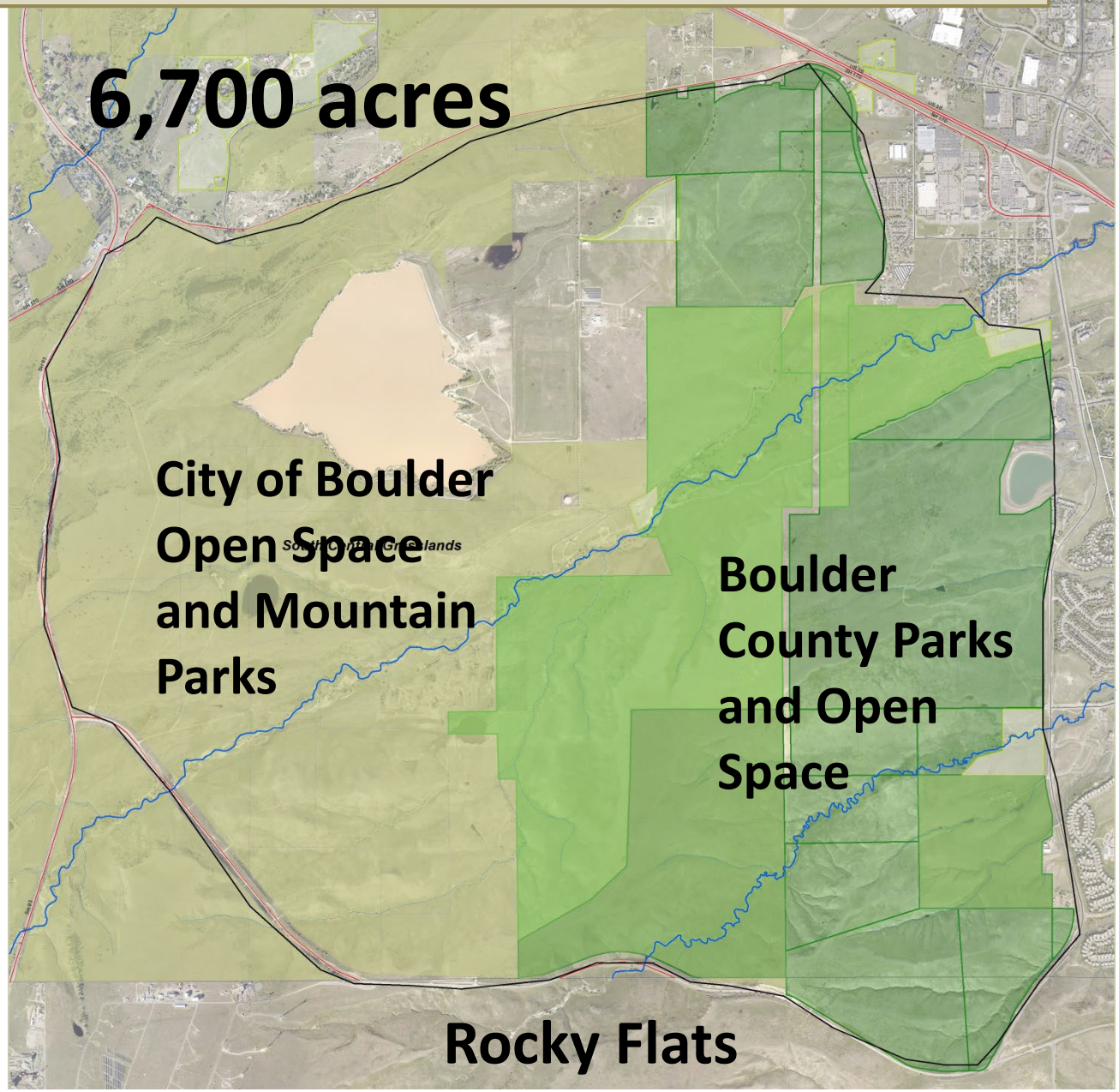
- **925 Acres**

Credit: M. Lockhart/USFWS

Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction Progress

Credit: R. Reading

South Central Grasslands HCA



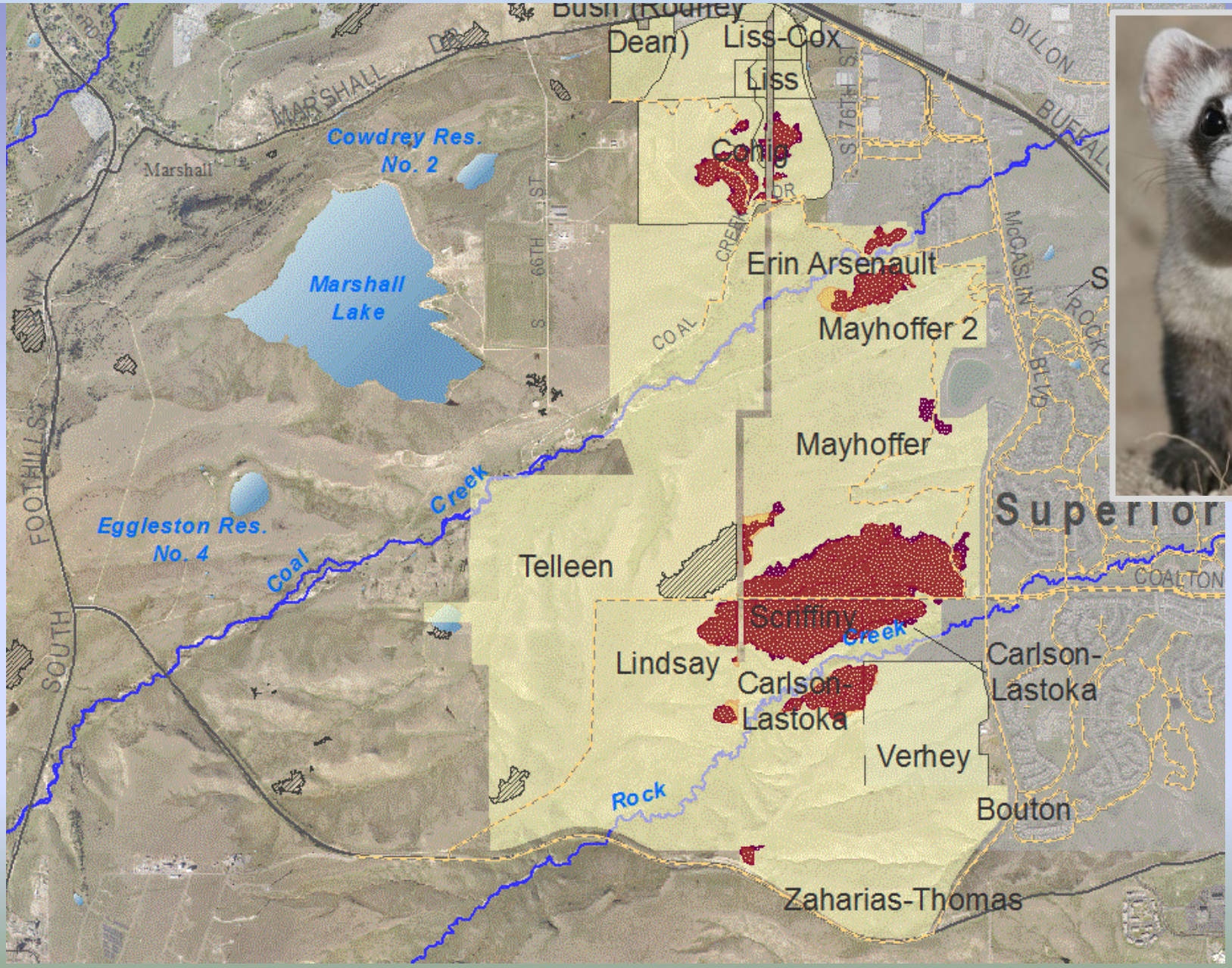
- City of Boulder Open Space (OSMP)

- Boulder County Open Space

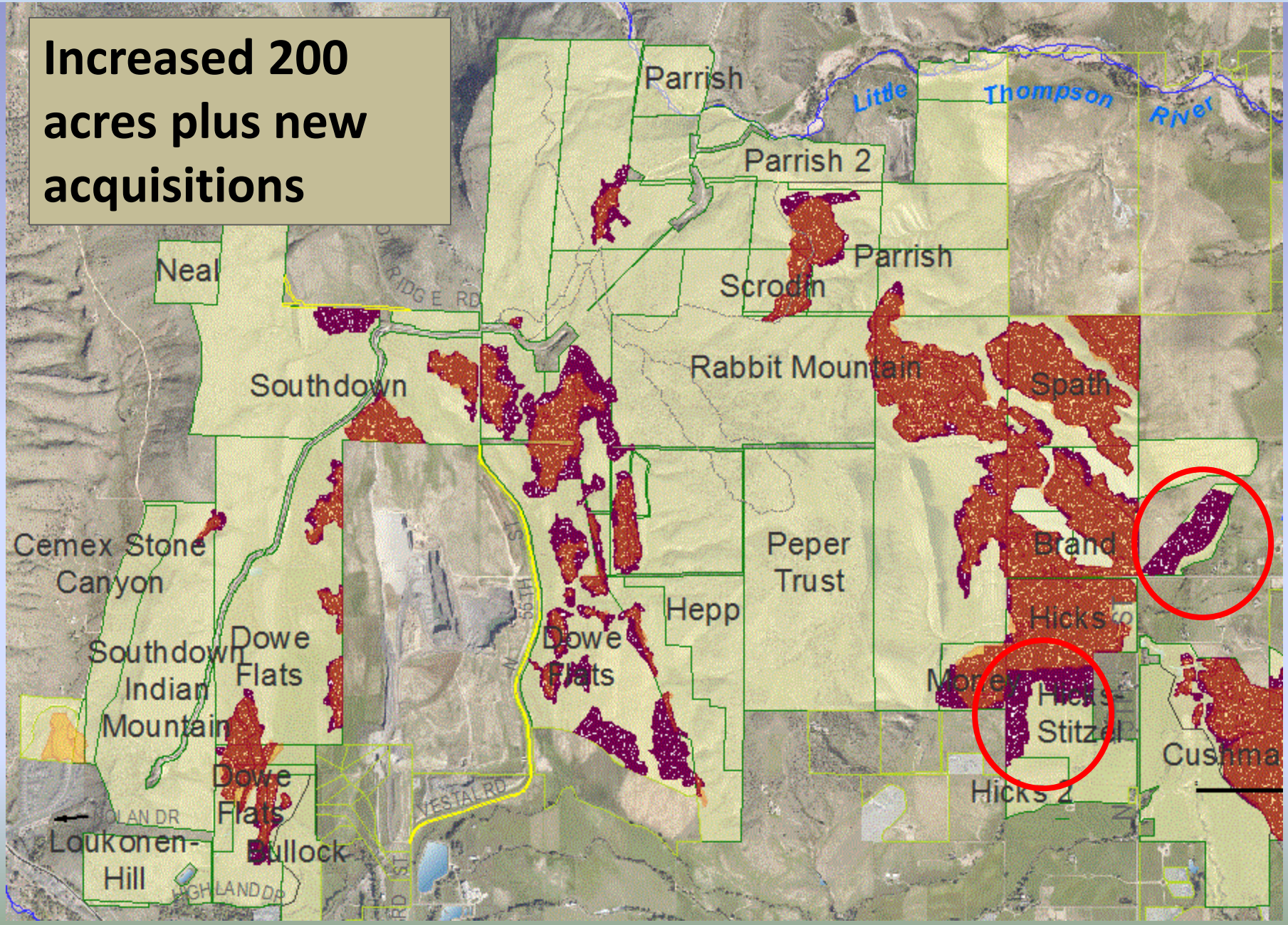
- Rocky Flats

~14,000 Acres

S. Central Grasslands- 331 Colonized Acres



2018-Rabbit Mountain- 925 Colonized Acres



Questions?