

## Implementation of the Management Plan

### Future Role of the Advisory Committee

The advisory committee will provide advice on ongoing issues of land management, including:

- Periodic updates of the management plan.
- Progress made on priority actions and performance measures
- Development of new priority actions and performance measures
- Proposed restoration, land management, recreation and other projects.
- New proposed uses on the community forest, such as any commercial use, or of community forest resources, such as water rights.
- Development of future plans, such as the recreation plan.
- Landscape-level resource management issues such as the forest health of the greater watershed and watershed-level fire prevention efforts.
- Funding strategies, opportunities, and sources
- Building a broad constituency of advocates (including legislators, non-profits, other agencies, etc.) and campaign to support the forest.

**Membership:** Every two years new members will be selected from a pool of applicants and serve alongside representatives from DNR and WDFW for a 2-year term. The next term will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. At the end of each term, current members may re-apply to the committee. The committee will be composed of 15-20 members and will continue to include legislatively mandated groups such as the Yakama Nation, local agriculture interests, Kittitas county government, local conservation organizations, the local community, and the Department of Ecology. Other groups and users are encouraged to apply.

Meeting dates will be set by joint agreement with the advisory committee and the agencies, with an initial schedule of quarterly meeting of the entire advisory committee. Additional meetings will be called as necessary.

**Recreation Plan:** The recreation planning committee will be composed of current advisory committee members who commit to regularly participating in the process. It is anticipated that the recreation plan will be completed by December 2016, and will need monthly meetings.

### Agency Relationship

WDFW and DNR will continue their collaborative land management approach, sharing information and decision-making authority. As such, employees working together in the community forest shall consider themselves members of a single Teanaway Community Forest team that share the job of implementing the forest management plan. The agencies will be guided by the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan goals laid out in RCW 90.38, the Teanaway Community Forest goals laid out in RCW 90.38.130, the Teanaway Community Forest management plan, the habitat easement between DNR and WDFW, and the interagency agreement.

### Prioritization

There was significant discussion among the Advisory Committee regarding how the agencies will prioritize work. Some members expressed their interest in seeing good progress made towards fish habitat restoration objectives before the agencies spend time and resources on new recreation opportunities, particularly new motorized trails. Other members felt that each goal should be given equal opportunity for moving forward. DNR and WDFW recognize the five goals were given equal priority by the legislature when the community forest was created. At the same time, the agencies recognize the commitment made in the enabling legislation to support the watershed protection and fish habitat goals of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

The Priority Actions section under each goal in this strategic plan lays out the priorities for implementation. Most priority actions have a due date. For example, under Goal 4 there is a priority action to initiate a stream habitat restoration project in the highest priority stream by December 2015. In contrast, under Goal 3 there is a priority action to complete a recreation plan by December 2016. It is understood no new trails will be developed prior to completion of the recreation plan and subsequent work for design, funding, and public review under SEPA. This timeline should provide the agencies and partners ample time to make progress on habitat restoration projects. It is understood that this doesn't preclude the agencies from undertaking projects to improve existing trails, and campgrounds prior to the completion of the recreation plan, especially ones that impact the watershed.

Habitat projects affecting spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout shall be a top priority. These activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Baseline monitoring to understand current conditions.

- Restoration projects that target a priority stream.
- Road maintenance and abandonment projects that target road segments with the greatest contribution to sediment load, which contribute to stream channel confinement, or that border on priority streams.
- Riparian and floodplain meadow restoration and protection projects that border on priority streams.
- Recreation projects that improve watershed health or fish habitat, or that are important for public health and safety.
- Forest management projects that reduce the risk of fire or improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Grazing management projects that improve watershed health or fish and wildlife habitat.

#### Working with Project Sponsors

DNR and WDFW encourage external partners to consider doing projects on the community forest.

Leveraging grant monies and other non-agency funding to achieve the goals within this strategic plan is a smart thing to do. At the same time, the agencies will need to be organized to maximize staff capacity and ensure strategic investment of our partners' resources. In order to do this, the agencies will review project proposals based on the priorities defined above and in accordance with the priority actions for each goal. Where competing interests collide, restoration has the priority. The agencies will meet at least annually to review project proposals for the coming year. Organizations/partners interested in undertaking a project in the forest will be asked to provide a brief description of the project and how it meets the priorities and the goals of the Teanaway Community Forest. The agencies will work with the submitting organization to improve the project proposal if appropriate, this may include changing the location to a priority work area, including elements that provide additional benefits to the community forest, or to ensure that multiple projects interface effectively and efficiently. Advisory committee members' thoughts and input will be solicited and used by the agencies as they select projects.

#### Adaptive Management

The management plan is a document designed to allow for constant learning and adaptation throughout the lifespan of the plan. The strategic management plan is a long-term plan that will be updated periodically. As agencies and partners implement actions, built-in feedback mechanisms will ensure that

the collection and analysis of data provide learning and adaptation opportunities. This adaptation will occur through a variety of mechanisms such as:

- The performance targets and measures which lay out the steps for implementation and monitoring.
- Regular and frequent technical review and analysis by agency staff of projects and associated monitoring will be reported to committee members.
- Regular advisory committee meetings, where the agencies will annually review and discuss the progress and results from these targets and measures.
- Annual adjustments to field work and monitoring based on this learning.

This commitment to an ongoing cycle of implement, monitor, analyze, learn, and modify will provide the platform for evaluating the effectiveness of the plans' strategies in meeting the forest's objectives.