

# U.S. Forests Service - News Release

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## “Griebel Wins Regional Leadership Award”

Chadron, NE - Jane Darnell, Supervisor of the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands announced that Randy Griebel recently won the Rocky Mountain Region Leadership award in recognition and appreciation for his outstanding dedication and leadership in the conservation of threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

Management of prairie dogs on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, at a critically-important reintroduction site for black-footed ferrets, was greatly complicated by the appearance of plague in 2008. Griebel helped coordinate efforts between multiple agencies to try and contain the plague outbreak and minimize the impact to the ferret population. Randy managed this complex effort while assuring that safety standards were followed. Over the course of the summer, more than 11,000 acres of priority prairie dog colonies were dusted with insecticide to target infected fleas, which transmit the plague disease. These efforts were effective in slowing and stopping the spread of plague.

Kevin Atchley, Acting Deputy for the Nebraska Forests and Grasslands states, “Randy has done an exceptional job in all aspects of prairie dog management as well. He prepared a monitoring report in 2008 for the Boundary Management Zones and helped direct use of adaptive management approaches. He works effectively with permittees, partner agencies and environmental organizations to address concerns and resolve conflicts. We are proud that he led the effort to establish an innovative partnership with Defenders of Wildlife to assess efficiency and effectiveness of non-lethal management tools.”

Randy currently serves as the Wildlife Biologist for the Wall Ranger District and the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands near Wall, South Dakota.

For further information please visit our website at [www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska).



Randy Griebel & Jeff Abeggan