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FLOOR DEBATE

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identifies a problem. We need to deal with it. But I want to...this information made me realize for the first time sort of how prairie dog towns work in the natural environment. And I wanted to pass it on to you, so that you could understand what fences and individual pieces of property mean in terms of consequences to this ecological system. And this fellow, I'm not going to give you his name, because I didn't ask permission to quote him. But he's kind of capsulized this down into a couple of large paragraphs that really gives you an understanding of it, I think. And if you can bear with me, I'm just going to read the paragraphs, because I don't think it can be better stated. And apparently, these...much of this information comes from the Integrated Principles of Zoology, which is a book that many people apparently know about. A healthy prairie dog community can be considered a biological oasis. Six times as many predators can be found within a prairie dog community, other than in the open prairie. A large abundance and variety of birds, reptiles, and insects exist within and are associated with prairie dog communities. According to the Bureau of Land Management, 10 species of amphibians, 15 species of reptiles, 101 species of birds, and 37 species of mammals utilize and make up the community, to feed within, or for shelter. The larger organic mass equates into more abundance of the mites, nematodes, and other tiny organisms needed for soil aeration. This process is mandatory for healthy prairie biomass when grazed by the large compacting hoofed animals, such as cattle or bison. And here's the sentence that's most interesting to me: A healthy 100-acre prairie dog community rotates, nurtures, and aerates 200 to 400 acres as it floats along the prairie. Any attempt to stop that floating action is cause for stagnation, which has been proven by current practice. To create a successful plan, it should implement a rotation flow formula, producing more forage and carrying capacities, just as good land stewards have been doing for years. In other words, a prairie dog town in the natural environment wouldn't sit in one place, but rather, over time, would slowly migrate around the prairie to where the grass was. And in the place where it had been, certain things would be reenergizing the land. And not only would the soil be reenergized, but he goes on to talk about what happens when water falls in...on the prairie. When water falls on a prairie