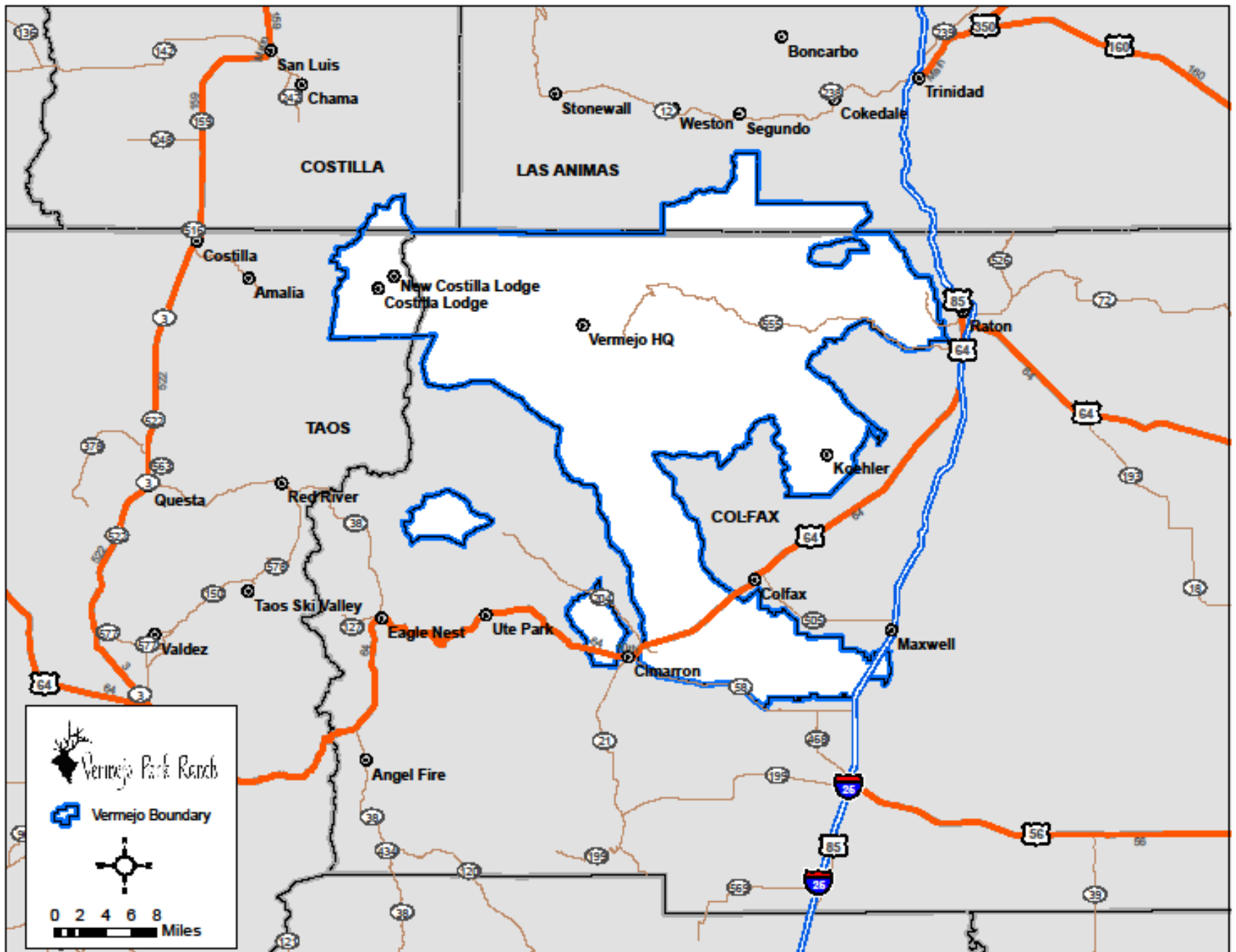


Turner Endangered Species Fund  
Vermejo Park Ranch  
Black-footed Ferret Project 1997-2014





# Black-footed Ferret

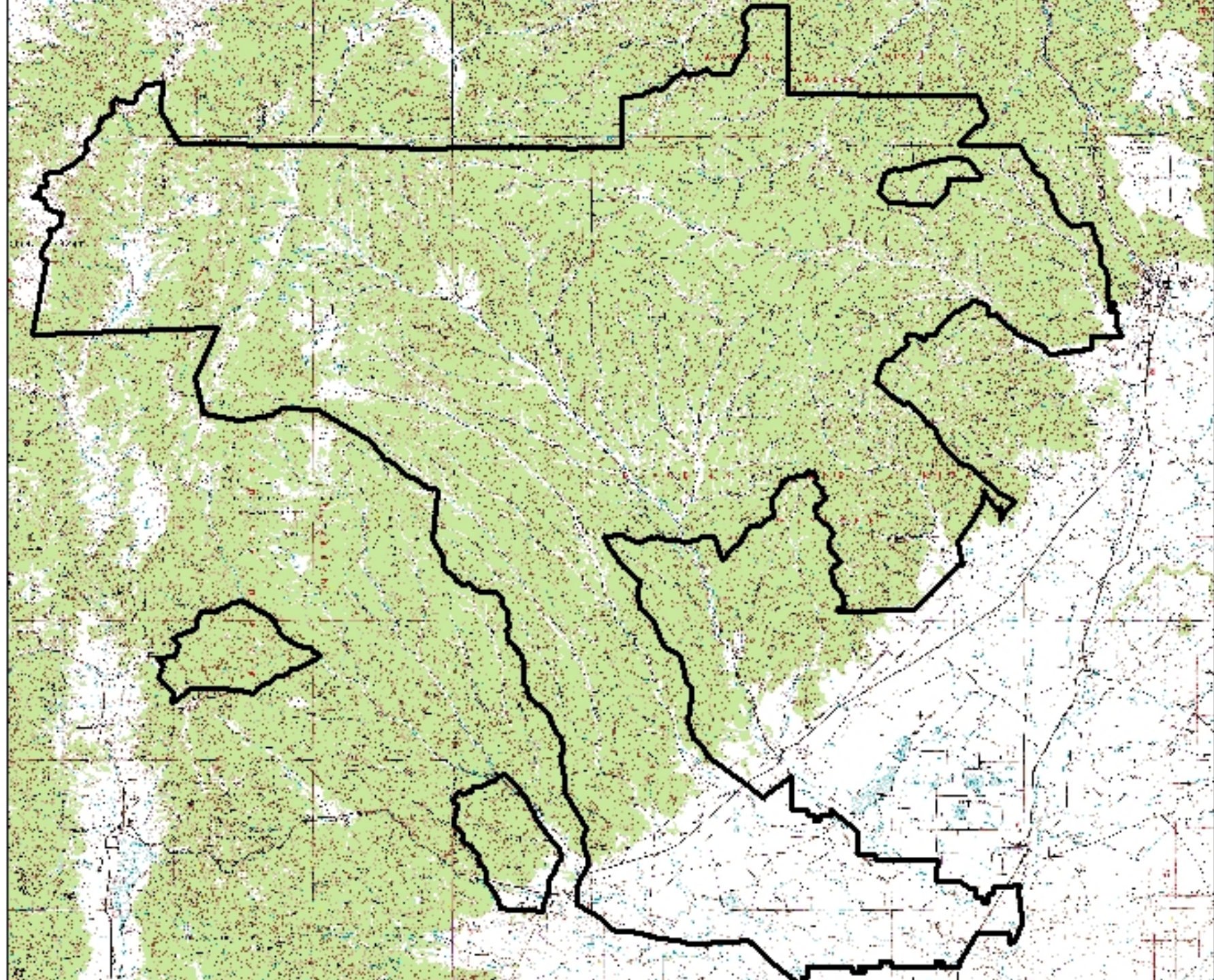
- Critically endangered obligate predator of prairie dogs—thought to be extinct twice. One of the rarest mammals on the planet.
- One of the last specimens collected in New Mexico was trapped by Elliot Barker on Vermejo Park Ranch.
- Requires large, disease free prairie dog colonies in order to persist—habitat specialist.





2008/05/21













**Black-tailed Prairie Dog: 500 – 10,000 acres**  
**Gunnison's Prairie Dog: 20 – 4,000 acres**



# 1997-2005 Pen Pre-Conditioning









## 2005-2007 Wild Pre-Conditioning



# Public Outreach

- Met with all adjacent landowners, Maxwell City Council, Colfax County Commission, NM Game Commission
- Provided interviews to numerous local and regional media outlets, held an open house, posted flyers









# Year-Round Ferret Releases

2008-2012: Black-tailed Prairie Dogs  
2012-Present: Gunnison's Prairie Dogs









# Summary of Black-footed Ferret Project at Vermejo Park Ranch

- 1999-2005: Pen pre-conditioning.
- 2005-2007: Wild pre-conditioning.
- 2008-2012: Ferrets released on black-tailed prairie dogs. Determined habitat not suitable.
- 2012-Present: Ferrets released Gunnison's colonies.

# Future

Continue with Black-footed ferret program on the Gunnison's prairie dog colonies

Shift USFWS permit from 10(a)(1)(A) to a Safe Harbor Agreement





