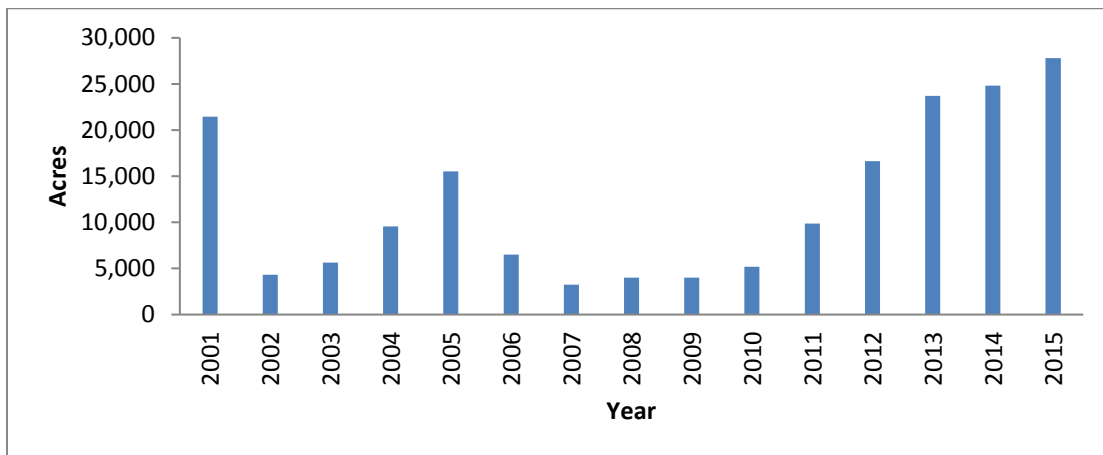


# PRAIRIE DOG AND ASSOCIATED SPECIES COMPLETION DATA FOR THUNDER BASIN NATIONAL GRASSLAND - 2016



## MAPPING

Active prairie dog colonies within the Category 1 area were mapped in 2015. All other known colonies, occupied in 2015 or historically, were checked for current occupancy and documented. Prairie dog colonies were not mapped by the USFS in 2016 due to funding and capacity constraints. Active acres of prairie dogs on NFS as of 2015 are approximately **27,793** acres. The current acreage of occupied prairie dog colonies is approximately **5%** of the Thunder Basin NG.



## Acres by Category:

| Category | Acres  | Objective | Current % of Objective |
|----------|--------|-----------|------------------------|
| 1        | 18,212 | 18,000    | 101%                   |
| 2        | 2,550  | 9,000     | 28%                    |
| 3        | 7,031  | 6,000     | 117%                   |

## **BURNING**

### **Acres completed:**

- 2009 – 2,193 acres
- 2010 – 2,500 acres
- 2011 – 4,000 acres
- 2012 – 2,500 acres
- 2015 - 1,000 acres
- 2016 - 0

## **DUSTING**

### **Acres Completed:**

- 2010 – 132 acres
- 2011 – 1,997 acres
- 2012 – 780 acres
- 2013 – 3,000 acres
- 2014 – 2,400 acres
- 2015 – 1,002 acres
- 2016 – 25 acres

### **Burrow Density Data from Dusting:**

- 2012 – 33 burrows/acre
- 2013 – 21 burrows/acre
- 2014 – 35 burrows/acre
- 2015 – 52 burrows/acre

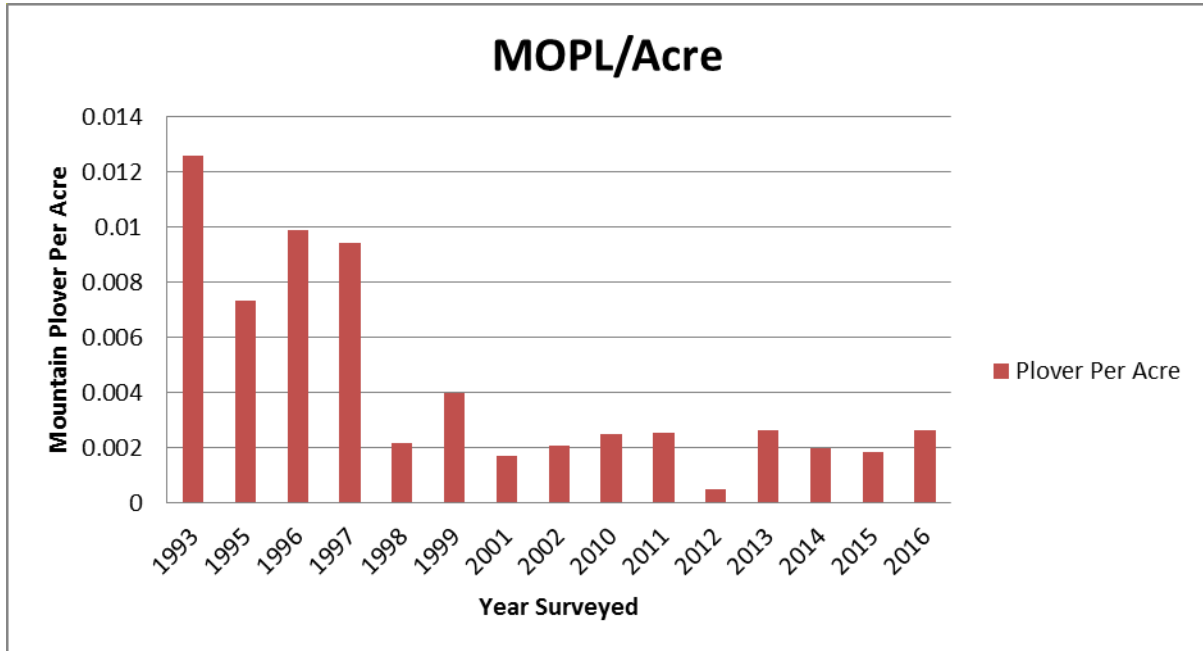
## **SIGNING**

### **Shooting Closure Signs Installed:**

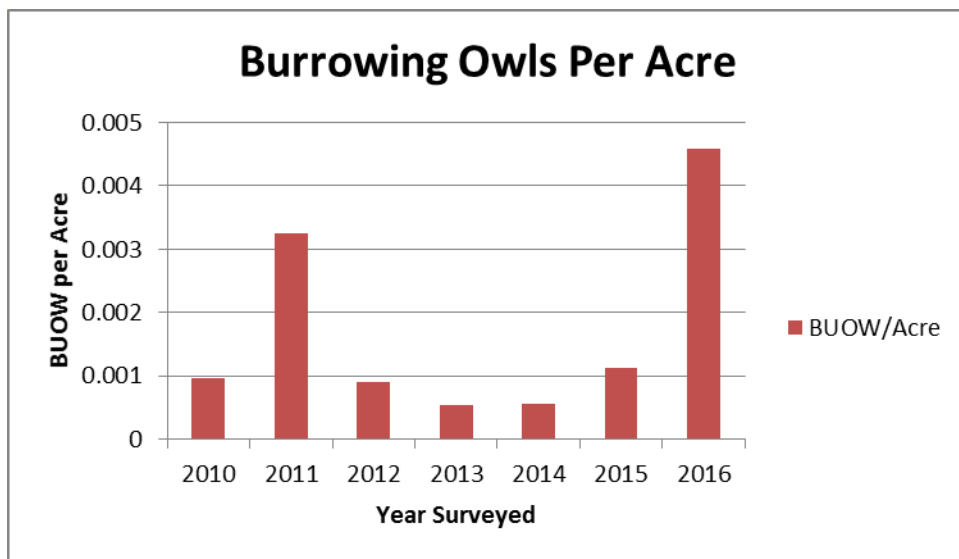
- 2010 – 4 signs (wooden portal)
- 2011 – 8 wooden portal signs, 30 carsonite signs.
- 2015 – 22 large metal signs, 34 small metal signs, and 16 carsonite stickers.

## ASSOCIATED SPECIES SURVEYS

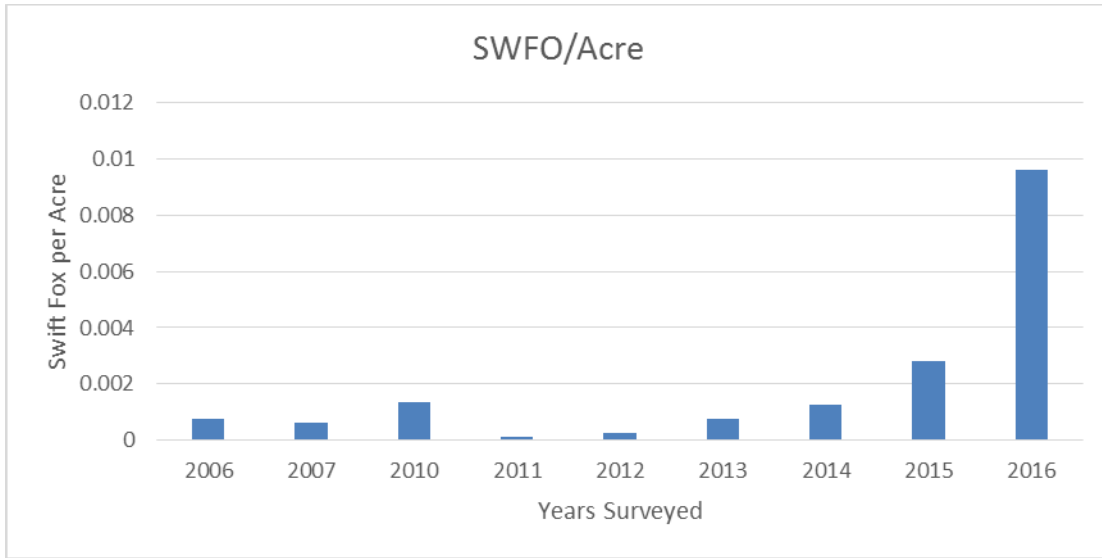
### MOUNTAIN PLOVER



### BURROWING OWL

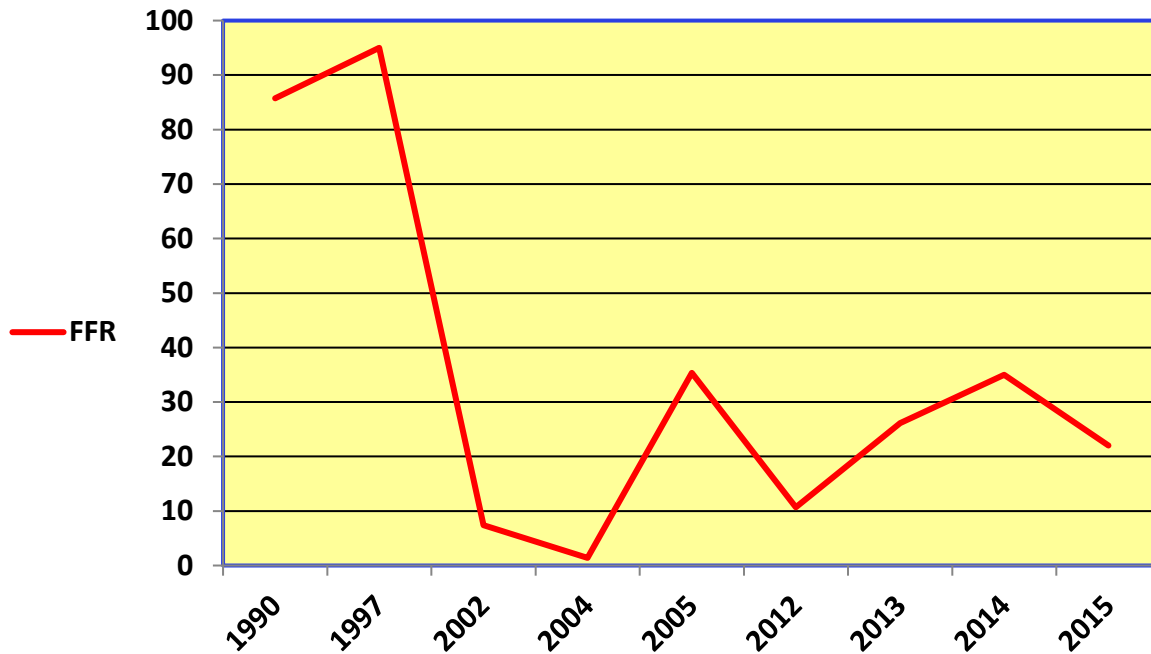


## SWIFT FOX



## FERRET FAMILY RATING FOR THUNDER BASIN NG

Ferret family ratings are used to determine approximately how many ferrets a prairie dog complex can support over times.



## **DELTAMETHRIN DUST FLEA RESISTANCE RESEARCH**

The Forest Service partnered with USGS (Lead Research), Prairie Wildlife Research, World Wildlife Fund, and the Prairie Dog Coalition to collect data for flea resistance research. This information will be used to help the FS determine if dusting for plague with Deltamethrin is still a viable management tool for TBNG. An official copy of the publication will be available once completed. 2016 was the second year of data collection.