

Controlling Prairie Dogs with Nonlethal Methods

Because prairie dog numbers are falling and because they are an important indicator of the health of grasslands ecosystems, nonlethal methods of controlling prairie dogs are greatly preferred.

Common methods include:

Create visual barriers with dense plantings or solid barriers (fences at least 3 feet tall and sunk into the ground). Appropriate plantings include juniper communis, Fitzer juniper, cotoneaster, shrubby cinquefoil, ninebark, and apache plume as well as others. Prairie dogs are visual creatures, becoming uncomfortable when they cannot see predators.



Attract natural predators by placing raptor perches nearby or using brush piles for coyote cover.

Mow to encourage movement to the mowed area or allow vegetation to grow to encourage moving away from an area.

Put used kitty litter down burrows. This can encourage prairie dogs to move to another site.

Relocate (only use as a last resort)
Although successful, relocation is very labor intensive and is usually done by volunteers with very limited resources. This makes it practical only when a suitable relocation site is available. Relocation is usually done under the supervision of Game and Fish personnel.



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Our Prairie Dog Neighbors

