

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting Agenda

January 14, 2015 (12:00 pm)

Park County Search and Rescue Building,

17 Chicken Creek Lane, Livingston, Mt.

(Take exit 337 off of I-90. Located on south east side of Interstate)

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
12:00	Lunch and tour	Marty Malone	
1:00	Opening and introductions	Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed, ground rules clear, Oct. meeting minutes approved
1:10	Public comment	Atwood/Prinkki	Allow for Public comment/questions
1:15	Forest Service Presentation and discussion	Traute Parrie, Beartooth Ranger District Alex Seinkiewicz, Yellowstone District Walt Allen, Gardner District	Info on the Central Zone: Beartooth, Gardner and Yellowstone Districts program of work, issues
2:15	Greater Red Lodge Area Forest and Habitat Management Project	Prinkki	Discuss Objection Process and potential for litigation
2:25	Governor Bullock, DNRC , Forests in Focus funding	Prinkki/Mo Bookwalter, DNRC/Forest Service	Funding for the CGWG and boots on the ground projects
2:45	Regional Forest Office	Dave Schmid/ Dave Smith/Christine Dawe	Information/Comments/Guidance
3:00	Break		
3:15	RY Timber	Ed Regan	Overview of mill operations, local economic and other features/concerns
3:30	Action on Membership applications	Atwood	Applications (if any) considered, voted upon
3:35	Working Group Guiding Documents	Prinkki/Atwood	Discussion if necessary
3:40	New topics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sideboards for project selection• Forest Restoration Principles• Shared/Group Values	Prinkki	Develop criteria for selecting/prioritizing issues or projects for Working Group support. Discuss CGWG request for funding from stakeholders and State of Montana
4:40	Public Comment	Atwood/Prinkki	Allow for public comment/questions
4:50	February meeting plan	Atwood	Location, Agenda items, assignments for February meeting
5:00	Adjourn		

Attendees:

Members	USFS Reps	DNRC Reps	Public
John Prinkki	Traute Parrie	Mo Bookwalter	Barb Beck
Kevin Germain	Mary Erickson	Matt Wolcott	Nancy Schultz
Mike Christianson	Christine Dawe	Chuck Barone	John Bailey
Joe Josephson	David Schmid	Graig Campbell	Erick Nylund
Bill Wallace	David Smith		Richard Stem
Joe Skinner	Kurt Hansen		Brent Sinnema
John Beaudry	Marna Daley		
Marty Malone	Scott Barndt		
Barb Cestero	Walt Allen		
Jeff Schmidt	Alex Sienkiewicz		

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Prinkki at 1:00 p.m. at the Park County Search and Rescue Building in Livingston, Montana. A tour of this new facility, a brief history of the planning and construction of the building, and a complimentary chili lunch was served by Wendy Wood of the Search and Rescue organization.

Minutes from the December meeting were presented to the Working Group for review. Michael Christianson moved approval of the minutes, seconded by John Beaudry. APPROVED

Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor introduced visiting officials from the USFS Regional Office:

Dave Schmid, Deputy Regional Forester
Dave Smith, Regional Director of Public and Governmental Relations
Christine Dawe, Regional Director for Renewable Resources

District Rangers Traute Parrie, Alex Sienkiewicz and Walt Allen delivered a presentation covering the features, work plan and challenges pertaining to the three Districts which make up the newly formed Absaroka Beartooth Zone of the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. Topics addressed group members following the presentation included the rationale behind water rights acquisition by the Forest, timber sales (or lack thereof) in the GRLA since 1993, and the native species (grasses) strategy employed in the Cutler Meadow project.

The Greater Red Lodge Area (GRLA) project objection process was discussed. Background was offered on the change in process by members of the USFS Regional Office. The change was designed to produce more dialog prior to a final EIS decision. 43 objections issues were identified. Of those 31 were dismissed, 11 were remanded to the Forest for further work. One observation shared was they found it very hard to work for compromise with parties that only see 'no action' as an acceptable approach.

John Beaudry requested a reference document that explains what the new process is and how it works.

Chairman Prinkki indicated that at the February or March meeting the Group may have a proposed support letter for the GLRA project for consideration by the members. In the future, a technical committee within the Working Group may be needed to assist with the objection process and the Group's engagement on proposed projects.

Mo Bookwalter (DNRC) gave a presentation to explain the Forests in Focus initiative, and in particular the fourth tier of the program which concentrates on Federal Forest Management (FIF4). For that component there is \$1 million allocation to assist with projects, the money planned for release in February 2015. Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, suggested three concepts as possible proposals under FIF4. First, the GRLA project in Carbon County, second, the North Hegben project, and third, small acreages specified under the Farm Bill as Categorical Exclusions (3,000 acres or less).

Members discussed and agreed to participate with the Forest Service by reviewing their proposals under FIF4 prior to submission to DNRC. A subcommittee will be organized by the Chairman and be available for a conference call/meeting prior to the February meeting to refine the proposals. In particular, to look at the possibility of including in the project(s) budget some funding to assist with the collaborative activities.

This discussion brought to light a conflict with the standing meeting date in February, and it was agreed by the Group to move the meeting ahead by one week to February 4th.

Scott Stern and Ed Regan, RY Timber joined the meeting at 3:00 to give a presentation and discussion about their timber production activities in the region. The presentation was very informative about the basic economy of their timber mill operations, current challenges and specific changes they are seeking which would be stabilizing factors for their business. An invitation to tour their mill operation was extended to the Group, if interested.

At the end of the RY Timber presentation, Park County Sheriff Hamilton and Under Sheriff Herbst dropped in for a quick introduction and welcomed the Working Group to Livingston.

Following the RY Timber presentation, it was noted by multiple members that similar presentations by other interests participating in the collaborative would be a valuable component for future meetings. John Beaudry moved, seconded by Barb Cestero, to create a subcommittee to develop an issues list with emphasis on collaborative members in project areas and bring to the next meeting for adoption. APPROVED

Work carried forward from the December meeting was a document to identify sideboards, or group values, for the Working Group. An interim ad-hoc committee held a conference call and developed the Group Values 1.0 document incorporated with the minutes. The value statements were discussed, with minor revisions noted. Further discussion of the Group Values document will be carried to the February 4th meeting agenda.

Chairman Prinkki announced to the Group that Stillwater Mining Corp. has generously donated \$5,000 to the CGWG to assist with its startup costs, and provide bridge funding while the collaborative explores a sustainable funding model. The Group expressed its appreciation for the donation to Mr. Beaudry, who represents SMC on the collaborative. Mike Christian made a motion, seconded by John Beaudry, to authorize the Chairman, and/or the Vice-Chairman discretionary spending authority to utilize CGWG funds, up to \$500.00, and that expenditures in amounts exceeding \$500.00 be brought before the members for voted approval. APPROVED

The next meeting will be in Bozeman on February 4, 2015. Location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.