

**Meeting Minutes for CMR Community Working Group Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 17 2014**  
**Phillips County Library, Malta, MT**

**Attendees:** Monte Billing, Dean Rogge, Jenifer Anderson, Nancy Heins, Damian Austin, Steve Wanderaas, Jason Holt, Dyrck Van Hying, Bridget Nielson, Diane Ahlgren, Shay Piedalue, Dick Iversen, Shilo Messery, Carl Seilstad, Bill French, Mike Lang, Cari Kent, Penny Shipp, Mark Good, Leo Barthelmess, Leonard Swenson, Karl Christians, Joe Gibson, Rachel Frost, Mike Frisina, Bill Milton, and Carie Hess.

Facilitator Bill Milton opened the meeting up at 10:10 am by asking people in attendance to introduce themselves, state who they represent, and answer the grounding question – How is your area looking for moisture?

Bill opened up the floor to Mike Frisina a retired FWP Wildlife biologist

Grazing affects 70% of the land surface in the Western U.S., and as such cannot be discounted as a major factor affecting wildlife management. Early wildlife biologists such as Aldo Leopold and early range managers such as Arthur Sampson recognized the need for sound, scientific grazing management as a tool to manage wildlife habitat.

These principles have been applied to 5 different Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) within Montana:

1. Mount Haggin WMA
2. Mount Fleecer WMA
3. Wall Creek WMA
4. Warm Springs WMA
5. Blackfoot Community Area

Common Themes that have emerged from the grazing management of these WMAs include:

1. Rotate livestock through pastures via a planned rotation – balance wildlife habitat needs.
2. Allow for specific habitat needs of key species in rotation.
3. Coordinate management system with ranch cycle and viability needs.
4. All parties, respect the objectives that vary by land ownership.

**Monitoring Roundup:**

The Monitoring Roundup has been set for July 16, on the CMR NWR in Phillips County. Rachel showed a draft brochure/flyer that she mocked up to send to everyone on the CMR working list and to the 6 county CD's to distribute. Logistics were discussed and one of the big issues was the event budget and who would be willing to help contribute. It was stated that the MR CDC would supply the brochure/ flyer printing and postage costs and staff time. It was mentioned that Dyrck Van Hying would supply signs to mark the turn off and \$150 towards the cost of meat for the lunch. Bridget/ CMR would be in charge of handling packets of information, bug spray, sunscreen, name badges, and would help with porta potty logistics. Bill Milton offered his facilitation fee towards the event which would equate to approximately \$300. Damien Austin/ APR will supply paper plates, napkins, silverware, drinks, snacks, and buns. Dick Iversen donated \$300 towards the cost of the meat. It was thought that with the meat handled that the side dishes could be a coordinated effort in pot-luck style and that Carie and Rachel would work together to coordinate the dishes. Garfield CD donated \$100 towards the event. Dennis Jorgenson/ WWF told Rachel previously that they would donate towards the event and Rachel stated that she would contact him and get their donation settled. Valley CD offered to advertise with their district and run a full page newspaper ad. Jenifer Anderson stated that her father has a large bar-b-que trailer and that she would check with him to see if it could be used. The meat was selected to be hamburgers and hotdogs instead of pulled pork due to the ease of preparation. It was noted that there would be a tailgate social immediately following the workshop and that each person was to bring a drink of their choice and some to share.

Bridget Nielson mentioned that she had found a National Fish and Wildlife Service Grant opportunity and that she feels the group would be a good fit for some of their projects.

Dennis Jorgenson had prepared a basic CMR map which was displayed and Bill Milton asked what benchmarks needed to be added.

- ❖ County boundaries defined
- ❖ Small box about each county/area – changes over the last 10 years
- ❖ CMR permittee numbers, Wildlife (NGO) areas of concern
- ❖ What each county provides in food production
- ❖ Year round residents in the Fort Peck area over the last 10 years
- ❖ Trends = employment
- ❖ Wildlife - statistics on sage grouse
- ❖ Demographics – particularly age group

### Wrap up

Bill asked everyone in attendance to tell him what worked and what needs improvement

What worked	Needs Improvement
Liked Mike’s presentation	Mike’s presentation – works in blocked areas but might be difficult on the CMR due to travel
Could move forward with some of the ideas w/o full rest	More group awareness of other group member activities
Come together for a common goal	Mike’s presentation – was done 30 years ago and nothing now – look at Yellowstone Park – only so much grass no matter what type of animal.
Like Jason’s presentation	Management of the landscape of federal lands i.e. Yellowstone Park.
Economic Contributions	Not being able to talk with Mike after his presentation to discuss how things could work in other areas i.e. Spotted Dog
Historical value of Mike’s presentation	Rest/ rotation and drought
Responsibility of group members	
People coming together for the better of the landscape	
Mike’s presentation-No cookie cutter management plan & that each WMA was managed for its own issues	
Cattle grazing is beneficial for wildlife, economics, etc.	
Everyone including agencies coming together	
Human Element – where the rubber meets the road.	

### Announcements

Bridget mentioned that the CCP step down plans are in the works but that CMR’s funding for planning has been reduced and therefore they have only 1 planner for the 11 states.

It was brought up to talk with Bill West and Brian Ulhring about the Big Hole.

It was mentioned that the group needs to get some type of calendar of events going so that all group members are aware of all events. Could this be attached to the website?

Mark Good with the Montana Wilderness Society talked about their upcoming nature walks at Fort Peck, Bill Creek, and

Crooked Creek.

Adjourned at 2:58 p.m.