

**From:** "Schulz, Kirk" <kirk.schulz@wsu.edu>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 11:05 AM  
**To:** "Mittelhammer, R C" <mittelha@wsu.edu>, Colleen Kerr <colleen.kerr@wsu.edu>  
**Cc:** "Druffel, Ginger K" <gkdruffel@wsu.edu>, "Keane, Christopher" <chris.keane@wsu.edu>, "Hoyt, Christine Rae" <christine.hoyt@wsu.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Communication with Rancher

Ron – Thanks. At this point a plan moving forward is probably the most important point – and engagement of this community as we hire folks maybe a good start.

K.

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**From:** R Mittelhammer <mittelha@wsu.edu>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 10:35 AM  
**To:** "Kirk (WSU) Schulz" <kirk.schulz@wsu.edu>, "Kerr, Colleen" <colleen.kerr@wsu.edu>  
**Cc:** Ginger Druffel <gkdruffel@wsu.edu>, Christopher Keane <chris.keane@wsu.edu>, "Hoyt, Christine Rae" <christine.hoyt@wsu.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Communication with Rancher

Kirk:

A good point that deserves some careful consideration – and we are in the process of doing precisely that.

As for a more substantive response and background, I will endeavor to keep it short, but it is not a short story ...

During the last year we have been stepping up our efforts to reengage with the Dairy/Livestock industry. However, the starting point vis-à-vis livestock/ranching is not all that solid. We have Susan Kerr, Jan Busboom, and Marc Nelson all retiring from the Animal Sciences unit at various times during the coming FY 18, and all had programs related to livestock, albeit continuing transparently, industry engagement was not all that vigorous during the last few years. Historically, the industry in NE WA *did* have a faculty champion, and his name was Wayne Madson. But he retired many years ago, and the truth is that his functionality and regional engagement has not (yet) been replaced.

That said, I am engaging with Marc Nelson to see if he will/can step up his game and engage especially with the NE WA Livestock/Ranchers during his remaining time at WSU (but only until the end of the year – he is retiring Jan 2, 2018), and if we arrange for a delegation to visit in mid-June, he could come with – he still commands a notable level of respect in the industry. The longer run is such that

we will need to rehire behind at least one of these retiring individuals to reestablish the vigorous engagement (and faculty “champion”) that is needed with this segment of the industry.

We also have two regional livestock specialists that in theory might provide additional support (Don Llewellyn in Kennewick, and Paul Kuber in Davenport), but given their location and program structure, I don’t know that engagement with the NE WA component of the industry is a fruitful strategy. In any case, we will look into this further as well, although my previous interactions with the An Sci Chair would underscore my worry.

That may be more than you wanted or needed, but that is some context for where we are at, where we might go, and when.

Thanks.

Ron

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**From:** Schulz, Kirk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 8:47 AM  
**To:** Mittelhammer, R C <[mittelha@wsu.edu](mailto:mittelha@wsu.edu)>; Kerr, Colleen <[colleen.kerr@wsu.edu](mailto:colleen.kerr@wsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Druffel, Ginger K <[gkdruffel@wsu.edu](mailto:gkdruffel@wsu.edu)>; Keane, Christopher <[chris.keane@wsu.edu](mailto:chris.keane@wsu.edu)>; Hoyt, Christine Rae <[christine.hoyt@wsu.edu](mailto:christine.hoyt@wsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: Communication with Rancher

Ron – Do we have any other faculty members who might be able to work with the Ranching industry in any form or fashion? I feel that they need an internal champion or person that they can work with.

Just curious ...

K.

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**From:** Mittelhammer, R C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** Schulz, Kirk <[kirk.schulz@wsu.edu](mailto:kirk.schulz@wsu.edu)>; Kerr, Colleen <[colleen.kerr@wsu.edu](mailto:colleen.kerr@wsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Druffel, Ginger K <[gkdruffel@wsu.edu](mailto:gkdruffel@wsu.edu)>; Keane, Christopher <[chris.keane@wsu.edu](mailto:chris.keane@wsu.edu)>; Hoyt, Christine Rae <[christine.hoyt@wsu.edu](mailto:christine.hoyt@wsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: Communication with Rancher  
**Importance:** High

Kirk:

Thank you for allocating the time to have this interaction with Arron, and for the informative debrief on your conversation with him. I am sure it meant a great deal to him.

His suggestions and concerns all seem quite reasonable. Indeed, I must say that the ranchers that Colleen, Chris, and I have interacted with to date have been some of the most cordial, respectful, and reasonable individuals of all those we have been dealing with relating to this situation.

Arron's suggestion of visiting in mid-June squares with Colleen's original instincts to do exactly that. We will work on sending a delegation to visit with them.

**Colleen** – I request that we please interact on setting this up.

Also, please note that we are proceeding to ensure that CAHNRS Administration, at least at the Associate Dean level and when possible the Dean of CAHNRS, be present and attend all future WAG meetings as you suggested Kirk. We are currently seeking guidance from WAG as to the best form in which that attendance should take place, and at the least that could simply be as a semi-official visitor in the audience during the group's meetings. **Colleen** – please advise as you see appropriate.

Thank you.

Ron

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**From:** Schulz, Kirk

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 3:46 PM

**To:** Kerr, Colleen <colleen.kerr@wsu.edu>; Mittelhammer, R C <mittelha@wsu.edu>

**Cc:** Druffel, Ginger K <gkdruffel@wsu.edu>; Keane, Christopher <chris.keane@wsu.edu>; Schulz, Kirk <kirk.schulz@wsu.edu>; Hoyt, Christine Rae <christine.hoyt@wsu.edu>

**Subject:** Re: Communication with Rancher

All –

I had a 20 minute conversation with Arron yesterday. It was very cordial. A few key points he shared –

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]--> He was concerned that WSU may be branded with a “anti-ranching sentiment” because of comments made by Prof. Weilgus.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->He was concerned about the effects on our students of

all of the publicity surrounding the ranching community and wolves. He and his colleagues all want our WSU students doing research on wolves to have a good experience.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->He felt that there was a “personal vendetta” against the Diamond M ranch that was not helpful or warranted.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->He really wants WSU to be a partner – he clearly acknowledged that there needs to be good policies developed which take into account both the ranching community and environmental group concerns.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->He also suggested that we come to see things first-hand in mid-June for a couple of days.

Like my conversation with Rep Kretz, Arron came across as reasonable, wanting to work with WSU, and desirous of a good policy around wolves that meets the needs of all parties.

There is no way I can carve a day out of my calendar in June (I have a lot of travel) to make this work for me personally. However, we should send a group of a couple of folks to spend a day with them.

Let me know what are appropriate next steps. I am going to send Arron a quick note thanking him for his time.

Regards,

Kirk

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Kirk H. Schulz  
President  
Washington State University  
[Kirk.schulz@wsu.edu](mailto:Kirk.schulz@wsu.edu)  
[@WSU\\_Cougar\\_Pres](https://www.instagram.com/WSU_Cougar_Pres)  
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**From:** "Kerr, Colleen" <[colleen.kerr@wsu.edu](mailto:colleen.kerr@wsu.edu)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 11:04 PM  
**To:** R Mittelhammer <[mittelha@wsu.edu](mailto:mittelha@wsu.edu)>, "Kirk (WSU) Schulz" <[kirk.schulz@wsu.edu](mailto:kirk.schulz@wsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Ginger Druffel <[gkdruffel@wsu.edu](mailto:gkdruffel@wsu.edu)>, Christopher Keane <[chris.keane@wsu.edu](mailto:chris.keane@wsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Communication with Rancher

Hi all – Sorry for the delay, I was on a plane. Yes, I agree with both this plan and that I should reach out soon. What I will do is reply now to Arron’s recent email and copy in both Ron and Chris as they met with him in Olympia. At that time, I will ask his availability to talk on the phone over the next several days – and for additional factual details. Regarding his timing too, the issue from what I understand is that they are preparing for spring grazing and he’s out riding quite a bit. Kirk, we’ll see each other tomorrow too and can talk more then. My morning will be a little constrained just getting over to Spokane. I will forward the email from him to you and Ginger now. Thanks,

CK

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**From:** "Mittelhammer, R C" <[mittelha@wsu.edu](mailto:mittelha@wsu.edu)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 6:27 PM  
**To:** "Schulz, Kirk" <[kirk.schulz@wsu.edu](mailto:kirk.schulz@wsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** "Druffel, Ginger K" <[gkdruffel@wsu.edu](mailto:gkdruffel@wsu.edu)>, Colleen Kerr <[colleen.kerr@wsu.edu](mailto:colleen.kerr@wsu.edu)>, "Keane, Christopher" <[chris.keane@wsu.edu](mailto:chris.keane@wsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Communication with Rancher

I think sooner would be better than later.

Colleen--Can you provide his contact information? And also, could you please provide your perspective on the intro to the conversation, and what ground ideally needs to be covered?

Thank you.

Ron

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2017, at 5:34 PM, Schulz, Kirk <[kirk.schulz@wsu.edu](mailto:kirk.schulz@wsu.edu)> wrote:

Sure – I am happy to visit with him. How soon does this need to occur? K.

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Kirk H. Schulz  
President  
Washington State University  
[Kirk.schulz@wsu.edu](mailto:Kirk.schulz@wsu.edu)  
[@WSU\\_Cougar\\_Pres](https://twitter.com/WSU_Cougar_Pres)  
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**From:** R Mittelhammer <[mittelha@wsu.edu](mailto:mittelha@wsu.edu)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 4:23 PM  
**To:** "Kirk (WSU) Schulz" <[kirk.schulz@wsu.edu](mailto:kirk.schulz@wsu.edu)>, Ginger Druffel <[gkdruffel@wsu.edu](mailto:gkdruffel@wsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** "Kerr, Colleen" <[colleen.kerr@wsu.edu](mailto:colleen.kerr@wsu.edu)>, Christopher Keane <[chris.keane@wsu.edu](mailto:chris.keane@wsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Communication with Rancher

Kirk:

I had a conversation with Colleen this morning concerning a rancher by the name of Arron Scotten. Note that Chris Keane, Colleen and I spent time with him in Rep. Kretz's office when we were down in

Olympia.

The bottom line is that Colleen and I would respectfully suggest that, if at all possible, you spend a few minutes on the phone with Arron. We believe he has respect for us (CAHNRS/WSU/Kerr, Mittelhammer, Kean), and the conversation with him while in Olympia helped to further support that respect. However, the underlying issue is that he is apparently becoming the “spokesperson” for the ranchers involved in the current wolf issue challenges, and they are feeling that the current dialog is asymmetric and one-sided with Rob Wielgus having center stage and in control of the agenda, some information being disseminated that is not factual, and the ranchers’ perspectives are being muted or not heard at all. Some of this is not a CAHNRS/WSU issue per se, but by association, we are often painted with the same brush.

If this is something you feel you can do, I am sure he (like Rep. Kretz) will appreciate that the WSU President reached out and interacted with him. I would give him another call myself, and still could, but I believe it would serve a higher purpose if he heard, even if briefly, from you.

Please advise, and we can provide you with contact information if this is possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ron