

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting Agenda; Wednesday, May 11, 2016 (9:00AM)
 Small Conference Room, Bozeman Public Library, Bozeman, Montana

MEETING MINUTES

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
9:00 AM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
9:05	Consent Agenda: Minutes Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items:
9:10	Membership seats/applications Rosebud County Quiet Recreation: Hilary Eisen, Winter Wildlands Alliance, and Ian Jones, Dirt Concern	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications Consider addition of Tribal seat
9:30	North Hebgen Project Committee report; Draft comments	Skinner / Brennan / Warden	Review draft comments for the North Hebgen Project
10:00	Shields Farm Bill Project	Malone	Progress report
10:10	Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Committee; Wild and Scenic Rivers	Prinkki/USFS, Virginia Kelly Brennan/Warden/Mike Feibig	Wild and Scenic Rivers; List of current eligible rivers and recommendations from GYC and American Rivers
10:45	Forest Plan Revision progress Roadless Areas management in Plan Revision	Virginia Kelly	Update on Plan Revision Understanding Roadless Areas in Plan Revision
11:00	Local Government Center: Survey and facilitation of CGWG membership; Draft agreement for services	Blake Christensen / Prinkki	Forest Plan Survey CGWG Members Define scope of work/calendar; Agreement for services
11:30	Hyalite Shooting Range relocation	White/Forest Service	Support of relocation of Hyalite Shooting area
11:45	DNRC: Forest In Focus and Good Neighbor Authority	Matt Arno / Craig Campbell/Mo Bookwalter	Forest in Focus update Good Neighbor Authority opportunities
12:00	Lunch	CGWG	Pizza provided
12:45	Collaborative Restoration Workshop	Prinkki/ Bookwalter	Collaborative Restoration Workshop outcomes/takeaways
1:00	May meeting agenda Close, if not sooner	Prinkki	Staying on task

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Prinkki at 9:00 am. Members and guests in attendance introduced themselves. Attending: 25 total, 15 Members

John Prinkki	Earl Atwood
Jeff Schmidt	Nancy Schultz, Gallatin Wildlife Assoc.
Brent Sinnema	Don Bachman
Jackie Musgrove	Mary Erickson, USFS
Darcie Warden	Virginia Kelly, USFS
Mike Penfold	Liz Dellwo, Sen. Daines' Office
Jerry Furtney	Barb Cestero, The Wilderness Society
Darold Zimmer	Kiersten Iwai, Sierra Club
Kerry White	Lisa Stoeffler, USFS
John Bailey	
Bill Wallace	
John Beaudry	
Hilary Eisen/Ian Jones	
Kevin Germain	
Scott Brennan	

Consent List items included minutes from the April 2016 meeting and the updated funds report prepared by Beartooth RC&D. John Bailey moved approval of the consent list, seconded by Bill Wallace. CARRIED

Membership Applications: Two applications for membership have been received for the single seat representing Quiet Recreation. The first applicant is Hilary Eisen, Winter Wildlands Alliance (Bozeman office). The second applicant is Ian Jones, representing The Dirt Concern, a mountain biking organization in Bozeman. Both applications have been circulated to members for review prior to the meeting. Chairman Prinkki asked Ms. Eisen and Mr. Jones in turn to introduce themselves and explain their interest in participating as members of the CGWG. Several members had questions concerning the respective organizations. Ms. Eisen and Mr. Jones were excused for a few minutes to allow members to discuss the applications. Upon return they were asked if it would be acceptable to have both accepted to work in partnership to represent Quiet Recreation's single vote on the Working Group, and they agreed. Scott Brennan moved, seconded by Mike Penfold to accept Hilary Eisen, Winter Wildlands Alliance as lead representative for Quiet Recreation, with Ian Jones, The Dirt Concern, as alternate representative, the two to work in concert to develop consensus for that voting seat. CARRIED (Ayes – 11 Nays - 2 Abstained - 1)

North Hebgen Project report: The North Hebgen Committee has been working on draft comments to submit to the Working Group on the Environmental Assessment, expected to be released for comment sometime in May. The next meeting of the committee will be on May 20th in Bozeman.

Smith Shields/Farm Bill: Mary Erickson – regional farm bill team is working on the project. First public meeting in Livingston on June 16th. The full id team is meeting will be on June 17th with a field trip on June 18th.

Forest Plan Revision Committee – Wild/Scenic Rivers report: Plans for the next round of FPR meetings were discussed. These will begin on June 16th, with announcements coming in the next few days from the FPR Team on specific times and locations. Darcie Warden circulated a map that the GYC in partnership with Montanans for Healthy Rivers has been working on to identify their recommended river designations. Virginia Kelley also distributed a list of eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers indicating their potential classification and the number of miles along each river that would be affected by each classification. Chairman Prinkki requested work from the committee to integrate information between the Forest Service List and the GYC recommendations so the members could better see how the two align.

John Beaudry observed that the scale of the GYC map does allow for the display the private land ownership that falls within the forest boundary. He offered to contribute a map that would at least show the Stillwater Mine properties. Darcie indicated she would review that with the team at GYC, and to also work toward having all the rivers named on the map in future versions.

A question was raised concerning the relationship between eligibility for Wild and Scenic designation and decisions by the Forest Service to implement forest health management projects in those corridors. Mary Erickson explained that any management actions carried out in those areas would need to be designed to protect the 'oustandingly remarkable values' which underlie the designation. If you have an area designated for outstandingly remarkable scenery, or fisheries, or geological features, any project plan would have to consider those values. Commercial timber treatment, fuels treatments, etc. are not prohibited but would have to be planned within the overall objective of protecting the particular value(s).

Virginia Kelley provided a general progress update on the Forest Plan Revision teams efforts. The last two people have now been hired for the planning team, starting May 31. They have held 15 community meetings in 15 towns, with over 500 people attending. The next round of meetings will cover 8 towns between June 14 and June 30 to share results to

date and gather additional input. The team had estimate their assessment would be out in August, but it is now looking like December will be a more realistic timeline for the release.

Ms. Kelley addressed an earlier question about Roadless Area management. She clarified that the Forest Plan Revision cannot change the boundaries of a Roadless Area. However they can manage within those areas. The Forest Service has rules in place to determine Forest Service direction to review projects in Roadless Areas. Activity can happen in Roadless Areas, but the review for those projects takes place at very high level – lots of scrutiny.

Local Government Center, MSU Extension: Blake Christensen dropped in to the meeting to deliver a survey for distribution to the members, beginning his process for facilitation on the Forest Plan Revision Committee. The survey is accessible on-line, which is the preferred method for providing responses. Chairman Prinkki requested all the members present to review the survey and plan to have their responses completed as soon as possible, within the next 2 weeks.

USFS Hyalite target shooting moratorium: Lisa Stoeffler reported that the moratorium for Hyalite Target Shooting went into effect on April 20th. A more formalized closure process under NEPA will be conducted, and there is an effort underway to identify suitable alternative location(s) for shooters, not necessarily within the Forest.

Forest in Focus funding proposal: Earl Atwood and John Prinkki updated the members on the status of the current funding proposal under the Montana Forests in Focus program. CGWG has developed a draft budget and narrative to submit to the Forest Service for inclusion in their application. Kerry White moved, seconded by John Bailey to authorize John Prinkki and Earl Atwood to finalize the proposed CGWG budget and submit it to the Forest Service. CARRIED

Next Meeting: June 8, 2016, Park County Admin Building, Livingston MT – 1:00 PM

Tentative agenda items:

- Consent list (funding report/ minutes)
- Committee reports from North Hebgen, Forest Plan Revision, Smith Shields projects
- LGC results from FPR surveys
- Update on FIF funding application

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.