

## Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2014 – 1:00 PM

Gallatin County Detention Center, Bozeman, Montana

A meeting of the Custer-Gallatin Working Group was led by John Prinkki, Carbon County Commissioner.  
Attendees present:

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
<b>John Prinkki</b>	Carbon County Commission
<b>Jim Hart</b>	Madison County Commission
<b>Joe Skinner</b>	Gallatin County Commission
<b>John Beaudry</b>	Stillwater Mining Corp
<b>Marty Malone</b>	Park County Commission
<b>Barb Cestero</b>	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
<b>Kevin Germain</b>	Lake Mountain Land Co.
<b>MJike Penfold</b>	Our Montana
<b>Jerry Furtney</b>	RY Timber
<b>Scott Brennan</b>	Wilderness Society
<b>Mikael Christianson</b>	Non Industrial Private Foreste landowner
<b>Mike Penfold</b>	Our Montana
Don Siefert	Gallatin County Commissioner
Earl Atwood	Beartooth RC&D
Richard Stem	Public
Cavan Fitsimmons	USFS
Lisa Stoeffler	USFS
Mary Erickson	USFS
Kurt Hansen	USFS
Rachel Court	Sen. Tester's Office
Kathryn QannaYahu	Enhancing Montana's Wildlife and Habitat (EMWH)
Bill Farhat	Big Sky Fire/ Madison County
Nancy Schultz	Gallatin Wildlife Assoc.
Don Bachman	Public
Craig Campbell	DNRC
Jennifer Madgic	Sen. Tester's Office

*Names in bold denote representatives of seated members*

At 1:00 pm Chairman Prinkki opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

**Introduction of members and guests.** Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and identify their affiliation or representation.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and adopted by the members present.

**Meeting Agenda:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
1:00	Opening and introductions	Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed, ground rules clear, Nov. meeting minutes approved
1:10	Action on Membership applications	Atwood	Applications (if any) considered, voted upon
1:20	Public Comment	Atwood/Prinkki	Allow for public comment/questions
1:30	Sideboards for project selection/Forest Restoration Principles	Prinkki	Begin item level review/discussion of possible Principles to be adopted by CGWG
2:40	Public Comment	Atwood/Prinkki	Allow for public comment/questions
2:50	Forest Service Presentation and discussion – CG West Zone review	US Forest Service staff: Hebgen Ranger District Bozeman Ranger District	Info on forest West Zone program of work, issues
4:30	CGWG Web site update	Atwood	Early look at proposed web site structure – obtain member input on content
4:45	January meeting plan	Prinkki	Location, Agenda items, assignments for December meeting
5:00	Adjourn		

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Approval of the minutes was moved by Jim Hart, seconded by Mike Christianson. **Motion Approved.**

**Membership.** Applications for membership in the collaborative were presented by the following organizations: The Wilderness Society – Scott Brennan

Marty Malone moved acceptance and approval of Mr. Brennan's membership, seconded by Barb Cestero. **Motion Approved.**

With the new members seated the roster for CGWG now has 15 seated members, leaving 7 of the currently designated seats to be filled. Chairman Prinkki encouraged further recruitment to obtain representation for additional non-governmental organizations (3), Agriculture/Ranching (1), Quiet Recreation (1), Hunting (1), Fishing (1), and Commercial Outfitters (1). Group consensus was for additional recruitment effort the next month or two to add members to the working group roster.

**Public Comment.** Chairman Prinkki invited any members of the public in attendance to comment. Richard Stem offered information on the current status of the Omnibus Bill in Congress, noting that the Disaster Funding Act had been killed. The result is the Forest Service will continue to receive their directed funds based on the 10-year average model, which will continue to challenge them.

### **Sideboards for Project Selection/Forest Restoration Principles.**

Chairman Prinkki opened discussion on the development and adoption of restoration principles which would be used for project selection and prioritization by the group. Scott Brennan offered comments based on his past experience with a number of collaboratives. Key points included the need for these principles to create a 'zone of agreement' within which the members can operate. With the principles in place they can be used as a checklist to evaluate the merit and priority of a proposed project of issue being discussed in the group. He also encouraged the group to work on being able to express their particular interests or concerns in terms of desired outcomes, i.e. jobs, timber production, habitat preservation, economic impact, etc. to help align with any adopted principles.

Barb Cestero added that it might be helpful to ask "what is it that we would like to see change on the landscape? Habitat, jobs, ecology of watersheds, water quality, reduced fire hazard?"

Goals suggested by other members included:

- Reduce the impact of litigation through improved outreach/education and compromise
- Reduce the severity of fires
- Increase safety in the Wildland Urban Interface
- Increase emphasis on forest health management

Suggested starting points were principles adopted by other organizations including the Montana Forest Restoration Committee, Whitefish Range Partnership, New Mexico collaborative, and others. It was agreed that interim work would be conducted by a volunteer group to develop a candidate list of principles for further review by the whole group at the January meeting.

### **Forest Service Presentation.**

Lisa Stoeffler and Cavan Fitsimmons, District Rangers for the Bozeman and Hebgen Lake Districts presented a very informative and comprehensive overview of their districts. Notes from the presentation are incorporated as an attachment to the minutes.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 14th, 2015 1:00 PM in Livingston. Suggested agenda items include: Restoration Principles (1 to 1-1/2 hours)

Forest Service Presentation covering the Central Zone (1 - 1- 1/2 hours)

Looking ahead to the February meeting, possible focus on the Greater Red Logde Area project and Red Lodge Watershed topics.

Chairman Prinkki thanked everyone in attendance, adjourning the meeting at 4:40 pm.