



## Policy # 6307

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**Policy Title:** Northern Pocket Gopher Control – Incentive Program

**Policy No.:** 6307

**Approval:** County Council

**Effective Date:** January 13, 2016

**Supersedes Policy No.:** New

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**Policy Statement:** Mountain View County will provide an incentive program for Northern Pocket Gophers, as a means of controlling this declared nuisance under the Alberta *Agricultural Pest Act*.

**Purpose:** Council recognizes the damage the Northern pocket gopher (*Thomomys talpoides*) causes to field crops and equipment and aims to provide education and an incentive program to encourage their control.

End of Policy

Approved: January 13, 2016



Procedure Title: Northern Pocket Gopher Control – Incentive Program

Procedure No.: 6307-01

Approval: CAO

Effective Date: January 13, 2016

Amended Date: January 23, 2017

Supersedes Procedure No.:

## 1. Definitions

- 1.1 “Northern Pocket Gopher” a 20cm long burrowing rodent with a large head, small eyes and ears, stout body, thick muscular forearms with long curved claws, and a short nearly naked tail. The fur is fine and soft usually steel grey on the back and slightly paler on the belly.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2 “Youth” resident of Mountain View County below the age of 18.

## 2. Incentive Program

- 2.1 Where Northern Pocket Gophers are causing a problem on private Agricultural lands, Mountain View County is offering a trapping incentive of \$100 for 100 tails submitted by the first 50 Mountain View County youth. Multiple youths from one residence may combine their submission to reach the required program tail threshold.
- 2.2 The entire tail needs to be of good quality and frozen, preferably, for identification purposes. If a tail cannot be identified as a Northern Pocket Gopher, it will not be eligible for the incentive payment.
- 2.3 This incentive is available to Mountain View County residents only, and to Northern Pocket Gophers trapped on Mountain View County Agricultural Lands only, the legal land location of where the pocket gophers were trapped must be provided to receive the incentive.
- 2.4 Only one submission for the incentive may be made per year per residence or individual youth.
- 2.5 Mountain View County Council will establish an annual budget for the incentive trapping program for the Northern Pocket Gophers each year.
- 2.6 The program will commence April 1st and run through till the 50 submissions are made at which time no further tail submissions will be accepted and no further incentive payments will be made.
- 2.7 Agricultural Services is responsible for administering this program, and will authorize payments at their discretion.
- 2.8 This incentive program does not apply to the Richardson's Ground squirrel commonly known as gophers, or any other rodent.

End of Procedure

<sup>1</sup> Biology and Control of the Northern Pocket Gopher (Thomomys talpoides) in Alberta”, published by the Counties’ Pocket Gopher Control Research Program