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 county and its residents
  - The maintenance of croplands for agriculture
What are the goals of that management?

• A plan that reflects the multiple values of the county and its residents
  – The stewardship of natural areas and systems
What are the goals of that management?

A plan that reflects the multiple values of the county and its residents.
How do we manage our lands for that mix of purposes and uses?
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?
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’ Meeting- 2019 Update

Boulder County
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colony Acres</th>
<th>Property Type Suitable Acres</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>1,171</td>
<td>1,236</td>
<td>1,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOA</td>
<td>4,469</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>1,341</td>
<td>1,733</td>
<td>1,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>7,969</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>2,453</td>
<td>2,970</td>
<td>2,944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Turkey Farm Property

- 2,000 ft. Installed
- ~$2,000 materials/labor
- Mostly volunteers (CU Students) and Youth Corps
Alexander Dawson Property

~$200 materials/labor

- 300 ft. installed
- Neighbors and Staff
Burrowing Owls 2019
BCPOS and OSMP
Burrowing Owls- Management 2019

• Temporary Trail Closure
• Volunteer Monitoring
• Owl Protection Plans
Released
Burrowing
Owls
Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction Progress
South Central Grasslands HCA

6,700 acres

City of Boulder
Open Space
and Mountain
Parks

Boulder
County Parks
and Open
Space

Rocky Flats
- City of Boulder Open Space (OSMP)
- Boulder County Open Space
- 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

- Rabbit Mountain
  - 1,200 Acres
S. County Grasslands-331 Colonized Acres mid-2019
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

Increased 175 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
$91,500
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

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

*Total costs will increase as colonies grow

TOTAL = $60,175 to date
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.
Relocation Site- Lindsay Property 2017

2018 colony size = 2.8 acres

OSMP

Rocky Flats

Lindsay Property

Relocation Site

Hwy 128
Update on 2012 Rabbit Mtn. Relocation

2017, 2018 colony size

Expansion to 12 acres