ORDER NO. WRD-97-01 OCCUPANCY AND USE REGULATIONS

NORTHEAST PASTURE, AGATE UNIT AND THE EAST PASTURE, SAGE CREEK UNIT

WALL RANGER DISTRICT

BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited within the NORTHEAST PASTURE of the AGATE UNIT and the EAST PASTURE of the SAGE CREEK UNIT on the WALL RANGER DISTRICT, BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND (see attached map) until rescinded.

USE OF VEHICLES OFF DEVELOPED AND DESIGNATED ROADS WITHIN THE DESCRIBED AREAS. 36 CFR 261.56

SHOOTING OR HUNTING OF PRAIRIE DOGS, AND/OR FUR-BEARER/PREDATOR TRAPPING, WITHIN THE DESCRIBED AREAS. 36 CFR 261.58(v)

The affected areas are shown on the attached map and are described as follows: NORTHEAST PASTURE of the AGATE UNIT - SW1/4 Sec. 11; All Sec. 14; All (north of fenceline in S1/2S1/2) Sec. 23; and All (north of fenceline in S1/2S1/2) Sec.24; T3S, R16E BHM; and EAST PASTURE of the SAGE CREEK UNIT - All Sec. 21; All Sec. 22; SW1/4 (southwest of fenceline) Sec. 23; NW1/4 (northwest of fenceline) Sec. 26; All Sec. 27; All (north of fenceline S1/2) Sec. 28; NW1/4 (northeast of fenceline) Sec. 29; All (northeast of fenceline) Sec. 34; T3S, R15E BHM and NE1/4 (northeast of fenceline) Sec. 3; T4S, R15E BHM. The affected areas are posted on-site.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following is EXEMPT from this order

- 1) Person(s) with a permit or written permission specifically authorizing these prohibited activities.
- 2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an offical duty.

Done at Chadron, Nebraska, this 26th day of April, 1997.

MARY H. PETERSON Forest Supervisor

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for and individual or \$10,000 for a legal entity other than an individual, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. Title 16 USC, Section 551: Title 18 USC, Section 3571

JUSTIFICATION

The affected areas are a part of the Black-Footed Ferret reintroduction area. The restricting of motorized travel to developed and designated roads, is to reduce the impacts to Ferret habitat and the disturbance of reintroduced Ferrets. The restriction on fur-bearer/predator trapping will assist in reducing the incidental take of Ferrets. The restriction on Prairie Dog shooting is to reduce the impacts on the Prairie Dog habitat in the Ferret reintroduction areas and for the safety of the agencies personnel reintroducing and monitoring the Ferrets.

