

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG) Meeting Minutes; Wednesday, March 8, 2017

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
1:08	Membership seats/applications	Prinkki / Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications, update roster for new County appointments
1:15	Shields Farm Bill Project	USFS/ Jess Secrest, Secret Fire	Record of Decision/ CGWG consideration of support for project
1:45	North Hebgen Project Committee report; Monitoring options	Skinner / Brennan / Warden / Prinkki	Progress report; Consider options for white bark pine monitoring
2:00	CGWG Support Letters for North Hebgen and Smith-Shield Projects	Prinkki	Discuss and authorize support letters
2:15	Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision	Prinkki / USFS	Progress report; Update on Community Outreach Plan
2:45	Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision Outreach	Prinkki / All	Further Work on CGWG Community Outreach events
3:15	Wilderness Study Area	Prinkki	CGWG position on approach to wilderness designation
3:45	DNRC: Forest In Focus and Good Neighbor Authority	Prinkki / DNRC	FIF & GNA update
4:15	April meeting plan		Agenda, location, homework
4:30	Close, if not sooner		

Attendance:

John Prinkki	Jess Secrest
Jerry Furtney	Don Bachman
Scott Brennan	Virginia Kelly
Jeff Schmidt	Teri Seth
John Beaudry	Chad Benson
Bill Wallace	Stacey Barta
Maureen Davey	Fred Jones
Jackie Musgrove	Mariah Leuschen Lonnergan
Hilary Eisen	Clancy Jandreau
Joe Skinner	Ashley Sites
Darcie Warden	
Jim Hart	
Blake Christensen	
Mike Christianson	
Margo Magnant	
Brent Sinnema	
Mike Penfold	
Earl Atwood	

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

Consent agenda items including minutes from the February meeting and current funds report were moved for approval by Jackie Musgrove, seconded by Jim Hart. CARRIED

Smith Shields Project - Ashley Sites (USFS) gave a presentation to the group concerning the Smith Shields project, and answered numerous questions. Jess Secrest also provided testimony concerning the value and execution of the project. Mike Christianson moved, seconded by Mike Penfold that the CGWG write a letter of support to the Custer Gallatin Forest. CARRIED. Bill Wallace will draft narrative for consideration with the assistance of other members for final consideration at the April meeting.

North Hebgen Project: Teri Seth stood in for Jason Brey and provided a report on the current status of the project from the USFS perspective. They are ready to release the draft decision along with the final EA. Teri described changes made in response to input from the public and from CGWG. Release will begin a 45 day objection period. Target date for final decision is July 1st. Joe Skinner moved, seconded by Scott Brennan to officially support the project and charge the North Hebgen Committee with drafting the support letter for review and approval at the April meeting. CARRIED

Forest Plan Revision - Mariah Leuschen-Lonnergan provided an update on the FRP meetings and handed out 2 master copies of the draft assessment which now includes for each area a new paragraph at the beginning to show what changed (if anything) from the initial draft. Additional public meetings are scheduled for March 27/28 in Big Timber, and Mar 29/30 in Livingston.

Clancy Jandreau presented draft materials developed to summarize the FPR process overview and explain in simple terms why it is important and how it works. Input from the CGWG was requested within the next few days, after which the material will be finalized. Members to provide comments to Earl Atwood, who will collect and forward to Virginia Kelly's office by March 16th.

Discussion of House Joint Resolution 9 regarding Wilderness Study Areas – a number of members present expressed concern with the introduction of HJR9. Representative Kerry, sponsor of the bill and a member of the CGWG was unable to attend the meeting due to his obligations at the Legislature in Helena, and therefore was not on hand to provide a response to the voiced concerns. From the discussion actions were proposed 'take no action', generating letter of objection to the Senate committee emphasizing the need for collaboration and offering amendments to the language, and a letter to the Senate committee opposing the resolution. Many members were concerned that options for testimony could only be classified as Support or Oppose.

Mike Christianson moved, seconded by Maureen Davey, that no action be taken by the CGWG. FAILED

Joe Skinner moved, seconded by Margo Magnant, that John Prinkki and John Beaudry be authorized to draft a position statement to be submitted to the Group via email for final approval, and that the statement express CGWG does not support the Resolution in its present form, and that a collaborative process be emphasized to resolve the designation of the referenced Wilderness Study Areas. All members voted AYE, except S. Furtney, M. Davey and M. Christianson (NO), and Blake Christensen (abstain).

Next Meeting – April 12, Bozeman (location TBA)

Meeting Adjourned 4:00 pm.