

# Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

## Meeting Minutes

Park County Admin. Building, 414. E Callender St., Livingston, Montana

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
9:00 AM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
9:02	Consent Agenda: Minutes Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items:
9:05	Membership applications	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications
9:10	Mo Bookwalter and Matt Arno, DNRC	Bookwalter / Arno	Introduction of new Local Government Forest Advisor. Forest in Focus update. Q&A
9:30	Southwestern Crown of the Continent Monitoring Coordinator	Brennan / Cory Davis	How monitoring can work
10:15	North Hebgen Project Committee report	Skinner / Brennan	Building CGWG consensus on scope of work for the North Hebgen Project
10:35	Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Committee report	Prinkki / Brennan	Define priorities and tasks
11:00	Montana State University, Local Government Center; Facilitation	Prinkki/LGC staff	Define facilitation process LGC will use on Forest Plan Revision
11:30	CGWG consideration of North Hebgen Project Committee recommendations	Prinkki / Skinner	Build consensus on preferred alternatives of North Hebgen Project
11:50	Shields Farm Bill Project	Mary Erickson	CGWG involvement
12:15 PM	Collaborative Workshop Wyoming Biomass Conference	Prinkki	Approve/Disapprove CGWG funding of attendance
12:25	Set next meeting date/location	Prinkki / Atwood	
12:30	Close, if not sooner		

### Attendees:

John Prinkki, Carbon Co.  
Jackie Musgrove, SRM  
Jerry Furtney, Forest Products  
Brent Sinnema, Agriculture  
John Beaudry, Mining  
Marty Malone, Park Co.  
Jeff Schmidt, Ski Industry  
Bill Wallace, Sweet Grass Co.  
John Bailey, Fishing  
Darcie Warden, GYC  
Scott Brennan, The Wilderness Society  
Joe Skinner, Gallatin Co.

Earl Atwood, Beartooth RC&D  
Liz Dellwo, Sen. Daines' Office  
Brad Bauer, MSU Extension – Gallatin Co.  
Stacey Barta, DNRC Range Program  
Alex Sienkiewicz, CGNF  
Mary Erickson, CGNF Supervisor  
Craig Campbell, DNRC Bozeman  
Matt Arno, DNRC  
Blake Christensen, MSU Local Govt. Center  
Cory Davis, Southwestern Crown Collaborative (Whitefish)

12 Members, 10 Guests

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Prinkki at 9:00 am.

**Introductions** were given by those in attendance.

**Consent list** items for approval included minutes from the February 10, 2016 meeting and the current funding report. Approval moved by John Bailey, seconded by Jackie Musgrove. CARRIED

**Membership:** No new applications were on the table for consideration. The group was reminded that CGWG has three (3) open seats for recruitment to represent Hunting, Commercial Outfitters and Quiet Recreation to join the collaborative. John Prinkki reported that we may see additional appointments from eastern counties, who have expressed interest in participating with the collaborative. He also suggested the Group may want to consider the establishment of a seat for Tribal representation.

Jackie Musgrove reported that the Grazing Association from her area has committed to a donation of \$1,000 to the CGWG and reimbursement of her travel expenses to attend CGWG meetings.

**Matt Arno** was officially introduced as the recently hired DNRC Local Government Forest Advisor authorized by 2015 HB510. Mr. Arno described his background and discussed the current approach to engagement in his position, saying that the further implementation of Farm Bill authorities, especially Forests in Focus Initiative, will be his near term priority.

**Cory Davis, Southwestern Crown Collaborative** was introduced and given the floor for a presentation about Monitoring. Mr. Davis is the Monitoring Coordinator for the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative and is a Research Associate in the University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation. He has a Bachelor's degree from UC Santa Barbara and a M.S. degree in Biology from Arkansas State University. He has studied the effects of forest fragmentation on avian demography, the effects of land-use changes on protected areas, and has recently collaborated on developing new forest monitoring protocols designed for use with citizen scientists. He currently resides in Whitefish, Montana.

Information regarding the SWCC can be found on the group's webpage ([www.swcrown.org](http://www.swcrown.org)), including two recently completed five-year reports on accomplishments ([http://www.swcrown.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/FINAL-FY2015\\_SWCC-CFLR\\_Annual\\_Report-Version-2015-11-20.pdf](http://www.swcrown.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/FINAL-FY2015_SWCC-CFLR_Annual_Report-Version-2015-11-20.pdf)) and monitoring (<http://www.swcrown.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/SWCC-5-Yr-Monitoring-Summary.pdf>).

The presentation slides can be viewed from the CGWG web site library.

**North Hebgen Committee Report:** Joe Skinner reported on the recent work of the committee to provide relevant analysis and comments on the forthcoming North Hebgen Project Environmental Assessment to be released by the Forest Service. While there are numerous aspects of the project that could be reviewed, consensus within the committee is to focus on the following aspects as a priority:

- Temporary Roads Management
- Long Term Monitoring of White Bark Pine
- Wildlife safety along Roadways
- Long Term Weed Control

Joe indicated the remainder of March would be spent on gathering information in anticipation of the EA release in early April. The committee will try to have draft comments available for Members' review by early April, to allow a short period of time for members to develop consensus for approval at the May 11, 2016 meeting.

**Forest Plan Revision Committee report:** Scott Brennan reported the committee met on the previous day in Livingston. They provided feedback to the Forest Service on recent Plan Revision Rollout meetings held by the Plan Revision Team recently. The committee also discussed prioritization of issues related to the Forest Plan, early consensus centering on the following topics:

- Wild and Scenic Rivers (main agenda item for April Committee meeting on 4-12 in Livingston)
- Defining desired future conditions
- Wilderness areas

**Facilitation Services Agreement:** Blake Christensen, MSU Local Government Center was introduced. The MSU LGC provides a range of facilitation and survey services. Based on their past experience in supporting counties and other area organizations with facilitation and planning services, Chairman Prinkki recommended to the Working Group the engagement of MSU LGC to assist working committees (North Hebgen, Forest Plan Revision, etc.) and possibly the full membership with its internal discussion and consensus development when requested. Mr. Christensen provided a detailed explanation of their approach to such engagements and their rates. To engage them a signed Professional Services Agreement is required.

John Prinkki requested approval by the members to execute the services agreement with MSU LGC so their services would be available as needed and as determined by the members at future meetings. Marty Malone moved approval to process the services agreement, seconded by John Beaudry. CARRIED

**Forest Service report:** Mary Erickson, CGNF Supervisor provided an update to the Group on the progress of their Forest Plan Revision rollout. In addition she reported that the previously approved Bridgers project and the newly approved Smith-Shields area will both receive support from the newly created Regional Farm Bill NEPA Team, which will bolster the resources in both Districts for execution of these projects. Mary brought the Groups attention to the recent announcement of FWP's intention to delist Grizzly bears with public hearings scheduled in Cody on April 11<sup>th</sup> and in Bozeman on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Gallatin Community Collaborative will be holding public meeting in Bozeman the next two evenings in Bozeman and Livingston to provide information and gather feedback concerning the Wilderness Study Area. And, she wanted the CGWG to know that additional Cohesive Strategy funding to accelerate work on the North Hebgen Project and Horseman Flats which was formally supported by CGWG had in fact been awarded.

The CGNF will be announcing an emergency interim closure in the Hyalite Canyon to implement a moratorium on recreational target shooting. This has become an eminent public safety issue due the high densities of recreational users in the Hyalite, and this closure will be in place while a formal process is conducted to evaluate options and determine a permanent policy, subject to public input.

**Smith-Shields Subcommittee:** As Supv. Erickson had identified the additional project funding which will allow work to proceed on the Smith-Shields project. A question arose as to the need for a committee to provide support for that project. Reservations were expressed by some members about the capacity of members to

cover additional projects which will need to be evaluated before any additional Committee is committed to a specific task(s). Marty Malone offered to serve as committee leader to undertake an initial review of the project and come back to the full committee with recommendations concerning engagement. Members John Bailey and Jerry Furtney indicated they would be available as resources for the committee.

**Travel/Meetings:** John Prinkki reminded the Group of previous discussion concerning the upcoming NFF Collaborative Workshop in Denver, Colorado. We have received word from the NFF that some of his expenses to attend the meeting will be covered by a scholarship (reimbursement for hotel and registration). In total he estimates cost for attending (before the scholarship) to be ~\$1,500, with roughly half covered by the NFF subsidy. In addition, there will be a Bio-Fuels Conference in Laramie, Wyoming on May 26-27 he would like to attend, and requested approval to use CGWG funds for his hotel expense. Marty Malone moved, seconded by Joe Skinner to authorize Chairman Prinkki to travel as CGWG representative to both meetings and spend appropriately from the CGWG operating budget. CARRIED

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 in Livingston, Montana (same location)

Meeting Adjourned 12:10 pm