

Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge  
Community Working Group Meeting

10:00 am – 3:00 pm, January 17<sup>th</sup>  
Winifred Community Center  
Winifred, Montana

10:00 Welcome and Grounding Question– Rachel Frost

10:10 Self-Introductions – All Participants

10:20 Meeting Structure for 2019 – CMR CWG Planning Committee  
Partner report format  
Meeting theme  
Draft agendas for the remainder of 2019

10:45 CMR CWG Committee and partner reports

- Montana Salt Cedar Team – Rachel Frost
- Winnett ACES
- CMR Comprehensive Conservation Plan – Habitat Management Plan Update – Paul Santavy
- Update on Prairie Communities in Action project - Julia Haggerty

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

1:00 Mark and Julia Haggerty – Rural Communities and a Changing Western Economy

2:00 What Does “Community” Mean to You? – Dean Rogge

2:05 Small Group Breakouts: What does Community mean to you?

2:30 Report from Small Groups

2:45 Wrap-up

3:00 Adjourn

The “meeting after the meeting” will be held at the Winifred Tavern. Please join us for no-host refreshments and some social time.

# *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>