

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting MINUTES - February 21st, 2018

Bozeman, Montana

| Time | Topic | Lead | Outcomes |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1:00 PM | Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials: | Prinkki / Atwood | Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed |
| 1:05 | Consent Agenda: Minutes, Financial report/disbursements | Prinkki / Atwood | Vote on consent agenda items |
| 1:10 | Membership seats/applications; | Prinkki / Atwood | Review and vote on membership applications; No new applications |
| 1:10 | Gallatin Forest Partnership | Eisen | Building a relationship with the Gallatin Forest Partnership |
| 1:20 | North Bridger Farm Bill | Eisen | North Bridger subcommittee report |
| 1:30 | North Hebgen Project | Skinner/Hart/FS | Project implementation/Litigation |
| 1:45 | Custer Gallatin National Forest; Forest Plan Revision | Virginia Kelly | Progress report and coordination of efforts |
| 2:00 | Forest Plan Revision Subcommittee | Prinkki et all | Desired Conditions |
| 3:00 | Forest Plan Revision | MSU Extension/Blake Christensen | Develop CGWG comments (comments due by March 5th) |
| 3:50 | Forest Plan Revision Committee Need for more meetings. Discuss dates | Prinkki | Additional meetings?? |
| 4:00 | Region 1 EADM (Environmental Analysis Decision Making) Partnership Roundtable | Prinkki | Invitation to CGWG to participate; March 14, 2018, Missoula: Travel expense request and who should attend |
| 4:10 | Montana Counties Forest Summit | Prinkki | Invitation to attend; travel expense request and who should attend |
| 4:15 | March meeting plan | Prinkki | Agenda, location, homework |

Members present: Jeff Schmidt, Jim Hart, Joe Skinner, Barb Cestero, Jerry Furtney, Darcie Warden, Kerry White, Randy Weimer, Maureen Davey, Jackie Musgrove, Steve Caldwell, John Prinkki, Bill Wallace, Hilary Eisen, Earl Atwood

Guests: Mary Erickson, Matt Arno, Don Bachman, Virginia Kelley, Richard Lyon, Cory Lewellan, Stacey Barta, Steve Johnson, Amy Rathke

Meeting convened at 1:00 PM by Chairman Prinkki. All present introduced themselves, and the meeting agenda was reviewed. Consent agenda items including January 2018 meeting minutes and current financial report were moved for approval by Steve Caldwell, seconded by Jim Hart. CARRIED

Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement: This topic was carried forward from the January meeting. Additional discussion and questions regarding the GFPA, and the proposal for endorsement by CGWG was held, but no action was taken at this time. It was agreed to table further discussion until the March meeting.

Project status reports:

North Hebgen - (*email update from Jason Brey*) Two sales have sold from the project – Whits Red Timber sale and Tepee Stewardship sale. The earliest either sale would operate would be this summer, pending status of any litigation that gets filed. We have not been served notice with any formal litigation. The only action taken thus far has been the Notice of Intent to sue from late last summer. The third sale coming out of the project will be called Hebgen Flats. This sale partially prepped, with plans to finish it this summer. All three of these sales have some component of timber sale receipts being used to complete other resource management on the ground, whether it be weed treatment, aspen enhancement or hazardous fuels reduction. There are many non-

commercial treatment units that I will schedule for implementation as resources and funding become available.

North Bridger Farm Bill – (*Hilary Eisen, Cory Lewellan*) the committee still intends to develop an op-ed for CGWG approval in support of and as a promotion effort for this project. They have also discussed having an educational (promotional) field trip to expand public awareness of the project scope. Forest Service is currently reviewing pre-scoping comments and finalizing special report. The final decision is expected in late April or early May, 2018.

Smith Shields Forest Health: no litigation has been filed to date. The proposed timber sale is scheduled for 4th quarter (Jul-Sep).

Forest Plan Revision: Comment period closes on March 5th. Weekly webinars have been conducted, with the last one scheduled for Monday, February 26th. All comments received will be placed in a public online reading room. Compatibility of the Forest Plan is being assessed against other Tribal, Federal, State, Local agency plans. Cooperating Agency Agreements are now possible under the NEPA process.

DNRC update: (*Matt Arno*): The State has made good headway with Good Neighbor Authority agreements, with two near final approval. They are hiring a GNA Forester for the Kootenai, and two technicians to assist with projects on the Beaverhead Deer Lodge.

Chairman Prinkki asked for level of interest of any members to attend the upcoming Regional Partner Roundtable in Missoula on March 14th, indicating he would be willing to go as CGWG representative. Joe Skinner moved, seconded by Steve Caldwell to authorize expense reimbursement to John Prinkki for attending this meeting. CARRIED It was noted the event coincides with the next scheduled CGWG meeting. The necessity for a March 14th meeting will be evaluated, but if one is held Jim Hart will be available to Chair.

Chairman Prinkki also shared information about the planned Montana Counties Forest Summit tentatively scheduled for May 1-2 in Missoula.

Forest Plan comments: The rest of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the comments developed by the Forest Plan Revision Committee, which covered roughly the first half of the draft plan. An additional Committee meeting to finalize the comments is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27th, 1:30 pm at the Bozeman District Rangers office in Bozeman. The complete set up comments will then be circulated electronically to all member for final review, with an electronic poll to be taken for approval to submit the comments to Forest Service by the March 5th deadline.

Meeting Adjourned – 4:15pm