

**Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)**  
**Meeting Minutes; Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 (1:30 PM)**  
Virtual meeting; Zoom , March 10th, 1:30pm

**Attendance:** John Prinkki, Jim Hart, Jeff Schmidt, Hilary Eisen, Barb Cestero, Kerry White, Tony Colter, Richard Lyon, Nancy Ostlie, Stephen Kimball (DNRC), Mary Erickson, Ron Hecker, Tim Love, Earl Atwood

**Consent Agenda:** Past Minutes and Financial report/disbursements - Approved

**Membership** – Resignation of MSU representative Dominique Woodham. Jared Beaver as replacement under consideration. Jared couldn't attend today, will take up at a future meeting.

**Custer Gallatin National Forest**

Mary Erickson, CGNF Supervisor, provided an update on the Forest Plan Revision process. Work is proceeding with a draft EIS announced mid-summer. They hope to have the final Record of Decision in place by the end of September.

**Subcommittee Committee reports –**

**South Otter** – DR Ron Hecker (Ashland) reported the scoping on SO is completed, with review of public comment underway. The project will cover almost 300K acres, condition based treatments which may include prescribed burns and selective suppression of wildland fires. He noted that in the past 25 years about 72% of the Ashland District has been impacted by wildland fires, much of which was total stand replacement. Consequently, reforestation will be an important component of the project. Field trip after end of April was discussed. John Prinkki will work with committee members to determine date.

**Cooke City** – Hilary Eisen reported they are working on date selection for a field trip.

**East Gallatin** – Kerry White reported he has been in discussion with Corey Lewellan, working on project maps which the group can review in late April to early May, and looking at possible May-June timeframe for field visit.

**Bridger Mountain Recreation Infrastructure** - Joe Skinner briefed members on a project proposal to gather public input on Bridger Mountains recreation infrastructure needs (catalog/prioritize) to aid in decisions on applying for grant funds for trails, parking lot expansions, road improvements, etc. in the area. Kerry White pointed out opportunity to apply for weed treatment funds and offered to assist with application. Members were in strong agreement to support the idea. Several volunteered to work on the committee and will organize a meeting to further explore the concept and discuss outreach.

**Open discussion** - Mary Erickson gave an update on South Plateau (Hebgen District). The draft decision notice is expected to be released soon followed by an objection period. There was a short delay due to correct an error in process, but is moving forward again now. She noted this project will be developed under the new conditions-based NEPA format.

**DNRC report on consideration of filing a joint amicus with DNRC in regards to the Cottonwood and appeal on the BMW-NH-NB - (Stephen Kimball)** DNRC has been reviewing the appeal on BMW, and was considering whether it would make sense to act jointly with CGWG in response to an appeal. They have determined it would be better to proceed independently with any court filings. CGWG does have funding available to assist with legal fees if we decide to intervene. John asked members to give thought to the possibility of intervention. Currently none of the projects are enjoined. Tony Colter has suggestions regarding legal resources that might be engaged in the event we proceed, and was encouraged to follow up with them and report back to CGWG.

Tim Love, MFRC issue papers under review Carbon Budgets in Forests final review will be posted soon. Implementation of MFAP has been drafted. Annual Reports from collaboratives will be requested in July for inclusion in the MFRC report. Theme for the annual meeting November 4-5 in Missoula will be role of collaboratives in forests where you live, work and play.

Next regular meeting – June 9th