

## Most asked Questions:

- **Looking for the best places to hunt the Prairie Dogs?** See the enclosed abundance map, the Orange areas are the best.
- **Best time year to hunt?** Late spring to mid-summer. This is before they get too gun/people shy, and after the pups are born and are starting to emerge. Also have seen some good movement in the late fall, after the antelope and deer hunting seasons and the tourist season stops.
- **Best time of the day?** Early morning as the sun starts to warm the ground and early evening just before they disappear into their holes for the night. But from experience early morning is the best.
- **No Shooting Areas? How do I find out where that is? Why can't we shoot there?** There are areas in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands that are closed to shooting prairie dogs. (See the enclosed Avenza download sheet, the enclosed Abundance Map, and the MVUM). The actual Closure Order is located at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nebraska/alerts-notice>. These closures are tied to the reintroduction of the Black Footed Ferret, as well as personnel working in these areas.
- **Can we drive off road to the dog colonies/towns? Can we use motorbikes, ATV or UTVs to travel across the Grasslands?** No, driving is on designated roads only, as shown on the MVUM and the Avenza App. You are welcome to walk-in, bicycle, ride horse in most areas.
- **Do we really have to walk into the area, we want to hunt? It didn't use to be that way, we use to be able to drive where ever we wanted.** Sorry, but to protect the habitat for a variety of species' and to manage uncontrolled vehicle use, we only allow use on designated routes.
- **Are the private lands in the grasslands also open to anyone for prairie dog hunting?** The private land is just that private land. You will have to get permission from the landowner to shoot on or across their lands. Unless they are enrolled in the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks walk-in program, you will need to verify what species the walk-in area is open to. See the SDGFP Atlas.
- **How do I know whose land it is? How do I contact them?** You will have to contact the county for landownership questions. We only have control of the Federal's lands. The local Chamber of Commerce may also be able to help.
- **Do you have a list of local landowners that would let us shoot on their land?** We do not/cannot maintain a list of local landowners. You can check with the local Chamber of Commerce.
- **Are there such things as guided prairie dog hunts?** Yes, there are some available on private lands, but there are no guided hunts allowed on the Buffalo National Grasslands.
- **Can I film my prairie dog hunt? Can I use a drone to film the hunt?** You can film your hunt for personal use but if you are going to post it, use for anything commercial, etc. you will need to acquire a special use permit to do so (can take 3-4 months to get and there is a fee). Use of a drone for any purpose is not authorized without a special use permit.
- **Why does the Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) stuff not match yours?** We try to update our information as soon as we see any changes. We try to make sure the SDGFP has all of our most current information and they try to make sure we have theirs. We are Federal and they are State.
- **Are any/all of the walk-in areas in the State open to prairie dog hunting?** Please get with the SDGFP for the most current info for these areas.
- **Can I prairie dog hunt in the Badlands National Park?** No.

- **Are there any big populations of prairie dogs anywhere else in the US, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, or Wyoming? What are their regulations on prairie dog hunting?** We really don't know for a fact where there are other large populations. We also do not keep apprised of all the regulations of the surrounding states. Please call that specific state's Game and Fish agencies/services.
- **Do these other states have the plague also?** We really don't know for sure what the extent of the outbreak is in the other states, but we do know that most of the states around us have had or do have an outbreak of the plague. Please call that specific state's Game and Fish agencies/services for more information.
- **Can I hunt on the local Reservations? What do I have to do to be able to hunt on the Reservation? Who do I contact?** The Reservations have their own rules and regulations besides the State regulations. Please contact the Tribal Fish and Game Office for the Reservation you would like to hunt.
- **Can I camp anywhere I want?** Yes, you can disperse camp anywhere on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, but you should only pull off the road about 30 feet. But you can walk into where ever you would like, to pitch a tent. It is not advisable to put off too much more than 30 feet due to the gumbo type soil. Reference the MVUM for more info. FS Road 7129 is not a good place to pull off of.
- **Can I pull my trailer off road? Can I park my 5<sup>th</sup> wheel on the Road? Will I be able to get it out?** Yes, but only 30 feet. Check conditions, there are some areas on the grasslands that could accommodate a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel. Be sure to check the exact area you want to park in, if it was recently wet, you may want to park elsewhere as the trailer will sink into the gumbo soil and may become stuck. Always check the MVUM for disperse camping rules, parking rules, and turning around. Talk with the local Forest Service Office for these areas as well as the MVUM. Do not leave any vehicle blocking any road, this is a good way to get it damaged and ticketed.
- **Do you have Campsites with water and electrical hookups? Where are the nearest ones? Do your campsites need to have reservations?** We have no designated campsites and no water or electricity hook ups are available. Please check with the local Chamber of Commerce to see what may be available with in the local area.
- **Can I have a campfire/fire ring/fire pit? Why not?** Yes, unless there are fire restrictions, in place. Please check with the local Ranger District Office to see if there are any restrictions at the time you will be arriving/camping.