

PRAIRIE DOG CONSERVATION TEAM

Representing the states of Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico,
North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming

Bill E. Van Pelt
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086



WAFWA Grassland Coordinator
(623) 236-7573 - office
(623) 236-7926 - fax
bvanpelt@azgfd.gov

23 November 2015

Michael Thabault
Assistant Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Denver Federal Center
Post Office Box 25486 - MS 60140
Denver CO. 80225

Dear Michael,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. Over the last year, I have worked with the various states within the range of the four prairie dog species to summarize conservation and management efforts being undertaken by state, federal, and land management agencies in conjunction with the Prairie Dog Conservation Team. The attached report *Prairie Dog Conservation associated with Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Grassland Initiative from 1999-2014* summarizes activities implemented starting in 1999 and going through 2014. In 2015, WAFWA has been evaluating the feasibility of remote census techniques funded by a competitive state wildlife grant, the state of Wyoming, and Bureau of Land Management. We are scheduled to have a draft report by the end of 2015 to share with partners and to discussed at a yet to be determined Prairie Dog Conservation Team meeting.

In closing, the WAFWA grassland states remain committed to the multi-state conservation effort and sound management of prairie dogs and other grassland associated species, and their habitats. If you have any questions about information in this letter, please contact me or the appropriate states directly.

Sincerely,

Bill E. Van Pelt
WAFWA Grassland Coordinator

cc: WAFWA Prairie Ecosystem Directors
Pete Gober, Michelle Shaughnessy, USFWS

Mr. Michael Thabault
Re: 2014 Prairie dog conservation efforts
November 23, 2015
Page 2 of 2

Figure 1. Best available estimate of black-tailed prairie dog occupied acreage in the U.S. in 1961 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), 2000 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2000), and 2012 (Prairie Dog Conservation Team).

