

RANGE-WIDE GENERAL CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE UTAH PRAIRIE DOG IN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS (GCP)

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February 2022





BACKGROUND

UTAH PRAIRIE DOG

- Federally listed as threatened
- Only occur in southwestern Utah
- Hibernate in the winter
- Primarily eat plants
- Known for the “*bark*” alarm call when a predator is close, that’s why they are called prairie *dogs*



WHAT THE DIVISION DOES FOR UTAH PRAIRIE DOGS

- GCP implementation
- Annual spring count of Utah prairie dog colonies
- Implement special 4(d) rule for agriculture and safety
- Trapping Utah prairie dogs on private property and moving onto federal lands



CURRENT STATUS

- Annual spring count for 2021
 - 5,161 prairie dogs, declined by 17% from 2020
- Population fluctuations potentially caused by drought
 - Count usually increases again after drought has ended
- Annual spring count in 1976
 - 1,950 prairie dogs





INTRODUCTION TO THE GCP

WHAT IS THE GCP?

- Took effect in 2018
- Allows for incidental take of Utah prairie dogs and habitat for development anywhere Utah prairie dogs occur on private land
- Helps facilitate development while also aiding recovery of Utah prairie dogs
- Valid for 10 years, expires 2028



HOW DOES THE GCP IMPACT DEVELOPMENT?

- Building permits are not issued until a prairie dog clearance letter or Certificate of Inclusion (permit) is issued
- Designates a clearance area where surveys are required and mitigation fees for development activities on private land
- Authorizes Utah prairie dog trapping off private property

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GCP

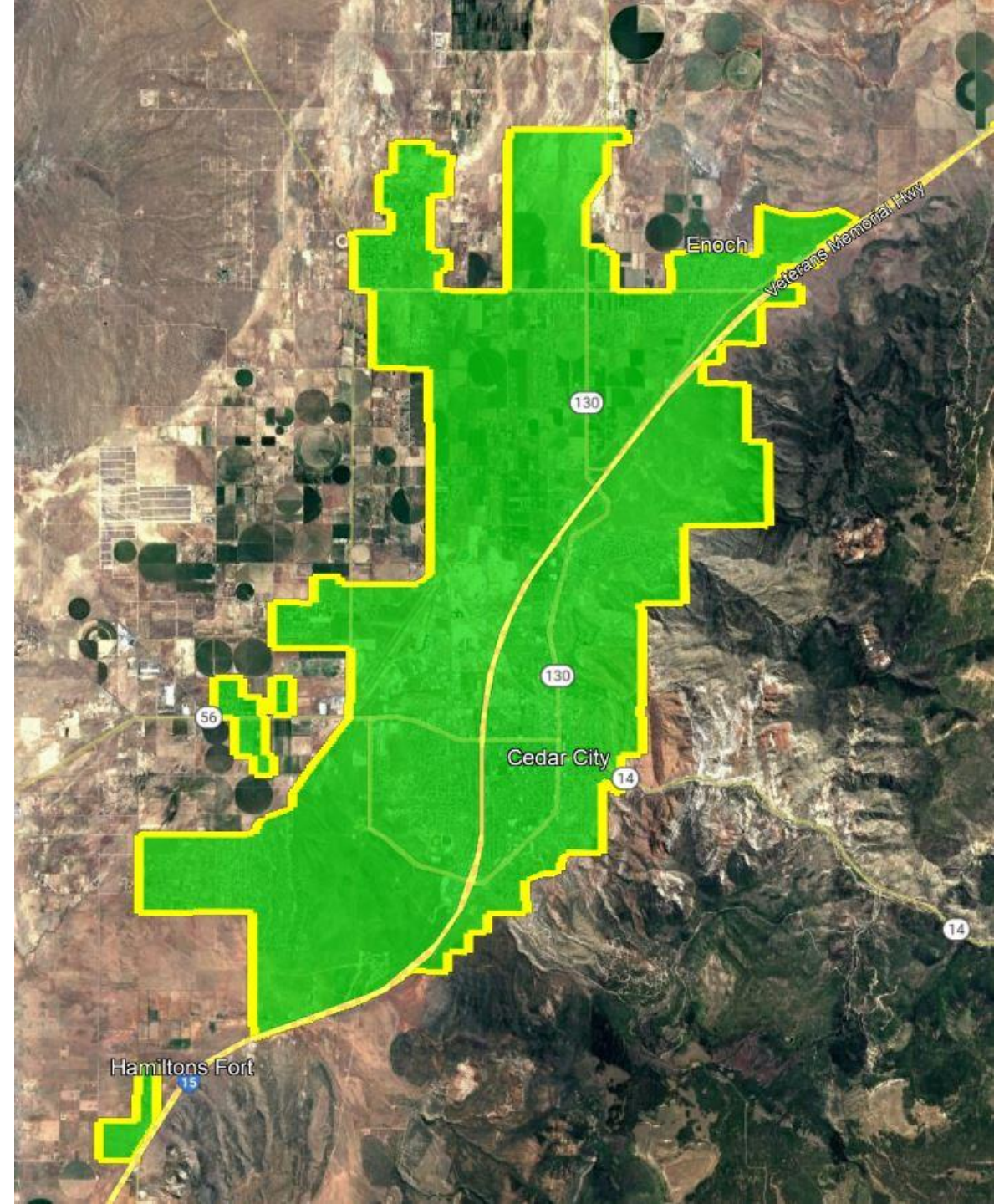
- Utah prairie dog surveys are free of charge, only costs are associated with mitigation fees
- Mitigation fee costs are only applicable where there is occupied Utah prairie dog habitat that overlaps with a project development plan

CLEARANCE AREA

- Iron and Garfield counties are the main areas where development is occurring in the Clearance Area
 - Cedar City, Summit, Enoch, Kanarraville, Parowan, Paragonah, Panguitch, Hatch, and Bryce Canyon City
- Other areas
 - Beaver, Minersville, Tropic, Loa, Lyman, Bicknell, Kooshareem, Greenwich, Alton, and Long Valley Junction

MAJOR & MINOR DEVELOPMENT ZONES

- Major – inside green area
 - Continued regular growth was expected
 - More urban areas
- Minor – outside green area
 - Less continued regular growth was expected
 - More rural areas



GROUND DISTURBANCE

- Wait to perform ground disturbance until the prairie dog survey is completed
- Ground disturbance is removing plants, digging into the ground, placing permanent objects on the ground
- Ground disturbance may result in delays and mitigation fees
- Leave shrubs and vegetation on property until survey is completed



SURVEY AND LETTER EXPIRATION

- *All survey results and letters expire the following March 31st at midnight after they are issued*
- Letters and surveys remain valid if the project proponent performs continuous, uninterrupted ground disturbance
- If construction has not been continuous and uninterrupted, the property needs to be resurveyed

MITIGATION FEES

- Varies based on
 - Size of the property
 - County the project is taking place in
 - If the project takes place in the Major or Minor development zones
 - How much occupied Utah prairie dog habitat overlaps with the site development plans
- County collects the fees



HOW HOME BUILDERS CAN HELP?

- Check if the property is in the Clearance Area prior to beginning any ground disturbance
- Wait to remove vegetation until after the Utah prairie dog survey is complete
- Allow time (2 weeks) for the Division to complete the survey, build into time frame of construction
- Help guide home buyers through the GCP process



HOW TO GET UTAH PRAIRIE DOG CLEARANCE



STEP 1

CLEARANCE AREA

FIND OUT IF PROPERTY IS IN THE CLEARANCE AREA

- Go onto Iron county's GIS webpage
 - <https://irongis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=1e43f0dc b9c7463f9b8ff3a03613070f>
- Or contact the Division or Iron/Garfield county
 - Division: (435) 691-5700 or prairiedogsurvey@utah.gov
 - Iron county: (435) 865-5350
 - Garfield county: (435) 238-0935
- If the property is located in another county, contact the Division



iron county gis utah prairie dog



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About 248,000 results (0.94 seconds)

<https://irongis.maps.arcgis.com> > home > item

Utah Prairie Dog Clearance - Overview

Sep 21, 2017 — Clearance areas for **Utah Prairie Dogs**. ... be directed to the **Iron County GIS** or the **Utah**. Division of Wildlife Resources.

Home

Gallery

Map

Scene

Groups



Sign In

Utah Prairie Dog Clearance

Overview



Clearance areas for Utah Prairie Dogs.

Web Mapping Application by IronGIS1

Created: Sep 21, 2017 Updated: Feb 21, 2020 View Count: 4,150

View Application

Description

Utah prairie dog clearance areas and parcels.

Terms of Use

The data contained herein is for general display purposes only and may not be entirely accurate. No liability is assumed as to the accuracy of the data delineated hereon. Any corrections should be directed to the Iron County GIS or the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Comments (0)



Sign in to add a comment.

Details

Size: 2 KB

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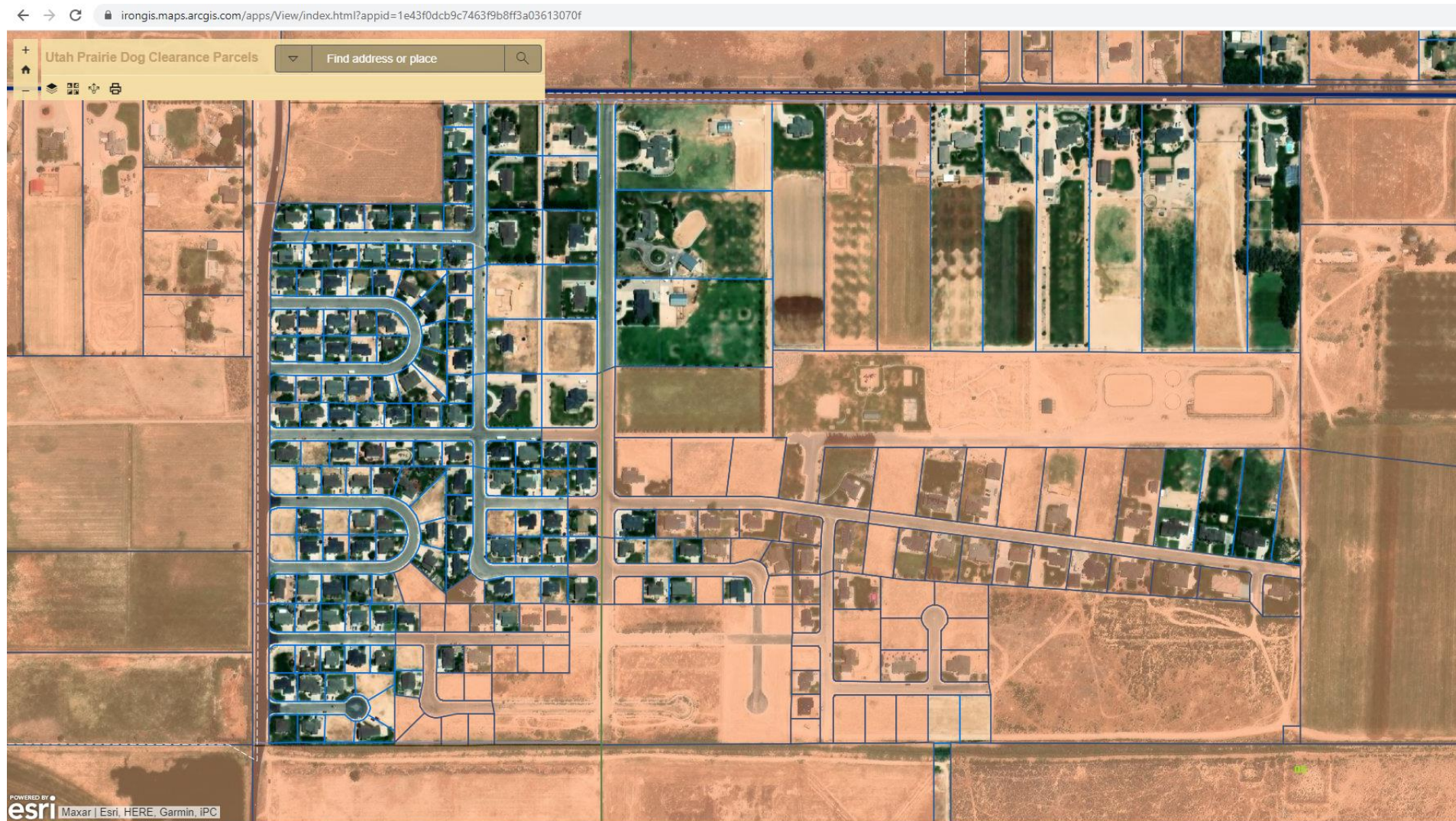


Owner

IR IronGIS1

CLICK

IRON COUNTY CLEARANCE AREA MAP



*The properties highlighted in tan/beige require a Utah prairie dog survey, the properties that are clear and not highlighted do not require a survey

OR CONTACT THE DIVISION OR COUNTY

- Need address, parcel number, or map of project area
- The Division, Iron county, or Garfield county can help determine if project is within the clearance area



CLEARANCE AREA

- If not within clearance area
 - No survey is necessary
 - Issued clearance letter by Division or a check sheet by Iron or Garfield county
- If within clearance area
 - Survey is needed
 - Contact the Division
- ***All survey results and letters expire the following March 31st at midnight after they are issued***






STEP 2

SURVEY NEEDED

SURVEY NEEDED

- Request prairie dog survey from the Division
- Fill out form and provide site development plans
- Email completed form to prairiedogsurvey@utah.gov

 State of Utah SPENCER J. COX <i>Governor</i> DEIDRE M. HENDERSON <i>Lieutenant Governor</i>	Department of Natural Resources BRIAN C. STEED <i>Executive Director</i> Division of Wildlife Resources JUSTIN SHIRLEY <i>Division Director</i>	Utah Prairie Dog Survey Request Form
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*Please allow (2) weeks for surveys to be completed and clearances to be issued.
Please attach map of project plans showing location of property.

Date: ____/____/____ Time: _____

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone #: _____

Email or Fax #: _____

Survey Address: _____

Property Size (Acres): _____ Project Size (Acres): _____

Property Description: _____


Land Owner: _____

Land Owner Permission to Survey?: Y or N

*Please note, the Division requires permission prior to surveying

Submit requests to prairiedogsurvey@utah.gov or the Southern Region office

Southern Region: 1470 N. Airport Rd., Cedar City, UT 84721 • telephone (435) 865-6100 • facsimile (435) 586-2457 • www.wildlife.utah.gov





STEP 3

SURVEY PERFORMED

SURVEY PERFORMED

- Allow two weeks from the request date for the Division to complete the survey
- Biologist counts prairie dogs, walks transects on property, and counts prairie dog burrows
- Weather can delay surveys, request in advance





STEP 4

SURVEY RESULTS

NO UTAH PRAIRIE DOG PRESENCE

- If no prairie dogs were found during the survey
- Issued a clearance letter by the Division
- “Cleared” to begin project regarding Utah prairie dogs
- **All survey results and letters expire the following March 31st at midnight after they are issued**



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

BRIAN C. STEED
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

JUSTIN SHIRLEY
Division Director

February 15, 2022

Dear Ms. Doe,

The Division of Wildlife Resources (Division) surveyed the property at 999 Candy Cane Ln., Cedar City, UT, parcel #Z-0000-0000-0000 for the presence of the federally protected Utah prairie dog (*Cynomys parvidens*), as you requested. No Utah prairie dogs or active sign of their presence were found during our survey. The subject project is now considered “cleared” as regards Utah prairie dogs. We recommend that you begin construction on the subject property as soon as possible and that construction be continuous thereafter to prohibit any future occupation by prairie dogs. **This clearance authorization lapses at 1200 a.m. on April 1, 2022.** Another Utah prairie dog “clearance” survey will be required if continuous, uninterrupted construction does not begin on the subject property prior to that date or extends beyond the surveyed boundaries.

This letter applies only to Utah prairie dog clearance requirements on the property(ies) described above. It does not apply to any other surveys or permitting that may be required prior to development. Neither does it authorize any development activities, travel, dumping, excavating, storage or stockpiling on adjacent parcels. These actions will require separate Utah prairie dog clearance surveys and may delay future clearances for those properties. If at any time during construction activities, a Utah prairie dog(s) is (are) found injured or killed, the Division must be notified (435-865-6100). Please contact Patrick Anderson at (435) 691-5700 if you have any questions about this letter or require further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Anderson".

Patrick Anderson
Utah Prairie Dog Management Biologist

PRA

cc



UTAH PRAIRIE DOGS PRESENT

- If Utah prairie dog burrows were found or if Utah prairie dogs were observed during the survey
- Issued a Utah prairie dog occupied habitat letter by the Division
- The Division will inquire about trapping Utah prairie dogs off the property



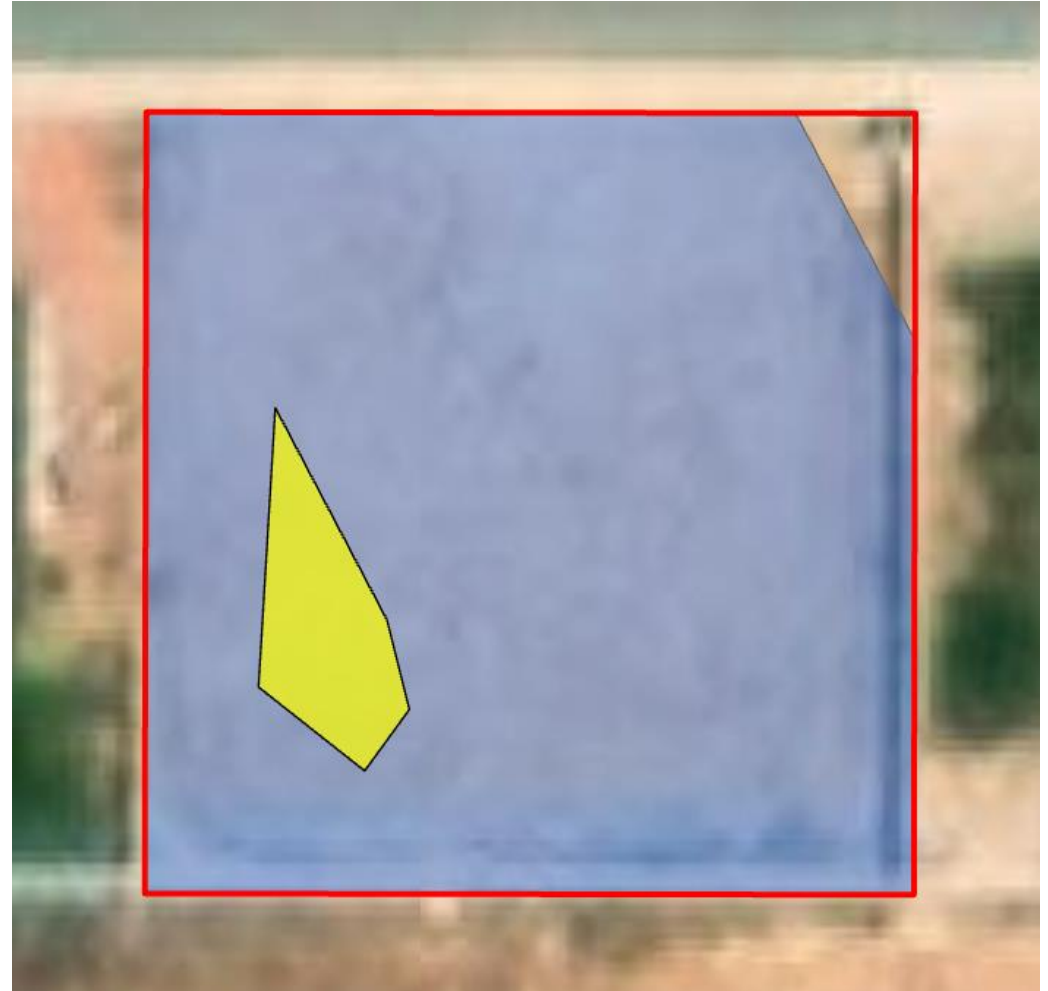


STEP 5

UTAH PRAIRIE DOG
OCCUPIED HABITAT LETTER

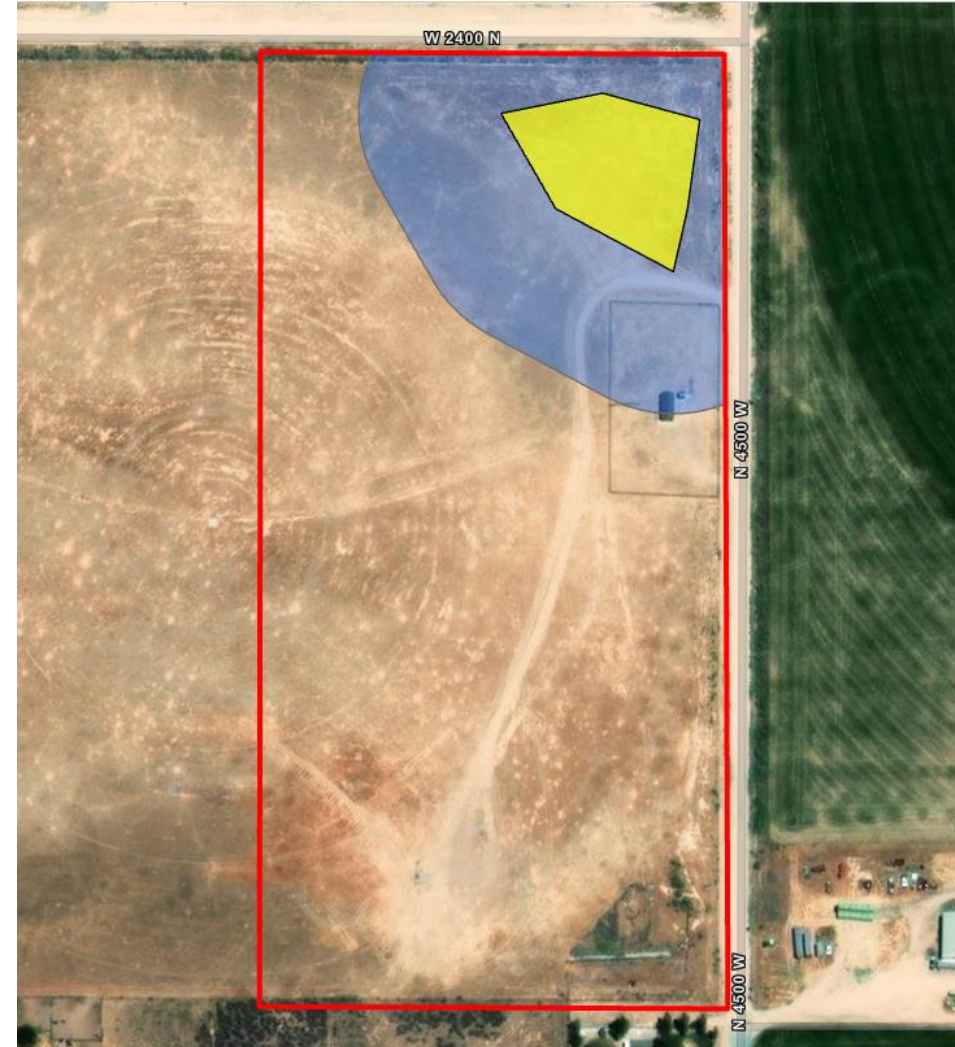
MITIGATION FEE SCENARIO #1

- 0.24 acre parcel
- Major Development Zone
- Yellow area - Utah prairie dog colony, where burrows were found
- Blue area – 100 ft. buffer around colony
- Red line – property boundary
- 0.23 acres of occupied Utah prairie dog habitat
- \$250.00 mitigation fee



MITIGATION FEE SCENARIO #2

- 20.00 acre parcel
- Minor Development Zone
- Yellow area - Utah prairie dog colony, where burrows were found
- Blue area – 250 ft. buffer around colony
- Red line – property boundary
- 4.65 acres of occupied Utah prairie dog habitat
- \$4,150.00 mitigation fee



OCCUPIED HABITAT LETTER

- Division issues occupied Utah prairie dog habitat letter and sends to the project proponent and the Master Permit Holder
- Letter has information for
 - How to obtain a Certificate of Inclusion (permit) from Master Permit Holder
 - Mitigation fee, which is based on acreage of where the project plan overlaps with the occupied Utah prairie dog habitat
 - Potential trapping efforts for Utah prairie dogs



STEP 6

CERTIFICATE OF INCLUSION

CERTIFICATE OF INCLUSION

- Certificate of Inclusion issued from Master Permit Holder
 - For Iron county, **Reed Erickson** is the permit administrator
 - For Garfield county, **Dave Dodds** is the permit administrator
- Project proponents pay mitigation fee and sign forms for Certificate of Inclusion
- Afterwards, “cleared” to begin project regarding Utah prairie dogs



UTAH PRAIRIE DOG TRAPPING

- Division only traps for the GCP between July 1 and September 30
- Trapping is no additional cost for the project proponent
- Utah prairie dogs trapped help aid the conservation of the species





CONCLUSION

BENEFITS OF THE GCP

- Can be used in all locations where Utah prairie dogs are found on private land
- Lower fees for small projects
- Streamlined process with Master Permit Holder
- Permits are valid longer



THANK YOU

PATRICK ANDERSON

- UTAH PRAIRIE DOG
MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST
- UTAH DIVISION OF
WILDLIFE RESOURCES
- PHONE: (435) 691-5700
- EMAIL:
prairiedogsurvey@utah.gov

February 2022



Utah Division of
Wildlife Resources



MITIGATION FEES (AS OF 2/2022)

Major Development Zone		Minor Development Zone - Iron County		Minor Development Zone - Other Counties	
Acre classes	cost/acre	Acre classes	cost/acre	Acre classes	cost/acre
0-0.5	\$250.00	0-0.5	\$250.00	0-0.5	\$250.00
0.5-1	\$500.00	0.5-1	\$500.00	0.5-1	\$500.00
1-5	\$1,000.00	1-5	\$1,000.00	1-3	\$1,000.00
5-10	\$1,250.00	>5	\$7,000.00	>3	\$7,000.00
>10	\$1,500.00				

- Please contact the Division or County to determine if the project is in the Major or Minor Development Zone
- Only the Division and Master Permit Holders are authorized to calculate mitigation fees for a project under the GCP
- Only Master Permit Holders and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are authorized to collect mitigation fees, no other groups may collect fees
- Several entities are involved in setting the cost for mitigation fees and all parties meet once every 3 years to discuss fee structure changes