

A Historical Review of the Challenges and Successes of Black-footed Ferret Recovery in North America.

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In 1967, the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) was included on the original Endangered Species Act list developed by the United States. It is a species with a history that reflects both the best and worst sides of conservation ethic and actions in North America, and narrowly escaped extinction with the capture of the last of 18 surviving animals in 1987. Since that time, enormous progress has been made in species recovery through both captive breeding and reintroduction projects. To date, black-footed ferrets have been reintroduced into eight sites in the United States and one in northern Chihuahua, Mexico, with varying degrees of success. This paper highlights the program organization, direction, successes, lessons learned and ongoing challenges of international efforts to recover the black-footed ferret. A brief update on the planning process and feasibility of a potential black-footed ferret reintroduction effort in Saskatchewan will also be addressed.