

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF COMPETITIVE STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROJECT AND
ADOPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Notice is hereby given that Environmental Assessment #AZ-420-2008-014, a Finding of No Significant Impact, and a Decision Record have been prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for the project “Reintroduction of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs” on the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. This project will be partially conducted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department under Competitive State Wildlife Grant U2-1-C-1 entitled, “WAFWA Grassland Initiative—Conserving the Grassland Ecosystem.” This grant will be funded jointly by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The purpose of the project is to restore a critical maintenance function to the grassland ecosystem by reestablishing self-sustaining populations of black-tailed prairie dogs at historical sites in Arizona and contribute to the range-wide conservation effort for black-tailed prairie dogs by establishing a free-ranging population in southern Arizona.

The Environmental Assessment prepared by the Bureau of Land Management has been adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Service according to rules contained in 40 CFR 1506.3. A Finding of No Significant Impact has been signed for the above project. The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact may be inspected at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, 500 Gold Ave. SW, Suite 9019, Albuquerque, NM 87103; the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Headquarters, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086; and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region V Office, 555 N. Greasewood Rd., Tucson, 85745. The Environmental Assessment is available on-line at http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/info/nepa/08_project_log.html