



Hiking & Other Foot-Based Recreation

Some perspectives on what
the Teanaway does/could offer





Some background:

- Formed in 1966 - Mission: “To preserve, enhance, and promote hiking opportunities in Washington state through collaboration, education, advocacy and volunteer trail maintenance.”
- Membership: 15,000 member households
- Facebook Likes: 133,000 (reach goes beyond membership)
- Volunteer trail maintenance: Built, maintained or protected 600 trails with 27,903 volunteers putting in more than 1.5 million hours of work **at a value of \$35.4 million** over past 50 years.



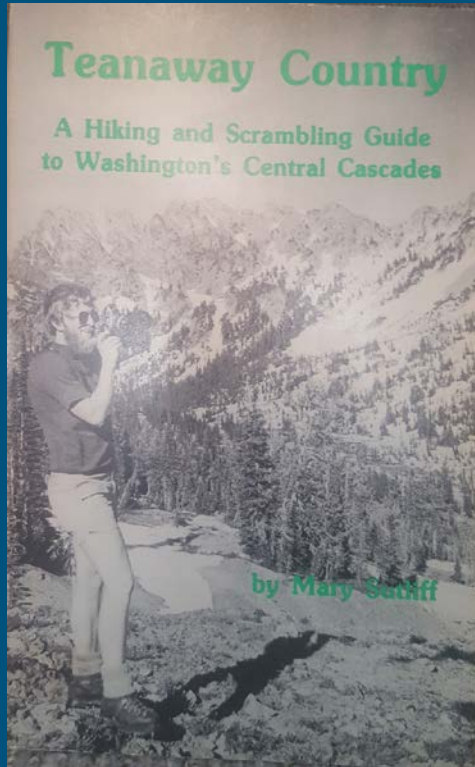
Outdoor Recreation Participation

From 2013-2018 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), top outdoor recreation activities in the state:

1. Walking, hiking, climbing, mountaineering -- 90%
2. Recreational activities (ex. team sports, fitness activities, swimming) -- 83%
3. Nature activities (ex. wildlife viewing, nature centers) -- 81%
4. Picnicking, BBQing and cooking out -- 81%
5. Water-based activities (ex. beach activities, surfing, water skiing) -- 75%

New SCORP data due out at any time.

History of Hiking in Teanaway



- Long history of people hiking in the Teanaway Basin
- *Teanaway Country* was published in 1980 by *Signpost Books*
- Trails highlighted in the book include:
 - Yellow Hill
 - Middle Fork Teanaway
 - West Fork Teanaway
- “Those living in western Washington have easy access to the Cascades, but often mountains on the western slopes are damp and wet and people then yearn for sun and dryness. I found myself frequently traveling over Snoqualmie Pass to the mountains east of the Cascade crest.”
- “While the hiker is seldom more than a day’s hike from the road, the sense of being in wilderness is strong.”

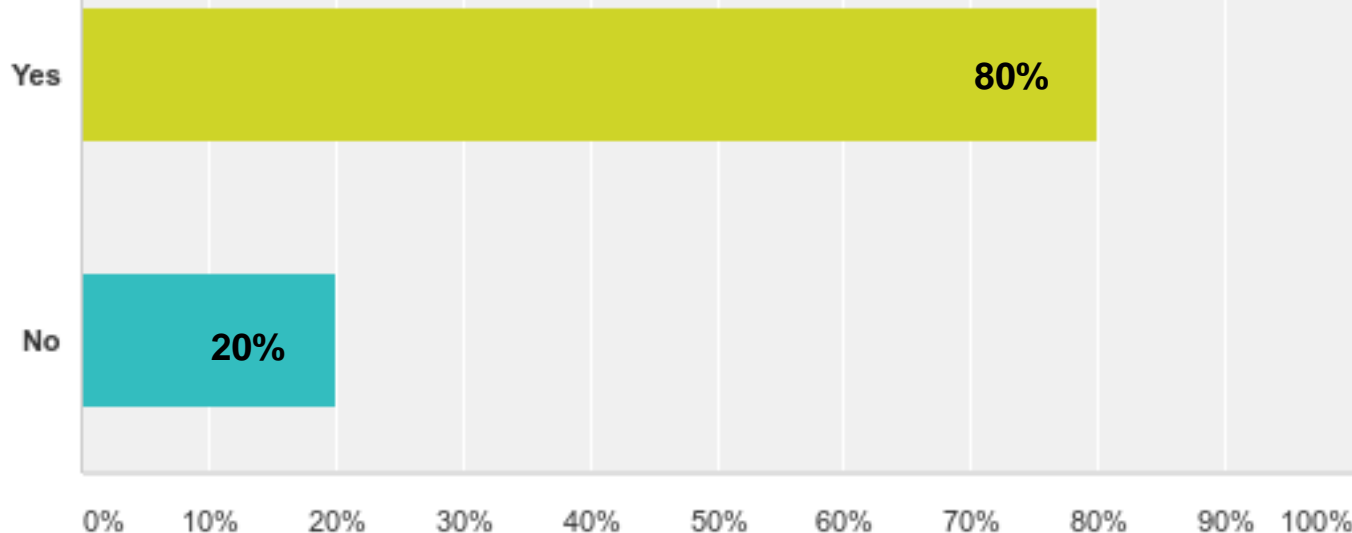
Hiking Today in the Teanaway

- Upper Teanaway trails receive a lot of use by hikers. It is not unheard of for parking lots to fill.
- Upper Teanaway trails are accessible from June through November, really depending on the snow year.
- Year-round hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing trails are extremely limited in the upper Teanaway. The only truly accessible non-motorized dedicated winter recreation area is a “voluntary non-motorized area” and on the Jungle Creek Rd. More year-round hiking opportunities are needed too.
- Teanaway Community Forest has a lot of potential for year-round accessible recreation for foot-based trail users.
- Hikers and other foot-based trail users currently travel in the West, Middle and North Fork areas of the TCF -- most of the TCF. This includes the Dickey Creek, Indian Creek, Middle Creek, Lick Creek, Carlson Canyon, Teanaway Butte, upper West Fork, Jungle Creek, Tarzan Butte/Round Mountain. The use a combination of the trails and roads in all of these areas.

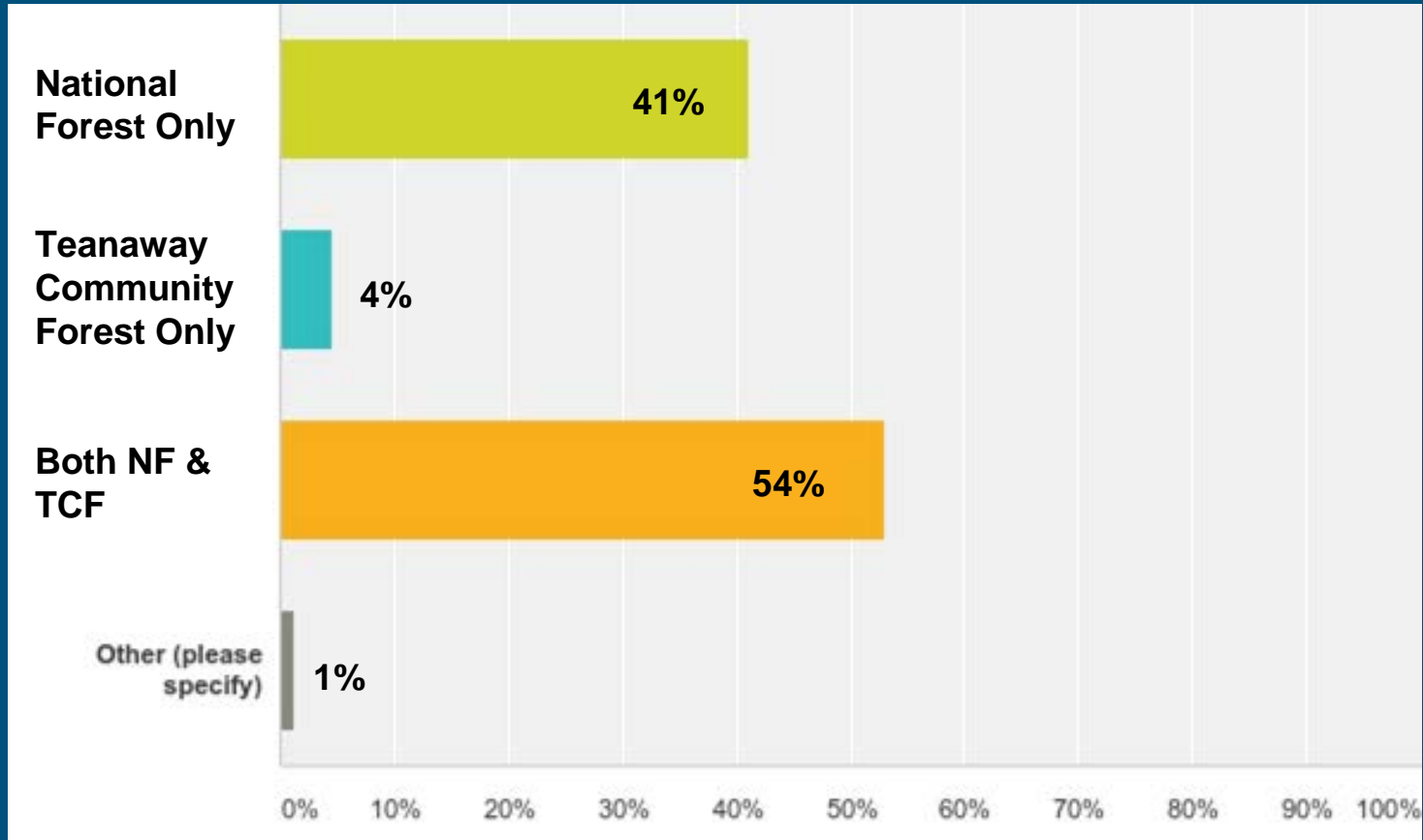
WTA's Hiker Survey

- Purpose of survey: to gather hikers' and other foot-based trail users interests and interactions with the Teanaway Community Forest and greater Teanaway Basin.
- 1,907 people took the survey (as of July 12)
- Audience: open to anyone to take, targeted to WTA audience since I'm representing hikers/foot-based trail users, but anyone could take the survey.
- Geography: specifically targeted Kittitas County, as well as I-90 corridor in beginning. Survey is open for anyone to take and share.
- Questions mostly geared towards hiking/foot-based population given my assignment.

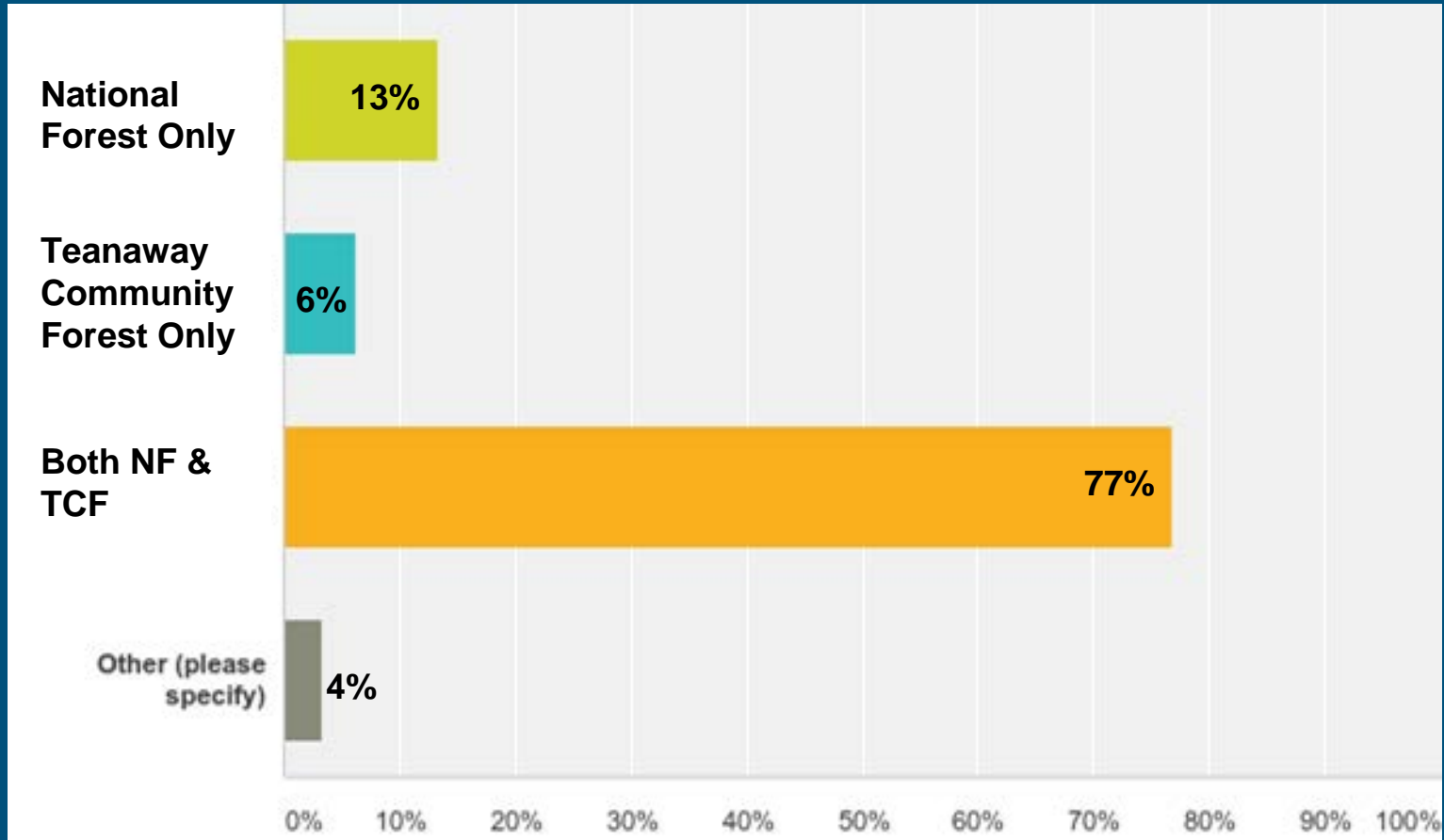
Q1: Do you hike (or trail run, snowshoe, ski) in the Teanaway area? The Teanaway watershed sits north of Cle Elum and Roslyn, west of Blewett Pass (Hwy 97), and south of The Enchantments.



Q2: Where do you go?



Q3: Where do you think you would like to go?



Q4: What types of trails would you most likely use? (Choose 1-2)

Family-friendly hike with mostly short, flat and smooth trails. Very little elevation gain, if any at all. Interpretive/educational signage along trail.

15%

Half-day hike with short-to-moderate distances and elevation gain, with some rougher trail tread.

43%

Longer day hike with some ups and downs and elevation gain. Could climb to a small peak or viewpoint.

64%

Long day hike with rough terrain. Trail climbs to the top of a mountain. A good cardio workout.

53%

Multi-day backpacking with backcountry campsites available. Longer trails and loops.

45%

Other (please specify)

6%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Comments from Survey Respondents on Hiking Trails

- “Anywhere with not a lot of people is really nice, lets you smell nature and not sweat.”
- Would love more loop trails. Out-and-back trails are fun, but multi-day loops that connect to a larger regional trail network allow for more flexibility and use of wilderness navigation skills.
- “Love hiking to peak views or lakes.”
- “Hikes along the streams for fishing.”
- “Off-trail exploration.”
- “Trails and backcountry camps that are great for families--so not just flat short trips. But trails that could be a mellow overnight backpack.”
- “Connecting trails should showcase the unique scenery, i.e. sandstone outcrops, mature ponderosa groves, rocky streamside pools”

Q5: There are opportunities to potentially connect with towns, such as Cle Elum and Roslyn, campgrounds and other trails systems from the Teanaway Community Forest. What opportunities would you be interested in? (Check all that apply.)

Hiking trails connecting Cle Elum and Roslyn to the Teanaway Community Forest (hike from town to the Teanaway).

46%

Hiking trails within the Teanaway Community Forest that connect with the national forest trail system.

75%

Hiking trails that connect the campgrounds within the Teanaway Community Forest (Teanaway, 29 Pines and Indian Camp campgrounds) to a larger trail network.

57%

Other (please specify)

5%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Q6: How do you want to see the Teanaway Community Forest used in the future? (Check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses
Hiking	92.89%
Backpacking	80.20%
Camping	73.70%
Snowshoeing	64.50%
Wildlife viewing	62.11%
Photography	60.94%
Nature observation	60.58%
Cross-country skiing	53.59%
Birding	51.87%
Berry or mushroom picking	47.52%

What hiking and other foot-based experiences are people looking for regarding recreation in the TCF?

1. Keep the TCF a beautiful natural area; Minimize impacts; Balance between nature and people is necessary.

“Truly amazing area! Been to all corners of the larger PNW - MT, ID, OR - in extremely remote areas and the Teanaway is one of my local faves. Would love to see the fishery enhanced, backpacking trails and backcountry campsites enhanced, and see it serve as a "test lab" where hunters, anglers, hikers, backpackers can all co exist respectfully.”

“Please keep it as undeveloped as possible. It is so wonderful the way it is. We would hate to see big recreation infrastructure go in. Keep it as rural and wild as possible. Thanks!”

“Needs to be a balance of natural forces and people. Solitude experiences/ ensure balance with people and nature/wildlife. Land stewardship education workshops/projects. Study areas for forest health and ecosystems. Watershed/fish enhancement and protection.”

“A community forest needs a broad constituency. There needs to be opportunities for many folks, but the recreational activities can't be damaging to the Community Forest (ruts, erosion, vegetation damage, wet meadow damage, wildfire starts, trash, etc. etc.). Also, TCF recreation should emphasize opportunities that take advantage of the character of TCF, its natural environment (spectacular scenery, plants, animals, quiet, solitude, opportunities for outdoor adventure)...including opportunities to get away from crowded cities, noise, noisy vehicles, vehicle exhaust, and the stress of everyday life.”

“This is a place I have dreamed of going to for many years and I would love to see it protected from any potential misuse and more open to folks that will respect its serene nature. Backpacking, hiking, and other non-motorized ways of enjoying would be wonderful to see more of with many options to choose your own adventure!”

What hiking and other foot-based experiences are people looking for regarding recreation in the TCF?

2. In addition to trails, survey respondents were interested in more camping facilities, signage, bathrooms, better maintained roads and trailhead parking.

“More Good signs for roads, trail heads, camps, with names, numbers, mileage to camps and crossings and end points.”

“Dirt roads has a lot of potholes to get through to reach great trails. It will be great to make the road much more accessible with regular cars.”

“More trails and trail heads would be great. It seems like the parking is a problem when we have gone hiking in the Teanaway in the past.”

“Adding campgrounds and/or semi-primitive campsites near gravel roads or along trails in valley bottoms would enhance the area and make multi-day recreation easier w/ more overnight capacity.”

“Good signage, please. Trailhead restrooms, please.”

What hiking and other foot-based experiences are people looking for regarding recreation in the TCF?

3. Prioritize the ability for people to “get away from it all” with some solitude.

“Considering the population boom around here, it's more important than ever for people to have a place to escape...”

“This is an ideal location for individuals, small groups, and families to find “quiet” recreation close to town without having to make a wilderness adventure trip of it.”

“Quiet and Safe. All regulations must be enforceable and enforced equitably. Keep in mind that the Nat'l Forest and Teanaway Community Forest should blend. Trails which interconnect should so state at TH, with ultimate destinations so stated and proper maps referenced. Hopefully you will coordinate with USFS folks. Thank you for your efforts. Good Luck!”

4. Many survey respondents expressed a willingness to share trails with other recreation activities but have concerns that motorized use on the TCF will result in an increase of noise, dust and trail and environmental impacts that will displace them from the TCF and take away from their experience.

“I understand that motorized vehicle riders want to be included. Personally I feel they distract from the peacefulness of the experience with their noise ...I believe they should have an area of their own staked out, away from hikers and horseback riders. There are a number of forest service trails in the area that are open to motorized travel.”

“We should encourage as many people as possible, no matter what their activity, are able to form a bond with our public lands and nature. Outdoor recreation makes conservationists, and climate change means we're going to need all the conservationists we can get. To that end, there should be a place for motorized recreation (snowmobiles, dirt bikes, etc) in our public lands. However, I do find those activities extremely disruptive. There should be places for noisy activities to go which are well separated from those who enjoy human powered recreation and the peace and quiet of the outdoors.”

What hiking and other foot-based experiences are people looking for regarding recreation in the TCF?

5. People are concerned with Washington's population growth, increasing numbers of people getting outside doing different types of recreation and the need to manage it all appropriately -- and be proactive about it -- and figure out the TCF's role given these dynamics.

"People are hitting the trails in ever increasing numbers and need to increase the number of trails available. If services are offered in nearby towns, this will benefit the towns as well!"

"How to deal with sanitation and trash issues, would be good to see in the planning process. How to deal with user type conflicts, maybe there should be areas in the forest where only certain types of activities can occur. I think having opportunities for solitude is important due to increased population and recreational use."

"Please help preserve disappearing trails. The area has become very popular in the last 5 years. I greatly appreciate all the work that has been done on the roads -- they are better than I've ever seen them."

"Developing a network of trails that connect Cle Elum, Roslyn, the community forest and the national forest is an excellent idea. The I-90 corridor on the west side is getting overrun and I find myself going farther. Being able to start hiking in Cle Elum through a connected trail system - and being able to stay in a local inns and cabins throughout the area would be a huge hit - inn to inn hiking"

"I think connecting Roslyn and Cle Elum by trail to the community forest (walkable access) is a really fantastic idea. This project could be a boon to the economy of the small towns nearby and perhaps relieve some of the pressure of crowds off the I-90 stretch closer to Seattle."

Power of the Community Forest

Survey respondents are supportive of the recreation planning process. People are looking to the Advisory Committee and agencies for how to balance conservation of the TCF with the desire to enjoy and experience it.

“I think this is a great opportunity to manage this resource correctly from the survey. Our public lands have too much pressure from population growth. We are loving our experience to death.”

“What a terrific thing you are doing! Love that there are great folks planning this effort: more trails connect more people to nature makes us all better off. Thank you!”

“I am thankful there is at least a planning process. Good luck to all.”

“Thank you that this is happening. I feel it's so important to protect our open spaces and provide ways to encourage folks to enjoy them and our kids to care and respect them.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity for more recreation opportunities and increase economic development to this area of the state. It is such a beautiful region.”

“Thank you all for working to protect this beautiful part of WA state, which I first visited nearly 50 years ago as a Girl Scout.”

“Thank you for your work on this. It's a tremendous legacy for future users.”