

Final Agreements for Recommendations #1-3

Recommendation #1

- Delete the second bullet of the first priority (“if there are multiple sites within this category, projects on the city property will be granted available receiving sites prior to projects on private property”). Insert that the City Manager has the ultimate decision-making authority.
- Insert a 5th priority: The City of Boulder will take prairie dogs from outside City of Boulder limits.
- Insert a definition of “plan” within the first priority. Wherever there is an explicit or implied reference to a plan, define what it means. Insert examples of reasonable development.

Recommendation #2

- This recommendation presents a new set of criteria to prioritize receiving sites on Prairie Dog Conservation Areas (PCAs) and Grassland Preserves. The Task Group discussed the addition of an example, which can be done before the submission of the information packet.
- This recommendation also includes information about stakeholder engagement. It proposes a process for assessing the relocation sites and developing a plan with neighbors. This process would have to be initiated far ahead of the relocation.
- This recommendation also includes information about how to make receiving sites more feasible.
- One item for consideration is that other potential future recommendations (e.g., plague management) could work in direct opposition to this recommendation since achievement of those goals could lead to sustained occupancy in the Grassland Preserves above thresholds that would allow for relocation, thus reducing the availability of receiving sites in the long term within Grassland Preserves.

Recommendation #3

- The document should specify that natural burrows can still be used in rare plant communities. If there are documented (e.g., Colorado Natural Heritage Program) rare plant species/communities embedded in larger prairie dog colonies, nest boxes may be used in areas where there are no rare plants. Nest boxes also cannot be used on land directly adjacent to the rare plant species/community.
- Add that there is an option to explore seeding after the nest boxes are installed to rehabilitate any impact from the nest box installation.
- Staff will provide the PDWG with a map of the Southern Grasslands what shows acres/areas of intact native vegetation with an overlay of boundaries of past and existing colonies and existing receiving sites. The recommendation should include a ballpark number of acres that overlap intact native vegetation with prairie dog receiving sites. Additional information is needed to finish discussion of this recommendation.