

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, February 20th, 2019 (1:00PM)

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00 PM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki / Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
Attendance:			
John Prinkki, Chair		Mary Erickson, Supervisor, CGNF	
Jeff Schmidt		Siva Sundaresan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition	
Jackie Walden		Scott MacFarlane, Gallatin County Commission	
Barb Cestero		Scott Barndt, CGNF	
Randy Weimer		Cory Lewellan, CGNF	
Bill Wallace		Craig Campbell, MT DNRC	
Hilary Eisen		Kristin DeWaay, Sen. Daines' office	
Darcie Warden		Dominique Woodham, MSU Extension, Natural Resources	
Joe Skinner		Richard Lyon	
Jim Hart			
RJ Klotz			
Steve Caldwell			
Mike Harris			
1:05	Consent Agenda: Minutes, Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki / Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items; Discuss CGWG budget and funds
Minutes from January meeting, and current funds report were presented for approval. Approved upon motion by Bill Wallace, second Steve Caldwell.			
1:10	Membership seats/applications; Resignation	Prinkki / Atwood	
John Prinkki reviewed membership status, including departure of recent member John Bradley (MWF) and the open at-large position left vacant by Mike Christiansen. He is currently working on confirming County Commission representation following the recent election cycle. Updated roster will be distributed accordingly.			
1:15	North Bridger Farm Bill	Eisen/CGWG committee	North Bridger subcommittee report
1:20	Smith Shields	Forest Service/ CGWG Committee	Status
No significant change or actions on North Bridger or Smith Shields to report, due to seasonal lull and recent government shutdown.			
1:25	North Hebgren Project	Megan Poulette, Rocky Mountain College	White Bark Pine Monitoring project; Project implementation
Dr. Poulette was unable to appear due to personal circumstances. Rescheduled to March 13 meeting.			
1:50	Moonlight Basin Biofuels project Red Lodge Mtn Biofuels project	RJ Klotz Jeff Schmidt	Discuss possible CGWG support

<p>Two projects involving the development of biomass heating systems, one at Red Lodge Mountain one in Big Sky, are requesting support from CGWG in the form of endorsement letters to accompany their financial grant applications. Jeff Schmidt, representing Red Lodge Mountain Ski Area described their project to members and agreed to furnish additional detailed documentation outlining the technology and cost-benefit features of the project. RJ Klotz, carrying the request for the Moonlight Basin Biofuels project provided an overview, and introduced Kevin Germain via conference call who gave a detailed explanation of the project. Mr. Germain also agreed to furnish background documentation for members' further review. All members present were supportive in both cases but needed a short review period prior to an official vote for approval. Submission deadline is the following Monday, therefore time is of the essence. Steve Caldwell moved to conduct an electronic vote toward the end of the week after members have an opportunity to review materials provided on both projects, and upon a favorable vote that Chairman Prinkki would draft and submit support letters for each project accordingly. Second, Hilary Eisen. Approved.</p>			
2:00	CGNF Forest Plan Revision	Virginia Kelly	Forest Plan Revision updates
<p>Mary Erickson, Supervisor of the Custer Gallatin National Forest, provided an update on the status of Forest Plan Revision. Release of the Draft EIS and planned public meetings during comment period were delayed by the partial government shutdown. The Draft EIS is now expected to be released March 1st, to begin a 90 public comment period. Public meetings are being scheduled for different regions in April, with details for time/location to be released shortly. Anticipating a Billings Public Meeting on the same day as our planned CGWG meeting, John Prinkki indicated we would try to have the April CGWG meeting in Billings, as well. Further discussion by members about process for review and comment on the Draft EIS resulted in agreement that the March 13th meeting in Livingston would be a good opportunity to take a presentation from Virginia Kelley on the structure of the document, and to initiate work by the FPR subcommittee on development of our formal comments.</p>			
2:30	Your Forest Your Future	Hilary Eisen	Discuss possible relationship with USFS partner organization
<p>Hilary Eisen reported shed was recently introduced to Cassidy Randall of Your Forest, Your Future, an organization partnering with the USFS on public outreach and engagement. YFYF mission is to increase public participation in forest management issues, particularly updates to Forest Plans. YFYF develops podcasts to explore forest management processes in plain terms to make them more relatable to the general public. They are also working on an interactive web site with maps and other information on forest planning efforts nationwide. YFYF is looking for partners (like CGWG) to assist in achieving their goals by promoting their podcasts and linking to their web site. Members are being asked to review some of the podcasts already available and to consider using the CGWG web site to link to YFYF media as it related to CGNF activity. Earl Atwood will distribute additional information to members, to be reviewed for further discussion and possible action at the March 13th meeting.</p>			
2:45	Forest Plan Revision	Prinkki	Establish time frame for comments
<p><i>See above re: CGNG Forest Plan Revision</i></p>			
3:00	CGWG 2019 plan of work	Prinkki/Atwood	Project selection process
<p>Chairman Prinkki led a discussion among members to explore future priorities of CGWG. The question was asked 'if CGWG did not exist today, what would be the rationale, if any, to create it now?' Several members offered their thoughts on current and future projects and areas of emphasis. Examples include expansion of projects to include greater multiple use opportunities (mining, recreation, biomass) watershed protection concerns. It was also suggested we should pursue educational topics by bringing in specialists or speakers to expand member knowledge in key areas. John encouraged members to think more about this and bring their thoughts and suggestions to future meetings.</p>			
4:00	Next meeting/ Close		
<p>Next meeting on March 13 in Livingston (County Building) 1:00 pm</p>			