

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Working Group (CGWG)
Meeting MINUTES; Wednesday, June 13th, 2018 (1:00PM)
Livingston, Montana

Attendees:

John Prinkki	Virginia Kelly, USFS
Steve Caldwell	Emily Cleveland, Montana Wilderness Assn.
Kerry White	Jason Brey, USFS
John Bradley	Richard Lyon
Jim Hart	Kristin Dewaay, Sen. Daines' Office
Bill Wallace	Denise Albrecht
Jackie Musgrove	Cory Lewellan, USFS
Darcie Warden	Erica Lightniser, Park Co. Environmental Council
Maureen Davey	Earl Atwood, Beartooth RC&D
Barb Cestero	
John Bailey	

Meeting opened at 1:00 pm. All present introduced themselves.

Chairman Prinkki requested action on the consent agenda. Steve Caldwell moved for approval, seconded by Bill Wallace. APPROVED

Membership: The application for membership from John Bradley, Montana Wildlife Federation was put on the table for consideration by members. John Bradley introduced himself and explained his interest in participating as a member of the CGWG. Members asked questions, and in the process it was clarified that his application was for an open seat that is classified for NGO representation. John Bradley indicated he would be able to provide a letter from the MWF designating him as their appointed representative for the organization at the State level, not impeded by oversight from the National affiliate. Steve Caldwell moved for acceptance of John Bradley representing Montana Wildlife Federation subject to submission of a letter by MWF appointing him as their representative and confirming the participation is not representing the national level organization. Motion seconded by Jackie Musgrove. APPROVED

Committee/Project Reports:

North Hebgen - A draft Declaration Of Harm has been developed in anticipation of litigation by opponents seeking injunction on the project. The timing for finalization of the declaration of harm will be subject to notice of the injunction filing. John Prinkki asked members for their input to the current draft. Darcie Warden had a number of suggested edits prepared, which were explained and discussed in detail with the group, resulting in several amendments to be incorporated and re-distributed for another review by members.

Smith-Shields – Forest Service reported it has received approval to go forward with advertisement of the timber sale. No operations will be scheduled to begin until next year.

North Bridgers Farm Bill project - A draft letter of support/op-ed developed by the North Bridgers project committee previously distributed was discussed. The op-ed is intended to be distributed/published once the pending decision letter is issued. A final version will be distributed at a future date for member consideration and final vote, most likely through an electronic poll.

Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement - Final edits to the draft letter of support for GFPA were discussed among members. A clean version will be generated according to the discussed items and re-issued.

Forest Plan revision update - Virginia Kelly reported that since the April public meetings around preliminary alternatives, the team has been busy with updating maps, working through public comments, and changes in standards and guidelines. They are launching their environmental analysis on the identified alternatives, which will take them into the late fall or early winter months. Public meetings and a comment period will be held once the Draft EIS document is released. Cory Lewellan and Jason Brey provided an update on the FS 5 year program of work, and offered information on potential additional areas of engagement by the Working Group on existing and new projects they see coming.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.