

America's Great Outdoors
Notes from Listening Session

Location: Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

Date: June 2, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

ORGANIZATION	Breakout Room B Comments
Grand Teton Nat Park Foundation	Teton Park programs: Friends organization; ensures protection of resources. Started own YCP- kids do trail work, learn skills, transferable skills 16-19 yr olds. Work 10 weeks in the summer. Paid for with private donor money. Also funding multi-cultural program for High School program- Latino- underserved populations. 80 kids in 40 schools in Wyoming. Trying to get kids more interested in great outdoors. 12 day trek is being planned- statewide. Youth in the Parks
Rancher-Livingston	Every time the government gets active, we have to be reactive/ wolves/ water/ cap & trade. It makes it tough to use resources. MT has a lot of resources. Keep in mind that ideas have to be good for everybody, especially those trying to make a living and not just environmentalists.
MT Senate & Advisor to National Trust	Conservation ethic & leadership has brought time for renewal. Need to talk of use of YCC & CCC that were used to implement and expose & carry the ethic forward. This sustains ethics by involvement; particularly in these economic times
MCC	224 Americor members doing service in Montana. Emphasize service as a strategy to bridge education into careers as contributing members of communities. Conservation Corps are tremendous assets. Treated weeds/ build trails. FS has rapidly aging workforce. Cons Corps provide leadership and group management skills. Pipeline to future employees. All agencies are working with these corps & creating opportunities.
Sierra Club & MWA / retired farmer	Coalition building from the bottom up works. Need consensus from people all over the country. Owners of the public land; locals and all owners. HPBH- Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn WSA example-contentious.
American Rivers	River protection works in Montana; at all levels. Blackfoot Challenges/ North

	Fork protection Act/ Forest Jobs & recreation act- Tester. One of the largest river restoration projects- Mill town dam removal in Missoula. Streamside setbacks- riparian corridors are needed to survive. 2 major pieces of legislation to protect rivers- Wy & ID
Preserve our Valleys	We will have lawsuits with streamside setbacks. How will we protect private property rights? We should not take private property rights to protect corridors. Bankrupted due to spotted owl- friend.
Jackson, WY- Tree Fight	Tree Fight. A response to mountain pine beetle devastation. This group is recruiting volunteers to document what is going on in forests & help with experimental regimes. Have 200-300 volunteers, mostly from Jackson, that will go in Bridger-Tetons & take photos/record data/ experimental pouches. Will save trees & do something positive.
Gallatin Wildlife Association	Madison elk working group; diverse group addressing elk population. Key is to open groups to all people. Forest Jobs & Rec effort was hand-picked & doomed to failure. Groups must include those from the bottom up & not be handpicked.
Yellowstone National Parks Conservation Society	Interagency Bison Plan working group with Federal/ State/Tribal & Private. Wide range of interests & is a work in progress. Looks at wildlife management in a broad context. Through this group & public involvement, there has been some success in managing bison. Works with private landowners- Royal Teton Ranch. Not perfect, but complicated issues & this group is a good example of working together between federal/ tribal & state.
REI- Bozeman	REI Mission: inspire, educate, .Stewardship component is important. Partners with non-profits/ provides grants. REI targets youth & getting them outdoors; promote volunteerism; work on local trails. Family Adventure Journal At REI stores- take journal outdoors & observe & make notes on plants/tracks/bugs. Gets kids involved in the outdoors.
Hunter/outfitter	Hunters are conservationists & promote through foundations. Hunters brought in \$270 million in Montana. Outfitters brought in \$170 million with \$51 million payroll. Hard dollars. He works with private landowners & brings in hard dollars.
FFA/ 4 H	These organizations & vo ed are often cut when funding is cut. Agricultural funding goes down when environmental funding goes up. Young farmers and ranchers groups help kids get started in ranching. Ranching is interrelated to conservation/hunting. FFA has helped finding jobs & speaking skill.
Realtor	Yellowstone Business Partnership is a success story. Connecting folks. Sustainability is key; establish a long term vision & include the business community. YBP is a model for success. Identify economic models for sustainability. Establish long term vision for economic sustainability. Common values. Sierra Business Partnership is also a model.
Greater Yellowstone Coalition	It is important that in Bozeman; doorstep of 1 st National Park; many accomplishments around Yellowstone. GYCC (coordinating committee) promotes collaboration & brings agency managers in to meet on a regular basis; common issues & solutions. Unique structure; functions at the level of people involved. Reconnecting people to outdoors; National Parks plan an important role in this. Almost everyone has a connection to Yellowstone. Important to focus on national parks as a focal point to reconnect people to nature. Also the

	greater landscapes. Builds future conservation with children and surrounding landscapes.
Montana Outdoor Science School-Bozeman	Curriculum with lesson plans that get kids outdoors. Curriculum supplements what they are doing in classroom; provide materials not available in schools. Takes the resources to schools.
Farmer/Rancher	Message from farmers & ranchers- we need to get the schools back to agriculture in the schools. Educate kids where their food comes from. She takes kids out on her farm/forest. Her interest stems from 4-H. Conservation is a big part of what farmers do. Farmers get a bad rap on what they do. We need to educate young people about what happens on the farm/ where our food resources come from. Education to the children. Farm Fair- touches lives 5 & 6 th graders. Explains farm conservation & stewardship.
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Org helps create trails & do conservation projects on private land. Enhanced tax incentives for conservation easements doubles the work they can do. Without the tax incentives, it won't work. These tax incentives expired in 2009 and she would like to see these incentives made permanent. GVLTL preserves working ranches/ wildlife habitat. Keep ranchers doing the good work.
Non-Profit	There is a role for Federal government to plan in Environmental Education. Her kids are not interested in Yellowstone/ visitation is dropping. Need to connect kids. MOSS- gets kids outside. Government can play a role in the schools in E Ed. National Park should promote technology/ learning/ merge new technology.
MCC/Americor	Not from area. He didn't grow up with parks. We are being taught to appreciate the arts- should also be taught to appreciate the outdoors. Many groups here in Montana to promote the environment.
Farmer/Rancher	Chair of Park Conservation District. We need to expedite process with ACOE. 310 permitting is done but ACOE permitting takes a very long time. If we could expedite that it would help. Pine Beetle-would like to see funding for biomass plants – would thin out dead timber & minimize fire danger & would help high schools/ public buildings go to good use. Bad when forest burns
Red Lodge	Role of the Federal Govt- Effects of global warming- Glacier National Park- climate change. Fed Govt- EPA regulates greenhouse gases, but there is no legislation. Proposal by Dr. Hansen- free end dividend- carbon tax- taxed at point of entry but revenue neutral. Urge carbon tax. British Columbia is using this system.
MT Wetlands Legacy Partnership	Flood plain & wetland conservation. Work in Madison river valley on floodplain restoration. USDA- Conservation Reserve Program & NRCS- wetland program are working. WRP programs in Montana. 2008 Farm bill allow grazing pilot programs. Challenge in conserving these areas with various funding sources – once protected by conservation easements, the wetlands are not restored. Legacy we leave should be the ability of the lands to store water. Restoration projects we need to fund, we have money for easements but not conservation work. No money appropriated. Need funding through agencies to do cooperative restoration projects. Greatest hedge against climate change.
Jackson Hole Planning Commissioner & Winter Outdoor Alliance-Nordic	Winter. Public Land management focuses too much on the summer months and not on the winter. 6 months winter 6 weeks of hiking. More strategies to address winter

& Backcountry Skiers	
	Groups working to protect NLCS. Bringing kids at risk out to natural areas. BLM Restoration projects. Contributing thousands of hours. Because NLCS is so new; inconsistencies in partnerships. NLCS has not been solidified. Salazar needs to better define what NLCS is & build in accountability with the managers of NLCS units.
WWF/MCC	Northern Great Plains. We have overlooked the grasslands, as evidence by decline in grassland birds & species. We are focusing on North Central area of Montana. CCPI program with farm bill is effective; working with ranchers on conservation measures to protect grassland birds. Need regional NRCS people to deliver these programs on the ground. Meet with ranchers and discuss opportunities. Science based organization that works with BLM/ FWP on research related to grassland birds. Leveraging of public/private dollars is effective. CMR-largest grassland reservation. Better integration between DOI agencies needs to occur. CMR managing for ferret. Not effective. BLM trying to find incentives for landowners to allow ferrets. DOI agencies need to do better at working multi-jurisdictionally.
Gallatin County Planner	Land use patterns that are disparate impact agriculture & recreation. Suburban development. Agricultural lands are changing to suburban. They are working on a collaborative effort to address. Open discourse is important. Communal solutions. Parks & trails plan: have to have a larger view but local tools to be effective. Lack of funding. Lack of political consistency in support. Would like more commissioners to take this topic as a #1 priority. It is hard to implement good ideas on a governmental level.
	We do have sprawl & no mechanisms to deal with. No land use planning mechanism in Gallatin County. Climate change will affect all public lands, until congress acts. Poor public policies from previous administration- no new wilderness- can be overturned by new administration. Don't be afraid to use Antiques Act.
Montana Env Info Center	Appreciates everyone protecting land. Interested in protecting water. Primary concern is with global warming. Unless we get a handle on this issue, all our efforts at land protection will be in vain; get warmer/ forests burn up/ biodiversity down the tubes...if we don't change our ways. Federal government should not do cap & trade; we need to focus on cap & dividend or carbon tax- return the profit to the public.
Livingston	Gallatin Nat Forest Travel Mgt was a long process. Urges other Forests to pay attention to dispersed camping & the value of dispersed camping in their travel management planning. For many people, this is their first experience of the outdoors. In travel management plans, be sure and include dispersed camping.
District 33	National Trust- Problem is shortage of funding in the government. Make the best investments possible. Goal-keep our rural population in place in the sites. The National Trust Main Street program & Preserve America program helps small communities to create livable communities/ preserve heritage. These programs bring in a 50:50 match & produce jobs. This is a good long term investment in communities.
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Trails are a great way to address global warming/ childhood obesity/ & getting

	kids outside. Trails are difficult to build after the fact. Need policies that treat trails as traditional infrastructure. Easier to address ahead in planning, instead of trying to retrofit.
Nature Conservancy	Ranching families-senior members are retiring. The next generation is taking over, but there is always a funding problem. Full funding of LWCF would make family transitions easier; purchase easements with LWCF funds- let younger generation keep ranch together; help older generation. As these valleys begin to unravel, find funds to help next generation take over.
Montana Mountain Bike Alliance	Mountain biking is growing in numbers nationally. A gateway sport for kids- encourages them to get outside - 494 miles have been closed to mountain bikes, potential to close 2000 more miles; single track trails that have been in place for decades. At the federal level, bikes are considered” mechanized”... Defined- powered by non-human source. Mountain bikes should NOT be considered mechanized. At the national level, would be good to consider mountain bikes as non-mechanized. There should be distinction between bicycles and motorized bikes.
Yellowstone Park Foundation	Stewardship ethic. Connecting kids to outdoors-Fed Gov’t can continue with fee free days including in winter. Make the park more accessible by increasing fee free days & public outreach related to those days. Bring the parks to the local communities; bring the resources to the kids to encourage visitation. Resume matching program (like the Centennial Challenge) to incentivize donors. Although the Centennial Challenge was cumbersome, encourage it to resume.
TWS	Northern Rockies has huge ecosystems/ large parks & wildlands surrounded by working landscapes. Agencies should look at the landscape level for climate change- Antiquities Act/ collaboration work. Agencies should set sideboards & guidelines for outcomes. Implement this quickly. Forest collaboration work has been successful, but sometimes then sits on the shelf. Collaboration projects should be prioritized & move forward to implement
Rancher	How to pass on to kids- ranches- wildlands. Ranch settings/ wide & free/ Inheritance taxes! To pay these, often need to subdivide. Challenges with inheritance taxes if you want to preserve ranches.
American Rivers/Hunter	Many ranches are transitioning from working ranches to private estates. Not many ranches now allow hunting & fishing. Access is a big problem in Montana. Wildlife goes to private land. Access needs to be provided. Block Management program is effective in Montana. Provide incentives for private landowners to provide hunting opportunities.
No Organization Available	Need more incentives to 4 & 5 th generation ranchers to allow hunting and fishing vs incentives to out of state ranchers.
No Organization Available	Grizzly Bears: we have to be able to manage them. Wolves. 60 % of elk herd is diminishing. Self-sustaining. We need to overhaul Endangered Species Act. Eliminates rancher’s ability to make a living. Needs to be financial restitution
No Organization Available	Agenda has been more & more federal control. Makes it harder to make a living. Ranches have been sold in western Montana. People forced to move to Eastern Montana. Estate Tax is important. CRP program- if you cut out government subsidies & give ranchers authority back. CRP program is inefficient. Let ranchers do their job without government regulation. Government should put

	more funding towards education in schools. MSU Ag. Department took a hit.
Saddle Mountain Ranch	Ag college-need to keep funding in this. Federal government introduces programs – conservation programs- government officials look over ranch- these programs are so restrictive- not efficient guidelines/ rules. Would have to hire another employee to carry out all the stipulations of these programs. Have to have leeway that is efficient and works for the rancher. Flexibility to make the programs work.
MCC	Encourages Federal & State Agencies to tap into network of non-profits- conservation corps- MOSS-. Find ways to develop more partnerships rather than reinvent the wheel. Tap into those organizations that already exist and can engage local youth. Authorities for partnerships- DOI agencies has issues- when is it a contract vs when can we use a cooperative agreement. Much benefit from tapping into these organizations. They are supporting the Public Land Service Corps- has been introduced in the House. Would like to see this pass. Americor engages young people as volunteers. Recreational Trails program- leverages federal dollars. RTCA program is great resource-needs more dollars. MCC is involved with all of these.
Sierra Club	NOA(H?)- Coastal areas & estuaries are being left out of this effort. NOA needs to be included. Sen. Tester Jobs & Rec bill is a collaborative effort.
No Organization Available	DOI-regulations make it difficult for private philanthropy to do good things in the parks. Grand Teton VC required all money up front before they could begin. Park said all funds had to be up-front. Ended up paying an additional \$3 million. These regulations need to be update to encourage private philanthropy.
Retired planner/ policy analyst	Key to making all of this work is top down leadership/ effective policy/ . Huge development pressure/ increased population. Need strategic planning to knit all of this together. Would like to see Administration develop a National Strategic Plan for Development and Conservation. Need to address what we are actually intending to do with development so we can make decisions. Resurrect old 701 Planning Grant for councils of government. The greatest challenge we face. Federal Gov't used to have a program for planning for area wide systems in the 1970's. Then there was grant money. We should go back to the Federal Government encouraging joint planning.
WWF	Large scale conservation planning. 2/3 of Montana is made up of plains vs mountains. The plains provide food & fiber & possibly domestic energy production. Asks that Fed Gov't take a large scale view...we need renewable energy...but we have much biodiversity in this landscape. Don't direct new energy resources to where we need to do conservation. Rural communities in the plains are suffering. Loss of population/ schools closing. We need to look for new opportunities.
Extension Range Science-MSU / Society for Range Management	Local working groups are the future-the model for the future. The Federal Government needs to get behind this & provide federal funds to support. Help preserve & sustain what we have now. Genuine working landscapes- sustain these-buffers & supports rural working communities. Conservation stewardship program –NRCS- voluntary incentives needs to be expanded. Term easements need to be considered (versus perpetual). These may be more palatable that perpetual. Sustaining genuine working landscapes- need tax relief.

	Administration needs to get behind this.
National Parks Conservation Society	Administration priorities on funding- Invest in the United States & the programs NPS/ Americor- look at local food systems and recreational opportunities. Learn from the Roosevelt administration and prioritize spending here at home. Funding is not being spent in the best way. DOI & NPS advocate for funding...LWCF. Americor, Parks
No Organization Available	Challenge Cost Share program should be reinstated. Important to partners- gets people on the land.
Friends of Story Mansion	Preservation of Historic Landmarks is important. Should balance natural and historic resources & funding. Preserve important landmarks. Save America's Treasures grant is important.
NAI Landmark	LWCF is an investment to conservation & landscapes. Headwaters Economic group in Bozeman- work on environmental economics. Current model does not value clean air and water. Commission on Environmental Economics needs to be commissioned to tie this all together- President should commission this.
MCC	Invest in America's youth through conservation corps programs This has broad impacts. Many MCC alumni go on to work for federal agencies. Many people come to MCC to serve their country. This opens their eyes to the great landscapes this country has.
MCC	More efforts toward youth, especially city oriented youth. Target high school. Be careful with large organizations like PPL that take resources away from the public
Royal Teton Ranch	Conservation easements. Go back to existing easement & lessen restrictions that are not productive. Wetlands & watershed restoration, for example. Make these old conservation easements work better—better science.
Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Climate Change. Administration should look at vulnerable and valuable landscapes. Native trout & the impact of climate change on these species. Gets at economic issues/ anglers bring in \$\$ to Montana. If we want to preserve this economic stream, we have to protect watershed and river-ways. Admin should launch a larger, broad scale restoration initiative in relation to climate change. This area could be a pilot area to protect native fish. There is limitless restoration possibilities out there...many potential projects. This would relate to climate change- watershed restoration
ORGANIZATION	Breakout Room D Comments
MT. State Parks	Encourage, partnership state and local govt. with Feds. Fed \$'s sustained state side funding down. Written testimony, meager budgets, can meet 50 f\50 grant share, support full, Higher level decisions hurt local communities & local demands are not being met- Communities are not able to find 50% of funding Bring equity to the program so everyone can enjoy the benefits
Montana Logging Association	Can do? Find a way to let land managers & foresters do their work on the ground Taxes? Not so high have to sell & take land out production Grow trees on property instead of subdividing, manage fed. Ground, challenges – FS – hands tied, litigation, safety – millions acres dead trees in MT, rec. on

	ground, huge issue with hazard trees, need to address, FEDS – Find way to let land managers do their work on the ground. Tax issue – to high forced to sell
Water Conservation in Montana	Water conservation is needed-more aggressive education plan-save water-low volume toilets? Watering lawns? EDUCATION!! need more aggressive conservation program, low flow toilets, smaller backyards, new technologies to use less water
Kampgrounds of America	Strong support of continued funding for the state & national park system Willingness from industry to support Federal government any way they can
Montana Conservation Corps	ARRA funding, fund authorities, matching funds, tough to meet, support youth corps act of 2010, good changes, 25% cash match (big deal for non-profits), Continued- work with existing non-profits rather than creating own corps workforce
Bozeman Youth Initiative	Supported by Turner Youth Foundation created mobile greenhouse-teenagers are teaching youth about gardens Empowering young people & give them the authority to teach
Montana Conservation Corps	What's working ARRA- abundance of \$\$\$ benefitting our program Trying to educate agencies using cooperative agreements not contracts Benefits to all-work together
Tree Fight	Active volunteerism, save the white bark pine, new group, taking pictures of individual trees, Facebook, new media to be used, looking for advice,
Upper Missouri Watershed	Lines on map is challenging-need regional approach Need to know what watershed you are in-bioregion Example -Upper Miss. Watershed alliance
Madison Valley Watershed	Orgs motivated to work within themselves and with others, face challenges with \$, Ag lands – disconnect youth with great outdoors, remedy – prioritization on locally grown foods, eat foods grown in own backyards, ask where food is coming from, empower agricultural producers on their own lands
Madison Valley Coalition	Wildlife corridor & traffic, don't mix, Feds restrict long haul trucks causing issues, identify and sign wildlife crossings
Montana Association of Conservation Districts	14 listening sessions around MT - riparian habitat, impacts to riparian corridors, transportation issues, snow plowing, connect rural to urban areas – riparian habitat conservation. Protect these, education, involve youth, plantings, supported by Fed. \$\$'s – keep Continued- \$'s coming, challenges – BMP's competing and conflicting policies
Montana Conservation Corps	Get youth involved in conservation-get them away from TV, PC's. & video games
Montana Conservation Corps	Need more education-keep youth involved
Retired scientist/farmer	Expansion of wilderness limits agricultural development, access – overlooked, lack of senior citizen participation, don't restrict access to outdoors to seniors

	with more regulations, trail bikes, snow machines, bikes restricted
Montana Conservation of National Parks Association	protect land and sustain lifestyles, N. P. – ecological heart of the landscape, reconnect citizens to land, what’s working – agreement habitat outside YNP for animals, part of broad group to provide habitat for MT bison population, working together, Protect the core NP, funding issues, YNP shortfall \$18m/yr, look at landscape not within boundaries, restore impacted landscapes, use youth, Fed bring \$’s, assistance programs, L&WCF full funding needed, collaborate!
SW MT Climber’s Association	Wanted to reiterate ideas-FS has local needs-keep roads plowed in winter for use-animal migration corridors important-get youth involved with efforts-facilitate more people to engage in activities
No Organization Available	Federal government has important role-Legislature- financial decisions not long-term-role needed for long-term
Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Make this a priority landscape to reconnect and protect remaining special places and the ecosystem, work together both on public and private lands to meet needs, Fed. Govt – encourage partnerships at local level, policies and D&S’s need to be workable, Restore key and degraded habitats with partnerships-Look at broad scale initiative projects-fish & wildlife habitat restoration
Future West	What works-Public/private partnerships Accelerate conservation on the ground-working together Programs successful when done the local level Challenges-Government programs not matched well with local needs-lack of funding-NRCS program adapted to allow grazing on wetlands-
Montana Watercourse	Watershed education! locals bring each other together, support needed from feds-education-get kids outside-work with curriculum-time is an issue with work, school, financial obligations, What works? Skilled facilitators to bring diverse audiences together
Montana State Legislator	Build on state and tribal issues, locals know what works on the ground at the local level, need local involvement, need inventory on what is happening on the ground. Communication is needed across all. Kids are not involved? MT maybe not the same as other places, youth are outside, urban parks serve far more people than YNP, Feds need to support state efforts, utilize partnerships, need to participate , protect water Thank you for listening!
Naturalist/guide	Civil collaboration works-appropriate uses while preserving lands, watersheds for future generations-support more folks on landscapes, need to preserve lands, No destructive uses!! Local people need to see land as “ours not theirs”
Sierra Club	Climate change- largest threat to environment, DOI needs directives for current and future impacts, protect core areas buffer areas, limit all non-climate stressors, interagency coordination, ecosystem wide climate mgmt programs
Aquatic Nuisance Species	Invasive species, affect ecology and economy of the US, hydro power invasive species, impact us all not recognized as a #1 priority, clean angling program, inspect clean and dry gear when done, private sector deliver this, Fed role is commitment to national invasive species council, fully fund state aquatic nuisance program, encourage partnerships, simplify grant programs, need social marketing tools to change behavior, youth education, successful programs are long term, keep them outdoors on a frequent basis, Need \$’s for teachers not

	products,
SIMMS Fishing Products	Need clean rivers and lakes, with access. Need access!! Thank you for being here! Promote fishing and boating, gateway to youth to the outdoors, local organizations get kids on the water, LCWF successful-need to consistently fund, Challenges-clean rivers, support Senate Bill 2427, get \$\$ to FS & BLM, Public access is needed-\$\$\$ for invasives
Defenders of Wildlife	Enforceability is needed, ensure ecosystems and wildlife can adapt to changing climates, protect core areas, LCWF \$, connectivity across private lands (Assistance to landowners to help out)
Northern Lights Trading Company	Supports wilderness, makes \$ on outdoor recreation, economics benefits to wildlife and wilderness, tourists, locals make their livings in MT as well,
Bridger Bowl Ski Area	Ski area prospective-pine beetle-safety of forest lands Ski areas responsible for removal of infective trees Climate changes-huge issue Alternative energy needs to be a priority-pursue cleaner energy development Tourism-play larger role- Any help from federal govt appreciated to promote snow sports
Montana FW & P Commissioner	Do better job in sustaining national resources, Feds, much to do but little thunder, 1992 GAO Fed. Lands – inadequate public access report, worse now than then, derelictions of Fed. Workforce, access to boundaries is the issues, can't get to the fed. Lands then can't recreate, Leadership all need to get serious about this issue, collaboration – cosmetic exercise, not used for policy making or decision making, beltway policies (sell these vs develop at local level), Continued- human communities – keep all the pieces not just a few
Retired FW & P	NPS return to old mission leave as is, bison of YNP, LWCF need full funding, access is needed; revision of the 1872 mining law, degrading public lands, repeal now, balance public uses of air water and land, uses have been skewed to private uses vs. public uses, need to find balance for today's conditions and populations
MT Parks & Recreation provider	Support LWCF, balance state side portion of this. Give this gives local control. Struggling to provide local communities with funds to get youth initiatives going, \$\$'s to state parks as well and cultural centers as well.
Boulder climbing equipment	Provides physical exercise, kids climb on these, use private funding, civic groups, see as a concept springboard across the nation-gets kids outdoors, supports full funding of LWCF
Craighead Institute	This outreach great, maintain populations of plants, animals in concert with humans, protected areas of parks are not large enough. Need community based partnerships to preserve for future, Challenges- energy development, climate change – don't compromise the environment, support scientific best science available, help funding, guidelines & regulations where necessary
Educator	Likes this initiative, encourage kids to get out is great, educated kids and general public, all people own lands
Crazy Mountain Motor Sports	Local businessman-Build snowmobiles Access to public lands important to business

	<p>Don't recognize snowmobiles have zero impact on the environment-quieter, sensitive to environment</p> <p>Oils synthetic-want to help</p> <p>Lack of forest management-dead & dying trees-need to act soon-maybe too late-fires-endanger land, air quality</p> <p>Needs to be less words & more action</p> <p>See more designated for motorized activities-</p>
Citizens for Balanced Use & Backcountry Horseman	<p>Ranch owner, multiple uses – timber mgmt, grazing, hunting, motorized and non-motorized, doing this for 120 years (family). This is just a start. 8 – 5 folks missing as well as rural, need town hall meetings at night not during the day. Ag communities keep the open lands, avg. age +60 young folks are coming on, hostile to grazing (public) lack of grazing mgmt principles, Special interest groups hostile to agriculture. Public comment of everyone is a problem, Stage 3 allow diseased bison to roam, Gallatin NF, uses impacts from motorized is very small more being taken away. Decline in use do to this.</p>
Citizens for Balanced Use	<p>40% of FS budget is spent on litigation</p> <p>Reduce litigation!!</p> <p>Get NEPA sufficiency to multiple use lands-NEPA wastes money-big cost to the Forest-</p> <p>Many projects are litigated-cost to private, govt.-wastes time and \$\$</p> <p>Reduction to multiple use access contributes to reduced use and outdoor activity</p> <p>Language is important-definitions need to be cleared up-get on the same page</p>
Trail Builder	<p>failing way behind on demand, not suitable for existing uses, propose initiative to get trail construction project going to get folks to work like in the CCC days – Feds need to do. FS no \$'s, woefully lacking \$</p>
Frontier Heritage	<p>Cultural sites-all federal agencies lack-not protecting cultural sites</p> <p>Some sites carbon dated-1000 years old!!</p> <p>As a Crow Indian-can tell Crow story by looking at paintings-Pryor Mountains - Need protection! Under 3 federal agencies, NPR, BLM, FS,-NONE WORK TOGETHER!!</p> <p>All agencies should work as one unit-all federal agencies-</p> <p>Continued-</p> <p>Work against each other-programs do not work together-</p> <p>Protect Pryor Mountains of Montana!</p> <p>Biggest complaint-FED AGENCIES DO NOT WORK TOGETHER!!</p>
Montana Wilderness Association	<p>Protecting landscapes, need to think about eastern part of the state as well. All now is in the mtns in the western part of state, Good areas exist in the eastern part of state, Protect landscapes, Pryor Mtn's – Ekalaka, Chalk Buttes- short grass prairies by Malta, Terry badlands, Need to protect landscapes, need enforcement, restoration, conservation easements, access to all, challenge work with the right people at the right location</p>
Citizen	<p>Open spaces-un-roaded spaces like the lungs-keep land open-</p> <p>The west lands open</p>

	<p>Thank you to the Administration for starting the listening sessions here Thanks for cancelling Bush's oil drilling in Utah No new wilderness policy needs to be revisited Lands in Utah open to ATV use & abuse & oil drilling BLM has authority to San Rafael Desert protect-do not road illegally Don't stretch authority so thin-can't enforce infractions What's working- Private groups Challenges- Group coordination Dollars stretched thin Time stretched thin Need to be showing how everything is connected Need to speak for fish, birds, animals, and water Like to see fear combated-change causes fear-working together is strength not weakness Education to youth-whenever they recreate youth-is all important Vandalism-Big problem-makes her sick Teaching connectedness will help with vandalism- Last child in the Woods great book Last word-we are all connected</p>
<p>Rancher-Granger Ranch</p>	<p>Won national wetlands award, wetland & riparian program working a partnership to protect large landscapes, partnerships based upon trust are the best. Find common ground, hat am I willing to compromise on? Diversification of assets, 10 bird species to over 100 species, key players could go on, obstacles – trust, willingness to work with others, what's in it for them, cleaner air, water, biodiversity, common elements to all. Fed. Role - \$, expensive work to do. Need \$'s LWCF, All part of the problem all need to be part of the solution, energy, water, power, demand energy orgs help preserve what's left. Feds – flexibility is needed to constrained by regulations & manuals. Each situation is different, CREP – 400 acres enrolled in MT, 375 acres on his property. Critical point, \$\$'s there but \$'s are being sent back to Washington, Modify programs to make it work.</p>
<p>Trust for Public Lands</p>	<p>voluntary program, incentive based, buy real estate rights and convey to other non profits or feds, Need \$, Fed Role, huge need in MT, cash strapped landowners need to some cash, WRP, GRP, programs funded thru farm bill need more \$'s, fully fund LWCF, appropriated program but not appropriated, \$'s critical to feds to implement program. Don't revert \$ to other efforts</p>
<p>Montana Forestry Stewardship Steering Committee</p>	<p>concerned about private property rights of individuals, 40% of lands in MT are in public trust . Need to do a better job of mgmt. mostly from private lands, run like Germany manage the lands better</p>
<p>Outdoor Enthusiast</p>	<p>Strong advocate of public ownership for hunter & angler access 2 programs have been great- Pitmann Robertson Act Dingle Act- Industries-hunters & anglers spend large amounts of money for management of</p>

	<p>wildlife & fisheries-working & working well</p> <p>Need to improve & expand on program-state wildlife agencies are strapped for funds-expand product or user based</p> <p>LAWCF funds-can't emphasize how important program is-needs to be expanded-support working landscapes & improving access</p>
American Canoe Association	<p>Recreation, education, & Stewardship - Water is important, Feds – help strengthen clean water act, reconsider private land ownership and split estate ownership for subsurface rights. Put surface and subsurface rights back together</p>
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	<p>Private land conservation meets needs of wildlife, rivers, stream preservation</p> <p>Intersection of public/private efforts</p> <p>Help families who are land rich cash poor</p> <p>Trail programs-fewer opportunities</p> <p>Safe routes to schools effort-based on population-rural areas receive less funding-balance</p>
REI Store Manager	<p>- Outdoor adventure, build partnerships, have \$'s to partner with others, reaching out to locals for partnerships, define different experiences that folks want to have.</p>
Future West	<p>Collaborative effort to protect ecologically linked to health of the public lands. Broad partnership started by FS. Locally community involved. Preserve livelihood of folks who live there, voluntary land easements, sales, restoration, use land use plans from locals, need \$'s for LWCF, public land managers reach out to neighbors to encourage partnerships, Feds – don't do projects that will harm these type of projects. Wildlife habitat.</p>
Organization	Breakout Room C Comments
Madison Valley/Preserve Our Valley	<p>Concerned with wildlife corridors in the Madison Valley. Problem with animals crossing the highways. A lot of commercial vehicles are using the roads. Have been working with the MT DOT. Need to protect the wildlife corridor and educate children why it's important. Needs federal support for their efforts and funding.</p>
Indian Nations Conservation Alliance	<p>Indian trust lands have only received 25% of the conservation dollars that private lands have. Need parity. Tribal irrigation projects haven't been funded for the past 20 years so they haven't been done - yet EQIP requires that to be eligible land must have been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Needs a policy change on irrigation history requirements for EQIP. Wants USDA and DOI to work together as a package deal. Wants to get schools involved through outdoor classrooms and community gardens. USDA/DOI should set up a committee to work together on natural resources on tribal lands.</p>
MSU	<p>Kudos to the administration for reversing Bush era initiatives on oil and gas lease sales and BLM for implementing Back Country Byway and initiating designated route systems for ORVs. Wants to repeal the No More Wilderness settlement in Utah with BLM. Wants more wilderness and BLM area of special interest. Such as in the Monticello BLM in Utah to protect cultural resource sites. More rangers are needed.</p>
	<p>Is 74 years old. Has given up backpacking. Depends on ATVs, horses and snowmobiles. Concerned about lack of opportunities. Wants accommodation for</p>

	senior citizens who can no longer hike or backpack. Local knowledge is important to help agencies identify best options. Federal role is to back off and leave decision in hands of local people.
MT Mountain Bike Alliance	Concerned that Forest Service Region 1 has a policy to treat recommended wilderness as de-facto wilderness, eliminating mountain bikes. Suggest change in forest planning rule and provide guidelines for how mountain bikes are treated and allow them unless there is a compelling reason not to. Need options other than wilderness designation, such as national recreation areas, conservation areas, etc.
Outdoor Industry Association	Outdoor recreation is good for the economy. 250 billion dollars annually and 34,000 jobs in MT. Only 16% of Forest Service budget goes to recreation but results in 60% of the return. The administration needs to recognize this contribution.
Bozeman Youth Initiative	Youth voice is important. They suggested the greenhouse bus that is outside. Has kids as board members for the group. Strategy for success is to engage youth
Tree Fight	Using science and social expertise to raise awareness to the plight of white bark pine in the Yellowstone ecosystem due to pine beetles and blister rust. 95% infested. Investigate solutions. 200 + volunteers. Testing anti-beetle solutions. Role of federal government is to give exposure to the problem. Tools - using modern digital media to document and monitor decline of forest and determine what should be done.
Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Water is important. Tool - some type of federal financial incentive for water planning at the local level. Then provide dollars for implementing completed plans.
Rancher/Farmer	Motorized recreationist. Small farmer. Can't make a living on farm due to wolves, brucellosis, dead timber. Too many lawsuits. Solution is to remove all pending lawsuits. Go with the local agencies existing plans. Logging roads could be used for ATVs and snowmobiles etc. if managed right.
Trust for Public Land	Supports Land and Water Conservation Fund being fully funded. Compliments the administration for supporting it. Gave examples of local and federal uses of the funds. Theses federal tools are just a compliment to the other state and local resources and help to leverage them. Open space and recreation are what support our local economy.
Americorps/MT Conservation Corps.	Youth conservation corp. is working well. Needs more funding. Work with existing groups - don't need new ones.
SW MT Climbing Coalition	Example of an unknown, poor organization that had significant input into the Gallatin Forest Plan. Climate change is important and a concern for ice climbing. Grass roots organization - funding is important to allow them to contribute.
Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Keeping roadless areas is important. Roads are poorly planned and don't take wildlife into account. Watersheds and recreation are important. Don't take stand one way - need to work together. Involve kids.
On Your Own Adventures LCC	Has outdoor TV show about hunting/camping. Access to public lands is important. Fully fund Land and Water Conservation Fund. Funding will always be an issue. Hunters and fisherman already pay - now time for other user groups to pay. Private land incentives are important. Must have local buy in. Political process may be unduly influencing federal agencies in carrying out there public

	trust responsibilities. Feds need to be more adaptable. Gave example of inflexibility of APHIS on brucellosis issue. Need more flexibility in management to get easement. Also need flexibility in land exchanges to be able to deal with small local parcels.
Gallatin Wildlife Association	Protecting and connecting habitat is important including large wild landscapes. Challenges bighorn sheep, bison, grizzly bears. Need to eliminate wasteful government intervention. Example domestic sheep vs. bighorns in the Beaverhead/Deerlodge forest. Remove bison capture facilities in YNP and on the forest. APHIS regulations are worse than the disease (brucellosis) to livestock producers. Fully fund Land and Water Conservation fund.
No Organization Available	Supports reauthorization of Secure Rural School and Self Determination Act - which expires in 2 years. Decoupled from commodity payments for production on federal land.
Artist	Discussed Nature Deficit Disorder. Need to start early with kids education. Suggests reading book "Last Child in the Woods". Starting program called "land snorkeling" which focuses on slowing down, backyard habitat. Give kids time to create, invent, etc. without a lot of adult supervision.
Rancher/Farmer	Take personal responsibility for kids outdoor education. Don't need federal dollars to do it. Concerned about Treasured Lands initiative locking up land in eastern MT. His kids like 4 wheelers and don't like to walk.
Mystery	Promoted Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts as only national organizations that get kids out through every age group.
Duck Unlimited/Pheasant Forever	Encourages NRCS to continue CRP and WRP. Utilize all WRP funds available. MT NRCS sent funds back. Fully fund CRP. Consider requiring public access on easement programs.
Wildlife Biologist	Concerned with ecosystem health. Wolves are good. There's too much motorized use. Need better bison management. BLM need to improve sheep grazing management in southern UT
Rancher	4th generation rancher. Likes easements. What's to reinstate 2009 tax benefits for conservation easements. Estate taxes are a major issue for rancher - need sell part of ranch to pay them, resulting in breaking up the operation and potential subdivision. Need to fix estate taxes.
No Organization Available	Frustration over perceived federal incompetence led to place based legislation that controls forest planning. Wants a congressional oversight group to review national forest administration and priorities. Has plans for reorganizing the Forest Service in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystems into a single forest or region. He has provided extensive written comments.
American Independent Business Alliance	Wants to repeal Federal Lands Enhancement Act. Referred to Gulf oil spill. Felt corporations have expanded their power too far and can influence environmental policy. Need clear separation of business from political policy setting. Citizens should have that power.
MT Seed Grain and Chemical Assoc.	Wants to see a public referendum before any lands are put into the "Treasured Lands" initiative
Dairy Farmer	Concerned with large corporations taking over agriculture. Gave example of how corporations control USDA funding for dairy supports prices.
Oboz	Trail systems around Bozeman are good. Wants to see the "complete streets"

	initiative implementation to make streets walkable/bikable and connected. Fund Land and Water Conservation Fund
Recreational Aviation Foundation	Supports maintaining back country air strips. Blanket federal programs won't work - need local control
	Great to see passion for this place. Most important thing is to protect what's left. Sees the area through the eyes of her grandma. Administration should step up incentives to recycle, protect land and water. Ag/wildlife conflicts tend to favor agricultural at the expense of wildlife. Number one cause for concern is climate change.