

Custer-Gallatin Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting Agenda; Wednesday, March 11, 2020 (1:00 PM)
Sweet Grass County Annex; 115 W 5th Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011

Topic	Lead	Outcomes
Opening and introductions; Review Agenda, Meeting materials	Prinkki	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
Attendance:		
Members- John Prinkki Jim Hart Barb Cestero Jackie Walden Bill Wallace Kerry White Dominique Woodham Colin Cooney Hilary Eisen Steve Caldwell Dane Rider Darcie Warden	Guests- Dan Stusek (Sen Daines) Casey Collins (Rep. Gianforte) Jeff Hermanns (DNRC) Ken Coffin (USFS) Mary Erickson (USFS)	
Consent Agenda: Past Minutes and Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
Consent agenda was reviewed and approved with correction to the date on the funds report. Motion by Steve Caldwell, second by Jim Hart.		
Membership applications	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and vote on application of Dane Rider to fill the fishing/hunter seat
A new membership application, submitted by Dane Rider of the Montana Chapter, Back Country Hunters and Anglers was presented to the membership for consideration. Mr. Rider introduced himself and discussed his organization and interest in participating as a member of the CGWG. Motion to accept the application made by Steve Caldwell, second by Hilary Eisen. APPROVED		
Steve Caldwell requested the CGWG application form be amended with clarification that the applicant has authorization from the sponsoring organization to act as a representative.		
Operations Manual and Membership Roster	Prinkki/Atwood /Eisen	Tribal representative
Members discussed other opportunities to include new members, particularly Tribal participation. Suggestions were offered for possible candidates in the Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribes, which John Prinkki will reach out to in future weeks.		
Hilary Eisen moved to have the CGWG Roster and CGWG Operations Manual amended to include a Tribal seat, seconded by Barb Cestero. APPROVED.		

1:25	North Bridger Forest Health litigation	Prinkki	Update on engagement of legal counsel, KD Feeback
John Prinkki reported on status of the effort to develop and submit an amicus brief. Attorney K D Feeback's request to the court to submit a brief was rejected. No invoice was issued for his work on the inquiry. Other briefs submitted to the Court are currently under review. The project is scheduled to begin in July, 2020. No injunctions have been issued to date. The question was raised whether CGWG could submit a Declaration of Harm as an alternative; consensus among members was that County Commissions would be in a better position to submit a DOH if deemed appropriate for their county.			
Report on Montana Forest Action Committee priorities		Schmidt/Warden	Update on MFAC recent events, priorities and actions
Darcie Warden reported that the MFAC created a map with southern Montana acres to assess fuel loads, WUI impact, insect and disease damage to identify priorities. Additional layers are being considered to bring problem areas into better focus. A draft plan will be released soon (see website) www.montanaforestactionplan.org .			
2:00	Custer Gallatin Forest Team Report	Mary Erickson and staff	Updates, introduction of new staff members, dialog with CGWG concerning new projects and priorities going forward. Consider working on the
Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor, reported that the Final Plan and EIS is expected to be released in early April for public review and comment. Also, a briefing in Washington DC planned in January 2020 was also moved back with an expected date in April.			
Current projects underway were updated, including the North Hebgen and Smith Shields efforts.			
Discussion on CGWG involvement in new CGNF projects – Establish Committees		Prinkki/Atwood	Future CGNF projects that the CGWG would engage in
New projects were outlined, three of which CGWG members agreed would merit CGWG subcommittee review and engagement: Cooke City Project (fuels), Gallatin River East (2024 implementation), and South Otter Project (Ashland District, large landscape).			
Committees were formed for each project: Cooke City - Steve Caldwell (lead), Darcie Warden, Dominique Woodham, Hilary Eisen Gallatin River East – Kerry White (lead), Hilary Eisen, Barb Cestero, Jim Hart, Colin Cooney, Joe Skinner, Mike Colpo, Dane Rider South Otter- Jackie Walden (lead), Darcie Warden, John Prinkki			
Colin Cooney inquired about the status of South Crazies land exchange, which is still under analysis with no decision yet.			
CGWG Meeting schedule		Prinkki / Atwood	Confirm change to quarterly meetings, set next meeting date
Next meeting on June 10, 2020 in Livingston, MT. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm			