

the locations and abundance of prairie dogs at the Site are important from a management standpoint. In 2008, the following observations were made and documented regarding the presence of prairie dogs at the Site:

- The locations of prairie dog towns within the COU and adjacent to the COU fence on POU property.
- The locations of individual prairie dogs observed in the spring when they are roaming in search of potential locations for new prairie dog holes.

Figure 3–215 shows the locations of fortuitous observations of prairie dogs roaming in spring 2008. In general, the roaming prairie dogs have been found along the roads where there is good visibility from predators. It is likely that the roads will be the pathway that prairie dogs use to get to potential new prairie dog town locations in the former IA (if that occurs). No active burrows were observed at any of the fortuitous observation locations in 2008.

Figure 3–215 also shows the locations of prairie dog towns in the COU and adjacent POU in 2008. The prairie dog towns around the perimeter of the COU have continued to expand in size over the last few years (perhaps in response to relocations off Site), but no active prairie dog holes have been found yet on either of the landfills or in the former IA.

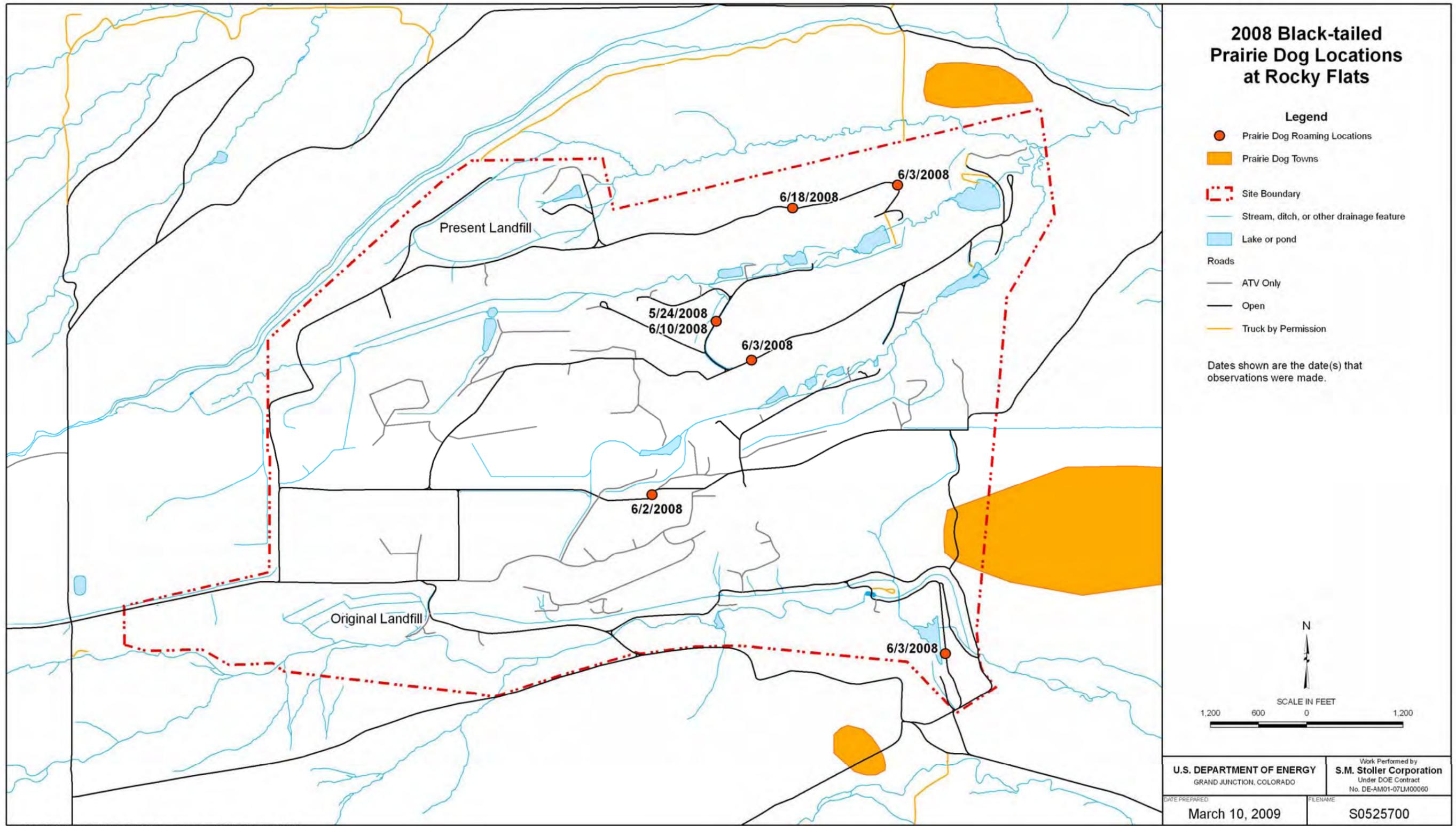
In 2009, prairie dog monitoring will continue, and a more formal process of monitoring for animal burrows in the sensitive areas of the COU will be developed and implemented. If prairie dogs are found at Site locations where they are not permitted, appropriate measures will be taken in accordance with local regulations and in coordination and consultation with state wildlife officials.

3.3.4 Summary

The Ecology Program at the Site conducts monitoring of the ecological resources to ensure regulatory compliance and to preserve, protect, and manage those resources. Proactive management of the natural resources is critical to the long-term sustainability of the ecosystems at the Site. Noxious weeds continue to be a top priority as does the revegetation of the COU. Data from 2008 documented the continuing establishment of vegetation at revegetation locations. Noxious weed control activities and additional revegetation activities were conducted during 2008 to improve and enhance the vegetation at the Site. The monitoring results continue to provide useful information to assist in management activities. Full, detailed reports and analyses for each field monitoring effort are presented as stand-alone reports on the accompanying Ecology DVD.

3.4 RFLMA Ecological Sampling

Additional ecological sampling required under RFLMA Attachment 2, Table 5 was completed in CY 2007, and the evaluation of results is included in the *Quarterly Report of Site Surveillance and Maintenance Activities, First Quarter Calendar Year 2008* (DOE 2008e). CDPHE agreed that no further ecological sampling is required, as documented in Contact Record 2008-01 (Appendix G).



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Figure 3-215. 2008 Black-tailed Prairie Dog Locations at Rocky Flats

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