

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
Community Working Group Meeting

10:00 am – 3:00 pm, October 4th
Great Northern Lodge Room
Malta, Montana

10:00 Welcome and Grounding Question– Bill Milton

10:10 Self-Introductions – All Participants

10:20 CMR CWG Committee and partner reports

- Montana Salt Cedar Team – Colin McClure/Rachel Frost
- Winnett ACES
- CMR Comprehensive Conservation Plan – Habitat Management Plan Update – Paul Santavy
- Update on Prairie Communities in Action project - Julia Haggerty
- Update on RSA Conservation Committee – Kelsey Molloy
- Rangeland Monitoring Group – Bill Milton
- Hay monitoring project – Cheryl Schuldt
- Report on Western Landowners Alliance Symposium – Bill Milton

12:00 Lunch Break – Please plan on \$12 for lunch

1:00 Follow-up from June meeting

1:15 Lance McNew, Montana State University – Wildlife Habitat Ecology Research in Montana's Working Rangelands

2:00 Research needs for the 6-county area – discussion in small groups

Small group breakout question:

1. Identify the top 3 research needs for the 6-county region in the following broad topics:
 - a. Biology/ecology
 - b. social sciences
 - c. economics

2:30 Proposed changes to planning committee, meeting dates and locations, work plan, etc.

2:45 Wrap-up

3:00 Adjourn

CMR NWR Community Working Group:

MISSION:

A partnership of diverse interests working to ensure the vitality of both the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding communities.

PURPOSE:

To convene a balanced group of stakeholders to discuss natural resource management of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, recognize conflicts among user groups and agencies, identify and work collaboratively toward solutions, and provide a discussion forum for increased understanding, cooperation, and partnership among user groups, agencies and other interested parties.

CMR NWR Community Working Group Three-part Goal for the Landscape

Describe the quality of life you would like to see be predominant in the region in 5 to 10 years.

"We want this region to maintain a diversified economy within which a prosperous agriculture industry is sustained and local communities are prosperous with stable populations. We desire an atmosphere where agencies, local government, NGOs, and citizens work together to create positive outcomes for the community and citizens: focusing on common ground, mutual respect, and community-based decision making, where people are committed to the working group and access to public land is ensured for both the public and producers."

What kind of production will be needed to sustain this quality of life?

"A diversity of unique goods and services to support economic and social values will need to be produced from a working landscape that maintains its scenic value, healthy soils, and ecological integrity. We must also identify and implement best management practices that integrate local ecological knowledge, succession planning in all entities, local working groups to address challenges, incentives to practice conservation, steady tax base to support infrastructure and responsible, well-educated citizens."

What does the landscape need to look like to obtain your production?

"We desire a landscape that provides habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife populations, where further conversion of native prairie is discouraged, and where the needs of natural resource dependent industries are balanced with conservation. In short, healthy agriculture lands cooperatively managed for the benefit of the resource, wildlife, industry, and community."

CMR NWR Community Working Group Website:

<http://www.cmrcwg.org>