

Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, June 9th, 2021
 Virtual meeting; Zoom

Open meeting : Attendance; Review Agenda, Meeting materials		
Attendance:		
John Prinkki	Ty Hamilton	John Durnal (Daines)
Jim Hart	Randy Weimer	Stephen Kimball (DNRC)
Tony Colter	Barb Cestero	Nancy Ostlie
Steve Caldwell	Hilary Eisen	Sean Steinebach (Sun Mtn Lumber)
Kerry White		Corey Lewellan (USFS)
Darcie Warden		Ron Hecker (USFS)
John Prinkki called the meeting to order. Tony Colter introduced Sean Steinbach, also from Sun Mountain Lumber who will be attending meetings and prospectively may act as an alternate for Tony.		
Consent Agenda: Past Minutes and Financial report/disbursements		
Minutes from the May 12, 2021 meeting were approved (Caldwell/Hart). Financial report is unchanged from the May 12 th report.		
Membership applications and cancellations.		
none		
Custer Gallatin National Forest - CGNF staff		
Updates on Forest Plan and projects with CGWG involvement		
<p>DR Corey Lewell reported that Supv Mary Erickson is on assignment elsewhere. Kathy Minor will be acting Supervisor pending Mary's return. A September date is anticipated for the Forest Plan Decision to be issued. North Bridgers project will soon begin roadwork. Bozeman Municipal Watershed project: non-mechanized fuels reduction work is scheduled to begin in the coming week. He also provided an update on the South Plateau project at North Hebgen Lake. DR Ron Hecker gave an update on the Ashland District projects. They are working on a timber sale (Three Mile), however closest mills to the sale area are in northern Wyoming and western South Dakota. They are looking at the Aug-Sep time frame for a field tour of the South Otter project, expecting a multi-day outing since the project area covers 300K acres. John hopes to have about six members participate.</p> <p>John Prinkki asked about capacity issues at the Forest Service and whether impact from pandemic may suppress hiring efforts for projects. Corey indicated they would expect some of that effect on seasonal positions, probably not so much otherwise.</p> <p>Kerry White asked if any temporary public road closures were expected in the logging area NoHebgen. Corey advised that none are expected. Tony Colter added that his company is not looking at extended hours for log trucks, mainly daylight hours M-F and not on holidays.</p>		

Nancy Ostlie, attendee, asked for information on ecology efforts, e.g. impact on old growth and possibility of additional road creation. Corey was not that familiar with those details since the project is in another District, but would follow up with Jason Brey and get more information to her.

Committee reports for South Otter Creek, Cooke City and East Gallatin

South Otter – John – still working on summer visit to the project area (see above). No change reported on Cooke City and East Gallatin.

Bridger Mountain infrastructure development plan:

Bridger Mountains Infrastructure – Hilary (for Joe) – subcommittee working on schedule for their next meeting. Several additional community representatives have joined the CGWG committee. Corey, Barb C., and Joe met with Bridger Co reps recently to discuss measurement methods to determine impact or priorities.

American Forest Resource Council (AFRC), DNRC in regards to the Cottonwood appeal on the BMW-NH-NB

AFRC/DNRC Cottonwood appeal – the draft amicus brief will be completed near the end of June. John Prinkki indicated a special meeting may be called to get membership approval at that time.

Other business

Great American Outdoors Act was discussed. July 13th is due date for this year’s collaborative funding proposals, but with additional funding in coming years as well. Members expressed support for efforts to develop proposals that may assist efforts on the Bridgers Infrastructure and other projects in 2022, which may apply to improvements in parking, trail head maintenance, etc.

Next meeting

Expect a special zoom meeting in late June to approve amicus brief submission. Next date for quarterly meeting will be September 8th, unless circumstances require an interim event.