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FLOOR DEBATE

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dogs and charge the landowner for that. So it was a mistake and this does correct that. I would just like to make a few other comments, I guess, and I have a book here that's Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Conservation and Management of the Nebraska National Forest. The forest...the national forest people are already doing this. What we're doing here in this bill or what Senator Loudon is seeking to do is something that's similar, that the Forest Service is already doing. And it talks about management and conservation, and I think we kind of...it seems like we're drawing so much on the management but it's also conservation, too. And I know that Senator Loudon's intention was that, not to eradicate prairie dogs as they were put on the endangered species, but, of course, about a week before they were put on the endangered species, they were trying to be eradicated by the FDA (sic), or the federal government, I think. But the objective is to manage them. And I would just like to mention at the hearing we had...of course, I did mention that we had a closed-circuit video hookup with Chadron, and there was about, I think, 10 or 12 people in support. We had two people came in and testified in opposition. One was the NACO because they felt like the county did not have the expertise to do this and they did not want to get into the business of going on to making these decisions and subjective decisions, and something that it's not very fun to do for county commissioners. The other person that objected, as he was testifying, we said we thought you were objecting to the bill, but he was really talking about how bad the prairie dogs were. And he said, well, yes, the bill doesn't go near far enough; we want to eradicate them altogether; we don't want to manage them. So that was the other person in opposition. And I don't know how many of you know "Buffalo Bruce," but he is a person from the Chadron area that comes down and testifies many times, and he was in neutral position because he felt like the bill really is written in that we was to...we were to manage the prairie dogs in a way that we kept them here but just not to let it get completely out of hand. And that's really the intent of Senator Loudon's bill, is to manage them so that they do not become objectionable to the neighbors, and I think that's all we're trying to do. And much of this is already being done by the Forest Service to control prairie dogs on their property. They...I think they allow them on their property, but to control them so they don't go over