

# Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

## Meeting Agenda

February 4, 2015 (1:00 pm)

Bozeman Public Library, 626 E. Main, Bozeman, Mt.

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00	Opening and introductions	Prinkki/Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed, ground rules clear, Oct. meeting minutes approved
1:10	Public comment	Atwood/Prinkki	Allow for Public comment/questions
1:20	Action on Membership applications – <b>John Bailey</b> <b>Brent Sinnema</b>	Atwood/Prinkki	Applications considered, voted upon
1:30	Forest Service Presentation and discussion; Forests in Focus funding application; Hebken Lake project and GRLA	Custer Gallatin Forest Supervisor, Mary Erickson/Prinkki/Atwood	Decision on support for Forest in Focus applications. Includes funding request of \$20,000 for the CGWG.
2:30	Palisades Timber Sale “A Case Study in Challenges”	Matt Wolcott , DNRC Brad Shoemaker, DNRC	Project outcome and issues faced
3:00	Break		
3:20	Forest Restoration Principles	Atwood / Prinkki	Develop principles and values of the CGWG to be used as the guiding document in reaching concurrence on Custer Gallatin Forest projects and forest plans.
4:20	2015/2016 Budget 2015 Agenda	Prinkki/Atwood	Set priorities/workshops Goals
4:50	March meeting plan	Atwood/Prinkki	Location, Agenda items, assignments for February meeting
5:00	Adjourn		

**Attendees:** (CGWG members in **Bold**)

<b>John Prinkki</b> , Carbon County Commission	Earl Atwood, Beartooth RC&D
<b>Bill Wallace</b> , Sweet Grass County Commission	Matt Wolcott, MT DNRC
<b>Jim Hart</b> , Madison County Commission	Mary Erickson, USFS Custer-Gallatin
<b>Joe Skinner</b> , Gallatin County Commission	Kurt Hansen, USFS Custer Gallatin
<b>Marty Malone</b> , Park County Commission	Nancy Schultz, Gallatin Wildlife Association
<b>Mike Christianson</b> , At Large Member	Don Bachman, Gallatin Wildlife Association
<b>Kevin Germain</b> , Lone Mtn. Land Co.	Kathryn Qannayahu, Enhancing Montana Wildlife Habitat
<b>John Beaudry</b> , Stillwater Mining Co.	Steve Kelly, Alliance for the Wild Rockies
<b>Joe Josephson</b> , Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Brad Shoemaker, MT DNRC
<b>Jeff Schmidt</b> , Red Lodge Mountain Ski Area	
<b>Scott Brennan</b> , Wilderness Society	Jennifer Madgic, Senator Tester's Office
<b>Brent Sinnema</b> , Camp Creek Land and Cattle Co.	Morgan Darlington, Senator Daines' Office
<b>John Bailey</b> , Dan Bailey Fly Shop	
<b>Jerry Furtney</b> , RY Timber	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Prinkki at 1:00 p.m. at the Bozeman Public Library. Members and guests introduced themselves and those attending from the public were given an opportunity to offer comment or questions concerning the Working Group (there were none).

Minutes from the January meeting were presented to the Working Group for review. Jeff Schmidt moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Bill Wallace. APPROVED

Two membership applications were received since the last meeting. John Bailey (Dain Bailey Fly Shop) has requested membership representing fishing interests. Brent Sinnema, (Camp Creek Land and Cattle Co.) has requested membership representing Agriculture/Ranching. Both applicants were present, and were asked to speak briefly in support of their application and stand for questions from any members.

Marty Malone moved, seconded by Bill Wallace, for acceptance and approval of John Bailey as a CGWG member representing fishing interests. APPROVED

Jeff Schmidt moved, seconded by Joe Josephson, for acceptance and approval of Brent Sinnema as a CGWB member representing Agriculture/Ranching interests. APPROVED

Mary Erickson provided an update to the Group concerning two funding proposals which have been developed for submission under the Governor's Forests in Focus initiative. These were discussed in concept at the January meeting, and since drafted by the Forest staff, and reviewed in draft during a conference call with several CGWG members. The latest versions were distributed and reviewed, with a few suggestions for clarification in wording being offered by members around the table.

Joe Josephson asked for clarification regarding the number of resource specialists identified in the North Hebgen Lake proposal. It was explained that this project is early in the NEPA process, and this would be the normal amount of analysis support for a project of this scope. The specialists' time is for detailed analysis and development of alternatives and impacts to complete the process, and will need to happen whether or not funding is approved under this proposal.

Steve Kelly, first time attendee representing Alliance for the Wild Rockies, raised an issue concerning the collaborative process, and related his concern about keeping the process open.

It was suggested to more clearly state in the proposals how access to the Forests in Focus funding will help move these projects forward, either in timeline or efficiency, to convert specifications related to merchantable timber to MBF and attempt to state the potential commercial value of any harvest, and to express potential benefits in environmental or economic impacts for the projects, especially within the GRLA proposal

A motion was made by Marty Malone, seconded by Bill Wallace, that while it is too early to evaluate the projects on merit, the Custer Gallatin Working Group formally endorses submission of the funding proposals, and that CGWG and issue a letter of support to the Forest Service which can be included in their funding proposal submission to the Montana DNRC. APPROVED. Chairman Prinkki was tasked with developing the letter within the next week to be given to Supervisor Erickson.

The North Hebgen funding proposal contains a budget component, which if approved, would provide some funding to the CGWG to conduct outreach and information activities associated with the project, and more generally with restoration work within the Forest. Chairman Prinkki asked the members for input concerning the establishment of a workplan, and a supporting budget, in order that we have an agreed direction for expenditures if the funding is approved. A suggested budget was presented by Earl Atwood which contained categories for Monthly Meeting Coordination costs, Member Workshops, Public Outreach Events, Printing/Ads/Misc, and Subject Matter Expert Fees.

Members were in agreement with the budget model. In addition to specific North Hebgen project outreach events, learning sessions for the CGWG members and any interested public were identified as a priority for the group. Scott Brennan suggested that an early choice would be to have a dedicated event to drill down on the NEPA and Forest Service Planning processes, to better equip the CGWB members for consideration on future projects and the update of the CG Forest Plan. This information would improve our abilities to play a 'pre-decision conflict resolution' role in the future.

Matt Wolcott and Brad Shoemaker, representing the Southern Land Office of the Montana DNRC gave a presentation to the Group to cover the history, process and outcomes of the Palisades Timber Project. The presentation was described as a case study in challenges. Emphasis was placed on the process undertaken by DNRC to insure that openness and fairness were a priority throughout the effort. This approach took more time than would be required, but the outcomes were very favorable in terms of public awareness and acceptance of the project, and resulting landscape adjustments. The details of the presentation will be added to the CGWG library for future reference.

Further review of the draft Group Values document was conducted. Suggested language for paragraph A. was adopted, which now reads "Recognize the legitimacy of diverse interests and concerns and work collaboratively to develop recommendations." In Paragraph C, second bullet, the phrase was modified to read "which provide for public health, safety and welfare," Sixth bullet, the word native was removed and the phrase now reads "that protect and restore clean water, stable soils, vegetation and quality habitat for fish and wildlife." In paragraph E. the word 'conservation' was inserted to replace the word 'protection', the sentence now reads "Recognize and rely upon best available science in determining recommended actions or policies for dual purposes of landscape conservation and beneficial use by humans." Previous suggested language from the Montana Forest Restoration Committee principles will be included to clarify the definition of sustainability, and Commissioners will come up with language to add examples of 'public health, safety and welfare'.

Planning for the March meeting was discussed. The meeting will be in Bozeman on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Gallatin County Detention Center, 1:00 pm. The agenda will include updates on the Forest in Focus proposals, continuation of the series reviewing districts within the CGNF (Ashland District to be presented), a further presentation by the Forest Service detailing the timeline for the North Hebgen project, and a review the the NEPA process to further educate the CGWG members on these requirements.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.