

Custer Gallatin Working Group

11/15/16 Meeting – Livingston, MT

Custer Gallatin Working Group members present: John Prinkki, Barb Cestero, Jeff Schmidt, Ian Jones, Hilary Eisen, Joe Skinner, Darcie Warden, Mary Malone, John Beaudry, Jerry Furtney, Jackie Musgrove

Guests: Mo Bookwalter, Virginia Kelly, Mariah Lueschen, Clancy, Marna Daley, Dan Clark (govt center),

Introductions

Minutes from previous meeting not available for review

Membership

Richard Lyon – interested in working with the CGWG. Doesn't represent a constituency.

North Hebgen Project

Develop something for the website. Talk about the success of the CGWG participation with FS. Here's how the subcommittee engaged and here's how we were heard. Show how state dollars showed helped/spent funds.

Whitebark pine monitoring resource. Mo offered to set up call with Amy Gannon.

Shields Farm Bill

Tera Little hopes to have decision by December. 2018 fiscal target for the FS. Marna Daley shared this info (covered for Mary Erickson).

Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision

Release Draft Summary document = draft assessment of conditions / preliminary need for change (15 pages) end of November. Review period will go into Jan. CGNF approached and agreed to be a pilot for a much smaller document with 150 pages instead of something up to 1,000. Longer specialist reports will be online.

Need for change:

1. Two forest plans need to go under 1 plan
2. Gaps in plans
3. Comply with planning regulations. 2012 Rule
 - a. Cover minerals, wildlife, riparian areas..... all kinds of stuff
4. Reflect new laws and regulation
5. What's not going to change
 - a. Wilderness boundaries, IRA boundaries for example

Review period provides opportunity for the FS to get more info from the public. A little more than 30 days, Jan 6. Final documents done by end of January.

2017 Public Engagement – see Forest Service [Conceptual 2017 Engagement](#) attachment

Feb-April workshops

- Develop desired conditions with the public

Not all communities are scheduled for meetings. These decisions are difficult for the Forest Service. The CGWG may have the opportunity to fill in some of these blanks. Suggestion to include Big Timber or Columbus. Suggestion to combine Cooke City and Gardiner.

Conflict Resolution Program, University of Montana – Clancy will help with educational packet
Develop public education package. Education material topics: 2012 planning rule, more info on need for change document, WSR/Wilderness/Desired conditions information, planning opportunities for the public

Supplemental Public Meetings hosted by CGWG and county commissioners, Dan facilitated the discussion

County Commissions/CGWG represented in the meetings

- Advantage of county sponsored forum because they have standing to convene a group
- Post forest service public meeting

Format – provide information about forest service is doing. Listening session opportunity with FS providing options to capture the information in the meetings ie: meeting space with video recording. Structured for the county interests and needs

Goal – extend resources for the FS in non-workshop communities, increase our credibility as a Working Group, education, assist FS in getting people engaged, identify the hot spots in each community then bring in experts to talk from the different sides of the issue

Next Steps/thinking for next meeting

Workshops – issues/topics CGWG host education meetings on topics

CGWG member participation in Forest Service post Forest Service workshops

Agency participation in post meetings

April/May

Internal CGWG Next Steps

Possible Action: CGWG post Forest Service Public meetings

Hold our internal conversation in the same format at the FS service is doing with the public

Forest in Focus funds – Mo Bookwalter gave update

Obligated 1.8 million for federal projects and collaborative groups

25 projects/ 14 counties

Produce 250,000 acres treated / 3000 jobs / 161 board ft timber

11 decisions signed so far

Funding

15,000 to CGWG: 10,000 – working with local government center and forest plan revision; 5,000 – whitebark pine monitoring

Forest in Focus update

\$823,000 state dollars onto federal land

MT forest counties coalition – October summit

- Bring commissioners who engage in land management with managers and agencies
- 30 commissioners representing 20 counties
- 2 pager coming out with overview of what came out of the meeting: key issues
- DNRC website Forest in Focus webpage. PowerPoints will be posted from the summit