

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
[phas.wsd@rapidnet.com](mailto:phas.wsd@rapidnet.com)  
March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

At your March meeting, we listened to the comments of 5 wildlife staff and one attorney of Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and Oglala Sioux Tribe, in opposition to expanding the area of the PRE-WRA Prairie Elk hunting unit to overlap their reservations. We found their arguments convincing. We support and endorse their positions and requests.

We are concerned over the United States past adverse history with tribes - wars & conquest, years of broken treaties, the Allotment Acts and loss of tribal lands, shrinking of Reservation areas and discrimination against tribal peoples.

We join with tribes in fear that, extending the WRA Prairie Elk hunting unit to overlap reservations will result in disproportionate harvest of the reservations' share of elk by non-tribal hunters. We also fear that it will result in trespass onto tribal lands by non-tribal members and also their hunting in "Indian Country" without tribal licenses. We believe elk have cultural significance to tribes, and GFP should respect that.

We are disturbed that at least one tribe claimed you did not give them advance notice and thus did not comply with your MOU with the tribe. Also pursuant to SDCL 1-54-5 "Consultation with tribal government regarding state programs" - you have a statutory duty to consult with tribes when your actions would effect tribal people on reservations (<https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/1-54-5>).

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe did not testify at the March 2025 Commission meeting. We hope you have complied with SDCL 1-54-5 and consulted with them.

Perhaps you can work with Tribes to come to some sort of negotiated settlement of this dispute, however until that happens, we oppose the expansion of the WRA Prairie Elk hunting unit to overlap the West River reservations.

Sincerely,



Nancy Hilding