

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting Agenda; Wednesday, April 13 2016 (9:00AM)

Park County Admin. Building, 414. E Callender St., Livingston, Montana

MEETING MINUTES

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
9:00 AM	Opening and introductions; Review Agenda, Meeting materials	Prinkki	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
9:05	Consent Agenda: Minutes and Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items
9:10	Membership applications: -Rosebud and Powder River Co.'s -Quiet Recreation: (2 applicants) -Tribal seat (Ops Manual revision)	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and/or vote on membership applications Consider addition of Tribal seat
9:25	North Hebgen Project Committee report; Draft comments	Skinner / Brennan / Warden	Review draft comments for the North Hebgen Project
10:00	Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Committee report	Prinkki / Brennan	Define priorities and tasks ; Wild and Scenic Rivers
10:25	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Mike Fiebig; American Rivers	Education; Wild and Scenic Rivers, What does it do and how does it affect our communities
10:50	Local Government Center	Blake Christensen / Prinkki	Forest Plan Survey CGWG Members Define scope of work/calendar
11:20	Shields Farm Bill Project Hyalite target shooting moratorium	Mary Erickson	CGWG involvement
11:40	DNRC: In Focus and Good Neighbor Authority	Matt Arno / Craig Campbell	Forest in Focus update Good Neighbor Authority opportunities
12:00	Collaborative Workshop Wyoming Biomass Conference	Prinkki	Report on Wyoming Biofuels Update on Collaborative Conference expense
12:15	Set next meeting date/location	Prinkki / Atwood	
12:30	Close, if not sooner		

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Prinkki at 9:00 am. Members and guests in attendance introduced themselves. Attending: 27 total, 18 Members

John Beaudry
Darold Zimmer
Blake Christensen
Jerry Furtney
Bill Wallace
Jeff Schmidt
Jackie Musgrove
Earl Atwood
Brent Sinnema
John Prinkki
Jim Hart
John Bailey
Marty Malone
Kevin Germain
Mike Christianson
Kerry White
Mike Penfold
Scott Brennan
Darcie Warden

Scott Barndt, USFS
Greg Beardslee, The Dirt Concern
Mike Fiebig, American Rivers
Nancy Schulz, Gallatin Wildlife
Jennifer Madgic, Sen. Tester's office
Alex Sienkiewicz, USFS
Mo Bookwalter, DNRC
Matt Wolcott, DNRC

Consent List items included minutes from the March 9, 2016 meeting and the updated funds report prepared by Beartooth RC&D. Marty Malone moved approval of the consent list, seconded by Mike Christianson. CARRIED

Membership Applications: Powder River County representation – John Prinkki introduced Darold Zimmer, Powder River County Commissioner and recommended seating him on the CGWG. Jim Hart also spoke in support of approving Commissioner Zimmer to represent Powder River County. Formal motion to approve membership made by Mike Penfold, seconded by John Beaudry. CARRIED

Chairman Prinkki advised the members that 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 application is from The Dirt Concern, a mountain biking organization in Bozeman. Both applications have been circulated to members for review prior to the meeting. It was not possible for either of the candidates to be present at this meeting, therefore action on the applications will be deferred to the May 11, 2016 meeting in Bozeman, Montana.

Further, several members requested that additional information be solicited from the applicants ahead of the next meeting to enable thorough consideration in choosing a representative for the Quiet Recreation interest. Earl Atwood will contact both applicants and obtain their responses to the additional questions.

An additional question was raised concerning protocol for voting by members who could not be in attendance. Currently there is no provision in the Operations Manual which addresses this point. Proxies were discussed, and it was agreed that some research be done and brought to a future meeting for possible language that would provide for proxies and/or absentee votes.

North Hebgen Project report: Scott Brennan reported from the committee's last meeting they are now busy with preparation of draft comments on the upcoming Environmental Assessment, which is expected to be released in late April or early May. The majority of the last meeting was spent with Wildlife Biologist Deb Wambach (MDT) discussing roadside treatments and safety issues involving wildlife, and the feasibility to establish monitoring on White Bark Pine.

Mo Bookwalter asked for an update on whether the additional funds for North Hebgen that USFS applied for were granted, and if so were the support letters generated by the CGWG and the State influential? Scott Barndt, USFS, confirmed that they did receive additional funding, and they felt the external support letters were indeed helpful. The funds are being used to bolster the planning and sale prep activities within the project.

Forest Plan Revision report: John Prinkki reported on the committee meeting held the previous day. It was determined that Wild and Scenic Rivers designation will be the initial and primary focus of the group. Mike Fiebig, Associate Director for the Northern Rockies, American Rivers was introduced. He gave a presentation to brief members on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, how rivers are classified, and how eligibility is determined. Presentation slides and audio from the presentation are available through the CGWG web site at www.cgwg.org.

Local Government Center, MSU Extension: Blake Chrisensen was given the floor to address the CGWG interest in having the LGC provide facilitation for the Forest Plan Revision project. He began with a review of the LGC mission and capabilities. At the last meeting, the CGWG authorized and engagement of LGC as needed to assist with group discussion. Blake proposed to conduct a pre-session survey of committee members prior to the next meeting to gather details on priorities and attitudes on key issues or concerns, inventory of diverse interests in the style of "appreciative inquiry". It would be about 13 questions and will form the basis for understanding shared values as well as conflicting

views. At the next meeting (May) he will hold a session to begin work on Wild and Scenic Rivers with the goal of having some recommendations developed within the committee by June.

Smith-Shields Forest Health project: Marty Malone, Alex Sienkiewicz and Mary Erickson met on April 12 to explore the direction for setting up a working committee on this project. Marty Malone proposed a committee which includes adjunct members from the area around the project (north and east of Wilsall), the Park County Environmental Council, 2 cabin owners, 2 large acreage landowners, and someone from the wood products industry. Marty received consensus approval from the members to begin work to bring the group together and start work on the project.

USFS Hyalite target shooting moratorium: Member Kerry White distributed a handout regarding State grant funding available from FWP for developing shooting ranges (\$350,000 a year has been allocated by the Legislature). Deadline for funding applications is February 1 each year, however we still might be able to access some of these funds in 2016. He asked for Group input on the idea of supporting the establishment of a shooting area working in concert with the Forest Service. Scott Barndt pointed out that Lisa Stoeffler from the Bozeman Ranger District would be the contact for discussion about an alternative site (which doesn't necessarily need to be public land).

Update on Forests in Focus: Mo Bookwalter, DNRC distributed an update on the Forests in Focus initiative. Key criteria for this round of funding (2016) will include:

- Priority landscape area
- Project developed collaboratively
- Restoration including fuels reduction
- Projects that complement projects on private or tribal lands
- Availability of letters of support and evidence of leverage (match)

Deadline for applications will likely be extended beyond the current May 4th date.

Scott Brennan mentioned to the Group members that the Montana Forest Restoration Committee is evaluating the need for establishing a network of collaboratives operating in Montana, and has floated the concept of incorporating that function into their mission. They are seeking feedback from various collaboratives to assess the feasibility of creating the Montana Forest Collaborative Network, administered by the MFRC. CGWG members are encouraged to consider whether this would be a positive resource and venue and prepare to discuss this at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2016, Gallatin County Courthouse, 9:00 am

Tentative agenda items:

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.