

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting Agenda; Wednesday, November 14th, 2018 (1:00PM)
Bozeman Ranger District Offices
3710 Fallon St., Bozeman, Montana

Notes

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00 PM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki / Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
Attendees: Drew Stroberg, USFS Hebgen Lake District John Bradley, Montana Wildlife Federation Ken Coffin, USFS Richard Lyon, Gallatin County Citizen Ron Hecker, USFS Ashland District Mike Thom, USFS Gardiner District RJ Koltz, Big Sky Chamber Darcie Warden, Greater Yellowstone Coalition Alex Sienkiewicz, USFS Yellowstone District Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited Nancy Shultz, Gallatin Wildlife Association		Randy Weimer, Sibanye-Stillwater Bill Wallace, Sweet Grass County Commissioner Jason Brey, USFS Custer Gallatin Hilary Eisen, Winter Wildlands Alliance Mary Erickson, USFS, Forest Supervisor Steve Caldwell, Park County Commissioner Jeff Schmidt, Red Lodge Mountain Marna Daley, USFS Custer Gallatin Mike Gagen, USFS Corey Lewellen, USFS Bozeman District Kristin Dewaay, Senator Steve Daines office Don Bachman, observer	
Everybody introduced themselves.			
1:05	Consent Agenda: Minutes, Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki / Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
Notes: do not have quorum so no decisions will be made. CGNF budget: \$4,000 which will take us through the next year.			
1:10	Membership seats/applications;	Prinkki / Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications; No new applications
1:10	North Bridger Farm Bill Committee Report from Bozeman District Ranger	USFS; Corey Hillary Eisen	North Bridger Project Update Bozeman Ranger District projects
Notes: Corey Lewellen gave update on the field trip. Photos and trip report was sent out shortly after the field trip. Update on project. FS moving forward with commercial aspect laid out with strike team. Will be available for sale fiscal year 19. Aspen restoration near Fairy Lake work already started. It's noncommercial doing slash and removing encroaching conifer. Greater good topics: update the Bozeman municipal project. FS working to update the consultation tied to lynx. Bio assessment went to FWS this week. Will see if concerns around lynx will be addressed. Strike team will work on BMW once N Bridger is wrapped up. Implementation in 2020. Emphasis is to continue community engagement and working city of Bozeman to minimize impacts to recreation. Upcoming year			

<p>will host open houses and ways to engage with partners. What would the CGWG do to engage in this project? All the most current information is on the FS website.</p> <p>FY18: Aspen restoration in the Porcupine area and used some fire. Could make that a field trip.</p>			
1:30	Smith-Shield Project Report from Livingston District Ranger	USFS; Alex Bill Wallace	Smith Shields Project update Livingston Ranger District projects
<p>Update from Alex: 1/8 of units harvested. Obstacles are temp haul roads need to freeze up. East Boulder not out of the courts. Paper work is getting updated and will be ready when it does move out of the court. Trail clearing took place over the summer. Removed miles of obsolete barbed wire from Boulder Valley. Prescribed burn in early fall south of Big Timber in Deer Creek area under NEPA from Sweetgrass decision. Working in old derby fire scar. Upcoming projects – looking at Cooke City for next project for restoration. Trail re-route and access talks with PCEC and Community Foundation. Could solve an access dispute. Lessons learned: without getting into the pit nothing would have happened.</p>			
1:50	North Hebgen Project	USFS; Jason Joe Skinner	North Hebgen Project update Bozeman Ranger District projects
<p>Update: first sale sold from Teepee Creek. Currently working through litigation. Due date in a couple weeks for the court. Planning on selling the Flats sale over the winter. Will Whitebark Pine continue to be monitored? FS now has baseline data and then will be able to follow up and revisit on monitoring when harvest takes place. Sales include pretreatment of weeds as requirement. Identified \$12k worth of weed treatment in the area. Sun Mountain filed and received intervenor status. Another project – S Plateau. Summer assessments with decision in 2020 or out a few years beyond for timber (in Gov designated landscape). Lonesome wood two timber sale. Done cutting end of this month with stewardship work next year. Bacon Rind fire over the summer burned just under 6,000 acres with good resources benefits with mosaic. 20 acres of aspen treatment on Edwards peninsula.</p> <p>Request: FS provide a master list of projects to the CGWG so we can decide which projects we want to take on.</p>			
2:10	Reports from CGNF District Rangers	CGNF Supervisor, Mary Erickson & District Rangers	Inform CGWG members
<p>Ron – Ashland District. Largest program is livestock grazing. 130,000 AUMs/58 permittees/48 grazing allotments. Since 1990 x number of acres have burned. So, and EA out for review on 3-mile restoration and resiliency. 2016 100,000 acre fire. Salvage work with scoping out in mid-December. Treat 1,000 acres (9,000 acres of that fire was on the Ashland District). Reforestation with planting or natural. 2015 125 fires on district. 35-45 fires/year. Treat up to 4,000 acres/yr with prescribed fire. Work with varies foundations to do the treatment. Local folks support the prescribed fire program. Local gov also supports. Projects – NEPA/planning/decisions 180,000 acres could put prescribed fire on. Looking at burning in the winter. Ash Creek project – was the largest fire in the state of MT 265,000 acres. This project would 25% of the district to use prescribed fire and noncommercial with mechanical to address reforestation and wildlife habitat. Deal with coldseam fires. Goal is to reduce heavy fuel loading.</p> <p>Ken Coffin, Beartooth Ranger District – not a lot of veg projects in that area. 2020 Greater Red Lodge Area project to get back on schedule. Active fuels AFMO in greater Stillwater area. Emphasis is aspen regeneration. Ponderosa Pine and White Bark Pine restorative approach. 500-600 acres of commercial maybe. Wait and see where that ends up in the greater FS project schedule. FS out on Red Lodge Mountain 6-700 acres for treatment to reduce fuels for fire management. Need to figure out what to do with the wood. Ecotonal CE – look at habitats (ie: ponderosa pine, aspen, limber pine....) vegetation surrounded by Lodgepole Pine. Using this lens across the entire forest. Group 10 metals interested in</p>			

drilling to prove up claims (**Chrome** mountain in Stillwater District). Recreation staff got grants to improve motorized trails in the Pryor Mountains. Gained W&S River, E Rosebud, in the fall. Need to establish a capacity number for how many people are appropriate in that corridor. Good to think about because lots of use in the Wilderness. High use areas will need to have management consideration. Finished 3-year project building a trail to **Nickels** Creek. Ally Wood did great work getting this trail constructed. Update from Jeff on projects and the boiler

Mike Thom, Gardiner District – Cooke City project. Last summer prelim data gathered. Scoping may come out this winter. Lots to consider from griz, lynx, etc. Already had a community meeting to inform the public with general good thoughts from the public. 80% Wilderness on the district. Working through Shooting Star land exchange with half of it signed and hope to close this winter. Just shy of 600 acres. Old Yellowstone trail south flap project. Arch to Point of Rocks (through Yankee Jim Canyon). Planning effort with produce a corridor plan with thoughts of what it can be to multi-use access. Plan will be done by end of December or early January. Flat proposal will be open in March. Wildlife a real consideration in this project as a movement corridor.

Mary Erickson – fuels and vegetation projects as it supports restoration work is important. Across the FS there is a focus on increasing pace and scale of restoration on the ground with active management (within context of current forest plans) vegetation and fuels. Agency looking at flag ship targets around acres treated and timber volume. There are regional expectations for these targets. Each forest is now operating in a pod – Eastern pod includes Helena Lewis and Clark, Custer Gallatin, Beaverhead-Deerlodge. Target is coming down to the pod so that units get together and then pod determines how targets will be met. FS doesn't expect more resources and people to do the work. Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) under secure rural schools have been reauthorized. 2 RACs exist right now and it will continue that way. Lots of outreach to do to re-seat the RACs. Need to fill all the seats. Next spring a new committee seated. Two years of funding will be available. USDA has new guidance on shared stewardship. Focused on FS as agency works with states. Emphasis so that priority work is aligned with state agencies. Good Neighbor Authority and working in priority landscapes that state and county partners say is the right place to do work.

3:00	Break		
3:15	Discussion on CGWG involvement in new CGNF projects	Prinkki/Atwood	Future CGNF projects that the CGWG would engage in
Forest Planning – put the subcommittee back together and figure out what our comments will look like. BMW – could take this on Cooke City – could take this on			
3:45	Future of the CGWG	Prinkki/Atwood	
4:00	Legislative update	Prinkki/Atwood	Effects of proposed federal legislation on the Custer Gallatin
No update			
4:15	December meeting plan	Prinkki	Agenda, location, homework
No December meeting			
4:30	Close, if not sooner		

Documents to review/bring to meeting: meeting agenda, CGWG Action items, Purpose and Process Statement, Operations Manual