

**APPENDIX E: COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

<b>PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>ALTERNATIVE 1 (No Action)</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 2 (Proposed Action)</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 3 (Boundary Management)</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 4 (based on comments)</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE 5</b>
<b>Category 1 Prairie Dog Habitat: the black-footed ferret reintroduction and recovery area.</b>						
	Number of areas	1	1	1	1	1
	Configuration	as described in the TBNG LRMP	expanded in some areas, contracted in others from TBNG LRMP	same as No Action	Category 1=3.63 & 2.1 from LRMP plus Rothleutner	same as Proposed Action
	Total acres	58,111	52,190	58,111	68,522	52,190
	Acres of NFS	54,097	47,442	54,097	63,082	47,442
	Acres of non-federal inholdings	4,014	4,748	4,014	5,440	4,748
	Miles of Shared boundary with private landowners	34	7	34	29	7
	Amount of prairie dog habitat					
	Preferred (Suitable)	7,289	7,411	7,289	8,624	7,411
	Marginal (Suitable)	36,127	32,533	36,127	42,993	32,533
	Unsuitable	6,055	3,995	6,055	6,786	3,995
	Unknown	4,626	3,503	4,626	4,677	3,503
	Total acres of Prairie Dog Habitat	54,097	47,442	54,097	63,080	47,442
	Historical extent occupied	13,444	14,360	13,444	20,930	14,360
	Currently occupied	2,400	2,226	2,400	2,400	2,226
	Use of proactive measures to encourage high vegetative structure adjacent to non-federal lands	available	available	available	available and required on controlled acres	available
	Use of proactive measures to facilitate expansion of prairie dog colonies away from non-federal lands	available	available	available	available	available
	Use of rodenticides					
	To protect public health and safety and existing facilities	available	available	available	available	available
	To control problem colonies adjacent to non-federal lands	not available	available within 1/2 mile of adjacent non-federal lands, once the 18,000 acre objective is met.	available within 1/2 mile of adjacent non-federal lands	available within 1/4 mile of adjacent non-federal lands, once the acreage of active prairie dog colonies exceeds 18,000 acres, starting no sooner than the 2nd year after the decision	available within 1/2 mile of adjacent non-federal lands, once the 18,000 acre objective is met.
	Prairie dog shooting	prohibited	prohibited	prohibited	prohibited	prohibited

PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES		ALTERNATIVE 1 (No Action)	ALTERNATIVE 2 (Proposed Action)	ALTERNATIVE 3 (Boundary Management)	ALTERNATIVE 4 (based on comments)	ALTERNATIVE 5
<b>Category 2 Prairie Dog Habitat:</b> smaller complexes of prairie dog colonies; provide some protection from epizootic plague. *does not include Middleton because is on private and no data is available all data is NFS lands only				N/A		
	Number of areas	N/A	2	N/A	2	5
	Total acres	N/A	40907	N/A	40907	67926
	Acres of NFS	N/A	10734	N/A	10734	36883
	Acres of non-federal inholdings	N/A	30173	N/A	30173	31043
	Miles of Shared boundary with private landowners	NA	2	NA	2	57
	Amount of prairie dog habitat (NFS lands only)	N/A		N/A		
	Preferred (Suitable)	N/A	354	N/A	354	970
	Marginal (Suitable)	N/A	9408	N/A	9408	31932
	Unsuitable	N/A	427	N/A	427	1900
	Unknown	N/A	545	N/A	545	2081
	Total Acres		10734	N/A	10734	36883
	Historical extent	N/A	653	N/A	653	2484
	Currently occupied	N/A	111	N/A	111	360
	Use of proactive measures to encourage high vegetative structure adjacent to non-federal lands	available	available	N/A	available and required on controlled acres	available
	Use of proactive measures to facilitate expansion of prairie dog colonies away from non-federal lands	available	available	N/A	available	available
	Use of rodenticides					
	To protect public health and safety and existing facilities	available	available	N/A	available	available
	To control problem colonies adjacent to non-federal lands	not available	available within 1/2 mile of non-participating adjacent non-federal lands, once the acres of active prairie dog colonies in Category 2 exceeds 7,000 acres.	N/A	available within 1/4 mile of non-participating adjacent non-federal lands, once the acreage of active prairie dog colonies in MA 3.63 exceeds 10,000 acres and in Category 2 exceeds 7,000 acres	available within 1/2 mile of non-participating adjacent non-federal lands, once the acres of active prairie dog colonies in Category 2 exceeds 7,000 acres.
	Prairie dog shooting		Prohibited on NFS lands in 4W, Private lands in both areas open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended	N/A	Prohibited on NFS lands, Private lands open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended	Prohibited on NFS lands in 4W, Private lands in both areas open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended

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<b>Category 3 Prairie Dog Habitat:</b> small isolated colonies loosely associated with Category 1 and 2 areas; provide for repopulation following plague.				N/A		
Number of areas		N/A	21	21	21	21
Total acres		N/A	2000	N/A	2000	2000
Acres of NFS		N/A	1000	N/A	1000	1000
Acres of non-federal inholdings		N/A	1000	N/A	1000	1000
Amount of prairie dog habitat		N/A				
Preferred		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Suitable		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marginal		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unsuitable		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Historical extent		N/A	1,647	N/A	4274	4037
Currently occupied		N/A	398 (2008 data)		388 (2008 data)	197 (2008 data)
Use of proactive measures to encourage high vegetative structure adjacent to non-federal lands		N/A	available	available	available and required on controlled acres	available
Use of proactive measures to facilitate expansion of prairie dog colonies away from non-federal lands		N/A	available	available	available	available
Use of rodenticides		N/A				
To protect public health and safety and existing facilities		N/A	available	available	available	available
Other situations		N/A	prairie dogs to expand naturally up to 2,000 acres, at which time rodenticides may be used to control prairie dog densities and colony expansion	available within 1/2 mile of adjacent non-federal lands	prairie dogs to expand naturally; rodenticides may be available to control problem colonies within 1/4 mile adjacent non-federal lands once the acres of active colonies in MA 3.63 exceeds 10,000 acres	prairie dogs to expand naturally up to 2,000 acres, at which time rodenticides may be used to control prairie dog densities and colony expansion
Prairie dog shooting		N/A	area open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended		Prohibited on NFS lands except for those colonies identified for lethal control.	area open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended

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<b>Category 4 Prairie Dog Habitat:</b> small, isolated colonies scattered across the TBNG north of highway 450 ; provide pockets of habitat.		N/A		N/A		
	Number of colonies		12	N/A	12	12
	Total acres		3000	N/A	3000	3000
	Acres of NFS		3000	N/A	3000	3000
	Acres of non-federal		0	N/A	0	0
	Amount of prairie dog habitat					
	Preferred	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Suitable	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Marginal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Unsuitable	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Historical extent	N/A	3335	N/A	3335	1549
	Currently occupied	N/A	491	N/A	491	491
	Use of proactive measures to encourage high vegetative structure adjacent to non-federal lands		available	available	available and required on controlled acres	available
	Use of proactive measures to facilitate expansion of prairie dog colonies away from non-federal lands		available	available	available	available
	Use of rodenticides					
	To protect public health and safety and existing facilities		available	available within 1/2 mile of adjacent non-federal lands	available	available
	Other situations		prairie dogs to expand naturally up to 3,000 acres, at which time rodenticides may be used to control prairie dog densities and colony expansion	available within 1/2 mile of adjacent non-federal lands	prairie dogs to expand naturally; rodenticides may be available to control problem colonies within 1/4 mile adjacent non-federal lands once the acres of active colonies in MA 3.63 exceeds 10,000 acres	prairie dogs to expand naturally up to 3,000 acres, at which time rodenticides may be used to control prairie dog densities and colony expansion
	Prairie dog shooting		area open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended	areas open	Prohibited on NFS lands except for those colonies identified for lethal control.	area open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended

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<b>Other Prairie Dog Habitat:</b> other colonies not included in the above categories, many of which are closely associated with private lands; new						
Number of areas		43+	22	43+	22	22
Amount of prairie dog habitat						
Preferred		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marginal		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unsuitable		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Historical extent		8012	N/A	8012	N/A	N/A
Currently occupied		1600	393	1600	48	393
Prairie dog habitat objective		N/A	no objective to maintain	no objective to maintain	no objective to maintain	no objective to maintain
Use of proactive measures to encourage high vegetative structure adjacent to non-federal lands		available	available	available	available and required on controlled acres	available
Use of proactive measures to facilitate expansion of prairie dog colonies away from non-federal lands		available	available	available	available	available
Use of rodenticides						
To protect public health and safety and existing facilities		available	available	available	available	available
Other situations		not available	"control colonies" to be controlled on a priority basis (rodenticides may be used in first year after decision); new colonies to be assessed under the Strategy to determine their status	problem prairie dog colonies within 1/2 mile of private land	problem colonies within 1/4 mile of adjacent non-federal lands (rodenticides are unavailable in first year after decision and once the acres of active colonies in MA 3.63 exceeds 10,000 acres ); new colonies to be assessed under the Strategy to determine their status	"control colonies" to be controlled on a priority basis (rodenticides may be used in first year after decision); new colonies to be assessed under the Strategy to determine their status
Prairie dog shooting		area open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended	area open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended	area open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended	Prohibited on NFS lands except for those colonies identified for lethal control.	area open; full-metal jacket bullets recommended