

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, May 9th, 2018 (1:00PM)

Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room
611 So. 16th Ave., Bozeman, Montana

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
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; Discuss CGWG budget and funds
1:10	Membership seats/applications; Resignation	Prinkki / Atwood	John Bradley, Montana Wildlife Federation. Others??
1:20	North Bridger Farm Bill	Eisen	North Bridger subcommittee report
1:25	North Hebgen Project	Skinner/Hart/FS	Project implementation/Litigation
1:30	Smith Shields	Forest Service	Status
1:35	Future of the CGWG	Prinkki;	Discuss direction of the CGWG. What to engage in with our limited resources
2:00	Custer Gallatin National Forest; Forest Plan Revision	Virginia Kelly	Progress report and coordination of efforts
2:30	15 minute Break		
2:45	Future of the CGWG	Prinkki	Further discussion and direction of the CGWG.
3:15	Montana Forest Counties Summit	Prinkki	Report
3:30	Gallatin Forest Partnership	Eisen	Consideration of support the Gallatin Forest Partnership
4:00	Next meeting/ Close (if not sooner)		

Attendees:

John Prinkki	Virginia Kelly. USFS
Steve Caldwell	Amy Rathke, GYC
Kerry White	Don Bachman
Mike Harris	Richard Lyon
Hilary Eisen	Kristin Dewaay, Sen. Daines' Office
Bill Wallace	Denise Albrecht
Joe Skinner	
Darold Zimmer	
RJ Klotz	
Jackie Musgrove	
Darcie Warden	
Jeff Schmidt	
Randy Weimer	
Barb Cestero	

Meeting opened at 1:00 pm. All present introduced themselves.

Chairman Prinkki requested action on the consent agenda. Steve Caldwell moved for approval, seconded by Joe Skinner. APPROVED

Chairman Prinkki suggested to the members it is time to consider and discuss the the current financial position of the Working Group, as reflected in the funds report, and the future direction of the Working Group. He will be placing the discussion on the June meeting agenda, and wanted all members to give thought and prepare to discuss CGWG mission, budget and leadership. Earl Atwood added that the role of Beartooth RC&D should be included in that discussion, as there may be opportunity to reduce expenses to the budget by having certain administrative tasks handled by members.

Membership: Application for membership has been received from John Bradley of Billings, MT. Mr. Bradley works for the Montana Wildlife Federation, but is applying as an individual representing the interests of younger recreationists and conservationist, and with an Eastern Montana perspective. Action on the application was tabled until Mr. Bradley is able to attend a meeting in person.

Committee Reports:

North Hebgen and Smith-Shields (nothing new to report)

North Bridgers (Eisen):

- The subcommittee met with Corey Lewellen and other Bozeman Ranger District/project staff on April 26 to get a project update and discuss the writing an op-ed
- The Forest Service intends to sign the decision at the end of May and the project will go up for sale in 2019 (this summer they'll be doing internal USFS field work like layout and marking)
- The units and treatments haven't changed since what was scoped in December, but design features have been refined in response to public comment
- We discussed the major areas of concern highlighted in our scoping letter - weeds, old growth, recreation, temporary roads, and wildlife - and how the Forest Service has responded to our concerns as they've refined the project.
- The subcommittee feels good about the project, although lingering concern over weeds (weeds in the Bridgers is a bigger issue than just this timber sale though)
- The subcommittee is working on an op-ed about the project, which we will present to the CGWG for a vote at the June meeting. The hope is to publish the op-ed shortly after the project decision is signed

Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement – This topic was brought forward from previous meetings to determine if and to what extent the CGWG would engage on the recommended actions developed by the GFPA. The resulting position of the Group was to express support for the efforts of the GFPA as a collaborative process, but not weigh in on specific recommendations due to the diversity of opinion with the CGWG membership. Steve Caldwell will draft a letter for member consideration at the June meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.