



## Custer Gallatin Working Group

Madison, Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater & Carbon Co.  
c/o Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development  
604 W. Front St.  
Joliet, Montana 59041

### Mission Statement

To promote, recommend and advocate for programs and projects within the Custer-Gallatin National Forest that will provide for the public health, safety and general welfare of our communities under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of our communities through a transparent, collaborative and mutually supportive process within a diverse and committed stakeholder group.

September 11, 2014

Senator John Walsh  
222 N 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Suite 100  
Billings, Montana 59101

Subject: H.R. 3992, Wildfire Disaster Funding Act

Senator Jon Tester,

I am writing on behalf of the Custer Gallatin Forest Working Group in support of HR 3992, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act. We strongly encourage you to place as much emphasis as possible on the passage of this legislation. We feel that it is critical to the efficient and effective management of our National Forests that the Forest Service funding of active forest management projects is not impacted by the costs of fighting forest fires. The ever increasing size and severity of forest fires, and the cost of fighting those fires and the mitigation work that follows, is only made worse each year that those projects that would reduce the size and severity of those fires, are not implemented due to the loss of funding that was diverted to fire fighting.

The Custer Gallatin Forests Working Group is a newly formed collaborative founded by the six counties listed in our header. At our September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we discussed the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act and without dissent, unanimously approved writing this letter of support.

Included with this letter is a copy of the minutes from the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, a copy of the Interlocal Agreement to form the Custer Gallatin National Forests Working Group and our Operations Manual to demonstrate who was present and the breadth of our collaborative.

Please consider providing your support for H.R. 3992.

Sincerely,

  
John E. Prinkki, Chairman

Custer Gallatin National Forest Working Group  
Carbon County Commissioner

Jim Hart, Vice Chair

Madison County Commissioner



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2900 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, Suite 201  
Billings, Montana 59101

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Congressman Steve Daines  
222N 32<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Billings, Montana 59101

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