

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction

The Proposed Action presented in this table represents proposed amendments to the Thunder Basin National Grassland land and resource management plan. Only plan components that are proposed for removal, revision, or addition are included in this table, so there is a great deal of plan content that is not presented here. The full land and resource management plan is available on the forest web site at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mbr/landmanagement/planning>.

Chapter 1

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 1-9/B.2	Manage land treatments to maintain enough organic ground cover in each land unit to prevent harmful increased runoff (exceptions shall occur in special habitat situations (e.g. prairie dog habitat)). Standard	Manage land treatments to maintain enough organic ground cover in each land unit to prevent harmful increased runoff (exceptions may occur in special habitat situations (e.g. prairie dog habitat)). Standard	<i>n/a</i>
p. 1-14/F.18	In prairie dog colonies known or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets, limit oil and gas development to one location per 80 acres to help maintain suitable ferret habitat. Standard	In prairie dog colonies known to be occupied by black-footed ferrets, limit oil and gas development to one location per 80 acres to help maintain suitable ferret habitat. Standard	<i>n/a</i>
p. 1-15/F.19	To help provide suitable habitat for black-footed ferrets and their young during the breeding and whelping seasons, prohibit the following activities within prairie dog colonies, or those portions of larger colonies, occupied or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets from March 1 through August 31: construction (e.g. roads, water impoundments, oil and gas facilities); reclamation; gravel mining operations; drilling of water wells; oil and gas drilling. Standard	To help provide suitable habitat for black-footed ferrets and their young during the breeding and whelping seasons, prohibit the following activities within prairie dog colonies, or those portions of larger colonies, occupied by black-footed ferrets from March 1 through August 31: construction (e.g., roads, water impoundments, oil and gas facilities); reclamation; gravel mining operations; drilling of water wells; oil and gas drilling. Standard	<i>n/a</i>
p. 1-15/F.20	To help provide suitable habitat for black-footed ferrets and their young during the breeding and whelping seasons, do not authorize the following activities within prairie dog colonies, or those portions of larger colonies, occupied or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets from March 1 through August 31: construction (e.g.	To help provide suitable habitat for black-footed ferrets and their young during the breeding and whelping seasons, the following activities should not be authorized within prairie dog colonies, or those portions of larger colonies, occupied by black-footed ferrets from March 1 through August 31: construction (e.g. pipelines, utilities,	<i>n/a</i>

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	pipelines, utilities, fencing); seismic exploration; permitted recreation events involving large groups of people. Guideline	fencing); seismic exploration; permitted recreation events involving large groups of people. Guideline	
p. 1-15/F.21 (as revised in Amendment 3, 2009)	Any net loss of suitable black-footed ferret habitat as a result of development of new facilities within colonies shall be replaced within the year. This is based on the amount of suitable habitat available prior to prairie dog dispersal in the year of the development. Standard	Remove	Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).
p. 1-15/F.22	For routine maintenance, access to oil and gas facilities in prairie dog colonies occupied or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets should be limited to daylight hours. This does not apply to emergency repairs. Guideline	For routine maintenance, access to oil and gas facilities in prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets should be limited to daylight hours. This does not apply to emergency repairs. Guideline	n/a
p. 1-15/F.23	Prescribe burn selected large flats (a section or more in size) to evaluate the effectiveness of burns in attracting and inventorying mountain plover. Prescribed burns should be timed to provide large blackened areas in the spring. Standard	Remove	Vegetation management projects for mountain plover are addressed in the proposed F.34 Guideline (see page 3)
p. 1-16/F.27	Any net loss of suitable and occupied mountain plover habitat as a result of prairie dog poisoning or development of new facilities within prairie dog colonies will be replaced within the year by concurrent expansion of suitable plover habitat or in some cases, by enhanced management and protection of occupied plover habitat elsewhere on or near the national grassland. The amount of habitat loss is based on the amount of suitable and occupied habitat available prior to prairie dog dispersal in the year of the poisoning or development. Guideline	Remove	Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).

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p. 1-16/F.28	To help reduce disturbances and risks to nesting mountain plover, prohibit the following activities in plover nesting areas or within 0.25 miles of plover nests from March 15 through July 31 : construction (e.g. roads, water impoundments, oil and gas facilities); reclamation; seismic exploration; gravel mining operations; oil and gas drilling; drilling of water wells; prescribed burning. Standard	To help reduce disturbances and risks to nesting mountain plover, prohibit the following activities in plover nesting areas or within 0.25 miles of plover nests from April 1 through August 20 : construction (e.g., roads, water impoundments, oil and gas facilities); reclamation; seismic exploration; gravel mining operations; oil and gas drilling; drilling of water wells; prescribed burning. Standard	<i>Updated with current information for documented dates of mountain plover occurrence on the Grassland.</i>
p. 1-16/F.29	To help reduce disturbances and risks to nesting mountain plover, do not authorize the following activities in plover nesting areas or within 0.25 miles of plover nests from March 15 through July 31 : construction (e.g. pipelines, utilities, fencing); workover operations for maintenance of oil and gas wells; permitted recreation events involving large groups of people; grasshopper spraying; prairie dog shooting (in consultation with state wildlife agencies and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) . Guideline	To help reduce disturbances and risks to nesting mountain plover, the following activities should not be authorized in plover nesting areas or within 0.25 miles of plover nests from April 1 through August 20 : construction (e.g. pipelines, utilities, fencing); workover operations for maintenance of oil and gas wells; permitted recreation events involving large groups of people; grasshopper spraying. Guideline	<i>Updated with current information for documented dates of mountain plover occurrence on the Grassland.</i>
p. 1-16/F.32	Vegetation management projects in suitable mountain plover habitat will be designed to maintain or improve mountain plover habitat. Standard	<i>Remove</i>	<i>Vegetation management projects for plover are addressed in the new F.34 Guideline (see page 3).</i>
p. 1-17/F.34	Use the following criteria at the project level to help determine where to use prescribed burning and high livestock grazing intensities (Appendix I) to provide low grassland structure and enhanced mountain plover nesting and brooding habitat: proximity to existing mountain plover nesting areas; proximity to prairie dog colonies; presence of expansive and flat grassland areas. Guideline	To improve or maintain mountain plover nesting and brooding habitat, vegetation management techniques that enhance short-stature vegetation communities should be considered for use in projects that occur in suitable mountain plover habitat. Guideline	<i>n/a</i>

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p. 1-19/F.62	To optimize habitat for burrowing owls, manage for active prairie dog colonies that are larger than 80 acres. Guideline	To optimize habitat for burrowing owls, manage for active prairie dog colonies that are larger than 80 acres <i>where appropriate and consistent with Geographic Area and Management Area direction.</i> Guideline	<i>n/a</i>
p. 1-19/F.63	<i>Coordinate and consult with the appropriate wildlife management agencies and local landowners to prohibit prairie dog shooting in areas where significant risks have been identified for other wildlife species or where shooting is preventing or slowing a desired prairie dog population expansion. Restrictions shall be year-long or seasonal, and dates of seasonal restrictions shall vary depending on the species at risk. Standard</i>	<i>Remove</i>	<i>Shooting closures for prairie dog management are not anticipated outside of Management Area 3.67.</i>
p. 1-20/F.65	<i>Evaluate prairie dog management 3 years after management plan approval. Evaluate prairie dog management again when the total acres of active prairie dog colonies expand to 35,000 acres (approximately 7%) of suitable habitat on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. Standard</i>	<i>Remove</i>	<i>Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).</i>
F.65b (as added in Amendment 3, 2009)	<i>Adopt and implement a black-tailed prairie dog management strategy. This strategy is made a part of this plan (Appendix N). Standard</i>	<i>The Grassland will accept and consider input on prairie dog management and monitoring decisions from a third-party collaborative stakeholder group, but will retain full decision-making authority. For example, the third-party collaborative group may provide site-specific information on colonies, recommendations for management actions related to colony expansion and control, and recommendations for identification of possible satellite colonies. Guideline</i>	<i>The proposal is to eliminate the Strategy and include all necessary direction for prairie dog management in the land and resource management plan. A third-party collaborative stakeholder group will be key to the decisionmaking process for prairie dog management.</i>
F.XX	<i>Does not exist.</i>	<i>Lethal control, excluding density control, is prohibited in prairie dog colonies identified as satellite colonies until the designation of satellite colony is removed (see direction for Management Area 3.67). Standard</i>	<i>n/a</i>

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p. 1-23/H.1 (as revised in Amendment 3, 2009)	<p>Limit the use of rodenticides (grain baits) for reducing prairie dog populations to the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health and safety risks occur in the immediate area. Standard Damage to private and public facilities, such as cemeteries and residences. Standard On site-specific colonies where unwanted colonization onto adjacent non-federal lands is occurring and other tools are impractical, ineffective or have been proven to be unsuccessful. Guideline Colonies outside Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4 (as identified in strategy) if the Forest Service determines they are not needed for habitat for prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets or other associated species. Guideline. 	<p>All rodenticide use for prairie dog management will conform to the label, safety data sheet, and pesticide use proposal that exist at the time of use, unless further limited by plan components. The use of anticoagulant rodenticides and fumigants is prohibited. Standard</p>	n/a
p. 1-23/H.4 (component proposed to move up with numbering changed accordingly)	<p>From January 1 through September 30, don't use rodenticides (above-ground baits) to reduce prairie dog populations. This is necessary to reduce risk to migratory birds. To reduce risk to other wildlife, don't use burrow fumigants in prairie dog colonies. Standard</p>	<p>From February 1 through September 30, do not use rodenticides to reduce prairie dog populations. Standard</p>	<p>Extends season of use by 1 month consistent with pesticide application label (label allows use from July 1 to January 31; plan allows use October 1 to January 31).</p>
H.XX	Does not exist	<p>To avoid bait aversion, rodenticide application should not occur for more than 3 consecutive years in a given location. Guideline</p>	n/a
p. 1-23/H.2 (as revised in Amendment 3, 2009)	<p>In consultation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, determine the appropriate response to complaints of unwanted colonization on adjoining private and state lands. A spectrum of management tools will be considered based on site-specific evaluations. Guideline</p>	<p>Complaints of unwanted prairie dog colony encroachment or expected encroachment onto adjoining private or state lands should be addressed consistent with Geographic Area and Management Area direction. Prairie dog colony control efforts by the Forest Service shall be contingent on concurrent control efforts by the landowner or lessee of the adjoining land to ensure control objectives are met. Guideline</p>	n/a
H.XX	Does not exist	<p>To minimize impacts to species associated with prairie dog colonies, species such as mountain plover, burrowing owl, and swift fox will be considered prior to the use of lethal control in</p>	n/a

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		prairie dog colonies outside of boundary management zones. Guideline	
H.XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	All prairie dog colony control options not otherwise restricted in this plan are available within 1 mile of residences Grassland-wide. Control efforts by the Forest Service shall be contingent on concurrent control efforts by the owner of the residence. Standard	n/a
p. 1-23/I.3	As needed, or at a minimum annually, adjust management activities to account for the effects of natural processes (e.g., drought, fire, flood, grasshoppers) on forage availability. Guideline	Adjust management activities to account for the effects of natural processes (e.g., drought, fire, flood, grasshoppers, prairie dogs, etc.) on forage availability and to prevent or minimize impacts to overall rangeland health (biotic integrity, soil and site stability, and hydrologic function). Guideline	n/a
p. 1-27/M.3	<p>Consider the following when opportunities to acquire lands occur (Reference 36 CFR 254):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lands with important or unique resources, such as water frontage, wetlands, flood plains and associated riparian ecosystems, cave resources, crucial big-game winter range, threatened or endangered species habitat and habitats needed for recovery, Forest Service sensitive species habitat, important paleontological or geologic sites, important historical, heritage resources or traditional cultural properties, outstanding scenic values, or critical ecosystems when these resources are threatened by change of use, or when management may be enhanced by public ownership. Lands that include prairie dog colonies or that present opportunities to allow expansion of colonies that already exist on nearby National Forest System lands are a high priority. Important botanical, wildlife, and fishery management areas. This includes lands supporting rare plant communities. Lands with important value for outdoor recreation purposes. 	<p>Consider the following when opportunities to acquire lands occur (Reference 36 CFR 254):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lands with important or unique resources, such as water frontage, wetlands, flood plains and associated riparian ecosystems, cave resources, crucial big-game winter range, threatened or endangered species habitat and habitats needed for recovery, Forest Service sensitive species habitat, important paleontological or geologic sites, important historical, heritage resources or traditional cultural properties, outstanding scenic values, or critical ecosystems when these resources are threatened by change of use, or when management may be enhanced by public ownership. Important botanical, wildlife, and fishery management areas. This includes lands supporting rare plant communities. Lands with important value for outdoor recreation purposes. Lands needed to protect resource values by eliminating or reducing fire risks or soil erosion. Non-federal lands in mineralized areas that have low potential for future mineralized 	<i>Opportunities to reduce conflicts related to prairie dogs are still included; prairie dog colony expansion removed as an explicit priority.</i>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lands needed to protect resource values by eliminating or reducing fire risks or soil erosion. ● Non-federal lands in mineralized areas that have low potential for future mineralized patents, and where the minerals will be donated to the United States. ● Lands that reduce Forest Service administrative costs and improvement of management efficiency. This includes: reducing miles of landline boundaries and number of corners, special uses, title claims, rights-of-way grants and easements, numbers of allotments and intermingled ownership livestock pastures, and other factors that decrease administrative costs and improve management efficiency. ● Lands that would reduce conflicts between Forest Service, tribal lands, and private landownership objectives, especially when conflicts are adversely impacting National Forest System management. This includes reducing conflicts involving the management of prairie dog colonies along National Forest System lands. ● Lands within or around existing blocks of public ownership of at least 2,000 acres. ● Lands that would correct maladjustments of land use as described in the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Guideline 	<p>patents, and where the minerals will be donated to the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lands that reduce Forest Service administrative costs and improvement of management efficiency. This includes: reducing miles of landline boundaries and number of corners, special uses, title claims, rights-of-way grants and easements, numbers of allotments and intermingled ownership livestock pastures, and other factors that decrease administrative costs and improve management efficiency. ● Lands that would reduce conflicts between Forest Service, tribal lands, and private landownership objectives, especially when conflicts are adversely impacting National Forest System management. This includes reducing conflicts involving the management of prairie dog colonies along National Forest System lands. ● Lands within or around existing blocks of public ownership of at least 2,000 acres. ● Lands that would correct maladjustments of land use as described in the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Guideline 	

Note: In 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew the proposed rule to list the mountain plover as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, Section F, Mountain Plover, will be moved under the heading for Sensitive Plant and Animal Species, rather than under the heading for Threatened, Endangered and Proposed Species. This will be completed as an administrative correction to the plan concurrent with this plan amendment.

Chapter 2

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 2-2/Broken Hills, Desired Condition	<p>The desired condition in this geographic area is an open, scenic landscape with little evidence of human influence or activity. Insects, diseases, wildfire, and grazing patterns will create plant communities with diverse composition (seral stages) and structure. Natural outbreaks of native insects and diseases will be allowed to proceed without intervention unless there is a substantial threat to high-value resources. This area will have a healthy and diverse mix of grasses, including the following species: western wheatgrass, needle and thread grass, green needlegrass, little bluestem, blue grama, and prairie junegrass.</p> <p>Habitat suitability and effectiveness will be maintained for key wildlife species. Prairie dog colonies will be maintained or increased.</p> <p>The streams and riparian areas will be in proper functioning condition or moving towards proper functioning condition (BLM 1993). Riparian areas/woody draws will be managed to maintain or enhance different age classes of herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees. Desired riparian species include sedges, rushes, snowberry, rose, willow, cottonwood, as well as other woody plants. Soils in this geographic area will have high infiltration rates and low soil compaction, resulting in minimal overland flow events.</p> <p>Primitive conditions with minimal facility development will be emphasized. Mineral developments, such as oil and gas wells and</p>	<p>The desired condition in this geographic area is an open, scenic landscape. Insects, diseases, wildfire, and grazing patterns will create plant communities with diverse composition and structure. Natural outbreaks of native insects and diseases will be allowed to proceed without intervention unless there is a substantial threat to high-value resources. This area will have a healthy and diverse mix of grasses, sedges, forbs, and shrubs, including species such as: western wheatgrass (<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>), needle and thread (<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>), green needlegrass (<i>Nassella viridula</i>), little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>), blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>), prairie Junegrass (<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>), buffalograss (<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>), sand dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>), sixweeks fescue (<i>Vulpia octoflora</i>), marsh muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia racemosa</i>), sedges (<i>Carex</i> spp.), scarlet globemallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>), woolly plantain (<i>Plantago patagonica</i>), birdfoot sagebrush (<i>Artemisia pedatifida</i>), and plains pricklypear (<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>).</p> <p>Habitat suitability and effectiveness will be maintained for key wildlife species. Prairie dog colonies will be a key component of the ecosystem in some areas.</p> <p>The streams and riparian areas will be in proper functioning condition or moving towards proper functioning condition (BLM 1993). Riparian areas/woody draws will be managed to maintain</p>	n/a

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	<p>pipelines, will be present but visually subordinate to the landscape in the mid and background. Pastures will be large.</p>	<p>or enhance different age classes of herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees. Desired riparian species include sedges, rushes, snowberry, rose, willow, cottonwood, as well as other woody plants. Soils in this geographic area will have native soil infiltration rates and low soil compaction, resulting in minimal overland flow events.</p> <p>Primitive conditions with minimal facility development will be emphasized. Mineral developments, such as oil and gas wells and pipelines, will be present but visually subordinate to the landscape in the mid and background. Pastures will be large.</p>	
<p>p. 2-3/Broken Hills, Management Area Prescription Allocation (as revised in Amendment 3, 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.31, Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized: 6,545 acres • 2.1, Special Interest Area: 14,170 acres • 3.63, Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Area: 13,300 acres • 3.65, Rangelands with Diverse Natural-Appearing Landscapes: 71,499 acres • 3.68, Big Game Range: 18,426 acres • 5.12, General Forest and Rangelands: Range Vegetation Emphasis: 33,577 acres <p>As shown on Appendix A Map</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.31, Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized: 6,545 acres • 2.1, Special Interest Area: 14,600 acres • 3.67, Rangelands with Short-stature Vegetation Emphasis: 7,925 acres • 3.65, Rangelands with Diverse Natural-Appearing Landscapes: 84,190 acres • 3.68, Big Game Range: 14,362 acres • 5.12, General Forest and Rangelands: Range Vegetation Emphasis: 33,020 acres • 8.4, Mineral Production and Development: 5 acres <p>As shown on Scoping Map 3</p>	<p>n/a</p>

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<p>p. 2-3/Broken Hills, Objectives, Vegetation, 1</p>	<p>Desired seral stages (plant species composition) and vegetation structure across the geographic area are as follows:</p> <p>Desired Seral Stages - Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Late: 15 to 25% ● Late Intermediate: 30 to 40% ● Early Intermediate: 25 to 35% ● Early: 10 to 20% <p>Across the landscape, grass and sagebrush are intermingled. In some areas, grasses are the dominant species; in other areas, sagebrush is the dominant species. The vegetation composition varies depending on seral stage.</p> <p>In grass-dominated communities in mid to late seral stages, the dominant native grass species are western wheatgrass, needle and thread grass, green needlegrass, and little bluestem. In grass-dominated sites in early to mid seral stages, grasses such as blue grama often dominate. Threeawn and blue grama are commonly the dominant grasses on prairie dog colonies in early seral stage.</p> <p>In sagebrush-dominated communities, there is more sagebrush in the mid to late seral stages than in early to mid seral stages. As the community moves from early to late seral stage, the percentage of grasses declines. In the understory, the dominant native plant species are western wheatgrass and green needlegrass.</p> <p>Desired Vegetation Structure - Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High: 30 to 40% ● Moderate: 40 to 50% ● Low: 15 to 25% 	<p>Desired seral stages (plant species composition) and vegetation structure across the geographic area are as follows (exceptions occur in Management Area 3.67):</p> <p>Desired Seral Stages - Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Late: 15 to 25% ● Late Intermediate: 30 to 40% ● Early Intermediate: 25 to 35% ● Early: 10 to 20% <p>Across the landscape, grass and sagebrush are intermingled. In some areas, grasses are the dominant species; in other areas, sagebrush is the dominant species. The vegetation composition varies depending on seral stage.</p> <p>In grass-dominated communities in mid to late seral stages, the dominant native grass species are western wheatgrass, needle and thread, green needlegrass, and little bluestem. In grass-dominated sites in early to mid-seral stages, sod-forming short grasses often dominate. Fendler's threeawn (<i>Aristida purpurea</i>) and blue grama are commonly the dominant grasses on prairie dog colonies in early seral stage.</p> <p>In sagebrush-dominated communities, there is more sagebrush in the mid to late seral stages than in early to mid-seral stages. As the community moves from early to late seral stage, the percentage of grasses declines. In the understory, the dominant native plant species are western wheatgrass and green needlegrass.</p> <p>Desired Vegetation Structure - Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High: 30 to 40% ● Moderate: 40 to 50% ● Low: 15 to 25% 	<p><i>Management Area 3.67 will use Ecological Site Descriptions where possible in place of seral stages and structural objectives (see guideline in Ch. 3 below).</i></p>
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	<p>High vegetation structure can be achieved on moderate and highly productive grasslands dominated by mid grasses (late or late intermediate seral stages). Grasslands on moderate to highly productive soils but in an early seral condition and dominated by short-stature plant species generally do not have the capability to provide high vegetation structure. Management changes may be necessary to move some existing seral conditions toward a higher seral condition to meet structure objectives.</p> <p>Prairie dog colonies provide low structure, as do grassland areas grazed by livestock at high intensities. Low vegetation structure can result from a dominance of low stature plant species or from heavy utilization of mid grasses.</p> <p>The height and density of grasses, forbs and sedges in the understory of sagebrush stands are important factors influencing structure for several wildlife species. The relationship of structure to quality nesting habitat for sage grouse is described in Appendix H. Appendix H describes quality nesting as sagebrush understories with residual herbaceous cover averaging at least 7 inches in height. This objective is primarily provided when sagebrush habitat types are in a late seral condition.</p>	<p>High vegetation structure can be achieved on moderate and highly productive grasslands (late or late intermediate seral stages). Grasslands on moderate to highly productive soils but in an early seral condition and dominated by short-stature plant species generally do not have the capability to provide high vegetation structure. Management changes may be necessary to move some existing seral conditions toward a higher seral condition to meet structure objectives.</p> <p>Prairie dog colonies foster low structure vegetation, as do grassland areas grazed by livestock at high intensities. Low vegetation structure can result from a dominance of low stature plant species or from heavy utilization of other species.</p> <p>The height and density of grasses, forbs and sedges in the understory of sagebrush stands are important factors influencing structure for several wildlife species. The relationship of structure to quality nesting habitat for sage grouse is described in Appendix H. Appendix H describes quality nesting as sagebrush understories with residual herbaceous cover averaging at least 7 inches in height. This objective is primarily provided when sagebrush habitat types are in a late seral condition.</p>	
p. 2-5/Broken Hills, Objectives, Infrastructure, 1	Increase the average pasture size as opportunities arise over the next 15 years. Objective	The landscape is dominated by large pasture size 15 years from plan approval. Objective	<i>Update for consistency with objective in Cellers Rosecrans Geographic Area and with definition of objective.</i>
p. 2-5/Broken Hills, Objectives, Wildlife, 1	Maintain an increasing trend of black-tailed prairie dog populations across the geographic area over the next 10 to 15 years. Objective	Contribute to achieving the target of 10,000 active prairie dog colony acres in Management Area 3.67 each year during the life of the plan. Prairie	n/a

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		dog colonies vary in size and are distributed across the landscape within Management Area 3.67. Objective	
p. 2-5/Broken Hills, Objectives, Wildlife, 2	Maintain and expand the current distribution of black-tailed prairie dogs across the geographic area over the next 10 to 15 years. Objective	Remove	Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).
p. 2-5/Broken Hills, Objectives, Wildlife, 3	Improve the complex of prairie dog colonies (10 or more colonies with distances between nearest colonies not exceeding 6 miles) in the central part of this geographic area over the next 10 to 15 years. This area has been designated as MA 3.63. Objective	Remove	Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).
p. 2-5/Broken Hills, Objectives, Wildlife, 4	To help increase prairie dog populations and habitat for associated species, allow and encourage expansion of the prairie dog colony complex (10 or more colonies with a total colony acreage of at least 1,000 acres and intercolony distances of less than 6 miles) in the central portion of this geographic area over the next 10 to 15 years. Colonies protected by conservation agreements or easements on adjoining land jurisdictions, including private, may be considered part of a complex. Objective	Active prairie dog colonies fluctuate annually in size and location and exist among a spectrum of grassland ecological sites. These colonies provide habitat for a variety of associated species over the life of the plan. Objective	n/a

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p. 2-5/Broken Hills, Standards and Guidelines, Vegetation, 2	Manage vegetation by Management Area (MA) according to the following table ¹ to achieve the desired seral stage (plant species composition) objectives for the Geographic Area. Guideline	Manage vegetation by Management Area according to the following table ² to achieve the desired seral stage (plant species composition) objectives for the Geographic Area. This table will not apply to Management Area 3.67. See Chapter 3 for specific direction regarding Management Area 3.67. Guideline	<i>Management Area 3.67 will use Ecological Site Descriptions where possible in place of seral stages (see guideline in Ch. 3 below).</i>

¹ Existing plan component: Broken Hills Geographic Area Guideline 2. Targets and value ranges for percentage of management areas in late, late intermediate, early intermediate, and early seral stages.

Management Area	Late: Target	Late: Range	Late Intermediate: Target	Late Intermediate: Range	Early Intermediate: Target	Early Intermediate: Range	Early: Target	Early: Range
1.31	25%	25-30%	35%	35-40%	30%	25-30%	10%	10-15%
2.1	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%
3.63	15%	10-15%	10%	10-15%	15%	15-20%	60%	60-65%
3.65	20%	20-25%	35%	30-35%	30%	30-35%	15%	10-15%
3.68	25%	25-30%	35%	30-35%	25%	25-30%	15%	10-15%
5.12	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%

² Proposed Action: Broken Hills Geographic Area Guideline 2. Targets and value ranges for percentage of management areas in late, late intermediate, early intermediate, and early seral stages. Management area 3.67 is proposed to be managed using ecological site descriptions instead of seral and structural stages.

Management Area	Late: Target	Late: Range	Late Intermediate: Target	Late Intermediate: Range	Early Intermediate: Target	Early Intermediate: Range	Early: Target	Early: Range
1.31	25%	25-30%	35%	35-40%	30%	25-30%	10%	10-15%
2.1	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%
3.67	See Chapter 3 for direction regarding Management Area 3.67							
3.65	20%	20-25%	35%	30-35%	30%	30-35%	15%	10-15%
3.68	25%	25-30%	35%	30-35%	25%	25-30%	15%	10-15%
5.12	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Chapter 2 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 2-5/Broken Hills, Standards and Guidelines, Vegetation, 3	Manage vegetation by Management Area (MA) according to the following table ³ to achieve the desired structural objectives for the Geographic Area. Guideline	Manage vegetation by Management Area (MA) according to the following table ⁴ to achieve the desired structural objectives for the Geographic Area. This table will not apply to Management Area 3.67. See Chapter 3 for specific direction regarding Management Area 3.67. Guideline	<i>Management Area 3.67 will use Ecological Site Descriptions where possible in place of structural objectives (see guideline in Ch. 3 below).</i>
p. 2-7/Broken Hills, Standards and Guidelines, Infrastructure, 1	Maintain or increase average pasture size. Guideline	Where consistent with other management objectives , maintain or increase average pasture size to allow opportunities to enhance habitat connectivity . Guideline	n/a

³ Existing plan component: Broken Hills Geographic Area Guideline 3. Targets and value ranges for percentage of management areas in high, moderate, and low structural stages.

Management Area	High: Target	High: Range	Moderate: Target	Moderate: Range	Low: Target	Low: Range
1.31	30%	30-35%	50%	45-50%	20%	15-20%
2.1	30%	30-35%	50%	45-50%	20%	15-20%
3.63	30%	30-35%	10%	10-15%	60%	60-65%
3.65	35%	30-35%	50%	45-50%	15%	10-15%
3.68	40%	40-45%	50%	45-50%	10%	10-15%
5.12	40%	40-45%	40%	40-45%	20%	15-20%

⁴ Proposed Action: Broken Hills Geographic Area Guideline 3. Targets and value ranges for percentage of management areas in high, moderate, and low structural stages. Management area 3.67 is proposed to be managed using ecological site descriptions instead of seral and structural stages.

Management Area	High: Target	High: Range	Moderate: Target	Moderate: Range	Low: Target	Low: Range
1.31	30%	30-35%	50%	45-50%	20%	15-20%
2.1	30%	30-35%	50%	45-50%	20%	15-20%
3.67	See Chapter 3 for direction regarding Management Area 3.67					
3.65	35%	30-35%	50%	45-50%	15%	10-15%
3.68	40%	40-45%	50%	45-50%	10%	10-15%
5.12	40%	40-45%	40%	40-45%	20%	15-20%

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Chapter 2 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 2-7/Broken Hills, Standards and Guidelines, Wildlife, 1	Emphasize an active landownership adjustment program adjacent to the complex , throughout the geographic area in an attempt to reduce private land conflicts over prairie dog management and to enhance long-term management opportunities for expanding prairie dog populations in this area. Landownership adjustments may need to be completed in some locations before implementation of some actions to accelerate prairie dog population growth. Guideline	Emphasize an active landownership adjustment program throughout the geographic area in an attempt to reduce private land conflicts over prairie dog management and to enhance long-term management opportunities in this area. Guideline	<i>De-emphasize growth of colonies</i>
p. 2-7/Broken Hills, Standards and Guidelines, Wildlife, 2	A range of 23,616 to 31,488 acres of low structure grasslands is prescribed for this geographic area. Much of this acreage should be located in the northeast portion of the geographic area in areas adjoining existing colonies and where prairie dog colonies are known to have occurred in the recent past. This will accelerate expansion of existing colonies and re-establishment of past colonies that are not along private land boundaries. Guideline	Remove	<i>Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).</i>
p. 2-9/Cellers Rosecrans, Desired Condition	Insects, diseases, wildfire, and grazing patterns will create plant communities with diverse composition and structure. This area will have a healthy and diverse mix of grasses, including the following species: western wheatgrass, needle and thread grass , green needlegrass, little bluestem, blue grama, and prairie junegrass. Management activities will maintain or enhance hardwood and coniferous trees, woody shrub inclusions and other beneficial plant communities and increase vegetative diversity. Tree densities within stands will vary to create landscape-scale diversity. Fire will be used in some areas to promote open park-like timber stands. Late successional-stage vegetation may be found in the area.	Insects, diseases, wildfire, and grazing patterns will create plant communities with diverse composition and structure. This area will have a healthy and diverse mix of grasses, sedges, forbs, and shrubs , including species such as : western wheatgrass (<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>), needle and thread (<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>), green needlegrass (<i>Nassella viridula</i>), little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>), blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>), prairie Junegrass (<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>), buffalograss (<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>), sand dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>), sixweeks fescue (<i>Vulpia octoflora</i>), marsh muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia racemosa</i>), sedges (<i>Carex</i> spp.), scarlet globemallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>), woolly plantain (<i>Plantago patagonica</i>), birdfoot	n/a

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
 Chapter 2 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
	<p>Riparian areas/woody draws will be managed to maintain or enhance different age classes of herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees. Some areas will be managed to achieve rapid development of cottonwood and willow riparian habitats. Desired riparian species include sedges, rushes, snowberry, rose, willow, cottonwood, and other woody plants.</p> <p>Management direction in Special Interest Areas will emphasize cultural and zoological resources. Plant and animal species and communities associated with black-footed ferrets and black-tailed prairie dogs will be actively restored.</p> <p>Primitive conditions with minimal facility development will be emphasized. Mineral developments such as oil and gas wells and pipelines will be present but visually subordinate in the mid and background. Pastures will remain large.</p>	<p>sagebrush (<i>Artemisia pedatifida</i>), and plains pricklypear (<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>).</p> <p>Management activities will maintain or enhance hardwood and coniferous trees, woody shrub inclusions and other beneficial plant communities and increase vegetative diversity. Tree densities within stands will vary to create landscape-scale diversity. Fire will be used in some areas to promote open park-like timber stands. Late successional-stage vegetation may be found in the area.</p> <p>Riparian areas/woody draws will be managed to maintain or enhance different age classes of herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees. Some areas will be managed to achieve rapid development of cottonwood and willow riparian habitats. Desired riparian species include sedges, rushes, snowberry, rose, willow, cottonwood, and other woody plants.</p> <p>Management direction in Special Interest Areas will emphasize cultural and zoological resources. In the Cheyenne River Special Interest Area, plant and animal species associated with riparian areas will predominate (see Chapter 3 for specific management direction regarding Special Interest Areas).</p> <p>Primitive conditions with minimal facility development will be emphasized. Mineral developments such as oil and gas wells and pipelines will be present but visually subordinate in the mid- and background. Pastures will remain large to the extent feasible.</p>	

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Chapter 2 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 2-10/Cellers Rosecrans, Unique Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A proposed Cheyenne River Valley reintroduction site for the endangered black-footed ferret. ● Significant populations of black-tailed prairie dogs. ● Large, consolidated areas of public land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Host to populations of black-tailed prairie dogs and associated wildlife species. ● Large, consolidated areas of public land. 	n/a
p. 2-10/Cellers Rosecrans, Management Area Prescription Allocation (as revised in Amendment 3, 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2.1, Special Interest Areas: 6,940 acres ● 2.2, Research Natural Areas: 1,213 acres ● 3.63, Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Area: 31,126 acres ● 3.68, Big Game Range: 6 acres ● 5.12, General Forest and Rangelands: Range Vegetation Emphasis: 81,562 acres <p>As shown on Appendix A Map</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2.1, Special Interest Areas: 7,404 acres ● 2.2, Research Natural Areas: 1,215 acres ● 3.65, Rangelands with Diverse Natural Appearing Landscapes: 2,145 ● 3.67, Rangelands with Short-stature Vegetation Emphasis: 28,585 acres ● 3.68, Big Game Range: 0 acres ● 5.12, General Forest and Rangelands: Range Vegetation Emphasis: 82,529 acres ● 6.1, Rangelands with Broad Resource Emphasis: 2 acres <p>As shown on Scoping Map 3</p>	n/a
p. 2-10/Cellers Rosecrans, Objectives, Vegetation, 1	<p>Desired seral stages (plant species composition) and vegetation structure across the geographic area are as follows:</p> <p>Desired Seral Stages - Objective Late: 10 to 20% Late Intermediate: 20 to 30% Early Intermediate: 25 to 35% Early: 25 to 35%</p> <p>Across the landscape, grass and sagebrush are intermingled. In some areas, grasses are the dominant species; in other areas, sagebrush is the dominant species. The vegetation composition varies depending on seral stage.</p>	<p>Desired seral stages (plant species composition) and vegetation structure across the geographic area are as follows (exceptions occur in Management Area 3.67):</p> <p>Desired Seral Stages - Objective Late: 10 to 20% Late Intermediate: 20 to 30% Early Intermediate: 25 to 35% Early: 25 to 35%</p> <p>Across the landscape, grass and sagebrush are intermingled. In some areas, grasses are the dominant species; in other areas, sagebrush is the dominant species. The vegetation composition varies depending on seral stage.</p>	MA 3.67 will use Ecological Site Descriptions where possible in place of seral stages and structural objectives (see guideline in Ch. 3 below).

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
 Chapter 2 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
	<p>In grass-dominated communities in mid to late seral stages, the dominant native grass species are western wheatgrass, needle and thread grass, green needlegrass, and little bluestem. In grass dominated sites in early to mid seral stages, grasses such as blue grama often dominate. Threeawn and blue grama are commonly the dominant grasses on prairie dog colonies in early seral stage.</p> <p>In sagebrush-dominated communities, there is more sagebrush in the mid to late seral stages than in early to mid seral stages. As the community moves from early to late seral stage, the percentage of grasses declines. In the understory, the dominant native plant species are western wheatgrass and green needlegrass.</p> <p>Desired Vegetation Structure - Objective High: 30 to 40% Moderate: 25 to 35% Low: 30 to 40%</p> <p>High vegetation structure can be achieved on moderate and highly productive grasslands dominated by mid grasses (late or late intermediate seral stages). Grasslands on moderate to highly productive soils but in an early seral condition and dominated by short-stature plant species generally do not have the capability to provide high vegetation structure. Management changes may be necessary to move some existing seral conditions toward a higher seral condition to meet structure objectives.</p> <p>Prairie dog colonies provide low structure, as do grassland areas grazed by livestock at high</p>	<p>In grass-dominated communities in mid to late seral stages, the dominant native grass species are western wheatgrass, needle and thread, green needlegrass, and little bluestem. In grass dominated sites in early to mid-seral stages, sod-forming short grasses often dominate. Fendler's threeawn (<i>Aristida purpurea</i>) and blue grama are commonly the dominant grasses on prairie dog colonies in early seral stage.</p> <p>In sagebrush-dominated communities, there is more sagebrush in the mid to late seral stages than in early to mid-seral stages. As the community moves from early to late seral stage, the percentage of grasses declines. In the understory, the dominant native plant species are western wheatgrass and green needlegrass.</p> <p>Desired Vegetation Structure - Objective High: 30 to 40% Moderate: 25 to 35% Low: 30 to 40%</p> <p>High vegetation structure can be achieved on moderate and highly productive grasslands (late or late intermediate seral stages). Grasslands on moderate to highly productive soils but in an early seral condition and dominated by short-stature plant species generally do not have the capability to provide high vegetation structure. Management changes may be necessary to move some existing seral conditions toward a higher seral condition to meet structure objectives.</p> <p>Prairie dog colonies foster low structure, as do grassland areas grazed by livestock at high</p>	

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Chapter 2 Plan Components

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	<p>intensities. Low vegetation structure can result from a dominance of low stature plant species or from heavy utilization of mid grasses.</p> <p>The height and density of grasses, forbs and sedges in the understory of sagebrush stands are important factors influencing structure for several wildlife species. The relationship of structure to quality nesting habitat for sage grouse is described in Appendix H. Appendix H describes quality nesting as sagebrush understories with residual herbaceous cover averaging at least 7 inches in height. This objective is primarily provided when sagebrush habitat types are in a late seral condition.</p>	<p>intensities. Low vegetation structure can result from a dominance of low stature plant species or from heavy utilization of other species.</p> <p>The height and density of grasses, forbs and sedges in the understory of sagebrush stands are important factors influencing structure for several wildlife species. The relationship of structure to quality nesting habitat for sage grouse is described in Appendix H. Appendix H describes quality nesting as sagebrush understories with residual herbaceous cover averaging at least 7 inches in height. This objective is primarily provided when sagebrush habitat types are in a late seral condition.</p>	
p. 2-12/Cellers Rosecrans Objectives, Infrastructure, 1	The landscape is dominated by large pasture size. Objective	The landscape is dominated by large pasture size 15 years from plan approval . Objective	<i>Update for consistency with objective in Broken Hills Geographic Area and with definition of objective.</i>
p. 2-12/Cellers Rosecrans, Objectives, Wildlife, 1	Maintain an increasing trend of black-tailed prairie dog populations across the geographic area over the next 10 to 15 years. Objective	Contribute to achieving the target of 10,000 active prairie dog colony acres in Management Area 3.67 each year during the life of the plan. Prairie dog colonies vary in size and are distributed across the landscape within Management Area 3.67. Objective	n/a
p. 2-12/Cellers Rosecrans, Objectives, Wildlife, 2	Maintain and expand the current distribution of black-tailed prairie dogs across the geographic area over the next 10 to 15 years. Objective	Remove	<i>Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).</i>
p. 2-12/Cellers Rosecrans, Objectives, Wildlife, 3	Improve the complex of prairie dog colonies (10 or more colonies with distances between nearest colonies not exceeding 6 miles) in the southwestern part of this geographic area over the next 10 to 15 years. This area has been designated as MA 3.63. Objective	Remove	<i>Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).</i>

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Chapter 2 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 2-12/Cellers Rosecrans, Objectives, Wildlife, 4	To help increase prairie dog populations and habitat for associated species, allow and encourage expansion of the prairie dog colony complex (10 or more colonies with a total colony acreage of at least 1,000 acres and intercolony distances of less than 6 miles) in the central portion of this geographic area over the next 10 to 15 years. Colonies protected by conservation agreements or easements on adjoining land jurisdictions, including private, may be considered part of a complex. Objective	Active prairie dog colonies fluctuate annually in size and location and exist among a spectrum of grassland ecological sites. These colonies provide habitat for a variety of associated species over the life of the plan. Objective	n/a
p. 2-13/Cellers Rosecrans, Standards and Guidelines, Vegetation, 2	Manage vegetation by Management Area (MA) according to the following table ⁵ to achieve the desired seral stage (plant species composition) objectives for the Geographic Area. The table has a target percent displayed, with an acceptable range of percents included. Guideline	Manage vegetation by Management Area (MA) according to the following table ⁶ to achieve the desired seral stage (plant species composition) objectives for the Geographic Area. The table has a target percent displayed, with an acceptable range included. This table will not apply to Management Area 3.67. See Chapter 3 for specific direction regarding Management Area 3.67. Guideline	MA 3.67 will use Ecological Site Descriptions where possible in place of seral stages (see guideline in Ch. 3 below).

⁵ Existing plan component: Cellers Rosecrans Geographic Area Guideline 2. Targets and value ranges for percentage of management areas in late, late intermediate, early intermediate, and early seral stages.

Management Area	Late: Target	Late: Range	Late Intermediate: Target	Late Intermediate: Range	Early Intermediate: Target	Early Intermediate: Range	Early: Target	Early: Range
2.1	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%
2.2	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%
3.63	15%	10-15%	10%	10-15%	15%	15-20%	60%	60-65%
3.68	25%	25-30%	35%	30-35%	25%	25-30%	15%	10-15%
5.12	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%

⁶ Proposed Action: Cellers Rosecrans Geographic Area Guideline 2. Targets and value ranges for percentage of management areas in late, late intermediate, early intermediate, and early seral stages. Management area 3.67 is proposed to be managed using ecological site descriptions instead of seral and structural stages.

Management Area	Late: Target	Late: Range	Late Intermediate: Target	Late Intermediate: Range	Early Intermediate: Target	Early Intermediate: Range	Early: Target	Early: Range
2.1	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%
2.2	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Chapter 2 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 2-13/Cellers Rosecrans, Standards and Guidelines, Vegetation, 3	Manage vegetation by Management Area (MA) according to the following table ⁷ to achieve the desired structural objectives for the Geographic Area. The table has a target percent displayed, with an acceptable range of percents included. Guideline	Manage vegetation by Management Area (MA) according to the following table ⁸ to achieve the desired structural objectives for the Geographic Area. The table has a target percent displayed, with an acceptable range included. This table will not apply to Management Area 3.67. See Chapter 3 for specific direction regarding Management Area 3.67. Guideline	<i>MA 3.67 will use Ecological Site Descriptions where possible in place of structural objectives (see guideline in Ch. 3 below).</i>
p. 2-14/Cellers Rosecrans, Standards and Guidelines, Infrastructure, 1	Maintain or increase average pasture size in Management Areas 2.1, 2.2, and 3.63. Guideline	Where consistent with other management objectives, maintain or increase average pasture size to allow opportunities to enhance habitat connectivity. Guideline	n/a

3.67	See Chapter 3 for direction regarding Management Area 3.67							
3.68	25%	25-30%	35%	30-35%	25%	25-30%	15%	10-15%
5.12	15%	15-20%	35%	30-35%	35%	30-35%	15%	15-20%

⁷ Existing plan component: Cellers Rosecrans Geographic Area Guideline 3. Targets and value ranges for percentage of management areas in high, moderate, and low structural stages.

Management Area	High: Target	High: Range	Moderate: Target	Moderate: Range	Low: Target	Low: Range
2.1	30%	30-35%	50%	45-50%	20%	15-20%
2.2	40%	35-40%	40%	35-40%	20%	15-20%
3.63	30%	30-35%	10%	10-15%	60%	60-65%
3.68	40%	40-45%	50%	45-50%	10%	10-15%
5.12	40%	40-45%	40%	40-45%	20%	15-20%

⁸ Proposed Action: Cellers Rosecrans Geographic Area Guideline 3. Targets and value ranges for percentage of management areas in high, moderate, and low structural stages. Management area 3.67 is proposed to be managed using ecological site descriptions instead of seral and structural stages.

Management Area	High: Target	High: Range	Moderate: Target	Moderate: Range	Low: Target	Low: Range
2.1	30%	30-35%	50%	45-50%	20%	15-20%
2.2	40%	35-40%	40%	35-40%	20%	15-20%
3.67	See Chapter 3 for direction regarding Management Area 3.67					
3.68	40%	40-45%	50%	45-50%	10%	10-15%
5.12	40%	40-45%	40%	40-45%	20%	15-20%

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
 Chapter 2 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 2-14/Cellers Rosecrans, Standards and Guidelines, Wildlife, 1	Emphasize an active landownership adjustment program adjacent to the complex , throughout the geographic area in an attempt to reduce private land conflicts over prairie dog management and to enhance long-term management opportunities for expanding prairie dog populations in this area. Landownership adjustments may need to be completed in some locations before implementation of some actions to accelerate prairie dog population growth. Guideline	Emphasize an active landownership adjustment program throughout the geographic area in an attempt to reduce private land conflicts over prairie dog management and to enhance long-term management opportunities in this area. Guideline	<i>De-emphasize growth of colonies.</i>
p. 2-14/Cellers Rosecrans, Standards and Guidelines, Wildlife, 2	A range of 36,324 to 42,378 acres of low structure grasslands is prescribed for this geographic area. Much of this acreage should be located in the northeast portion of the geographic area in areas adjoining existing colonies and where prairie dog colonies are known to have occurred in the recent past. This will accelerate expansion of existing colonies and re-establishment of past colonies that are not along private land boundaries. Guideline	<i>Remove</i>	<i>Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).</i>

Chapter 3

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
p. 3-9/SIA 2.1	<p><i>Cheyenne River Zoological SIA</i>: This 5,980-acre site provides for approximately 3,000 acres of prairie dog complex, including occupied mountain plover habitat and potential black-footed ferret habitat. About 6 ¼ miles of the Cheyenne River winds through the area, offering habitat for fish and beaver. Raptors also nest in the area. The river corridor also offers potential habitat for the Ute's lady's tresses and bald eagle winter roost sites. Management emphasis is on protecting and enhancing habitat conditions. Additional Direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate and consult with the appropriate state wildlife agency to prohibit prairie dog shooting and fur harvest within the SIA. Standard ● Restrict motorized travel to locations and time periods when it would not reduce the optimum habitat effectiveness of the area. Standard ● Allow oil and gas leasing; however, prohibit ground-disturbing oil and gas activities if they may have adverse effects on black-footed ferret reintroduction objectives. Standard. ● Prohibit locatable mineral operating plans that would reduce effectiveness of the habitats emphasized. Standard ● Prohibit new special-use facilities except for valid existing rights. Guideline ● Manage livestock grazing and stocking rates to achieve the most rapid development of mature cottonwood willow riparian area while promoting best habitat conditions for mountain 	<p><i>Cheyenne River SIA</i>: This 6,462-acre site provides for a diverse biotic riparian community along the Cheyenne River. Channels and adjacent tree galleries offer habitat for wildlife species and rare plants. Management emphasis is on protecting and enhancing habitat conditions. Where designated, the riparian corridor will serve as an aid to management to prevent the encroachment of prairie dog colonies from Management Area 3.67 onto state and private lands.</p> <p>Additional Direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Restrict motorized travel to locations and time periods when it would not reduce the optimum habitat effectiveness of the area. Standard ● Allow oil and gas leasing. Adhere to the stipulations found in Appendix D. Standard ● Prohibit locatable mineral operating plans that would reduce effectiveness of the habitats emphasized. Standard ● Prohibit new special-use facilities except for valid existing rights. Guideline ● Manage livestock grazing to promote development of mature cottonwood willow riparian areas and other desired habitat conditions. Standard ● While prairie dog colonies may occur in the area, do not manage for the expansion or persistence of colonies, including satellite prairie dog colonies. Colony control tools may be used to prevent the encroachment of colonies onto state and private lands. Guideline. 	n/a

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Chapter 3 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
	<p>plover breeding, nesting, and brood rearing. Standard</p>		
<p>p. 3-16 / MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Theme</p>	<p>Black-tailed prairie dog colony complexes are actively and intensively managed as reintroduction habitat for black-footed ferrets.</p>	<p>This area is managed to provide a mosaic of high-, mid-, and low-structure vegetation communities, with an emphasis on distribution of low-structure (short) vegetation and habitat for associated wildlife species.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>p. 3-16 / MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Desired Condition</p>	<p>Large prairie dog colony complexes are established and maintained as suitable habitat for black-footed ferret reintroductions. Land uses and resource management activities are conducted in a manner that is compatible with maintaining suitable ferret habitat.</p> <p>The Forest Service works with other agencies and organizations to pursue conservation agreements or easements with adjoining land jurisdictions to achieve black-footed ferret recovery objectives. Where landownership patterns are not conducive to effective and successful prairie dog and black-footed ferret management, landownership adjustments with willing landowners may also be used to help resolve management issues.</p> <p>The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the regulatory agency that determines many of the conditions including when and where black-footed ferrets, an endangered species, may be released.</p>	<p>Vegetation communities are managed to provide for a mosaic of native plant communities, with an emphasis on low-structure herbaceous communities.</p> <p>Noxious and invasive plant species are controlled to the extent possible, and vegetation is maintained at a level that promotes native grass and forb species. Reseeding of areas and reclamation may be evident.</p> <p>Short-statured plant communities may contain: grasses such as blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>), buffalograss (<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>), western wheatgrass (<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>), sand dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>), sixweeks fescue (<i>Vulpia octoflora</i>), and marsh muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia racemosa</i>); sedges (<i>Carex</i> spp.); forbs such as scarlet globemallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>) and woolly plantain (<i>Plantago patagonica</i>); and prostrate shrub species such as birdfoot sagebrush (<i>Artemisia pedatifida</i>) and plains pricklypear (<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>).</p> <p>Riparian areas and streams are managed for healthy plant communities and water quality. Some restored or improved riparian areas and streams are evident. Trees are uncommon outside of riparian areas.</p> <p>Prairie dog colonies vary in size and density and are distributed across the Management Area. Plant community composition varies over time on colonies. Colonies are managed to provide habitat for associated species such as mountain plover,</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Chapter 3 Plan Components

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
		<p>burrowing owl, swift fox, and other grassland birds. Colonies are also managed to prevent undesired encroachment onto adjoining lands and to minimize occurrence of sylvatic plague.</p> <p>Livestock and prairie dogs utilize forage in most areas annually, but some areas receive little to no use due to topography. Forage is available for both wildlife and livestock, and livestock and prairie dogs often occupy the same areas.</p>	
<p>p. 3-16 / MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, General, 1 (as revised in Amendment 3, 2009)</p>	<p>Authorize only those uses and activities in the reintroduction area that do not reduce habitat below the level needed to support a long-term sustainable black-footed ferret population. Until habitat is available to support a long-term sustainable black-footed ferret population, do not authorize uses and activities that would prevent annual increases in the prairie dog population. Standard</p>	<p>Remove</p>	<p>Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).</p>
<p>p. 3-16 / MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, General, 2</p>	<p>Manage all prairie dog colonies within this Management Area as though they were occupied by black-footed ferrets, and apply all Standards and Guidelines as though black-footed ferrets occupy all colonies. Standard</p>	<p>Remove</p>	<p>Replaced with target acres for active prairie dog colonies in Management Area 3.67 (see page 26).</p>
<p>MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Vegetation, XX</p>	<p>Does not exist</p>	<p>Areas that no longer contain desirable vegetation cover or plant species diversity may be reclaimed using native seed mixtures consistent with the reference plant community and compatible with the ecological site to enhance rangeland health (biotic integrity, soil and site stability, and hydrologic function). Where consistent with Forest Service policy, non-native seed may be used. Guideline</p>	<p>Replaces seral stage vegetation objectives in geographic area direction</p>

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p. 3-16 / MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Mineral and Energy Resources, 1	Oil and gas stipulations for black-footed ferrets (Appendix D) apply to all prairie dog colonies within this management area. Standard	Remove	n/a
p. 3-16 / MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Livestock Grazing, 1	Prior to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorizing a black-footed ferret release, the Forest Service will coordinate and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state wildlife agency and other agencies that conduct, authorize or fund predator control to help ensure that predator control activities on the national grassland to reduce livestock losses do not pose significant risks to black-footed ferrets. Standard	Remove	Replaced with standards about meeting requirements Wyoming Black-footed Ferret Management Plan and consulting with Wyoming Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see below)
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	Does not exist	Active prairie dog colonies within Management Area 3.67 will be managed toward a target of 10,000 acres to support associated species such as mountain plover, burrowing owl, and swift fox. Standard	n/a
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	Does not exist	Active prairie dog colonies should be distributed across the landscape and vary in size up to approximately 1,000 acres with an emphasis on colonies of 100 to 400 acres. At least one complex in Management Area 3.67 will be managed for at least 1,500 acres of active prairie dog colonies. Standard	n/a
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	Does not exist	Management that adapts to fluctuations of active colony acreage may occur while managing toward the 10,000 acre target. All prairie dog colony management tools not otherwise restricted by this plan will be available for use when the active acreage in Management Area 3.67 is greater than 7,500 acres. When the acreage of active colonies within Management Area 3.67 is less than 7,500 acres, lethal control tools, excluding density control,	n/a

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		will not be used except in boundary management zones. The responsible official will work with the collaborative stakeholder group to acquire the best available information before pursuing management changes. Guideline	
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	If the responsible official determines that lethal control beyond density control is warranted and the total area of active prairie dog colonies is less than 7,500 acres within Management Area 3.67, then satellite colonies may be identified outside of Management Area 3.67 to temporarily allow lethal control within Management Area 3.67. The sum of satellite colony acres and colony acres in Management Area 3.67 should be greater than 7,500 acres before allowing lethal control within Management Area 3.67, so that at least 7,500 acres remain following control. Guideline	<i>n/a</i>
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	<p>Prairie dog colony expansion tools may include, but will not be limited to: translocation of prairie dog coterries; plague control tools, such as deltamethrin or equivalent, to reduce impacts from sylvatic plague; and identification of specific colonies for seasonal or year-round shooting prohibitions.</p> <p>Prairie dog colony control tools may include, but will not be limited to: use of rodenticides, use of vegetation barriers, and translocation of prairie dog coterries. Guideline</p>	<i>n/a</i>
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	¼-mile boundary management zones within Management Area 3.67 will be established where the Grassland shares a border with private or state property. Within the boundary management zones, control of prairie dogs using rodenticides will be prioritized to reduce impacts to surrounding landowners. All other lethal and non-lethal control tools	<i>n/a</i>

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		not otherwise restricted in this plan are also available in the boundary management zones at any time. To ensure effective treatments in boundary management zones, prairie dog control efforts by the Forest Service shall be contingent on concurrent control efforts by the adjacent landowner. Standard	
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	Landowners experiencing persistent or imminent prairie dog colony encroachment may request a temporary ¼-mile boundary management zone to prevent encroachment. Requests will be considered in the context of acreage targets, compliance with other plan standards and guidelines, and site-specific information. To ensure effective treatments, prairie dog control efforts by the Forest Service shall be contingent on concurrent prairie dog control efforts by the landowner. Guideline	<i>n/a</i>
p. 3-17 / MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, 1	Use of rodenticides in a colony to reduce prairie dog populations may occur only after consultation and concurrence of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The conditions when prairie dog poisoning may be authorized are presented in Chapter 1. Standard	Use of prairie dog control tools may be temporarily prohibited in specific locations outside of the boundary management zones to move toward acreage targets for active colonies. Guideline	<i>n/a</i>
p. 3-17 / MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, 2	Relocation of prairie dogs to establish new colonies and accelerate growth of prairie dog populations in selected areas may occur only after consultation with appropriate state and Federal wildlife agencies. Standard	Translocation of prairie dogs may occur in accordance with Wyoming Game and Fish Department translocation policy. Guideline	<i>n/a</i>
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	Recreational prairie dog shooting is allowed in the Management Area; however, shooting may be temporarily prohibited in specific locations. Standard	<i>n/a</i>
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	Plague control tools, such as the application of deltamethrin or equivalent, may be used to prevent the spread of sylvatic plague. Guideline	<i>n/a</i>

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MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	Density of active prairie dog burrows within an active prairie dog colony may be managed to minimize impacts to soil and vegetation. Impacts to associated species will be considered prior to implementation of density control. Guideline	n/a
MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Fish and Wildlife, XX	<i>Does not exist</i>	Reintroduction of the black-footed ferret will not be precluded in the Management Area. Any effort to reintroduce black-footed ferret would occur in coordination with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and would be consistent with the Wyoming Black-footed Ferret Management Plan. Standard	n/a
p. 3-25 / MA 6.1, Desired Condition	<p>This management area will display low to high levels of livestock grazing developments (such as fences and water developments), oil and gas facilities, and roads.</p> <p>Livestock will graze most areas annually, but a spectrum of vegetation structure and a high degree of biodiversity will be present. Livestock grazing intensity will vary, however moderate use will prevail over most of the MA. Natural disturbance processes, including grazing and fire, will be used to emulate the natural range of variability of vegetation structure and composition (see matrix objectives in Geographic Area direction). Rest and prescribed fire will be incorporated into the landscape.</p> <p>Prairie dog colonies will increase in some areas of the MA.</p> <p>When no substantial threat to high-value resources occurs, natural outbreaks of</p>	<p>This management area will display low to high levels of livestock grazing developments (such as fences and water developments), oil and gas facilities, and roads.</p> <p>Livestock will graze most areas annually, but a spectrum of vegetation structure and a high degree of biodiversity will be present. Livestock grazing intensity will vary, however moderate use will prevail over most of the MA. Natural disturbance processes, including grazing and fire, will be used to emulate the natural range of variability of vegetation structure and composition (see matrix objectives in Geographic Area direction). Rest and prescribed fire will be incorporated into the landscape.</p> <p>When no substantial threat to high-value resources occurs, natural outbreaks of native insects and disease will be allowed to proceed without intervention.</p> <p>See Chapters 1 and 2 for further direction.</p>	n/a

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	native insects and disease will be allowed to proceed without intervention. See Chapters 1 and 2 for further direction.		

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p. D-10/Wildlife, Timing Limitations, Mountain Plover	<p>Resource: Mountain Plover (TL)</p> <p>Stipulation Surface use is prohibited from March 15 through July 31 within 0.25 miles (line of sight) of a mountain plover nest or nest aggregation areas.</p> <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, number 28. The objective is to prevent reduced reproductive success.</p> <p>Application Methodology This stipulation applies to mountain plover nests and nest aggregation areas. This stipulation applies to drilling, testing, new construction projects, and to workover operations. This does not apply to emergency repairs.</p> <p>Waivers This stipulation may be waived if the authorized officer determines conditions have changed and there are no nests or nest aggregation areas within the leasehold or within the stipulated distance from the leasehold.</p> <p>Exceptions The authorizing officer may grant an exception to this stipulation if the operator submits a plan that demonstrates impacts from the proposed action are acceptable or can be adequately mitigated. An exception may be granted if the nest or nest</p>	<p>Resource: Mountain Plover (TL)</p> <p>Stipulation Surface use is prohibited from April 1 through August 20 within 0.25 miles (line of sight) of a mountain plover nest or nest aggregation areas.</p> <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, number 28. The objective is to prevent reduced reproductive success.</p> <p>Application Methodology This stipulation applies to mountain plover nests and nest aggregation areas. This stipulation applies to drilling, testing, new construction projects, and to workover operations. This does not apply to emergency repairs.</p> <p>Waivers This stipulation may be waived if the authorized officer determines conditions have changed and there are no nests or nest aggregation areas within the leasehold or within the stipulated distance from the leasehold.</p> <p>Exceptions The authorizing officer may grant an exception to this stipulation if the operator submits a plan that demonstrates impacts from the proposed action are acceptable or can be adequately mitigated. An exception may be granted if the nest or nest</p>	<p><i>For consistency with revision of F-28.</i></p>

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	<p>aggregation area has not been used by June 10 of the current year.</p> <p>Modifications The boundaries of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorizing officer determines that portions of the area do not include mountain plover nests and nesting areas.</p>	<p>aggregation area has not been used by June 25 of the current year.</p> <p>Modifications The boundaries of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorizing officer determines that portions of the area do not include mountain plover nests and nesting areas.</p>	
<p>p. D-10/Wildlife, Timing Limitations, Black-footed Ferret Habitat</p>	<p>Resource: Black-footed Ferret Habitat (TL)</p> <p>Stipulation Surface use is prohibited from March 1 through August 31 within 0.125 mile (line of sight) of prairie dog colonies occupied or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets.</p> <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, number 19. The objective is to protect ferrets when breeding and rearing young.</p> <p>Application Methodology This stipulation applies to prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets. The spatial buffer extends out from the outer boundary of a prairie dog colony occupied by black-footed ferrets. This stipulation applies to drilling and testing and new construction projects, not to operation or maintenance of production facilities.</p> <p>Waivers The authorized officer may grant a waiver if ferret surveys, following protocol approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, indicate a low probability that ferrets occur in prairie dog colonies located in</p>	<p>Resource: Black-footed Ferret (TL)</p> <p>Stipulation Surface use is prohibited from March 1 through August 31 within 0.125 mile (line of sight) of prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets.</p> <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, number 19. The objective is to protect ferrets when breeding and rearing young.</p> <p>Application Methodology This stipulation applies to prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets. The spatial buffer extends out from the outer boundary of a prairie dog colony occupied by black-footed ferrets. This stipulation applies to drilling and testing and new construction projects, not to operation or maintenance of production facilities.</p> <p>Waivers The authorized officer may grant a waiver if ferret surveys, following protocol approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, indicate a low probability that ferrets occur in prairie dog colonies located in the leasehold or if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p>	<p><i>For consistency with revision of F-19.</i></p>

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	<p>the leasehold or if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines that black-footed ferrets do not occur in the area.</p> <p>Exceptions The authorizing officer may grant an exception to this stipulation if the operator submits a plan that demonstrates impacts from the proposed action are acceptable or can be adequately mitigated. An exception may be granted if surveys indicate a low probability that ferrets occur in a prairie dog colony where drilling, testing or new construction is proposed.</p> <p>Modifications The boundaries of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorizing officer determines that black-footed ferrets do not occur in portions of the area.</p>	<p>determines that black-footed ferrets do not occur in the area.</p> <p>Exceptions The authorizing officer may grant an exception to this stipulation if the operator submits a plan that demonstrates impacts from the proposed action are acceptable or can be adequately mitigated. An exception may be granted if surveys indicate a low probability that ferrets occur in a prairie dog colony where drilling, testing or new construction is proposed.</p> <p>Modifications The boundaries of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorizing officer determines that black-footed ferrets do not occur in portions of the area.</p>	
<p>p. D-12/Wildlife, Controlled Surface Use, Black-footed Ferret Habitat</p>	<p>Resource: Black-footed Ferret Habitat (CSU)</p> <p>Stipulation Operations in prairie dog colonies known or thought to be occupied by black-footed ferrets are subject to the following constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limit oil and gas development to no more than one location per 80 acres. ● Suitable black-footed ferret habitat lost as a result of new facilities within prairie dog colonies must be replaced within 1 year. ● Access for routine maintenance of oil and gas facilities in prairie dog colonies is limited to daylight hours. This does not apply to emergency repairs. ● If it's necessary to place a new road in a prairie dog colony, align the road to minimize habitat loss. 	<p>Resource: Black-footed Ferret (CSU)</p> <p>Stipulation Operations in prairie dog colonies known to be occupied by black-footed ferrets are subject to the following constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limit oil and gas development to no more than one location per 80 acres. ● Replacement of active prairie dog colonies lost as a result of new facilities will be evaluated as needed to meet colony acreage targets for Management Area 3.67. ● Access for routine maintenance of oil and gas facilities in prairie dog colonies is limited to daylight hours. This does not apply to emergency repairs. ● If it's necessary to place a new road in a prairie dog colony, align the road to minimize habitat loss. 	<p><i>For consistency with revision of F-19, removal of F-21, addition of MA 3.67 standards and guidelines on pages 26-29. Correct reference from F-69 to F-66.</i></p>

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	<p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, number 18, 21, 22, and 69. The objective is to protect against activities that could result in adverse impacts on black-footed ferrets or ferret recovery objectives.</p> <p>Application Methodology This stipulation applies to prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets.</p> <p>Waivers The authorized officer may waive this stipulation if black-footed ferrets are released under an experimental non-essential population status; this stipulation may be waived for areas inside the experimental population area but outside Management Area 3.63.</p> <p>Exceptions No conditions for an exception are anticipated, and approval of an exception is unlikely.</p> <p>Modifications No conditions for a modification are anticipated, and approval of a modification is unlikely.</p>	<p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, number 18, 22, and 66, and Management Area 3.67 direction. The objective is to protect against activities that could result in adverse impacts on black-footed ferrets or ferret recovery objectives.</p> <p>Application Methodology This stipulation applies to prairie dog colonies occupied by black-footed ferrets.</p> <p>Waivers The authorized officer may waive this stipulation if black-footed ferrets are released under an experimental non-essential population status; this stipulation may be waived for areas inside the experimental population area but outside Management Area 3.67.</p> <p>Exceptions No conditions for an exception are anticipated, and approval of an exception is unlikely.</p> <p>Modifications No conditions for a modification are anticipated, and approval of a modification is unlikely.</p>	
p. D-13/Controlled Surface Use, Mountain Plover Habitat	<p>Resource: Mountain Plover Habitat (CSU)</p> <p>Stipulation Operations in mountain plover nesting and brooding habitat are subject to the following constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit oil and gas development to no more than one location per 80a cares. 	<p>Resource: Mountain Plover Habitat (CSU)</p> <p>Stipulation Operations in mountain plover nesting and brooding habitat are subject to the following constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit oil and gas development to no more than one location per 80a cares. 	<p><i>For consistency with removal of F-27, addition of MA 3.67 standards and guidelines on pages 26-29. Correct reference from F-69 to F-66.</i></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable mountain plover habitat lost as a result of new facilities must be replaced within 1 year. • Access for routine maintenance of oil and gas facilities in mountain plover nesting and brooding habitat will be between 9 am and 5 pm. This does not apply to emergency repairs. • If it's necessary to place a new road in a prairie dog colony, align the road to minimize habitat loss. <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, numbers 26, 27, 30, and 69. The objective is to prevent reductions in reproductive success.</p> <p>Application Methodology This stipulation applies to identified nesting and brooding habitat. Multiple facilities concentrated at a site are allowed.</p> <p>Waivers No conditions for a waiver are anticipated, and approval of a waiver would be unlikely.</p> <p>Exceptions No conditions for an exception are anticipated, and approval of an exception would be unlikely.</p> <p>Modifications The boundary of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorizing officer determines that portions of the area do not contain active prairie-dog colonies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of active prairie dog colonies lost as a result of new facilities will be evaluated as needed to meet colony acreage targets for Management Area 3.67. • Access for routine maintenance of oil and gas facilities in mountain plover nesting and brooding habitat will be between 9 am and 5 pm. This does not apply to emergency repairs. • If it's necessary to place a new road in a prairie dog colony, align the road to minimize habitat loss. <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, numbers 26, 30, and 66, and Management Area 3.67 direction. The objective is to prevent reductions in reproductive success.</p> <p>Application Methodology This stipulation applies to identified nesting and brooding habitat. Multiple facilities concentrated at a site are allowed.</p> <p>Waivers No conditions for a waiver are anticipated, and approval of a waiver would be unlikely.</p> <p>Exceptions No conditions for an exception are anticipated, and approval of an exception would be unlikely.</p> <p>Modifications The boundary of the stipulated area may be modified if the authorizing officer determines that</p>	

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		portions of the area do not contain active prairie-dog colonies.	
p. D-21/Special Interest Areas – Zoological, Controlled Surface Use, Cheyenne River Zoological Area	<p>MA 2.1 Special Interest Areas – Zoological Controlled Surface Use (CSU)</p> <p>Resource: Cheyenne River Zoological Area (CSU)</p> <p>Stipulation Operations may be moved or modified if it is determined that the proposed action will have adverse effects on black-footed ferret reintroduction objectives.</p> <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Management Area Direction MA 2.1 Cheyenne River Special Interest Area. The objective is to protect against activities that will adversely impact black-footed ferret reintroduction objectives.</p> <p>Application Methodology Use this stipulation in MA 2.1 SIA, Cheyenne River Zoological.</p> <p>Waivers No conditions for a waiver are anticipated, and approval of a waiver would be unlikely.</p> <p>Exceptions No conditions for an exception are anticipated, and approval of an exception would be unlikely.</p> <p>Modifications No conditions for a modification are anticipated, and approval of a modification would be unlikely.</p>	<p>MA 2.1 Special Interest Areas – Cheyenne River Controlled Surface Use (CSU)</p> <p>Resource: Cheyenne River Special Interest Area (CSU)</p> <p>Stipulation Operations may be moved or modified if it is determined that the proposed action will have adverse effects on riparian wildlife and plant communities.</p> <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Management Area Direction MA 2.1 Cheyenne River Special Interest Area. The objective is to protect against activities that will adversely impact the riparian ecosystem in the Special Interest Area.</p> <p>Application Methodology Use this stipulation in MA 2.1 SIA, Cheyenne River Special Interest Area.</p> <p>Waivers No conditions for a waiver are anticipated, and approval of a waiver would be unlikely.</p> <p>Exceptions No conditions for an exception are anticipated, and approval of an exception would be unlikely.</p> <p>Modifications No conditions for a modification are anticipated, and approval of a modification would be unlikely.</p>	<p><i>For consistency with new emphasis for Cheyenne River SIA.</i></p>

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<p>p. D-22 /MA 3.63 / MA 3.67, Controlled Surface Use</p>	<p>MA 3.63 Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat Controlled Surface Use (CSU)</p> <p>Resource: Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat (CSU)</p> <p>Stipulation To preserve black-footed ferret habitat (Management Area 3.63), operations in all prairie dog colonies are subject to the following constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit oil and gas development to no more than one location per 80 acres. • Suitable black-footed ferret habitat lost as a result of new facilities within prairie dog colonies must be replaced within 1 year. • Access for routine maintenance of oil and gas facilities in prairie dog colonies is limited to daylight hours. This does not apply to emergency repairs. • If it's necessary to place a new road in a prairie dog colony, align the road to minimize habitat loss. <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Management Area Direction, MA 3.63, Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat, Standards and Guidelines, Minerals and Energy resources number 1, and the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, number 18, 21, 22, and 69. The objective is to protect against activities that will adversely impact black-footed ferret reintroduction objectives.</p>	<p>MA 3.67 Rangelands with Short-stature Vegetation Emphasis Controlled Surface Use (CSU)</p> <p>Resource: Rangelands with Short-stature Vegetation and Prairie Dog Colony Associated Species (CSU)</p> <p>Stipulation To preserve habitat for wildlife species associated with prairie dog colonies (Management Area 3.67), operations in all prairie dog colonies are subject to the following constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit oil and gas development to no more than one location per 80 acres. • Replacement of active prairie dog colonies lost as a result of new facilities will be evaluated as needed to meet colony acreage targets for the Management Area. • Access for routine maintenance of oil and gas facilities in prairie dog colonies is limited to daylight hours. This does not apply to emergency repairs. • If it's necessary to place a new road in a prairie dog colony, align the road to minimize habitat loss. <p>Objective (Justification) For justification refer to the Land and Resource Management Plan Management Area Direction, MA 3.67, and the Land and Resource Management Plan Grassland-wide Direction, Fish, Wildlife, and Rare Plants, number 18, 22, and 66. The objective is to protect against activities that will adversely impact areas containing short-stature vegetation and species associated with prairie dog colonies.</p>	<p><i>For consistency with removal of F-21, addition of MA 3.67 standards and guidelines on pages 26-29. Correct reference from F-69 to F-66.</i></p>

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	<p>Application Methodology Use this stipulation in MA 3.63, black-footed ferret reintroduction habitat.</p> <p>Waivers No conditions for a waiver are anticipated, and approval of a waiver is unlikely.</p> <p>Exceptions No conditions for an exception are anticipated, and approval of an exception is unlikely.</p> <p>Modifications No conditions for a modification are anticipated, and approval of a modification is unlikely.</p>	<p>Application Methodology Use this stipulation in MA 3.67.</p> <p>Waivers No conditions for a waiver are anticipated, and approval of a waiver is unlikely.</p> <p>Exceptions No conditions for an exception are anticipated, and approval of an exception is unlikely.</p> <p>Modifications No conditions for a modification are anticipated, and approval of a modification is unlikely.</p>	
Glossary, Boundary Management Zone	<i>Does not exist</i>	Boundary Management Zone – An area of National Forest System lands that adjoins non-National Forest System lands in which prairie dog colonies may be controlled at all times to prevent colony encroachment onto the adjoining lands.	<i>n/a</i>
Glossary, Ecological Site	<i>Does not exist</i>	Ecological site: A distinctive kind of land with specific soil and physical characteristics that differ from other kinds of land in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation and its ability to respond similarly to management actions and natural disturbances.	<i>n/a</i>
Glossary, Encroachment, Prairie Dog	<i>Does not exist</i>	Encroachment, Prairie Dog – The expansion of a prairie dog colony from National Forest System lands onto non-National Forest System lands.	<i>n/a</i>
p. G-41/Glossary, Prairie Dog Colony	<i>Does not exist</i>	Prairie Dog Colony – An area containing prairie dog burrows that is clearly distinguishable from surrounding areas by a space that does not contain burrows.	<i>n/a</i>
p. G-1/Glossary, Active Prairie Dog Colony	Active Prairie Dog Colony - A prairie dog colony that supports a prairie dog density that has not been noticeably reduced by poisoning, plague, or shooting and that is essentially at its carrying capacity.	Prairie Dog Colony, Active – A prairie dog colony that contains live prairie dogs. The boundaries of the active colony may expand or contract in the	<i>n/a</i>

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		absence of management or disease as a result of the activities of the live prairie dogs.	
p. G-27/Glossary, Inactive Prairie Dog Colony	Inactive Prairie Dog Colony - A prairie dog colony that no longer supports a prairie dog population due to poisoning or plague; however, the colony area still retains its intact burrow system.	Prairie Dog Colony, Inactive – A prairie dog colony that no longer contains a live prairie dog population, but retains the intact burrow system left by a formerly active prairie dog colony.	n/a
Glossary, Satellite Prairie Dog Colony	<i>Does not exist</i>	Prairie Dog Colony, Satellite – An active prairie dog colony that occupies National Forest System lands, but does not lie within Management Area 3.67, and has been designated for the purpose of meeting colony acreage targets within Management Area 3.67.	n/a
p. G-41/Glossary, Prairie Dog Colony Complex	Prairie Dog Colony Complex – A group of at least 10 prairie dog colonies with nearest-neighbor intercolony distances not exceeding 6 miles and with a total colony complex acreage of at least 1,000 acres.	Prairie Dog Colony Complex – A group of two or more active prairie dog colonies in which each colony is within close enough proximity to another such that individual prairie dogs can disperse between colonies.	n/a
Glossary, Prairie Dog Colony Control	<i>Does not exist</i>	Prairie Dog Colony Control - A management action or set of management actions implemented with the intent to decrease the size or density of an active prairie dog colony or to remove a prairie dog colony from an area.	n/a
Glossary, Prairie Dog Colony Control Tools	<i>Does not exist</i>	Prairie Dog Colony Control Tools – Actions used to carry out prairie dog colony control. Tools may include, but are not limited to: rodenticides, including zinc phosphide; vegetation barriers; and translocation of prairie dog colonies. In this plan, recreational shooting is not considered a control tool.	n/a
Glossary, Prairie Dog Colony Expansion Tools	<i>Does not exist</i>	Prairie Dog Colony Expansion Tools – Actions used to promote the growth or prevent the shrinking of active prairie dog colonies. Tools may include, but are not limited to: translocation of prairie dog colonies; and plague prevention products, such as deltamethrin or equivalent. In this plan, recreational	n/a

Proposed Action: Changes to Grassland Plan Direction
Plan Appendices

Page/Component Number	Existing Component	Proposed Action	Comments
		shooting prohibitions can also be used as a colony expansion tool.	
Glossary, Prairie Dog Density Control	<i>Does not exist</i>	Prairie Dog Density Control – A management action or set of management actions implemented with the intent to reduce the number of live prairie dogs within an active prairie dog colony or some portion of an active colony without reducing the total area of the active colony. Such management actions would occur most often via the use of rodenticides but other control tools may be used.	<i>n/a</i>
Glossary, Prairie Dog Lethal Control	<i>Does not exist</i>	Prairie Dog Lethal Control – The use of rodenticide to manage a prairie dog colony.	<i>n/a</i>
Appendix N (as revised in 2015)	<i>2015 Prairie Dog Conservation Assessment and Management Strategy</i>	<i>Rescind</i>	<i>n/a</i>