



COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Representing the interests of Colorado's cattle industry since 1867"

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Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Habitat in Eastern Colorado Block-Cleared

ARVADA, Colo. September 28, 2009 – The Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) worked with the Colorado Department of Wildlife (CDOW) to block-clear all black-tailed prairie dog habitat in Eastern Colorado. The decision was made after concluding the affected areas are no longer occupied by any wild free-ranging black-footed ferrets.

"This is good news for range conservation and management in eastern Colorado", stated R.J. Jolly, CCA member. "There have been no reported sightings of a black-footed ferret in this area for many decades; and contrary to some beliefs, prairie dog populations are exploding out here. This will eliminate one very difficult and unnecessary hurdle in managing the population of prairie dogs in this area."

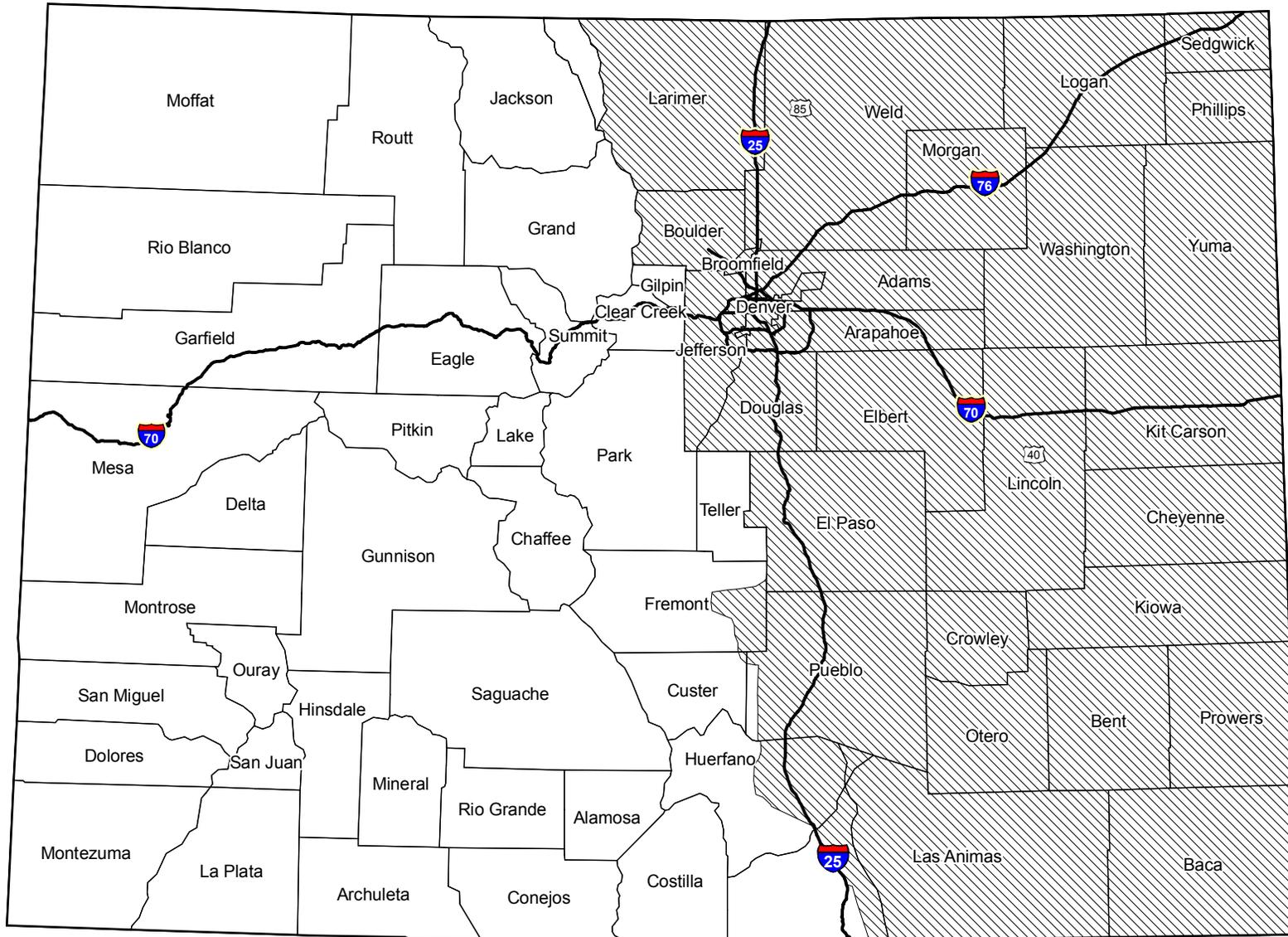
Beef producers in the block-cleared area of Eastern Colorado can now properly manage black-tailed prairie dogs and/or their habitat without being required to meet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's survey guidelines for black-footed ferrets. This also means they will not have to undergo consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The block-cleared area **does not** include the white-tailed or the Gunnison prairie dog habitats that might occur within the area.

For a map of the block-cleared area, or more information on the black-footed ferret, please visit the U.S. Fish and Wild Service's website:
<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/blackfootedferret/>.

Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is the state's only nonprofit trade organization exclusively representing Colorado's cattle producers. Founded in 1867, CCA is the nation's oldest state cattlemen's association.

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USFWS Block-cleared Areas for Black-Footed Ferret Surveys in Colorado, September 2009



**Approximate Boundary
Block-cleared Areas**



Not to Scale

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in coordination with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, has block-cleared all black-tailed prairie dog habitat in eastern Colorado, after determining that these areas no longer contain any wild free-ranging black-footed ferrets. Block clearance means that activities within these areas that result in the removal of black-tailed prairie dogs and/or their habitat will no longer be required to meet the USFWS survey guidelines for black-footed ferrets, or undergo consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. This clearance does not include white-tailed and Gunnison's prairie dog habitats that may occur within the mapped block cleared areas. If you have questions on the information presented in this map, or on the requirements for black-footed ferret surveys in white-tailed and Gunnison's prairie dog habitats, please contact the USFWS's Colorado Field Office at 303-236-4773.