

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, April 11th, 2018

Gallatin County Courthouse; Community Room
311 W. Main St., Room 311, 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
1:10	Membership seats/applications; Resignation	Prinkki / Atwood	RJ Klotz, Big Sky Chamber Mike Christensen, At Large
1:15	North Bridger Farm Bill	Eisen	North Bridger subcommittee report
1:20	North Hebgen Project	Skinner/Hart/FS	Project implementation/Litigation
1:25	Smith Shields	Forest Service	Status
1:30	Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers	Prinkki et all	How to approach. Forest Plan Revision Committee
2:00	Custer Gallatin National Forest; Forest Plan Revision	Virginia Kelly	Progress report and coordination of efforts
2:30	15 minute Break		
2:45	Forest Plan Revision Committee Need for more meetings. Discuss dates	Prinkki	Additional meetings??
3:00	Region 1 EADM (Environmental Analysis Decision Making) Partnership Roundtable	Prinkki	Report on Round table
3:15	Gallatin Forest Partnership	Eisen	Consideration of support the Gallatin Forest Partnership
4:00	Close, if not sooner		

Attendees:

John Prinkki, Chair

Hilary Eisen, Winter Wildlands Alliance

Mike Harris, MTUA

Kerry White, Citizens for Balanced Use

Jerry Furtney, RY Timber

Bill Wallace, Sweet Grass County Commssioner

Darcie Warden, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Maureen Davey, Stillwater County Commissioner

Jim Hart, Vice Chair, Madison County Commissioner

Barb Cestero, Wilderness Society

Joe Skinner, Gallatin County Commission

RJ Klotz, Big Sky Chamber

Mike Colpo, MT Outfitters and Guides Assn.

Jeff Schmidt, Red Lodge Ski Area – Ski Industry

Earl Atwood, Beartooth RC&D (Admin)

Don Bachman

Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited

John Green, Livingston Bike Club

Denise Albrecht

Amy Rathke, GYC

Richard Lyon

Jake Maciag, Senator Tester's Office

Michael Fiebig, American Rivers

Virginia Kelly, USFS Forest Plan Revision team

Patti Steinmuller

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

Chariman Prinkki requested action on the consent agenda. Kerry White moved for approval, seconded by Bill Wallace. APPROVED

Membership: Mike Christianson, member at large representing non-industrial private forested landowners resigned. Jerry Furtney, representing RY Timber, announced his upcoming retirement from the company in May. New member RJ Klotz, representing Big Sky Chamber present for his first meeting.

Project Reports: No activity to report on North Hebgen and Smith Shields projects.

Chairman Prinkki asked members to comment on the need and/or value of CGWG undertaking to analyze and develop official comments on FPR Recommended Wilderness Areas and eligibility of rivers for Wild and Scenic designations, as there will be opportunities to further comment on each category when the EIS drafts are released. On both categories the majority of members expressed there would be some benefit in having discussion on both topics provided the group focus is on specific recommendations (i.e. map-based) rather than general policies. However, many around the table also indicated the likelihood of widespread agreement among members on policy views or issues may be limited due to the diversity of core missions among the CGWG membership organizations. This topic to carry forward to next meeting agenda.

John Prinkki reported that 4 members attended the Environmental Analysis and Decision Making meeting in Missoula (Prinkki, Eisen, Weimer, White). A lot of information was covered. Meeting results and conclusions will be published – John will forward those to the members when they become available.

Forest Plan Revision – Virginia Kelley (USFS) – Public Scoping period on the proposed action closed on March 5. Comments received are available online in the FPR reading room. Virginia thanked the CGWG as a group and its individual members for all their comments received. A broad range of comments were received. In total there were over 10,000 comments received. The team is now developing alternatives, which reflect the public input they have received. Public meetings are scheduled for April 21 in Bozeman and April 28 in Billings to present preliminary alternatives based on land allocations and allowed uses as a way to confirm the input received during the comment period. Wild and Scenic Rivers don't vary by alternatives. Those recommendations are based on the definitions which cover eligibility. Once the alternatives are established, the IDT will begin work on the environmental impact statement. There is an Intergovernmental Working Group conference call set for April 18th to discuss agency coordination and cooperating agencies participation. Virginia announced that USFS is going forward with creating a cooperating agency agreement with South Dakota Game and Fish and Wildlife.

Gallatin Forest Partnership – Continuing the discussion which began in the February meeting, Barb Cestero, John Green (Livingston Bike Club), Mike Fiebig (American Rivers), Darcie Warden and Hilary Eisen spoke about the formation of the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement, providing reasons/rationale for their participation. CGWG members were asked to consider possible involvement in the agreement. An additional hour for discussion to be put on the agenda for the May 9th meeting.

Next Meeting – May 9th, location TBA.

Meeting adjourned 3:10 pm (adjourned early due to room scheduling constraint)