

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)

Meeting Agenda; Wednesday, July 13, 2016 (1:00 PM)

Custer Gallatin Forest Supervisor Office,
10 East Babcock Ave., Bozeman, MT 59771, Montana

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00 PM	Opening and introductions; Agenda discussion, Meeting materials:	Prinkki	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed
1:05	Consent Agenda: Minutes Financial report/disbursements	Prinkki/Atwood	Vote on consent agenda items:
1:10	Membership applications; Tribal seat	Prinkki/Atwood	Review and vote on membership applications Consider addition of Tribal seat
1:15	Review of CGWG member survey conducted by the Local Government Center	Prinkki/Atwood	Priority Setting
1:30	North Hebgen Project Committee report; Draft comments	Skinner / Brennan / Warden	Review draft comments for the North Hebgen Project; Adopt comments
2:30	Wild and Scenic Rivers; East Rosebud River Designation thru S 1577 and HR 2787	Darcy Warden Prinkki	Review lists of current listed eligible rivers and proposed rivers; Support for East Rosebud River Designation
3:00	Shields Farm Bill Project	Marty Malone	Project update
3:15	Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision updates	Mary Erickson Virginia Kelly	Keeping up to date on Forest Plan Revision and specific projects
3:45	DNRC: Forest in Focus projects Coalition of Forest Counties relationship	Matt Arno	Forest in Focus Project updates; What are Montana Counties up to.
4:15	August Meeting agenda	Prinkki	Determine location, time and content
4:30	Close, if not sooner		

Attending:

Kevin Germain
Jim Hart
Kerry White
John Beaudry
Jeff Schmidt
Jackie Musgrove
Marty Malone
Bill Wallace
Joe Skinner
Scott Brennan
Darcie Warden
Ian Jones
Mike Penfold
John Prinkki
Earl Atwood

Lisa Stoeffler, USFS
Nancy Schulz
Don Bachman
Liz Dellwo, Sen. Daines
Jason Brey, USFS
Matt Arno, DNRC
Virginia Kelley, USFS
Maria Leushen-Lonnergan
Jennifer Madgic, Sen. Tester
Barb Cestero, TWS
Matt Pitzer, Rep. Zinke
Molly Watters, GYC

John Prinkki opened the meeting at 1:00 pm and asked if there were any opening comments or announcements.

Scott Brennan informed the group that on July 26th several Federal Advisory Committee Members would be in Bozeman and would be available to meet with CGWG members on that afternoon regarding USFS projects in the region.

Consent agenda items were presented, including minutes from the June, 2016 meeting, Beartooth RC&D invoice for support services January to June, 2016, and the updated financial report. Marty Malone moved, seconded by Jeff Schmidt to approve the consent agenda. CARRIED

MSUB-LGC Member Survey: John Prinkki asked the membership for their assessment of progress and results from the survey conducted by the Local Government Center during previous meetings. Consensus among the group after discussion was to follow up with LGC to request the data be further compiled, and if possible presented in a more visual summary (graphs, charts, etc) to emphasize the key conclusions and priorities identified among the members. Scott Brennan emphasized this would provide a pathway to an updated work plan that incorporates these priorities, laying the groundwork for 'next steps' taken by CGWG.

North Hebgen Subcommittee: The project committee presented their draft of recommended comments to the Forest Service regarding the recently released Environmental Assessment. It contains an overview of each key issue and the process used for evaluation. Deadline for submission of the comments is July 29, 2016. As there would be no additional meetings before the deadline, Chairman Prinkki requested the members review the proposed comments, section by section, and resolve any questions or concerns with the draft to reach consensus and Member approval. With only a few minor changes in language, the draft letter was moved for approval by Kerry White, seconded by Mike Penfold. CARRIED

Chairman Prinkki will finalize the draft on CGWG letterhead and forward it to the Forest Service as official comments by CGWG. He thanked the North Hebgen subcommittee for its diligent efforts on the project and the excellent draft comments presented to the Members.

Smith Shields Subcommittee: Marty Malone reported that he has had some difficulty with obtaining local participation on the subcommittee, in part due to displeasure with Forest Service decisions over time and recent actions on roads and parking. He requested additional participation from CGWG members on his subcommittee to help with coordination on the project. Bill Wallace (Sweet Grass Co.) and Jerry Furtney (RY Timber) agreed to assist and will coordinate with Marty.

Forest Plan Revision Update: Virginia Kelly and Mariah Leuschen-Lonnergan provided an update of recent public meetings related to the FPR project. They were asked for their thoughts on ways the CGWG could further assist the Forest Service during the next few months as the draft plan is being developed. The primary concern at this time is to identify additional venues to broaden public engagement with the FPR, and requested our help in scouting these opportunities. One suggestion was to request a report/update at County Commission meetings that would potentially increase citizen awareness and involvement as the plan revision moves forward.

John Prinkki requested that we invite the Wild and Scenic River specialist under the FRP team to provide an update to the Members at the September meeting.

Forests in Focus: Matt Arno reported that decisions are not out yet on the latest round of funding applications under FIF, but should be announced next week. The Master Good Neighbor Authority agreement should also be done at that time.

As the meeting moved to close, Mike Penfold addressed the group and advocated for more focus on Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) issues within the desired future conditions component of the revised Forest Plan. Scott Brennan asked about writing into the plan a way to prioritize Forest Service fuel mitigation efforts in the WUI and areas where communities have been actively working on these types of projects. Jackie Musgrove added that she would like to extend this idea beyond WUI to include other managements like weeds and rodent (prairie dog) control. Ian Jones suggested the idea could also be readily applied to recreational development. John Prinkki asked the group to take these suggestions under advisement and bring their thoughts to the next FPR subcommittee meeting for further discussion.

NEXT MEETING – there will be no meeting in August. The next meeting date is September 14th, in Bozeman, with the FPR subcommittee meeting on a date soon before that, to be announced.

Meeting adjourned – 4:30 pm.