

Things to Consider while Shooting Prairie Dogs on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands

- Cattle rotate through the Little Missouri National Grassland throughout spring, summer, and fall. Location of herds can vary weekly. Call the local Ranger Station prior to heading out to find out if cattle are grazing in the area you intend to visit. Medora RD 701-227-7800, McKenzie RD 701-842-8500
- Burrowing Owls use prairie dog burrows as habitat **Shooting of this species is not allowed**. Burrowing Owls are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; violations of this act are misdemeanor offenses subject to a maximum fine of \$15,000 or imprisonment up to 6 months.
- User is responsible for evaluating the area to avoid shooting across, or towards, roads, water developments, cattle, etc. and to ensure the following prohibitions are followed:
 - No discharging of firearms within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area.
 - No discharging of firearms across/on a road or body of water, or in any circumstance where a person might be injured
- Use of Tannerite (exploding targets) and clay pigeons is prohibited on NFS lands
- Motorized Vehicles are prohibited in non-motorized areas.
- Check licensing requirements at the North Dakota Game and Fish website <https://gs.nd.gov/> before heading out

Vector Borne Diseases

Recreation on the grasslands is sure to put recreationists into contact with vectors for disease, such as fleas, ticks, or mosquitoes. These vectors have been known to transmit diseases, such as West Nile Virus, encephalitis, Lyme, and even plague. While the chances of being infected from a bite are extremely small, it is advisable that recreationists take steps to minimize their risk with the following:

- Wear long pants, socks, and a long-sleeved shirt. It is best to tuck your shirt in and tuck your pants into your socks to limit areas where insects can gain access to your skin
- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent on exposed skin (lotion, liquid, or spray)
- Check yourself during and after the outdoor activity. Complete a thorough check for ticks as soon as possible once the activity is over. If you find a tick remove it with tweezers and apply a skin disinfectant
- Treat clothing with permethrin 24-48 hours in advance, or purchase pretreated clothing
- Protect your animals through use of effective tick and flea medication for pets
- Refrain from handling dead prairie dogs

TIP: Prairie dog towns with easy access are popular and receive a reasonable amount of pressure. Prairie dog towns that are located further away from major roadways provide a better experience.

Maps are available at the local Ranger Station.