



## New options for take/control of Utah prairie dogs

*Utah Prairie Dog Management Plan for non-federal lands — effective May 8, 2015*

Starting May 8, 2015, private landowners in southern Utah will have more options if they need to remove Utah prairie dogs (UPDs) from their properties. The following chart provides an overview of different lethal control situations and indicates when you must notify the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR).

### Lethal control situations

- |                          |   |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Federal lands         | → | No take of UPDs allowed                        |
| 2. Inside buildings      | → | No prior notification necessary, report to DWR |
| 3. Unmapped colony       | } | Notify DWR and report back to DWR              |
| 4. Human health & safety |   |  |
| 5. Developable lands     | } | Requires a permit (COR) from DWR               |
| 6. Agricultural lands    |   |  |
| 7. Rangelands            |   |  |



**Cedar City DWR office: 435-865-6100**

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### Federal lands

UPDs are still fully protected under the Endangered Species Act on **all** protected and federal lands. No lethal control of UPDs is allowed on federal lands unless authorized by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit.

### Inside buildings (inhabited or occupied house or business)

UPDs may be lethally controlled inside occupied buildings, using any legal method authorized by local, state and federal laws. Currently, there are **no** poisons or toxicants that are legal to use on UPDs. Notify the DWR by the end of the month, reporting the number of prairie dogs taken and the address where take occurred.

### Unmapped colony

Contact the DWR if you have a colony you believe is unmapped. If the DWR verifies that the colony/property is unmapped, you must:

- Provide the DWR with a contact name, phone number, email address and physical address where take will occur, as well as the number of UPDs that might be taken.
- UPDs may be lethally controlled using any legal methods authorized by local, state and federal laws. Currently, there are **no** poisons or toxicants that are legal to use on UPDs.
- Lethal control may only be performed by the landowner, lessee, an immediate family member of the landowner or lessee, or an employee on the regular payroll (not hired specifically to take prairie dogs).
- Report the number of lethally removed UPDs to the DWR by the end of the month.
- The DWR may be able to trap and remove UPDs from July 1–Oct. 1, if time and personnel permit.

### Human health, safety and welfare concern areas

Utah prairie dogs can be taken in areas defined as Human Health, Safety & Welfare Concern Areas. These include public-use areas such as parks, golf courses, sports fields, playgrounds, airports, schools, churches, cemeteries, archaeological and historical sites, areas of cultural or religious significance, and improved roads. They also include

residential and commercial areas within 50 feet of an occupied establishment and beyond 50 feet on developed portions of ground around the occupied establishment, such as lawns, landscaping, gardens and driveways. The DWR must be contacted before any take of Utah prairie dogs occurs to verify that the property meets the above definition and to document the potential take. You must:

- Provide the DWR with a contact name, phone number, email address and physical address where lethal control will occur, as well as the number of UPDs that might be taken.
- UPDs may be lethally controlled using any legal methods authorized by local, state and federal laws. Currently, there are **no** poisons or toxicants that are legal to use on UPDs.
- Lethal control may only be performed by the landowner, lessee, an immediate family member of the landowner or lessee, or an employee on the regular payroll (not hired specifically to take prairie dogs).
- Report the number of lethally removed UPDs to the DWR by the end of the month.
- The DWR may be able to trap and remove UPDs from July 1–Oct. 1, if time and personnel permit.

### Developable properties

Only properties with mapped, occupied habitat will require a survey. The building permitting authority will verify if the property contains occupied, mapped habitat and whether it requires a UPD survey. If the property does not require a survey, you may proceed with your building project. If the property does require a survey, you must:

- Submit a survey request to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in Cedar City.
  - If UPDs are not found, you will receive a letter authorizing you to proceed with your project, which you must provide to the building permitting authority.
  - If UPDs are found, the take of UPDs due to development will be calculated and deducted from the annual rangewide-take allotment. **NO MITIGATION FEES ARE REQUIRED.** You will receive a permit (COR) that authorizes the take of UPDs due to normal construction activities. You must provide a copy of that permit to the building permitting authority, and then you may proceed with your project.

### Agricultural lands

Lethal take permits (CORs) may be obtained from the DWR for properties that produce a cultivated crop or for an irrigated pasture that is currently in use (or has been used within the previous five years to produce a crop that could be harvested). These permits are issued by the DWR from June 1–Dec. 31, allowing the lethal take of UPDs by shooting or the use of kill traps. Lethal control, once authorized, may only be performed by the landowner, lessee, an immediate family member of the landowner or lessee, or an employee on the regular payroll (not hired specifically to take prairie dogs). The DWR may be able to trap and remove UPDs from July 1–Oct. 1, if time and personnel permit.

Agricultural properties with 50 or more UPDs (according to the current year's official spring count) may be eligible to enroll in a voluntary agricultural damage compensation program that will:

- Allow the DWR to trap and relocate UPDs from July 1–Oct. 1.
- Enable the property owner or manager to pursue a lethal control permit for the remainder of the season.
- Base compensation on the number of adult UPDs (according to the current year's official spring count) and their daily forage requirements.

### Rangelands

Lethal take permits (CORs) may be obtained from the DWR for any agricultural area used for grazing livestock that is not cultivated or irrigated. These permits are issued by the DWR from June 1–Dec. 31, allowing the lethal take of UPDs by shooting or the use of kill traps. Lethal control, once authorized, may only be performed by the landowner, lessee, an immediate family member of the landowner or lessee, or an employee on the regular payroll (not hired specifically to take prairie dogs). The DWR may be able to trap and remove UPDs from July 1–Oct. 1, if time and personnel permit.

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## Utah Prairie Dog Management Plan: Development Provisions

- Prior to ANY ground disturbance on any property within mapped UPD habitat, DWR must be contacted to perform an occupancy survey. (Determined by local government permitting process).
  - Building Permitting authorities will be given interactive google earth files that highlight the parcels that require surveys
  - When someone comes into your office to apply for a building permit, Please reference the map
    - If the parcel or property is highlighted then it requires a survey
    - Please give them a survey request form which they can submit to the Division via email [Prairiedogsurvey@utah.gov](mailto:Prairiedogsurvey@utah.gov) or Fax 435-586-2457 **OR** have them contact Jessica Van Woeart, DWR, 435-691-5700 or [prairiedogsurvey@utah.gov](mailto:prairiedogsurvey@utah.gov)

### Survey Results

- If no UPDs are found
  - Project Proponent receives approval letter to proceed
  - Project Proponent supplies copy to building permitting authority
- If UPDs are found
  - Project proponent will receive a permit for take of UPDs allowing project to proceed
  - Project Proponent supplies copy to building permitting authority
- Any required take will be deducted from annual take allotment unless project timeframe allows for trapping and relocation when feasible