

Government to Government Meeting

February 15, 2019

Custer Co. Commissioners & Salmon/Challis National Forest

Commission Chairman Wayne Butts called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Custer County courtroom. Those participating in the meeting and formally introduced were Chuck Mark-Forest Supervisor, Tom Ford-FS Staff Officer, Kimberly Nelson-FS Staff Officer, Wayne Butts-Commissioner Chairman, Randy Corgatelli-Commissioner, Jim Hawkins-NRAC Chairman, David Philps-NRAC, Paul May-NRAC, Leon Smith-NRAC and Tina Hawkins-Deputy Clerk. Commissioner Steve Smith was absent. In the audience were Dolores Ivie, Sandy Thomas, Jim Kopp, Tom Coates, Sharon May, Scott Drexler, Geri D'Orazio and Spencer Strand.

Commissioner Butts reviewed that this meeting with the Forest Service was called by the Commissioners to discuss the Forest Plan Revision and how it will correspond with our Custer County Public Land Resource Management Plan. He stated the Government to Government meeting protocol is for governments to ask each other questions, and not a time to accept public comments. The Board of Commissioners also have a Government to Government meeting scheduled on February 27th at 6:30 PM with the Idaho Fish and Game with "Wolves" being the main topic. The first letter of request for this G to G meeting was sent out a long time ago, and it has been postponed twice. Once due to illness and once due to the government shutdown. Wayne asked if everyone has had ample opportunity to read the Custer County Public Land Resource Management Plan?

Jim Hawkins was chosen to be the spokesman for the County and state the questions. The first of which was to ask the staff officers attending if they were on the ID Team for the Forest Plan Revision. Kimberly responded that she supervises forest planning, and Tom that he has oversight of recreation and natural resources. Josh Milligan, ID Team Leader is on a hunting trip in central Asia, and Gina Knudsen ID Team Member is receiving medical attention in Boise. Jim expressed his disappointment at not having the requested staff present to discuss the Custer County Public Land Resource Management Plan with. Wayne reinforced how important the Custer County Land Use Plan is for residents, and the serious need for agencies to help get production figures back to where they once were in the 50's and 60's for timber production and grazing numbers.

Scheduling the next "productive" Government to Government meeting was then discussed, along with the USFS personnel that need to attend. Chuck Mark/Forest Supervisor, Josh Milligan/Team Lead, Jeff Huntsman/Wilderness Lead, Gina Knudson, Bart Gamett/Fisheries Lead, Faith Ryan/Range Program Lead the Forestry Lead person, and any other personnel working on writing. The main subjects to be discussed were listed as Wilderness, Range, and Timber. There were two dates suggested, February 28th and March 11th. Josh will not be back from his trip before the 28th, so the 11th was agreed to be the better option.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:17.

Wayne F. Butts, Chairman
Custer County Commissioner

Attest:

Lura H. Baker, Clerk