

Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting MINUTES Wednesday, September 13, 2023
 Bozeman Ranger District Office, 3710 Fallon Street, Bozeman, Mt.

Consent Agenda; Minutes and Financial report/disbursements	
Meeting opened by Chairman Prinkki with introductions around the table and those connected virtually. (There were some technical difficulties with the internet connection.) Attendees:	
John Prinkki	Jen Lane, Sibanye
Sally Schrank	Earl Atwood, BRCD
Richard Lyon	Stephen Kimball
Hilary Eisen	Chris Mahoney
Jeff Schmidt	Jennifer Card
Bill Wallace	Corey Lewellan
Tyrel Hamilton	Josh Fairchilds
Scott MacFarlane	Zach Fisher
Jackie Walden	
Consent agenda items were reviewed and approved on motion by Richard Lyon/Bill Wallace.	
Membership Applications and Vacancies.	
John Prinkki reported that member Kerry White has resigned his membership. Discussion followed pertaining to membership in general, and prospective leadership. The topic will be continued at the 4 th Qtr meeting in December.	
Custer Gallatin National Forest Updates on Forest Plan and projects with CGWG involvement.	
CGNF Staff in attendance reported on various projects. It was noted the Greater Red Lodge Area project has been stopped due to litigation. The Forest Service is currently evaluating options for appeal, or possibly completing components that are uncontested under other area project authorities.	
Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Absaroka Beartooth Gateway project Letter of Support proposal for <u>Letter of Support for Crevice Mountain Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Acquisition</u>	
Member Sally Schrank, GYC, updated the Group on the status of the Absaroka Beartooth Gateway proposal. The window for providing input is very short, and they are asking CGWG to consider approval of a support letter for the project to be submitted before comment period closes. The project was discussed extensively by members, resulting in a voted approval to endorse the project. Motion by Eisen/Lyon. The vote was 7 ayes, 3 noes.	

East Boulder Mine Expansion, Cooke City, East Gallatin, , Red Lodge Mountain, and Bridger Infrastructure projects

Committees reported that the Cooke City project is moving forward – scoping expected to begin this fall. Currently working on field work and landscape evaluations. Hilary Eisen encouraged the members to consider a field trip this coming summer or fall.

East Gallatin project, considered a high risk fireshed area, is starting fresh later this year.

Goose Creek project – a fuel break under CE authority, was identified last fall, is one of 10 fuel break projects approved under the CE authority is also underway.

Bridger Infrastructure – Hilary Eisen reported that Bridger Bowl is helping with trail inventories.

Over the winter they will be working on orders for trail signs and kiosks.

Montana DNRC Local Government Liaison.

Steve Kimball - DNRC project Updates

Steve Kimball reported that a new Unit Manager will be on board soon, he'll be looking for opportunity to introduce her to the CGWG. There is a significant increase in grant funds available over the next two years. He mentioned to the Commissioners that these grants can be used to support updates to Count Wilfire Protection Plans (October 31 deadline). Also encouraged attendance at the upcoming MFCA Joint Workshop in Missoula in November.

Other business and closing.

Next meeting in December – Livingston. Location to be announced.