



*Vermejo Park Ranch, New Mexico*

## **Vermejo Park Ranch New Mexico Reintroduction Site Profile**

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**Date:** February 2010

**Location:** Northeastern New Mexico

**Species of PD:** Gunnison's and Black-tailed Prairie Dogs

**Acres of PD:** Approximately 10k<sup>2</sup> on Black-tailed and 1k<sup>2</sup> on Gunnison's

**Land ownership:** Private

**Years of ferret reintroduction:** 2008 and 2009

**Number of ferrets released to date:** 143

**Estimated population size:** TBD during spring 2010 survey

**Research activities:** N/A

**Site challenges:** plague; boundary issues in keeping prairie dogs off land of neighbors

**Volunteer or visitor opportunities:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque recruits volunteers for spotlight monitoring of wild ferrets in April

**Education staff and activities:** School groups come out to visit and learn about the prairie. International tours, Ecotourism –all are administered by the ranch

**Future plans:** Maintain black-footed ferrets at Vermejo; increase numbers of Gunnison's prairie dogs; move black-tailed prairie dogs that have gotten too close to other land owners.

**Other information:** Watch for the debut of a *BBC-Animal Planet* documentary on prairie dogs that was filmed at Vermejo!