Annual Prairie Dog Meeting 2019

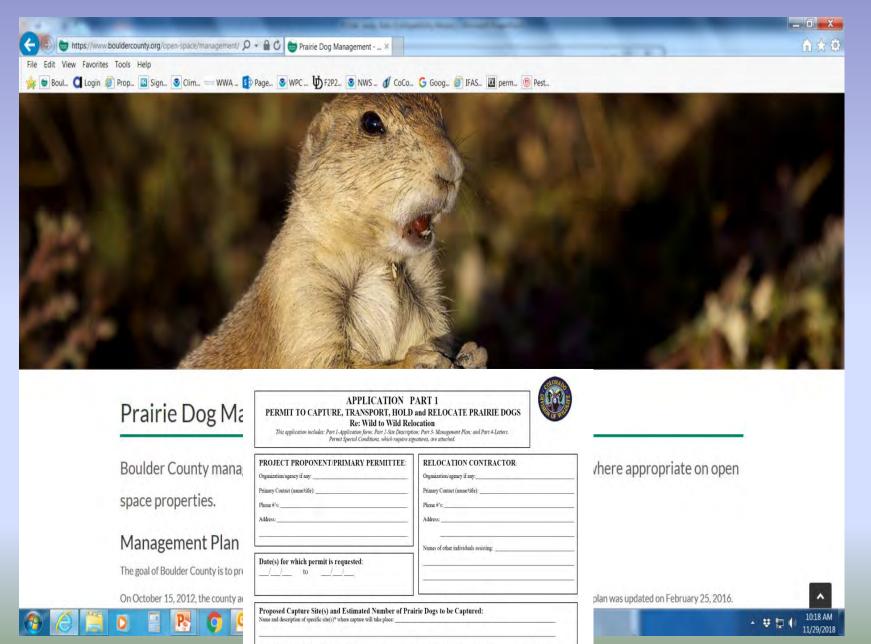
Boulder County Parks & Open Space



Tonight's Agenda

- 1. Introduction/Policy Context Jeff 10 minutes
- 2. 2019 Prairie Dog Management Activities
 - a. Removal/Control Rob 10 minutes
 - b. Other Activities Susan 15 minutes
- 3. Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center— Heidi Bucknam, Director, 20 minutes
- 4. Wrap Up/Questions

What governs our prairie dog management?



What are the goals of that management?

- A plan that reflects the multiple values of the country and its residents
 - 一The maintenance of croplanes for a say in a sa



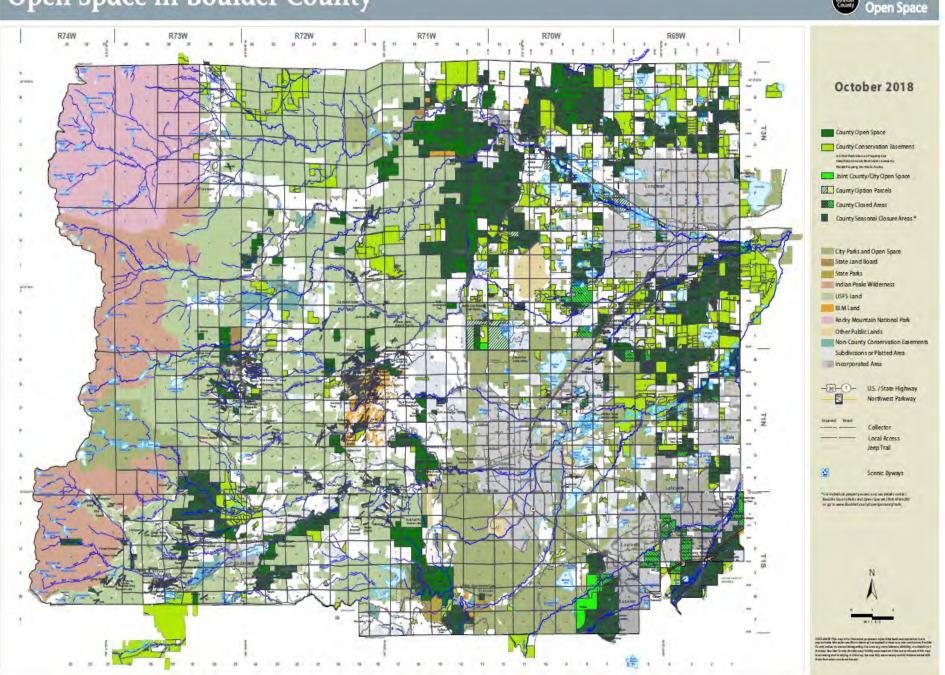
What are the goals of that management?



A plan that reflects the multiple values of the county and its residents

Open Space in Boulder County



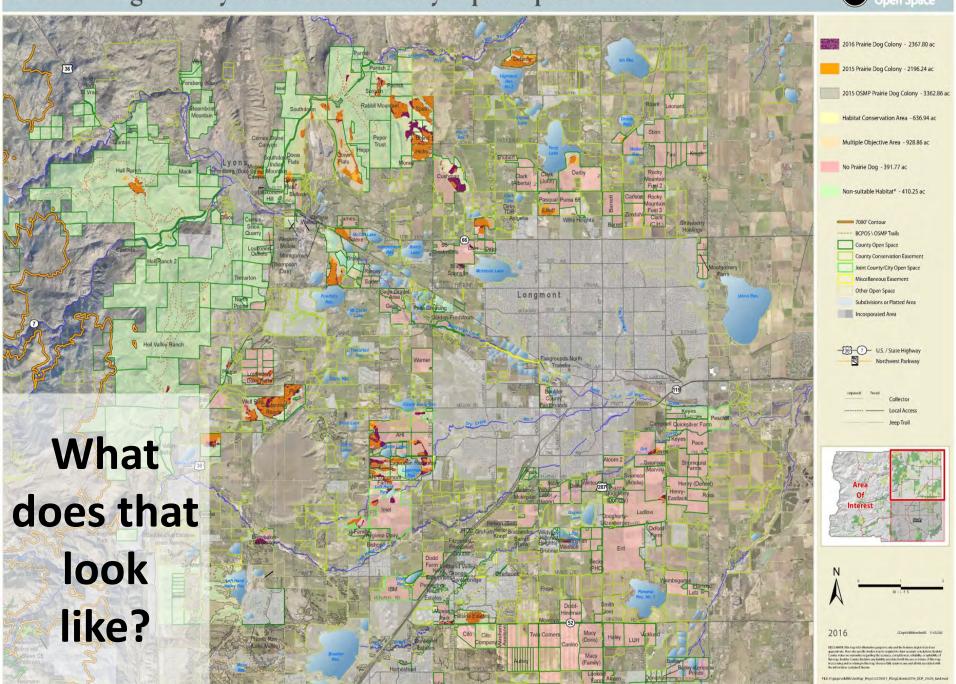


How do we manage our lands for that mix of purposes and uses

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

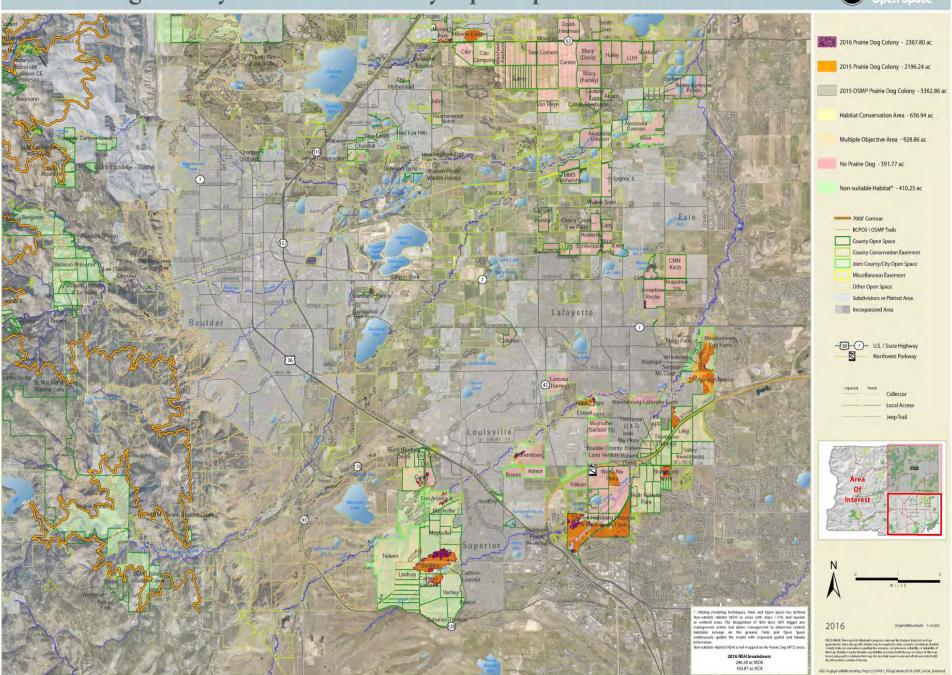
Prairie Dog Colony Extent on County Open Space: North





Prairie Dog Colony Extent on County Open Space: South



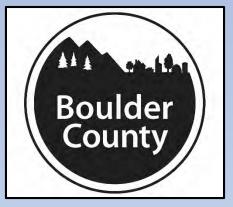


No Prairie Dog (NPD) Acreages

NPD Total Open Space Acreage

- **2016-17,198** acres
- **2017-17,964** acres
- **2018-18,454** acres
- **2019- 18,712 acres**
- 2016 = 2.2% Prairie Dog coverage of total NPD
- 2017 = 3.9% Prairie Dog coverage of total NPD
- 2018 = 4-6% Prairie Dog coverage of total NPD
- 2019 = 4-6% Prairie Dog coverage of total NPD

Prairie Dog Stakeholders' Meeting2019 Update





Stakeholders' Meeting-2019 Overview

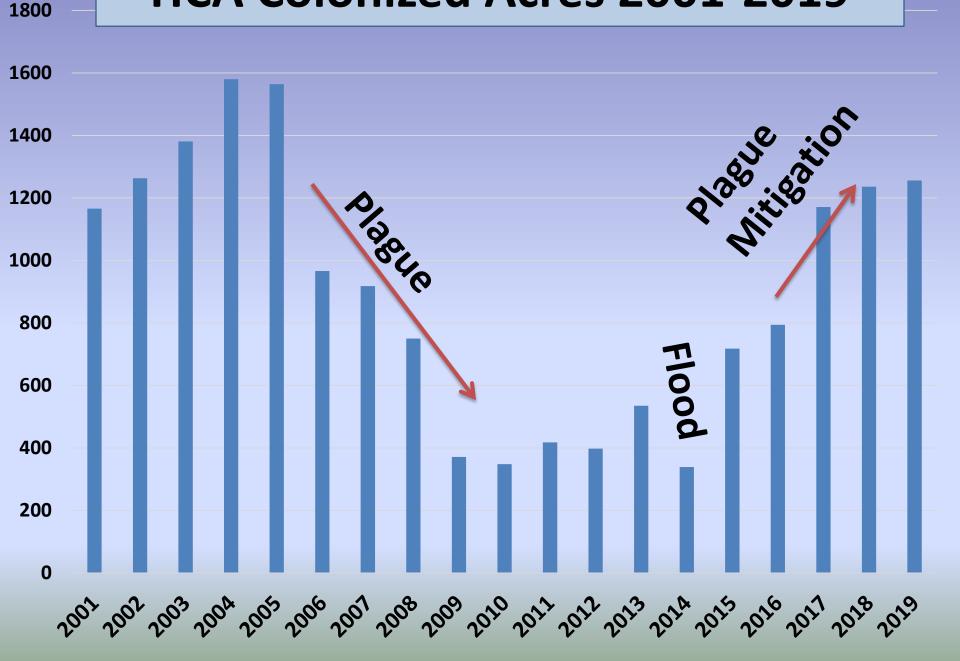
- Colonized Acres of Prairie Dogs-MOA and HCA
- Barrier Fencing
- Burrowing Owls
- Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction



Occupied Prairie Dog Colony Size Per Property Designation Type- 2016 - 2019

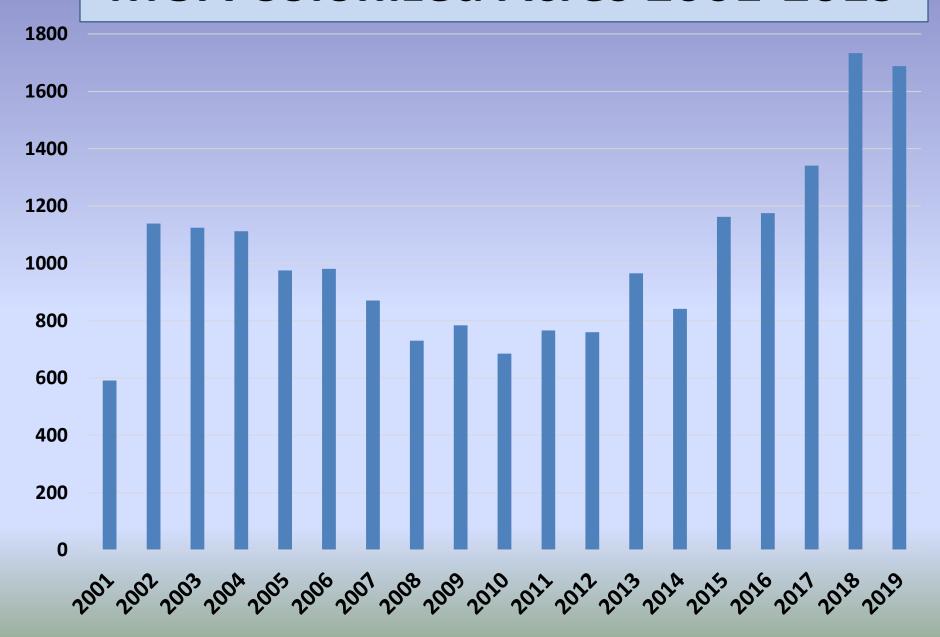
| Colony Acres | Property Type Suitable Acres | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HCA | 3,500 | 834 | 1,171 | 1,236 | 1,256 |
| MOA | 4,469 | 1,175 | 1,341 | 1,733 | 1,688 |
| Totals | 7,969 | 2,009 | 2,453 | 2,970 | 2,944 |



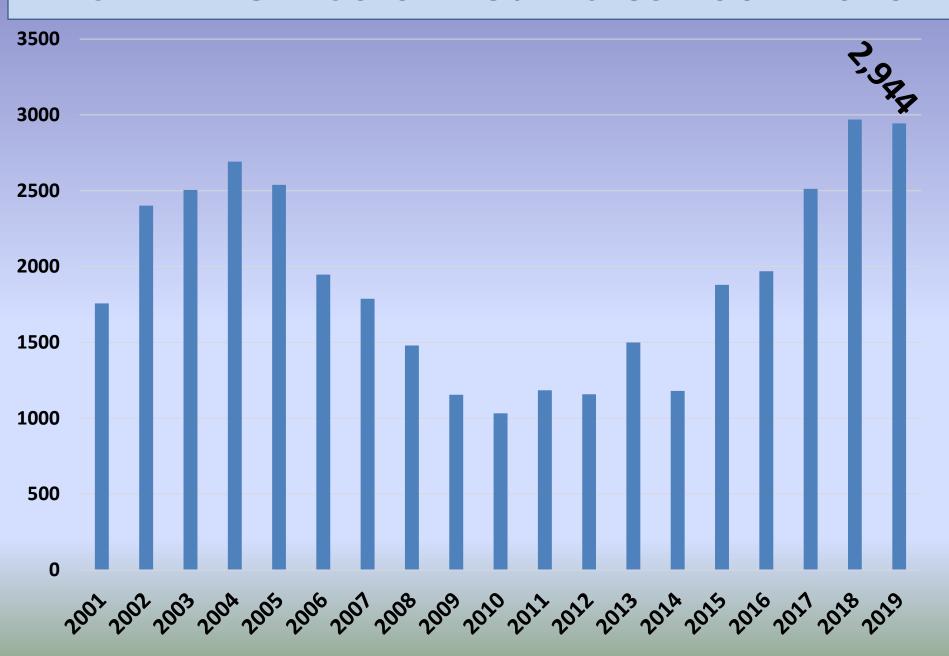


2000

MOA Colonized Acres 2001-2019



HCA + MOA Colonized Acres 2001-2019



Prairie Dog Barrier Fencing 2019

- 2,500' installed with volunteers and staff
- ~ \$2,200 materials/labor





Prairie Dog Barrier Fencing 2019

Broomfield North Property

- 450 ft. installed 2017.
- 500 ft. additional installed 2018.
- 200 ft. additional in 2019 by staff

~\$1,200 materials/labor



Prairie Dog Barrier Fencing 2019

Turkey Farm Property

2,000 ft. Installed

~\$2,000 materials/labor Mostly volunteers (CU Students) and Youth Corps



Prairie Dog Barrier Fencing 2019



Alexander Dawson Property

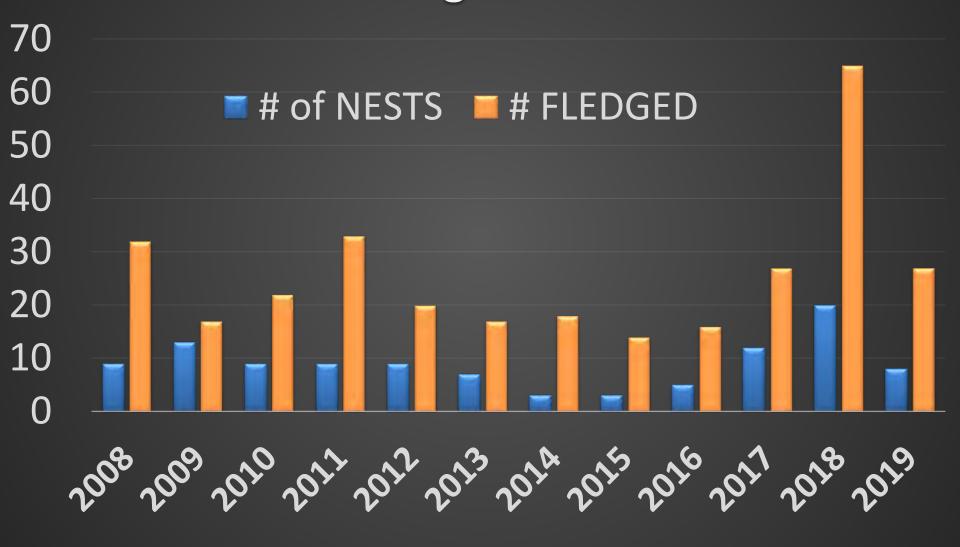
~\$200 materials/labor

- 300 ft. installed
- Neighbors and Staff

Burrowing Owls 2019 BCPOS and OSMP



Boulder County and City of Boulder Annual Nesting Totals 2008-2019



Burrowing Owls- Management 2019





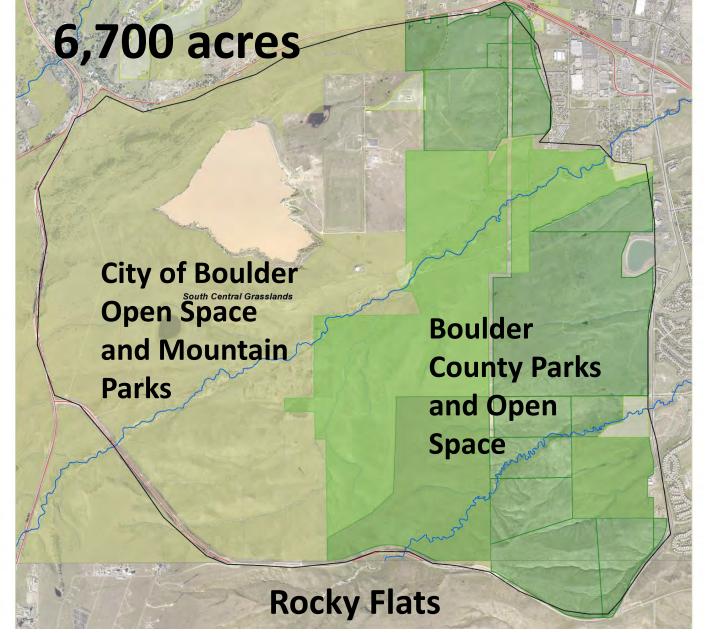


Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction Progress



South Central Grasslands HCA 6,700 acres





City of Boulder Open Space (OSMP)

BoulderCounty OpenSpace

Rocky Flats~14,000 Acres



Plague Abatement Strategies

 Delta Dust used on all BCPOS colonies within the South County Grasslands and Rabbit Mountain 2016-2019*



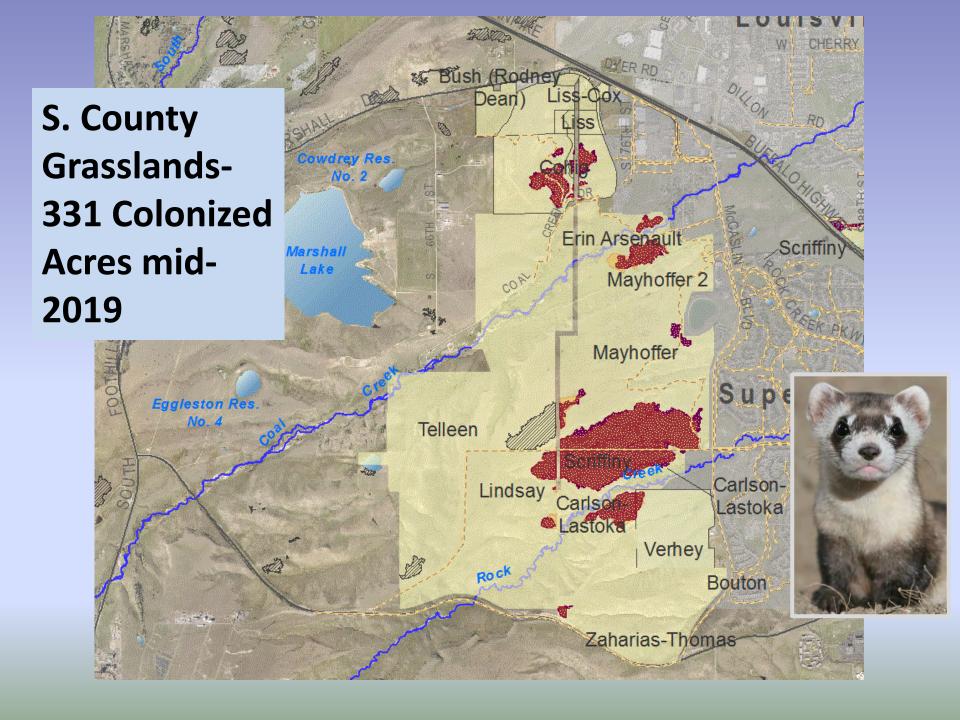


Sylvatic Plague Vaccine (SPV)



- South Grasslands
 - 330 Acres

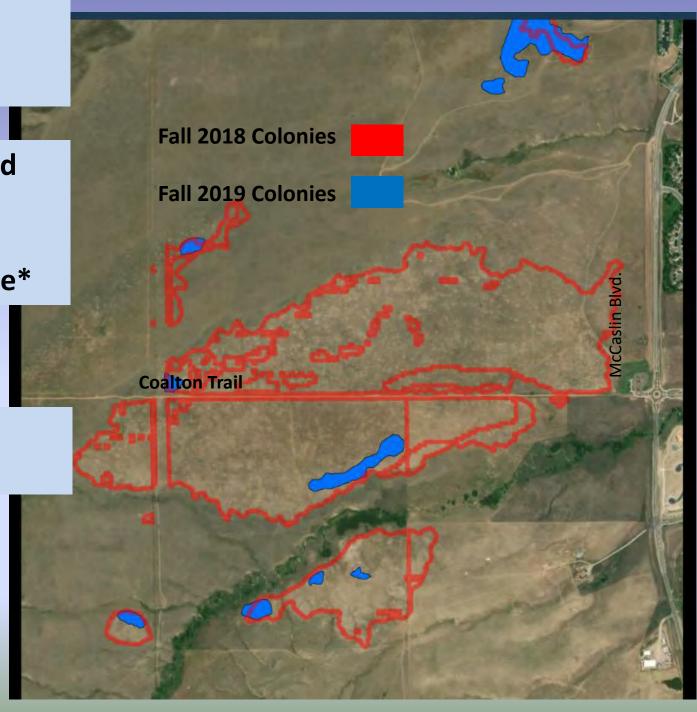
- RabbitMountain
 - 1,200 Acres



Fall 2019-Die-Off Event

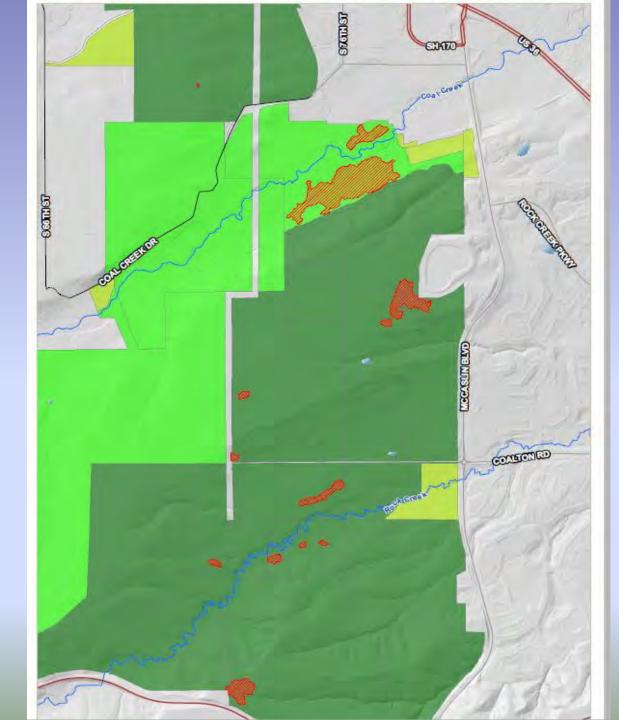
Colorado Parks and Wildlife collected fleas- returned negative for plague*

58 acres of active colonies remain

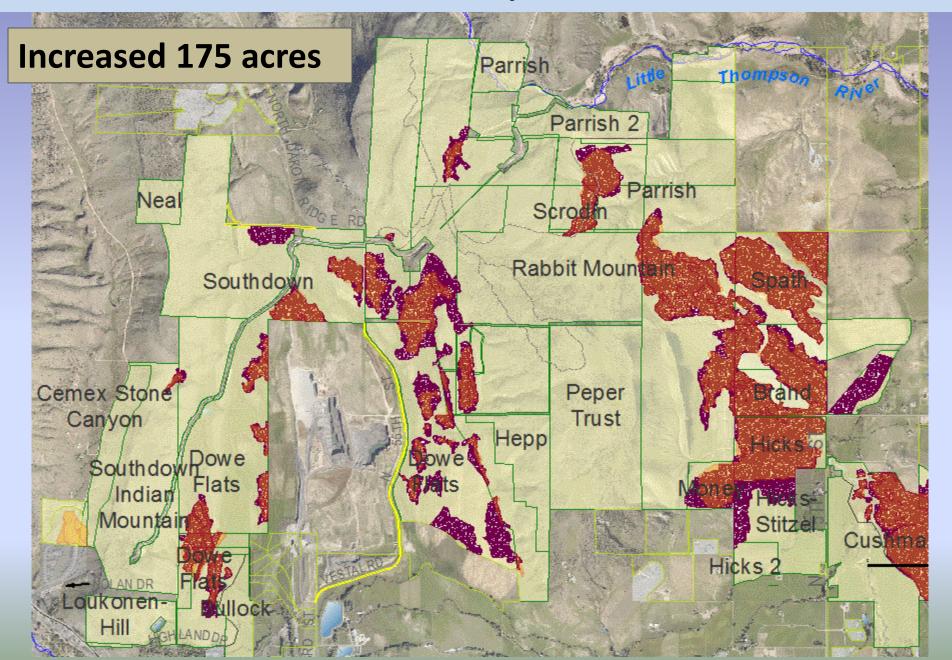


Fall 2019-Die-Off Event

58 acres of active colonies remain



2019-Rabbit Mountain- 1,100 Colonized Acres



Questions?





Relocations

2012 - 45 Prairie Dogs Relocated (by staff and volunteers) \$29,000

2015 - 131 Prairie Dogs Relocated (contracted) \$13,000

2016 - 216 Prairie Dogs Relocated (contracted) **\$36,000**Nest Boxes Installed (by staff)

2017 - 86 Prairie Dogs relocated to Nest Boxes (by staff) \$13,500

478 Prairie Dogs Relocated



SPV and Dusting Annual Costs – Labor + Materials

2016- \$3,600

South Grasslands only

SPV donated by CPW

2017-\$19,100

South Grasslands and Rabbit SPV and Dust

2018- \$22,375

South Grasslands and Rabbit

SPV and Dust

2019- \$15,100

South Grasslands and Rabbit

SPV only

TOTAL = \$60,175 to date

Current Annual Material Costs Only SPV ~ \$12,000 Dust ~ \$2,500

*Total costs will increase as colonies grow

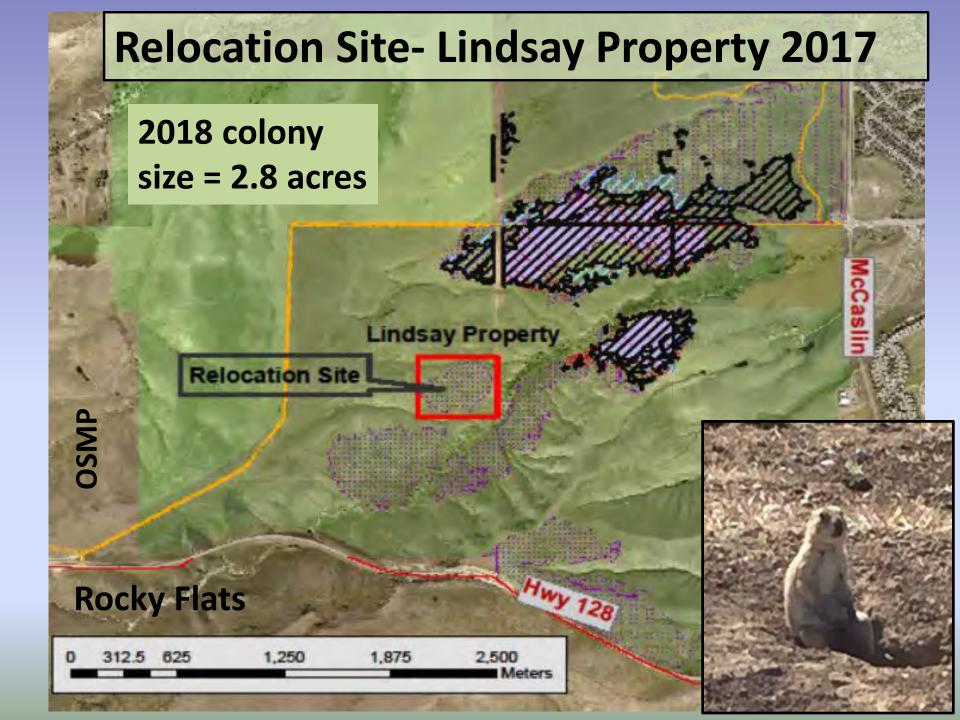


CRS 33-2-105.6 - Repealed due to 5 year sunset clause

Allowed for only 3 non-federal entities to receive ferrets in Colorado.

Unclear of next steps, but is in County's interest to keep apprised.





Update on 2012 Rabbit Mtn. Relocation





