

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, March 13th, 2019

Livingston, Montana

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion,	Prinkki / Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
Attending:	John Prinkki Barb Cestero RJ Klotz Randy Weimer	Bill Wallace Jackie Walden Michael Harris Steve Caldwell	Dr. Megan Poulette Mary Erickson Virginia Kelly Earl Atwood
	Consent Agenda: Minutes, Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki / Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items; Discuss CGWG budget and funds
Consent agenda was presented, but lacking quorum the approval was deferred to future meeting.			
	Membership seats/applications; Resignation	Prinkki / Atwood	
Dan Clark, MSU Local Govt Center, submitted his resignation as member via email. To insure continuing representation of the University System on the Working Group, he nominated Dominique Woodham to succeed him. Dominique is the Gallatin County Natural Resource Extension Agent would be a great addition to the CGWG and a suitable replacement. Dan has discussed this with Dominique and she is interested in participating with CGWG. A membership application will be provided to her, to be considered for approval at a future meeting.			
	North Bridger Farm Bill and Smith Shields		No report
	North Hebgen Project	Megan Poulette, Rocky Mtn College	White Bark Pine Monitoring project; Project implementation
Dr. Megan Poulette, Ecosystem Ecologist with Rocky Mountain College, presented an overview of the project conducted at North Hebgen to establish a baseline for future monitoring of the White Bark Pine. Data collection and refinement has now been completed and turned over to the Forest Service. Dr. Poulette presented a detailed explanation of the approach to the project, resources used, challenges and outcomes. Her powerpoint presentation will be available for viewing on the CGWG website.			
	CGNF Forest Plan Revision	Virginia Kelly; Mariah Lueschen	Forest Plan Revision updates
Mary Erickson, CGNF Supervisor, updated the Working Group on the general status of the Forest Plan Revision, followed by Virginia Kelly with a more detailed review of coming events, including the release and official comment period of the Draft EIS, as well as plans for public meetings in April on the east side. John Prinkki asked for formation of a subcommittee to conduct analysis on the Draft EIS and to develop recommended comments for review and approval by the Working Group. Steve Caldwell agreed to head the subcommittee and will be organizing the subcommittee events. If possible, draft comments (work in progress) may be available by the April meeting in Billings. Final consideration needs to happen in May in order to meet the submission deadline.			
	Biomass Project Endorsements	Prinkki/Atwood	
Earl Atwood reported to the Group on the electronic vote taken in support of CGWG endorsement letters supporting two applications for grant assistance on Biomass Utilization projects in Red Lodge and Big Sky. The request and subsequent vote were conducted on an expedited basis. While there was ample support for these, several members expressed concern about the process, and urged the Group to allow more time and open discussion in the future for similar requests.			
	Next meeting/ Close (if not sooner)		
CGWG will attempt to meet in Billings in April to coincide with the Forest Service public meeting in that area on April 10 th .			
	Adjourned – 3:30 pm		