

Kansas SHA Expansion for Black-footed Ferret Recovery

Proposal Briefing to Regional Office

July XX, 2019



On October 23, 2018 during a BFF survey, the Haverfield family asked to meet with FWS field biologists regarding inclusion under the Safe Harbor Agreement of additional privately owned lands operated and managed by the Haverfield family. The two sites totaled approximately 3,900 acres and are suitable habitat for BFF recovery.

Overall Logan county is considered to be one of the top ranked recovery sites in North America



ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND POTENTIAL COMPLEXES

LOGAN COUNTY

686,720 acres

Proposed 2,640 acres

Proposed 1,260 acres

Smoky Valley Recovery Site (Inactive)
17,520 acres

Butte Creek Recovery Site
10,024 acres (Active)

If you divide
the total
(31,444 acres)
of all
complexes by
the total
acreage in LG
Co., they
account for
4.6% of the
County

KANSAS BFF RECOVERY GUIDELINES

KS BFF Recovery Sites	To Date # Breeding Adults	To Downlist Adults/Acre	To Delist Adults/Acre
Overall Kansas Goals	13	123/18,500 ac	246/37,000 ac
Existing (Active)		10,024 ac	
Existing (Inactive)		17,520 ac	
Proposed		3,900 ac	
Total		31,444 ac	

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX FOR NEW BFF SITES (WY BFF MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018)

1. Minimum requirements for allocating BFF (min. BPTD ac. (1,500 ac), landowner/mgmt. agency support, capacity to fill allocation requests)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Habitat Suitability, stability and management (funding/capacity to provide BTPD boundary control)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Disease Monitoring and management (sylvatic plague/canine distemper)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Ability to address recovery objectives for Kansas (BFF Recovery Plan 2013) (ability to assess and monitor the status of BFF/BTPD (monitor and management)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Stakeholder support of activities (local community/landowners/adjacent landowners, leases)	+ - =

How Will Site Expansion Effect the 3 R's?

- **Resiliency:** The addition of 3,900 acres to the Butte Creek/SVR sites would increase connectivity among the existing site and other suitable habitats; likely increasing BFF population size. Resulting in an increase of resiliency for BFFs.
- **Redundancy:** Redundancy is having sufficient populations of a species to withstand a catastrophic event; thus the Logan County BFF sites contribute greatly to redundancy at a high level; as the sites are the only plague-free sites. Inclusion of sites that are not directly adjacent to other recovery sites, would increase the redundancy for the existing sites.
- **Representation:** Because there has not been any captive born ferrets released on the proposed properties, any BFFs present, would likely be multigenerational wild born animals with a unique genetic makeup, overall fitness and more robust reproductive fitness. Inclusion of these animals into the SHA will increase representation for the site.



Black-footed ferrets have been documented on the proposed Western properties

2011

2012

● = 2017 Ferret Sighting by Landowner

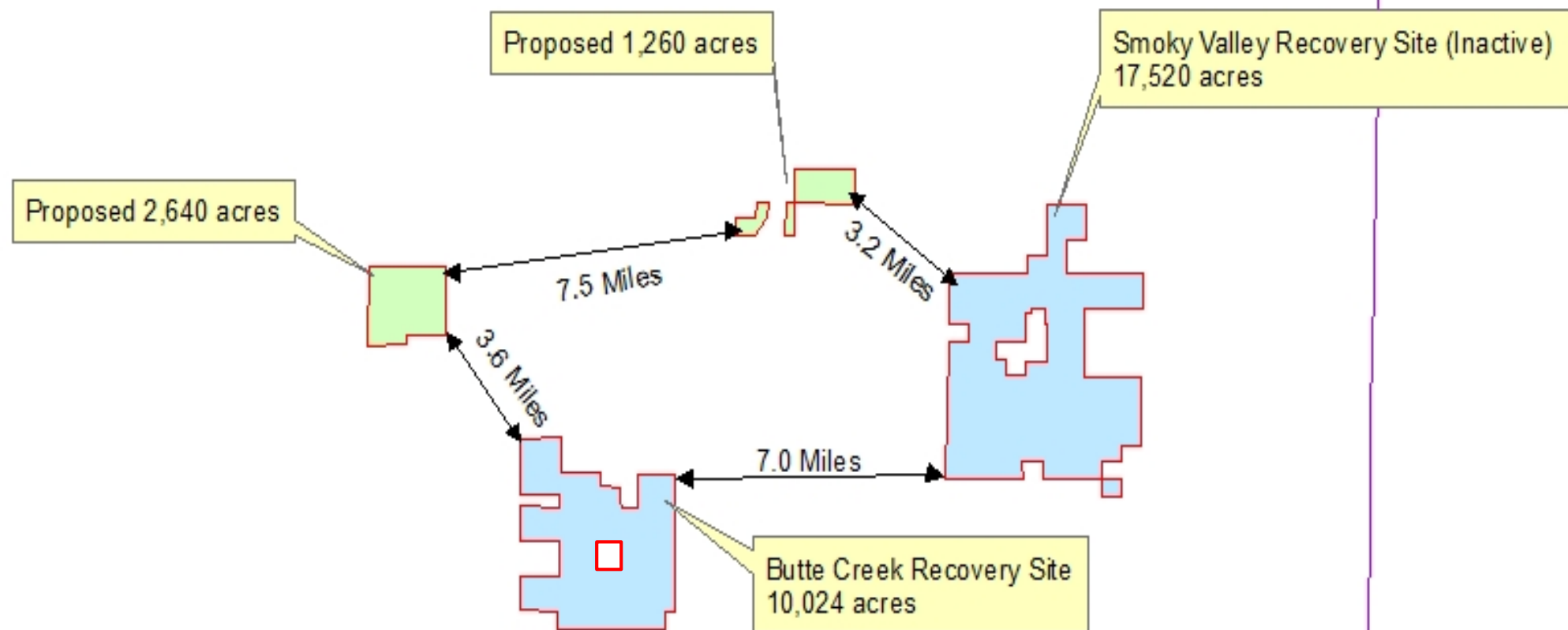
Proposed 2,640 acres

Proposed 1,260 acres

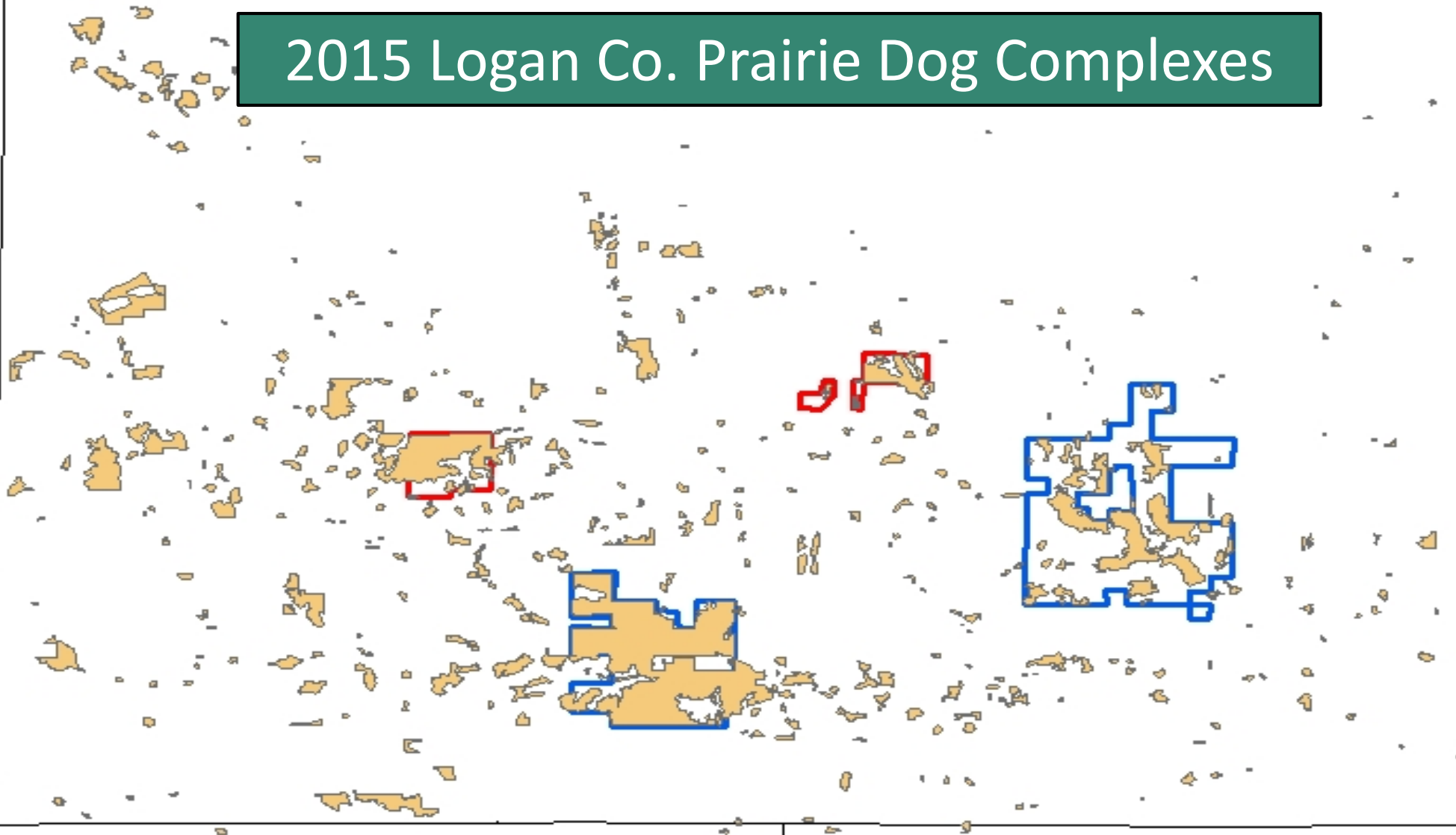
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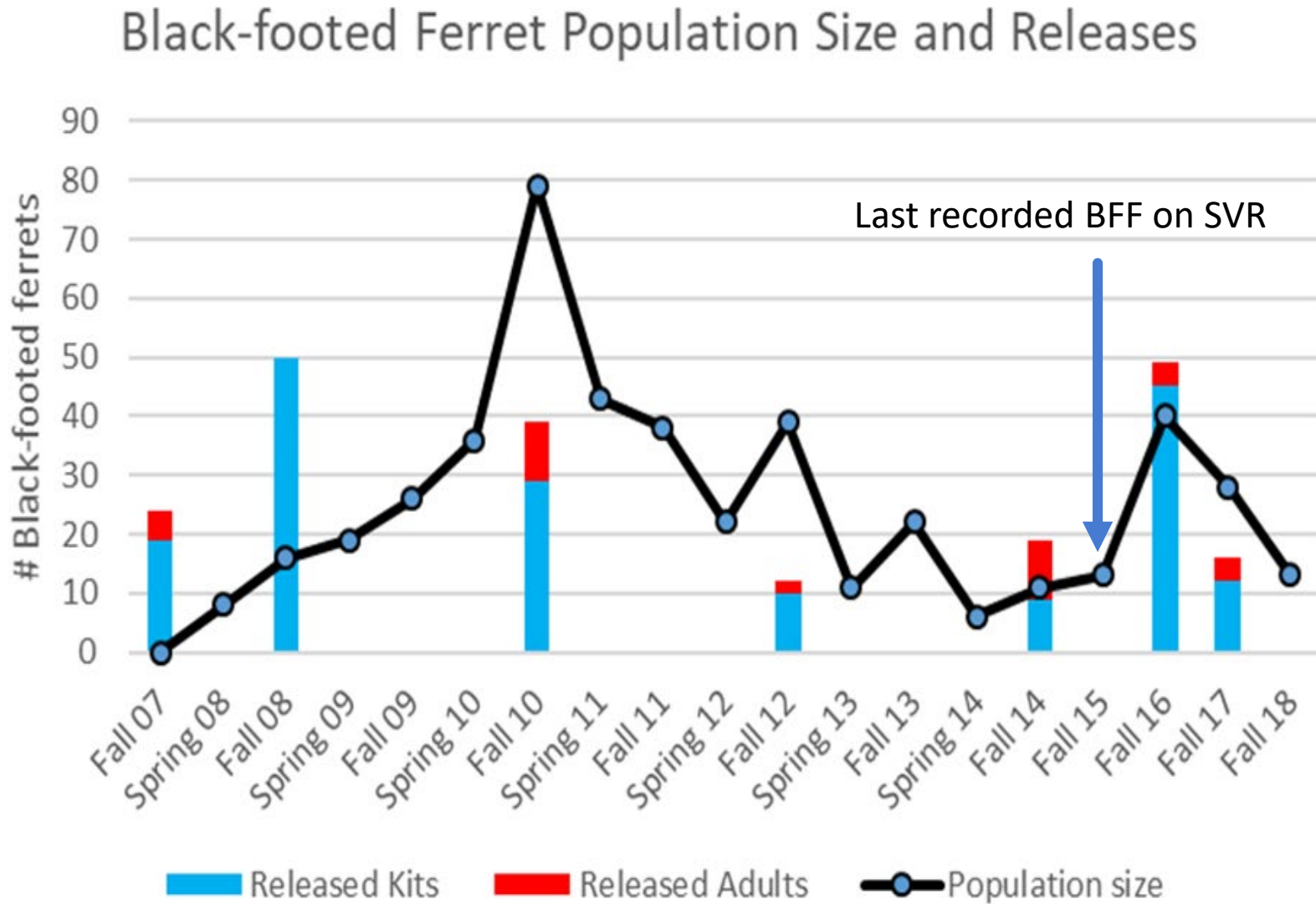
Logan Co., Kansas



2015 Logan Co. Prairie Dog Complexes



BFF NUMBERS FROM 2007 to 2018



Black-footed Ferret Allocation and Translocation History – Kansas

Year	Kits (m.f)	Adults (m.f)	Translocations out (m.f)	Translocations in (m.f)	Notes/comments
2007	10.9	0.5	0	0	Initial release on 12/18/07
2008	24.25	0.1	0	0	
2009	0	0	0	0	
2010	15.14	0.4	0	3.3	6 wild-born kits translocated from Conata Basin, SD
2011	0	0	0	0	
2012	6.4	0.2	0	0	
2013	0	0	0	0	
2014	6.3	6.4	0	0	
2015	0	0	0	0	
2016	26.19	0.4	0	0	
2017	8.4	1.3	0	0	
2018	0	0	0	0	
Totals	173 (95.78)	30 (7.23)	0	6 (3.3)	



Partner Engagement

Cooperators

- Haverfield and Barnhardt Families
- Kansas USFWS ESFO
- Multiple Zoos
- TNC, Audubon, Defenders of Wildlife and Prairie Dog Coalition
- Universities
- USDA – WS
- Prairie Wildlife Research
- Volunteers (Over 300 Individuals)
- Nature Centers
- Private Businesses
- National Ferret Conservation Center

Interested Parties

- Logan Co
- Adjacent Landowners
- State Legislatures
- Kansas Natural Resources Coalition
- Kansas Farm Bureau

Others

- Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
- NRCS
- WAFWA



Monetary Impact to the Local Economy From BFF Recovery in Kansas 2007-2018



Estimated Dollars Spent on Hotels: \$149,600

Estimated Dollars Spent at Restaurants: \$17,760

Estimated Dollars Spent at Gas Stations: \$18,865

Total Dollars Spent in Logan County = \$186,225

Population of Logan County = 2,831

2019 ACTIONS FOR PROPOSED PROPERTIES

- A Certificate of Inclusion would be developed for the proposed properties
- Proposed properties would be included in the 2019 Prairie Dog Mapping and Density Estimation Assessment
- BFF spotlight surveys (3 nights) to determine presence/absence
- If warranted, releases of allocated BFF *may* occur in the future
- New properties would need to be incorporated into USDA WS boundary control program

ACTION ITEMS, UPON APPROVAL, MOVING FORWARD

- Meet with WS to discuss prairie dog control strategies on the new properties. We do not anticipate any added cost to the program
- Notify surrounding landowners
- Notify Logan County Commissioners
- Notify Logan County Noxious Weed/Prairie Dog Department

EAST



EAST



EAST



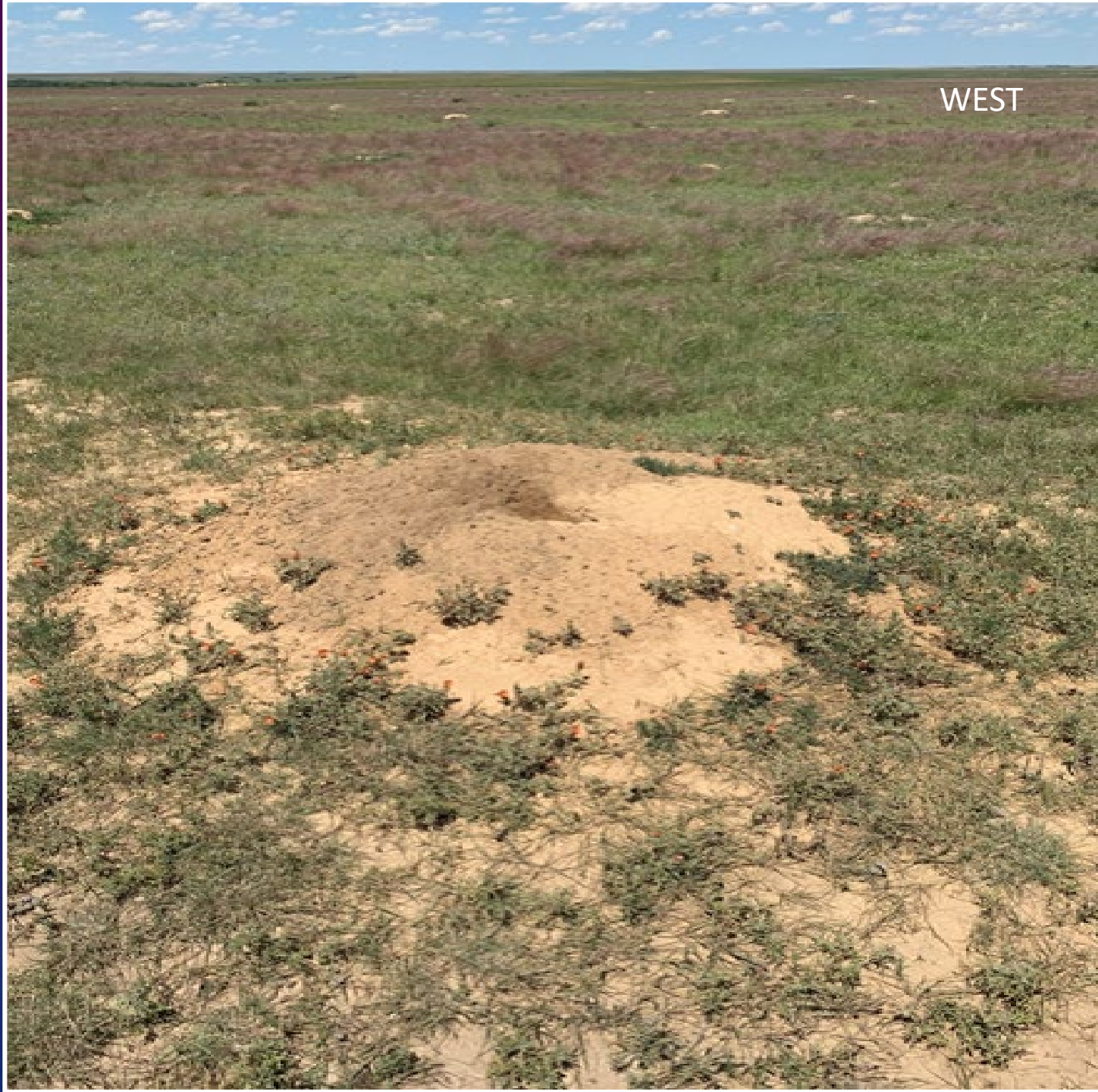
WEST





WEST





WEST



WEST



➤ These proposed recovery sites in Kansas are both biologically important and economical, as they are considered to be plague free

