Dakota Prairie Grasslands
USDA Forest Service
Request for Public Comment
Little Missouri National Grassland
Prairie Dog Management Project

The Little Missouri National Grassland (LMNG), containing the Medora and McKenzie Ranger Districts, is seeking input on a proposed action for the Prairie Dog Management Project to take place on National Forest System (NFS) lands in four western North Dakota counties: McKenzie, Billings, Slope, and Golden Valley. This project is currently undergoing environmental analysis.

The Project Area encompasses the 1,025,000 acres of the LMNG, which contains 137 prairie dog colonies occupying approximately 5,200 acres (or 0.5%) of the land.

The Forest Service is proposing a program of prairie dog management, encompassing a long-term effort both to meet current Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG) Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) goals and to respond to unwanted encroachments onto non-NFS land. The proposed action also calls for adaptive management, versus previous site-specific control efforts, to include a variety of tools to manage prairie dog colonies. The activity of the black-tailed prairie dog, while natural on the national grasslands, can have impacts to agricultural production, land values, and public health.

Comments regarding this proposed action will be reviewed to determine major issues and in developing alternatives or design features relating to the project. To ensure consideration in the project analysis, the Forest Service asks that you provide comments no later than October 5, 2015. Include your 1) name, address, telephone number, and organization (if applicable) 2) name of the project and 3) specific issues and supporting reasons you feel should be considered. Send comments to Shannon Boehm, District Ranger, Medora Ranger District, 99 23rd Ave. W., Suite B, Dickinson, ND 58601; ATTN: Prairie Dog Management Project; or email: comments-northern-dakota-prairie-medora@fs.fed.us. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record.

Comments may be submitted anonymously; however, people submitting anonymous comments will not have standing to object to the subsequent decision (36 CFR 218).

Find a full description of the proposed action and a map detailing LMNG colony locations online at http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/dpg/landmanagement/projects or call the Project Biologist Arden Warm at the Medora Ranger District at (701) 227-7800 to request a paper copy.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

001308279r2