



Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee Meeting April 14, 2014

Verbal and Written Comments Addressed to the Committee

Verbal Comments

- Lauren Chuck: The National Forest Service has a transportation plan that is in the works. Can we incorporate that information here?
- Chuck Johnson: Has concerns around moths. Requests that we address the moth issues. Also, requests that we address access issues and the number of people accessing forest. Opposed to advertising the community forest. Requests that we incorporate informative signs to educate people on regulations. Concerned about expanded ATV use.
- Lana Cruise: Suggests that we utilize Washington State University Extension experts, such as Tip Hudson.
- Marc Eylar: Don't reinvent the wheel. Look at things that are already being done such as the Wild Horse CRM. It is important to collaborate with previous experts in the area like previous grazing leasees, (Mr. Kayser and Mr. Fudacz). There are no trail systems in the Teanaway Community Forest. Many roads and trails are closed. The issue with the roads and trails is poor maintenance and conversion. There are three connection issues (access to Forest Service lands), do not close roads but look into how the connection issues can be fixed. Expect that there will be road to trail conversions and advise to keep road densities low.
- Andrew Cromarty: Landowner in upper valley. There are private land owners that are completely surrounded by the community forest. We are concerned about how the recreation plan will affect our land. In regards to recreation, please put a heavy focus on clear boundaries to protect private land and keep people on the appropriate land.
- Joy Rucker: When making decisions, reflect on how the private land owners will be affected.

Written Comments

- My concern is funding – forever funding, what happens when this generation is gone? Will there be interest in keeping this going?
- Respect private lands when developing ideas: flood plains, trails, roads, campgrounds.

- Can't Hear!!!!
- Surprised the committee is so loaded up with so many governmental citizens on this advisory committee. How can this be transparent?!!!! Multiple people have worked for the Tribe longterm.
- Define "water storage."
- Define "SEPA Process."
- #1 goal should be the health of the forest!!!!

Online Comments (submitted to date)

- It was great to hear the discussion in regards to enforcement last night. Please review the #8 point from the top 10 doc that was handed out by local residents at the kickoff meeting. Getting the community involved and making sure that the person actually patrolling/maintaining/posting signage/etc lives in the community will help enhance the effort! 8. Provide a local contact to report problems and issues to and a resource to coordinate gate openings and closings, trail work, etc. Rationale/comments: In the past, the local AFR and Boise contacts lived in the community itself and it was very easy for us all to help police the woods, perform trail/road maintenance and get things done.
- Please share the TMDL study with the board:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/TeawayTMDL.html>
- Wolves are good for our community forest and rivers. Short powerful video worth watching.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5a5OBhXz-Q>
- As a resident along the North Fork Teaway river, I want the committee to know the extent of the damage done to the river bank due to cattle. While we can fence the free range cattle off our property, they are currently free to roam up and down the river where they do a great deal of damage to the river bank as well as pollute the river itself. This is bad for fish and other wildlife. I can provide photos if necessary to better document this damage.
- Pls pass the following article on to all board members:
<http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/latestlocalnews/2048818-8/illegal-activity-forces-closure-of-south-fork-ahtanum> YAKIMA, Wash. — To drive the South Fork Ahtanum Road is to tour some of the state's most scenic countryside, a land of rolling hills, babbling creeks and majestic evergreens. The first 3 miles of that drive into the Ahtanum State Forest west of Tappan, however, is also an ugly testament to the behavior of some of its vilest visitors and is why the South Fork area is about to be gated and closed to the public. The closure, scheduled for 8 a.m. Monday, won't be permanent. But, according to Ahtanum State Forest recreation manager Jeff Jones, it may take months to rehabilitate the areas damaged by indiscriminate "mudding," illegal roads created over

and through the creek and the dozens of 120-foot ponderosa pines either illegally felled for firewood or literally shot down by thousands of rifle rounds. Jones said the South Fork portion of the state forest lost 33 live trees, most of them ponderosa pines, in December alone. Dozens more have gone down since. At least a dozen more bullet-riddled pines, many of them surrounding a campsite popular for teen beer parties, are already dead and enough of a hazard that they'll have to be cut down before they fall down. "It has," Jones said, "been absolutely unbelievable." So, too, the amount of garbage that continually accrues along the South Fork Ahtanum (A1000) Road. Along the first 3 miles of the dirt-and-gravel forest road beyond the pavement's end, one can find numerous dumped carcasses, from dogs and cats to horses, including a relatively new one still bearing the dried blood from the bullet wound that killed it. Nearly 5 tons of garbage have been removed from the South Fork over the past year and a half by volunteers and park staffers. Still, trash is everywhere — sometimes in obvious dump piles, sometimes simply a mosaic of broken glass and crushed or bullet-aerated beer cans, and punctuated by wide swaths of used toilet paper. "This would have been the girls' bathroom," Jones said, shaking his head last week as he surveyed the array of soggy tissues next to a bucket behind a tree on the fringe of that oft-used beer-bash party site. Yakima County Sheriff's deputies responded the night of March 22 to a large gathering of teens and 20-somethings at the site, and while no arrests were made, investigators are now following up on reports of a possible sexual assault at the party. That law enforcement officers were called to the South Fork Ahtanum is nothing new. The area — state trust land managed by the Department of Natural Resources to generate revenue for public education — has a long and spotted history as a magnet for lawbreakers. Anyone can obtain free firewood permits to chop up any of the unending supply of downed trees in the area, yet many opt instead to illegally cut down live ones — or shoot them until they fall over. The area is often used as a de facto receptacle not just for garbage, but for stolen cars, tires and other debris. Just last week a stolen car was brought to the Ahtanum Campground and stripped down for parts "right in the campground" and left behind, Jones said. There are no groomed snowmobile trails in the South Fork like there are in the Middle Fork and North Fork. But even if there were, Jones said, snowmobilers would probably avoid the South Fork anyway because of the area's reputation and the prospect of returning to a rig that had been broken into, vandalized or stolen. Like many of the road systems in the 76,000-acre Ahtanum State Forest, the South Fork is popular with four-wheel drive groups — several representatives of which toured the area to assess the very issues Jones has been dealing with. "We found the area where the party animals had been getting after it, of course," said Earl Nettin, regional director of the Pacific Northwest Four-Wheel Drive Association. "There was some debris, there was a stolen car that had been wrecked and left, and a couple of dead horses." But Nettin said his understanding was that, historically, the dumping issue had been even worse at various times in the road's history. That sentiment echoed those of Ron Rutherford, a local four-wheeling enthusiast and a volunteer active in mapping and maintenance projects on both state and National Forest road and trail systems. Rutherford said the answer is more education and

enforcement by both state officials and by law-abiding user groups willing to put more members in the field to dissuade the abuse. “When you close that road, you’re just moving that problem to another spot,” Rutherford said. “We know it’s just the 5 percent who are the problem — and they’re either just going to go up the North Fork or go up the (nearby) Nasty Creek now.” Jones also abhors the idea of having to gate the South Fork Ahtanum, which, as part of the Green Dot System, is a road typically open to public use. “I hate gating roads. Hate it,” Jones said. “But this is public trust land. These lands are to be managed to support the schools, and so ultimately you have to protect these resources. “The gate sends a pretty clear message that the DNR is not messing around. We’re serious about protecting these resources from abuse. “If that means closing a gate, so be it.”

- It is very important to remember that the Teanaway needs to remain a WORKING forest. Many interest groups are represented on the Advisory Committee, but having a healthy, well managed forest should be at the top of the list of goals. There is a serious spruce budworm problem in much of the area and especially in areas that have been set aside for the owl nest sites. Many of these sites are unoccupied and the forest NEEDS to be treated, ie thinned. Please keep responsible forest management in the forefront of your conversations! Recreation is great and all, but who wants to recreate in a dead forest?
- I think everyone is doing such a great job. Kudos!