



GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Date: May 26, 2015

Participating Agencies

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park

Yellowstone National Park

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge

Red Rock Lakes
National Wildlife Refuge

Bureau of Land Management

Idaho, Montana, Wyoming

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF

Bridger-Teton NF

Caribou-Targhee NF

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Shoshone National Forest

Chair

Joe Alexander

Forest Supervisor
Shoshone National Forest

808 Meadow Lane
Cody, WY 83414

Tele: 307-578-5187
Fax: 307-587-5112

Email: jgalexander@fs.fed.us

Executive Coordinator

Virginia Kelly

P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

Tele: (406) 587-6704
Fax: (406) 587-6758

email: vkelly@fs.fed.us
website: www.fedgycc.org

Dear Public Conversation Participant:

As the current Chair of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) and on behalf of all of its members I would like to thank you for participating in one of our three Public Conversations. The GYCC held three public meetings over the past year with the intent of engaging and listening to the public we serve. The first meeting was held in Jackson in March 2014, the second meeting was held October 2014 in Bozeman, and most recently we held a meeting on April 29, 2015 in Cody.

All of these meetings had great attendance and we are so grateful for the passion and dedication surrounding this unique landscape. We did not come into these meetings with any preconceived notions of where it would take us but we thought we would share with you what we heard and our plans for the foreseeable future.

At each of the meetings we asked questions related to the following themes:

1. What is the GYCC doing that you would like them to continue or do more of? What additional priorities should the GYCC be addressing?
2. How can the GYCC best interact with you and other stakeholders on Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) scale issues?
3. If you are successfully partnering with the GYCC, describe what that would look like. Alternatively, what GYCC-compatible projects or activities are you or your organization undertaking that could benefit from GYCC engagement?

While each of these three communities varies widely, we found common threads among these sessions. Participants overwhelmingly shared a desire that we continue meaningful engagement with the public and partners. Similarly, participants felt we need to communicate better in a variety of ways (i.e. social media, website, newsletters, etc.). Finally, there were strong sentiments about the desire for managers to be more engaged in understanding socioeconomic issues in the GYE.

GYCC executive members continue to be very impressed and pleased by the vast local knowledge of the region's issues and resources and the passion surrounding them. We all learned a great deal from meeting at all three venues which allowed us to interact with constituents we do not normally have a chance to. In the end, GYCC members have a much broader understanding of our constituents and the region's issues.

The GYCC will use the meeting discussions and notes as we chart the future. During our 51 years the GYCC has focused on coordination between federal land managers and your participation has helped us explore new ways to interact with stakeholders outside of the federal government.

There are many opportunities and challenges to carefully consider when opening our doors to broader participation and engagement. We are reviewing and examining other similar types of organizations and collaboratives to see what the right fit is for our management needs, our local public interests and capacities. Our next steps include evaluating these opportunities and exploring models that fit our unique needs. We will continue to engage with you and others who care about this amazing region.

Following our most recent public conversation in Cody, the executive committee decided to become more directly engaged with each of our subcommittees. We also are looking for innovative ways to tell our story and become relevant to all of our gateway communities, visitors, and the general public. Finally, we are taking your advice and will build time for public interaction into the agenda at our twice yearly GYCC meetings.

Again, thank you for your participation in one or more of our public conversations. It is humbling to work in an ecosystem where community members are so engaged and passionate about this place. We continue to look for your support and thoughts on managing this world class landscape in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Our next meeting will be held in Jackson on November 4 and 5, 2015. The following meeting will be in Bozeman in the spring of 2016. The next meeting in Cody will be in the fall of 2016. Thanks you so much for your support!

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph G. Alexander

JOSEPH G. ALEXANDER
Chair, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee
Forest Supervisor, Shoshone National Forest

Summaries of all three Public Conversations are available at:
http://www.fedgycc.org/gycc_meetingsandevents.htm