

CGWG Meeting
1-17-18
Gallatin County Court House

Introductions

Members: Steve Caldwell, Joe Skinner, Jerry Furtney, Motorized person (get name), Jackie Muskgrove, Bill Wallace, Darcie Warden, Hilary Eisen, Barb Cestero, Jim Hart, Mike Colpo

Guests: Jake Maciag(Sen Tester Bozeman staff person), Tom Owen, Denise Wade, Steve Johnson, Richard Lyon, Kristin Dewary (Sen Daines staff), Dan Bachmman, Nancy Schultz, Steve Kelly, Colin Cooney, Andrea Creel

Forest Service: Virginia Kelly, Mary Erickson, Corey Lewellen (USFS, Bozeman DR)

Business

1. Agenda – passed

Motion: Steve Caldwell

Second: Joe Skinner

Approved

2. Minutes – passed (financials included)

Motion: Joe Skinner

Second: Steve Caldwell

Approved

3. Membership – no new applications

4. Gallatin Forest Partnership

Hilary introduced the GFP to the CGWG

- Membership and seats at the table (provide link)

Tom Owen (Alpine Sports/Mountain Bike Club/GFP member) spoke about the agreement

- Goal is to balance the uses on the landscape

Denise Wade (Lone Mountain Ranch) reviewed the GFP proposal

- Key points - see summary handout provided
 - o Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wildlife Management Area
 - Current uses maintained
 - o West Pine Wildlife Management area
 - Manage for wildlife and recreation
 - o Hyalite Watershed Protection and Recreation Area
 - o Recommended Wilderness Areas
 - Cowboy Heaven Area
 - Southern end of the Madison Range

Action:

Motion: Joe Skinner moves to include the GFP agreement on the agenda for the next meeting

Second: Steve Caldwell

Motion passes

Follow up

- Hilary will provide more detail about the GFP proposal for the CGWG

5. North Bridger Farm Bill Project

Forest Service Timeline:

Forest Service received 37 comments from scoping (closed Jan 3)

Final decision expected May/June 2018

Action:

Joe Skinner suggests CGWG write editorial to the newspaper explaining why CGWG thinks this project is a good idea. Short and to the point.

Editorial Drafting Timing – March/April

6. Hebgen Project – nothing new to report

7. Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision

Virginia Kelly

Jan 3 – Mar 5 formal comment period for the Proposed Action

2 years into forest planning

10 comments so far into the Forest Service

Upcoming:

Spring - Public engagement around alternatives

Fall - FS release draft EIS with 90 day comment period

8. Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness and Desired Conditions

Discussion about what the CGWG should focus on for forest plan revision

CGWG forest planning subcommittee meet again to consider and comment on an array of issues in the plan including soil conditions, trees....

- Focus on the areas where the group has the highest impact (ie: plan components more broadly)

Follow up:

Commissioner Hart will talk to John Prinkki about starting the subcommittee again

Put a call out to see who would like to join the subcommittee

9. Legislative update

Barb – no updates on forest reform. New legislation from Sen Daines to release 5 Wilderness Study Areas (include date when that was introduced)

Legislation in play to open Wilderness Areas to mountain bikes

East Rosebud Wild and Scenic River – passed Senate and still needs to pass the House

No comments from either Sen Daines or Sen Tester staff

Topics for next meeting agenda:

Gallatin Forest Partnership proposal

Don Bauchman suggestion – sustainability of timber, water, range....

Membership Discussion

Jim Hart asked CGWG members to ask people they know to ask if they would want to serve on the group.

Open seats

- Conservation
 - o Barb reach out Montana Wildlife Federation in Billings
 - o Look at a few people to see who is interested
- Recreation and Economic Development

Next Meeting

February 21 in Bozeman

Potential locations: Gallatin County Court House or CGNF Bozeman District Office

Adjourned