

# PRAIRIE DOG CONTROL

## GAME, FISH AND PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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To be eligible for Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) prairie dog control, the prairie dog colony must meet the following requirements: have encroached from adjacent public land, be a minimum of 10 acres in size, and the colony must occur within one-mile of the public land boundary. All three requirements must be met to be eligible. Once GFP determines eligibility through GPS-mapping, a representative will contact you in the fall (*September through December*) to arrange a time for the treatment or control to take place. We kindly ask for your flexibility when scheduling as the fall season is very busy with control activities across western South Dakota.

*\*If your land is adjacent to U.S. Forest Service National Grasslands or Badlands National Park, the earliest that prairie dog control may occur is October 1.*

*\*\*Private land adjacent to tribal property or municipalities does not qualify for GFP's assistance.*

### MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR EFFECTIVE PRAIRIE DOG TREATMENT AND CONTROL:

- Keep livestock off the area where prairie dog control will occur or plan on removing livestock a few days before GFP's control.
- Do not shoot or harass prairie dogs at least 30-days prior to GFP's control.
- Do not attempt to control or poison the prairie dog colony at least six months prior to GFP's control.
- Do not apply poison or try and control prairie dogs year-after-year. If repeated control efforts occur, prairie dogs will develop bait-shyness and effective control becomes very difficult.
- Consider modifying grazing practices (*when possible*) to encourage grass growth which may reduce prairie dog colony expansion.
- If some areas of the prairie dog colony are not eligible for GFP's control, consider controlling those areas on your own so the entire colony can be effectively controlled.

