

**Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)**  
**Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, July 12, 2017**  
**Gallatin County Courthouse**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
1:00 PM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki / Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
1:05	Consent Agenda: Minutes, Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki / Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
1:10	Membership seats/applications	Prinkki / Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications;
1:15	North Bridger( Bridger-Bangtail) Farm Bill Smith-Shield Project post decision strategy;	Prinkki Corey Lewellen, Bozeman District Ranger	Bridger Bangtail project kickoff; Consider filing an Amicus Brief or as an Intervenor; Funding sources Bid letting time frame discussion
1:45	Pryor Mountains Subcommittee	Penfold	Report
2:00	Custer Gallatin National Forest; Forest Plan Revision	Virginia Kelly and Mariah Lueschen	FPR status report
2:30	Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision Outreach	Prinkki / All	Further Work on CGWG Community Outreach events
3:00	DNRC	Matt Arno	Status report
4:30	August meeting plan	Prinkki	Agenda, location, homework
4:45	Close, if not sooner		

**Attendees:**

Bill Wallace  
 Ian Jones  
 Jerry Furtney  
 Darold Zimmer  
 Mike Christianson  
 Margo Magnant  
 Mark Crago  
 Kerry White  
 Bruce Reiersen  
 Mike Penfold  
 Barb Cestero  
 Jeff Schmidt  
 John Prinkki  
 Hilary Eisen  
 Darcie Warden  
 Jim Hart  
 Steve Caldwell  
 Jackie Musgrove

Liz Dellwo (Senator Daines)  
 Kristin DeWa  
 Richard Lyon  
 David Francomb  
 Virginia Kelly  
 Marna Daley  
 Paul Ellis

Meeting brought to order by Chairman Prinkki at 1:00 pm.

Introductions were made by those in attendance. Consent agenda items including previous meeting minutes, current financial report, and Beartooth RC&D invoice were moved for approval by Mike Christiansen, seconded by Bill Wallace. APPROVED

Membership: Two membership applications were presented for consideration. Mike Harris, Bozeman, Montana has been nominated as an alternate representative for the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association, and Paul Ellis has applied to fill the vacant seat representing Outfitters. Mr. Harris and Mr. Ellis were not present, therefore the members deferred any votes until applicants are able to attend a meeting in person, to allow discussion with Members prior to a decision. (Mr. Ellis did join the meeting later on. While he is a licensed outfitter and member of the Outfitters Association, he does not provide services on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Some members expressed a preference for locating a representative whose business is carried out in the Custer Gallatin, and Mr. Ellis offered to carry this request back to the Association for further action.)

Projects:

North Bridger (aka Bridger-Bangtail): David Francomb, acting DR for the Bozeman District was introduced and briefed the members on the initial stages of the North Bridger project. As the Farm Bill Authority requires a collaborative approach on the project, he asked for feedback from the CGWG regarding its intentions for engaging on the project. Chairman Prinkki indicated the CGWG will form a sub-committee devoted to tracking and supporting the project, and requested that a full presentation be given by the Forest Service at its next meeting in August. At that time CGWG will formally initiate CGWG collaboration and define the subcommittee roster. (Preliminary volunteers for the subcommittee included Margo Magnant, Hilary Eisen, Darcie Warden, Ian Jones, Jerry Furtney and Mike Christiansen.

Smith-Shields Project – post decision strategy: Francomb reported that the Forest Service will formally respond with an answer to the complaint on the Decision by July 28<sup>th</sup>. DNRC is working on an amicus brief, as well. John Prinkki asked the members for input on CGWG taking a legal position in support, either in the form of an amicus brief or signing on as an endorsing entity to an existing brief. Potential costs and resources needed were a concern to some members, so John Prinkki agreed to more thoroughly research options and bring recommendation back to the members at the August meeting for decision. Aug 28<sup>th</sup> appears to be the deadline for action. Mike Christiansen recommended that we read out any amicus that we want to sign onto at a meeting before voting on the endorsement. Consensus reached was to give John Prinkki latitude to work with State and Counties to determine the most appropriate method for filing or endorsing an existing brief.

Pryor Mountains: Mike Penfold reported that following the June meeting in Billings, he has met and will continue to meet with various organizations and individuals with concerns/interest in the Pryor Mountains to develop consensus around recommended actions for the area, including that under control of the Forest Service. He expressed optimism that many of the participants who have not been in agreement in the past are continuing to engage and the dialog in objective and positive. Work will continue.

John Prinkki asked the members present for feedback on the current status and direction of the CGWG, whether there are additional focus areas /priorities that need our attention.

Mike Penfold made the suggestion that Wildland Urban Interface issues should be a focal point for CGWG. He requested that the Forest Service provide a briefing at a future meeting to help members understand the range of WUI issues the Custer Gallatin is currently dealing with.

Marna Daley, USFS, mentioned that County CWPPs include a lot of information on local WUI concerns.

Darcie Warden raised a question regarding what measures CGWG can be using to assess our progress in achieving our original goals, and also suggested that CGWG can be a very useful forum for learning about good ideas that local entities and organizations are coming up with to address forest issues.

Ian Jones proposed that we promote the utilization of volunteers wherever possible on forest projects to enable faster start and completion.

Forest Plan Revision: Virginia Kelly provided an update to members regarding the current work and announced the schedule for upcoming webinars. Details will be sent out via email and are available on the FS web site.

Kerry White, referencing recent dialog among members about the Resilient Forest Act of 2017, requested more specifics from those with concerns about the legislation in order to define ways to improve it, and recommended that the members keep the topic active at and between future meetings.

Planned location for the next meeting is Livingston at the Park County offices on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm