From: Tony Wasley
To: Hannan, Richard
Cc: Robyn Thorson; Kevin Foerster; Vicki Finn; Shirley Gillum
Subject: Re: Follow-up to our Sheldon NWR conversation
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:56:58 AM

Thanks Rich!

I appreciate your willingness to raise the issue. Let me first of all say that you are exactly right that we are in a better place today than we have been for a while. We have made huge strides in improving our relationship. NDOW is very pleased with Brian Day. We have a great relationship with Brian that we really value.

Some of the issues that my staff have raised includes;
-an expressed desire by USFWS to limit tag quotas for deer and pronghorn
-"off" refuge surveys for bighorn, pronghorn, and sage grouse without state coordination
-overall lack of data sharing relative to telemetry data for pronghorn and sage-grouse lek counts

There are likely additional items and I have asked staff to articulate their specific concerns in writing so I can better understand and convey them. Once I have a comprehensive account of areas for improved coordination, I will share it with you. Rich, just so you know, I don't perceive this to be a "Service problem", rather an NDOW/Service communication issue. I'm optimistic we can effectively address these concerns and continue to improve our partnership.

Thanks again Rich,
Tony

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 31, 2015, at 10:15 AM, Hannan, Richard <richard_hannan@fws.gov> wrote:

> Tony, I hope you are well. I asked Kevin Foerster, our Refuge Chief, to reach out to our folks at Sheldon and look into the issues you raised with me. As I recall the issues were a conflict around the number of hunting tags for big game animals, the lack of coordination by FWS with NDOW on wildlife surveys and animal tagging off refuge, and an unwillingness to share data that we generate.
>
> Our inquiry suggests that while we have had some difficult times in the past that we are at a better place now and that our annual meetings have helped to advance our relationship. Specific to the three issues, we are hearing a different story that does not line up with what you relayed to me.
>
> It is really important to Robyn, Kevin, and me that we have a strong relationship with NDOW based on mutual respect. The wildlife heritage we are both entrusted to protect demands nothing less. I am not sure how your organization is structured and I am interested in your thoughts on how to proceed. Normally, we would ask out Chief for Refuges to insert himself and coordinate with his counterpart in your organization to see if they together with our field staff can resolve the issue. However, if you think this need higher management attention

Robyn or I (or both of us) will participate. We can schedule a conference call, we can make a trip down to Reno, or we can have that field trip you and I have talked about for the last couple of years. We very much value our work with you and NDOW and want to invest what it takes to get us to advance that relationship. Let Robyn and I know how you would like to proceed. rich

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