

ORDER NO. WRD-98-01

OCCUPANCY AND USE REGULATIONS
CONATA BASIN
WALL RANGER DISTRICT
BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a), the following acts are PROHIBITED within the CONATA BASIN AREA on the WALL RANGER DISTRICT, BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND until rescinded.

HUNTING OF PRAIRIE DOGS (Cynomys ludovicianus) WITHIN THE DESIGNATED AREA
36 CFR 261.58 (v)

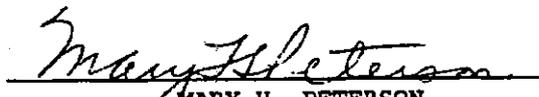
(Hunting: shooting, shooting at, pursuing, taking, attempting to take, catching or killing of any wildlife - Prairie Dogs.)

The affected area is shown on the attached map and/or described as follows: the Conata Basin area of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland in Pennington County; the area consists of all National Grassland parcels south of the Badlands National Park, west of the Jackson County line, north of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and east of the Badlands National Park near Scenic, SD.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following is EXEMPT from this order:

- 1) Person(s) with a permit or written permission specifically authorizing these prohibited activities.
- 2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Done at Rapid City, South Dakota this 20th day of July, 1998.


MARY H. PETERSON
Forest Supervisor

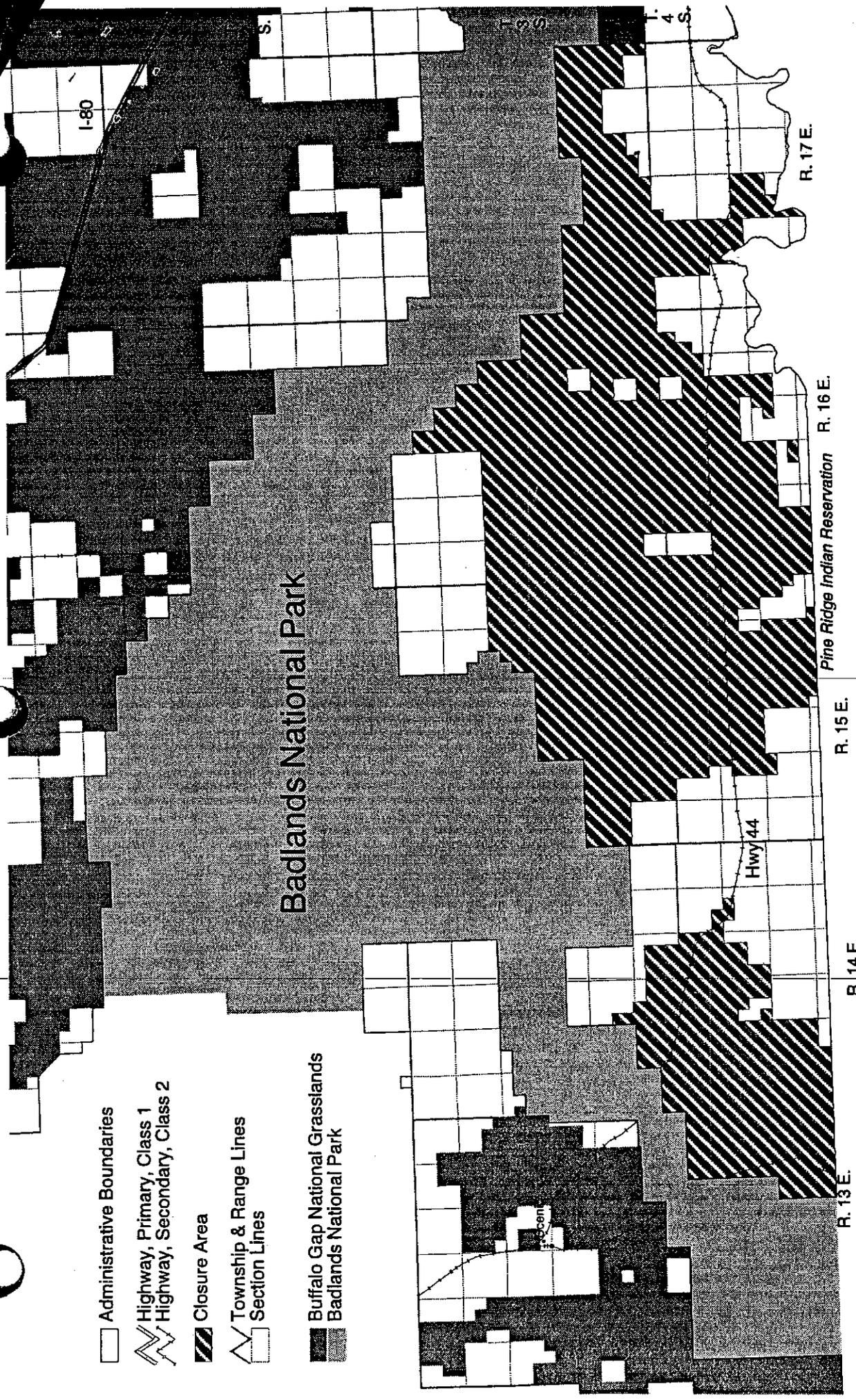
Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for a legal entity other than an individual, or imprisonment for not more than (6) months or both. Title 16 USC, Section 551.

JUSTIFICATION

The affected area is the Black-Footed Ferret reintroduction area. The ferrets have been successfully reintroduced into the reintroduction sites and are dispersing into many of the prairie dog colonies throughout the Conata Basin area. Typically, ferret family groups will engage in play behavior in the early morning or late evening and could be vulnerable to shooting. It is likely impossible to distinguish between prairie dogs, burrowing owls and ferrets emerging from burrows at the extended distances at which shooting occurs. Therefore, the restriction on prairie dog shooting is to prevent the incidental take of ferrets, to maintain quality ferret habitat with a sufficient food source (prairie dogs), and for the safety of the agencies' personnel releasing and monitoring the ferrets.



-  Administrative Boundaries
-  Highway, Primary, Class 1
Highway, Secondary, Class 2
-  Closure Area
-  Township & Range Lines
Section Lines
-  Buffalo Gap National Grasslands
Badlands National Park



Prairie Dog Shooting Restriction Area on Buffalo Gap National Grassland