

Espee Ranch, Arizona Reintroduction Site Profile

Date Updated: February 2010

Location: North Central Arizona, North of Williams

Species of PD: Gunnison's Prairie dogs **Acres of PD:** 5,523

Land ownership: State and Private

Years of ferret reintroduction: Began in 2007

Number of ferrets released to date: 71

Estimated population size: 26 (22 captive and 4 wild-born released in October of 2009)

Research activities: Looking at possible differences in immune response to plague between prairie dogs on the Espee site and prairie dogs in the Aubrey Valley; absence of plague in the Aubrey Valley.

Site challenges: Presence of plague, recent outbreak of canine distemper

Volunteer or visitor opportunities: Limited due to presence of plague (risk of exposure).

Education staff and activities: N/A

Future plans (release, suspend, translocations, etc): Hoping to release more black-footed ferrets if we get an allocation, continue monitoring recently released ferrets.