

Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee Meeting–5/8/2014

Verbal and Written Comments Addressed to the Committee

Verbal Comments

First, I'd like to thank your two board members, Greg and Steve as well as Eric from DNR and Justin from Trout Unlimited for reaching out to the local North Fork residents and taking about three hours to tour the area with myself and two other residents. As part of our walk about, we even witnessed some quads trespassing in the Lick Creek area that rudely interrupted a sportsman's turkey hunt. At this time Greg explained the new license plate rules and reporting procedures that will be going into effect. Please do have Greg talk about it as it's going to be a great enforcement tool!

There was no response to my question in regards to getting board members e-mail addresses or you too would have received an invitation to have joined us. That said, please feel to contact me at tracyr@msn.com if you want to discuss any TCF issues with a locally and understandably opinionated community member!

At the last meeting, there was discussion in regards to cattle grazing, what's legal, what's not and best practices. You were going to track down the various regulations. I have not seen these posted on the web site. Will they be?

The forest service eliminated cattle grazing in this area. Why? And are their lessons to be learned from this?

It's true, cows do not eat fish but they do walk through their spawning grounds, cause compaction and bank shear on my private property where I'm unable to fence them out. In fact, they've helped change the course of the river in an adverse way. And on the community forest next door, they graze the wetlands area to a very short stubble which is what I was told today is bad. You see this is where they drop the cattle off and round them back up. The cows are conditioned to use this area and drink directly from the river. Is fencing the answer? Possibly. Might moving their staging area make a difference? Maybe. I'm certainly not an expert but know that the damage is real.

Please discuss a "code of conduct" in regards to your grazing leases and how lessees should interact with the public and local landowners. There have been many unpleasant interactions with them over the years and their sense of entitlement and unwillingness to work with residents is well known. If we all work together, we just might find solutions that protect the Teanaway as well as the livelihood for the cow owners and the desired recreational pursuit that the range riders enjoy.

You heard today that a proper flood plain flows wide and acts like a sponge. I get this and see how it can help with flooding. But as a property owner on the front line to the community forest with a 3 season stream on one side of my house and the North Fork on the other side and in one of the more narrow parts of the valley, the thought of making either go wide is scary. Please

make sure that all conservation projects within a mile of residents get big time scrutiny, lots of elevation survey work and formal homeowner buyoff.

Thank you all for putting in the necessary time and energy into this process!

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Written Comments

Regarding the Teanaway Community Forest Map:

- 1) Storey Creek is misspelled on the map
- 2) Private property is not clearly marked in the legend at bottom of the map.

Online Comments

5/8/2014

pls post all of the handouts online prior to the meeting so we have the same access to the documents that you are all looking at during the meeting. Thanks.

5/7/2014

Hi, I noticed several comments regarding spruce budworm damage. I suggest preparing maps of the TCF (and immediate area) for the Committee with the Bugs and Crud survey that DNR does every year. It might be useful to have 5 or 10 years worth of data, rather than just 2013 data. Please post on the web for the general public. Thank you. Ed Lisowski