

Plague Management Plan Public Meeting Attendee Feedback

Aug. 16, 2021

On June 21, 2021 the City of Boulder Planning & Development Services hosted a virtual public meeting to connect with stakeholders about how the city manages for plague to support grassland ecosystems and meet citywide prairie dog conservation and management goals.

The purpose of this meeting was to kick-off the development of the first City of Boulder Plague Management Plan by getting feedback on the framework of the plan. It was also an opportunity to provide information to interested community members on how the City manages for plague now, and the broad range of considerations and issues associated with plague management, and for city staff to learn what is of most interest to stakeholders.

Feedback on [preliminary elements of the plan](#) were discussed at the meeting and captured in this document. There were nine (non-city staff) attendees at the meeting. Attendees included four people affiliated with government agencies, and five community members. Feedback is organized in response to four questions that were provided during the meeting.

Questions and Feedback provided at the June 21 virtual meeting

Questions #1. *Do you have ideas about Plague Management Plan (PMP) goals or objectives that are not included, or do you feel that there is something that should be removed?*

- In the objectives of the plan, consider the future of reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on City lands at some level. Consider opening the objectives of the Plague Management Plan to include reintroduction of black-footed ferrets.

Question #2. *Do you have suggested changes to the outline/overall framework of the plan?*

- Would like to see consideration for opening up plague management plan to update as needed so don't need to wait for needed updates
- Look at ferret management sooner than later- move forward
- Extend framework geographically so it is not limited to city lands- action/implementation would be on City, but should be done in conjunction with adjacent landowners
- Include cost analysis of treatments (per acre)
- Include cost benefit analysis of Deltamethrin from a biodiversity standpoint- what is on our systems?
- Need additional information on plague management for prairie dog conservation (not just keep some prairie dogs on the system)- look at level of protection for prairie dogs and evaluate if it is sufficient to keep associated species on landscape.
- Look at providing cost share or other funding sources for private landowners to participate in plague mitigation
- Collaborate with adjacent/neighboring land management agencies. Identify key colonies that can be conserved together (with partners such as Jefferson County and Boulder County).

Question #3. *Do you have any specific concerns related to plague management that you want to be sure staff consider as they put together the draft plan?*

- Plague management is currently not adequate in Southern Grasslands, more is needed to establish viable, sustainable populations. Populations are not sufficient in S. Grasslands in to support ferrets- need to manage plague to support them.
- It takes a while to build-up adequate prairie dog populations for black footed ferrets, to support black-footed ferrets and the discussion of re-introduction.
- don't understand what is going on with plague in south- continuous cycles of plague even without full plague tool use- need to understand before we write a management plan.
- Be sure to include cost.

Question #4. *Are there experts in a relevant field or sources of information you want to be sure staff reaches out to or has access to as they put together the draft plan?*

- Dan Tripp recent research, and a good person to work with.
- Talking with and working with adjacent land managers and partners is key. Include on a map, who the adjacent land managers are, and what they are doing for plague management so that we can be congruent with our neighbors. Include conflict areas so plague management can be viewed on a landscape level. Specifically, our neighbors in Southern Grasslands (Fish and Wildlife Service, Jefferson County, Boulder County, City of Boulder, and a private landowner). Having the designations on a map is the simplest way to do it.