

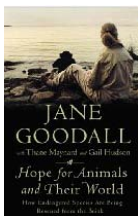
2009 Year In Review

It was another busy year for Prairie Wildlife Research (PWR). Our field work took us to Canada, New Mexico, South Dakota and Kansas in 2009 as we continued our work with black-footed ferrets and prairie dogs. Despite wet weather, we spent many nights in the Conata Basin of South Dakota capturing ferrets and vaccinating against deadly diseases. As one of the largest wild populations of black-footed ferrets it is also one of the most important because it provides a source for us to move ferrets to new sites (called translocation). In the past we have translocated ferrets to Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and other sites in South Dakota. Our translocations in 2009 sent ferrets to New Mexico, Montana and also into captivity to begin a new captive breeding line. PWR will continue to work with partners such as the US Forest Service, National Wildlife Health Center, US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service to protect ferrets in Conata Basin against diseases. Learn more [here](#).



We continued working with our partners in Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota to capture and count ferrets in the fall. The Park also offers summer night walks to search for black-footed ferrets. Snow and bitter cold temperatures may deter some folks from venturing outside but for PWR it can be an ideal time to snow-track black-footed ferrets. An early December snowstorm in western Kansas provided excellent conditions for finding the unique tracks left by ferrets in the snow. We took advantage of those conditions and with our partners found a minimum of 20 unique ferrets in Kansas. Wonderful [results!](#)

One of the most exciting events in 2009 was the [release of black-footed ferrets in Canada](#). PWR was on hand in Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan to take part in this historic reintroduction. We started work with a [film crew](#) from “The Nature of Things” covering the ferrets first year in the wilds of Canada. In November we returned to train and assist the Park staff for spotlight surveys of ferrets. Thus far the release is a success and we’ll be back to find out more!



Dr. Jane Goodall is mostly known for her work with chimpanzees but she is truly a friend to all animals. In 2006 PWR began a warm friendship with Jane and we had the privilege of introducing her to the world of prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets, swift fox and the prairie ecosystem. She was simply enamored with the prairie and ferrets. Her newest book, “Hope for Animals and Their World”, includes a chapter on black-footed ferrets and details her

interactions with PWR's Travis Livieri and other biologists fighting to save this species. Purchase her amazing work at a special price through Amazon.com and a portion of the proceeds goes directly to black-footed ferrets!

PWR was out in the public eye with displays and presentations at Prairie Dog Day (Denver Zoo), Endangered Species Day (Rapid City, SD) and [Carnivores 2009](#) (Denver). In June we hosted [Expeditions with Patrick McMillan](#) and we were lucky to film an [encounter](#) between a black-footed ferret and prairie dog. Look for Expeditions this spring on your local PBS channel.



In 2009 PWR received several awards and honors including a Black-Footed Ferret Protection Achievement Award from the Prairie Dog Coalition, recognition by the Canadian Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Team at the release in Grasslands National Park, and [Regional Partner of the Year](#) from the US Forest Service for our work in Conata Basin, South Dakota. We are humbled and grateful to be recognized by our partners.

And finally, as you may have noticed, we have a new website design, created by our Director of Development, Ann Marie. We hope you like it and would love to hear feedback on our new web design!

PWR could not have accomplished all that we have in 2009 without the dedication of our many supporters from around the world. As we look forward to a successful 2010, we thank each of you for your part in black-footed ferret recovery. Thank you!

Cheers,

The Prairie Wildlife Research Team