

Advisory Committee Decision-Making All recommendations of the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee are made after the Committee members are given sufficient time to study, discuss, and deliberate on an issue. Full consensus among Committee members will be sought, but not required, for the Advisory Committee's final recommendation. In the case where consensus cannot be reached after significant effort by the Advisory Committee, a formal tally will be taken and the outcome recorded. Majority and minority opinions will be noted in meeting documentation, and specific points or issues where consensus could not be reached will be included.

Of those members present at a meeting, a majority of votes (of the members present at the meeting) are necessary to officially adopt a recommendation. A Committee member must be present to vote, and a tally will not be delayed due to the absence of a Committee member. Advisory Committee members have a responsibility to be briefed if they miss a previous meeting, and there will not be repeat discussions for a member who was previously absent unless the full Committee agrees.

If the Advisory Committee cannot agree on a recommendation in a timely fashion, it should not delay DNR and WDFW from making land management decisions related to the issue being discussed.



Recreation
must be
consistent with
forest
objectives



Recreation

Goal: To maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding, and snowmobiling.

OVERVIEW

Generations of people have considered the Teanaway to be a special place. Its location in the heart of the state; its gentle terrain and mid-elevation forests; its proximity to the nearby communities of Cle Elum, Roslyn, and Ellensburg; and the availability of an unusually wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities, all contribute to the Teanaway's popularity among local residents and people throughout Washington.

Recreational opportunities abound in the Community Forest. Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders flock to the views of the Teanaway valley and its scenic landscape. The area's wildlife and fish draw hunters and anglers as well as photographers, birders and other wildlife watchers. The rivers are a source of enjoyment for kayakers as well as swimmers during the hot summer months. Three campgrounds are busy for much of the year, and groomed trails attract snowmobilers in winter. Several roads and trails in the Community Forest connect to trails in the adjacent Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, providing opportunities for motorized and non-motorized recreation. The forest and its rivers are very popular day-use destinations for the local community.

Outdoor recreation in the Teanaway and on neighboring public and private lands is also critically important to the region's economy. A January 2015 study conducted by Earth Economics for the state Recreation and Conservation Office concluded that outdoor recreation supports nearly 1,800 jobs and generates \$185 million per year in economic activity in Kittitas County alone. This total includes about \$9.5 million in state and local taxes. The legislative goal

for recreation in the Community Forest reflects the Teanaway's history as a prime recreation area – and its importance as a source of water and fish habitat in the Yakima Basin. Likewise, the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (YBIP) recognizes that lands acquired for watershed protection and habitat conservation can support well-managed recreation activities, both motorized and non-motorized. Ultimately, recreation in the Teanaway Community Forest must be consistent with watershed protection and the other forest objectives.

In the past, visitors recreating in the forest took advantage of the 334 miles of roads built for forest management by previous property owners. Use of these roads, which also provided access to the Teanaway backcountry, was controlled by gates, earthen barricades, and berms. Motorcycles have used three multi-use trails in the Community Forest that access USFS lands. Other off-road vehicle (ORV) use was not allowed by the former owners and was prohibited as of early 2015, although unsanctioned ORV use has occurred.

One of the challenges addressed in the management plan is the presence of numerous unapproved, user-made trails that crisscross the Community Forest, sometimes cutting through vital wildlife habitat or running alongside or through streams. Use of such trails – for motorized and some forms of non-motorized recreation – can harm habitat and water quality. Proper trail design and placement will be an important future management activity.



RECREATION

Strategies & Tools

Develop a recreation plan for the forest

With input from the Advisory Committee and the public, DNR and WDFW will develop a plan that directs recreation activities and infrastructure development to appropriate areas within the Community Forest.

The plan will be based in large part on an analysis of the suitability of specific areas within the forest for various recreational uses and facilities, which will be displayed on maps that provide a visual foundation for the recreation plan. The suitability criteria described on page 44 will be the starting point for this analysis. The recreation planning process will also review historic recreational uses in the forest, along with past planning efforts, and current forest conditions.

The recreation plan will emphasize “leave no trace” principles and other guidelines for recreational users that will be designed to maximize recreational opportunities while protecting the Teanaway watershed and ensuring the other goals of the Community Forest are met.

A recreation planning committee will help the agencies guide the planning effort, and members will offer input and suggestions. Ultimately, the recreation plan will be consistent with the goals of the Community Forest, address environmental responsibilities, and provide for continued public access and safe, sustainable recreational opportunities.

The plan will lay a foundation for the restoration, maintenance, and development of recreation opportunities. Future development of facilities and trails will undergo site-specific analysis and be contingent on the availability of funding. The final recreation plan will be evaluated and revised periodically to ensure compatibility with Teanaway Community Forest goals.

Evaluate motorcycle use within the recreation planning process

Off-road motorized recreation occurred in the past in what is now the Teanaway Community Forest, when prior landowners allowed snowmobile use and limited access for two-wheeled motorcycles. DNR and WDFW continued this practice when they acquired the property.

As of January 2015, two-wheeled motorcycles within the Community Forest could access three multiple-use trails: the Middle Fork (FS 1393), Yellow Hill (FS 1222), and West Fork (FS 1353), and motorcyclists were required to follow all applicable laws and rules, including prohibitions on closed trails, closed roads, and cross-country travel.



TOP PHOTO: JACOB REIF; MIDDLE PHOTO: TULLY; BOTTOM PHOTO: JEFFREY BENTON

DNR and WDFW will use the results of a recreation planning process to determine whether the use of two-wheeled motorcycles is appropriate in the Community Forest. All other motorized vehicles – ATVs, ORVs, wheeled all-terrain vehicles, and 4x4s – will continue to be prohibited from trails, closed roads, and cross-country travel.

If the agencies decide motorcycle use is appropriate, the recreation planning process will use the criteria on page 44 to determine where it could occur. Any motorcycle use would be conditioned on an education and self-policing campaign by users, enforcement by WDFW and DNR, and compliance by the motorcycle community. If conditions are not met, or if serious environmental degradation occurs, the agencies would prohibit motorcycle use.

Two-wheeled motorcycle use will be permitted on the three multi-use trails while a recreation plan is being developed, although seasonal restrictions may be needed to prevent environmental damage. The recreation planning process will evaluate the trails to determine current conditions and to establish a baseline for evaluating the impacts of future use. This evaluation also will determine whether the trails should be repaired, relocated, or closed.

The recreation planning committee will encourage broad participation in discussions of motorcycle use and will evaluate motorcycle options in relation to the recreation needs and interests of all user groups, including those of neighboring land owners.

Provide a sustainable network of safe, enjoyable recreational trails

Designate and build non-motorized trails for hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and others that:

- Emphasize scenic destinations and high-quality experiences.
- Accommodate multiple skill levels, be designed as loop trails when appropriate, and connect to U.S. Forest Service trails and the regional trail system.
- Provide separate trails for specialized uses as appropriate to enhance users' experiences and safety.

Provide winter trails for snowmobiles, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing that:

- When practical, provide loop routes and connections to regional snowmobile trails.
- Are designed, maintained, and, if necessary, relocated to protect water and fish and wildlife.
- Include groomed and un-groomed snowmobile trails and ski trails.
- Include marked, un-groomed trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, with access points that connect to regional snowshoe and cross-country ski trails.

All trail systems will be managed to protect water, fish and wildlife habitat, working lands, and other valued resources. DNR and WDFW, with volunteer help when appropriate, shall work to:

- Restore damaged areas, such as unauthorized trails, and use educational signs or enforcement measures as appropriate.

Where should recreation take place in the Community Forest?

The legislation that created the Teanaway Community Forest identified key environmental and economic priorities – including watershed protection, restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, and preservation of forestry and grazing – that will require analysis of the suitability of specific areas for different types of recreation.

DNR and WDFW staff will begin this land suitability analysis by mapping the forest to show attributes that will influence the siting of specific recreational activities. This analysis will include social considerations, such as the interests of neighboring landowners and the availability of recreation opportunities on nearby lands outside the Community Forest.

The presence of specific attributes, such as cliffs or steep slopes, would not automatically disqualify a particular location from being used for recreation, but rather that extra care must be taken to ensure recreation is appropriate and compatible with safety, environmental, visual, and cultural values. The agencies and the recreation planning committee will consider, but are not limited to, the following criteria:

Maps will identify the following soil and geological conditions:

- Steep, unstable slopes with high potential for landslides
- Highly erosive and compactible soils
- Streams and rivers and 100-year flood plains
- Rock features, including cliffs and bluffs

Maps will display the following biological elements:

- Stream banks and other riparian areas and buffers
- Wet meadows, wetlands and buffers
- Fish and wildlife habitat, including “habitat connectivity” corridors through which animals move
- The presence of threatened and endangered species
- Natural heritage sites
- Sensitive wildlife areas, such as deer and elk winter range and endangered species habitat.

Public access points and forest management elements, including:

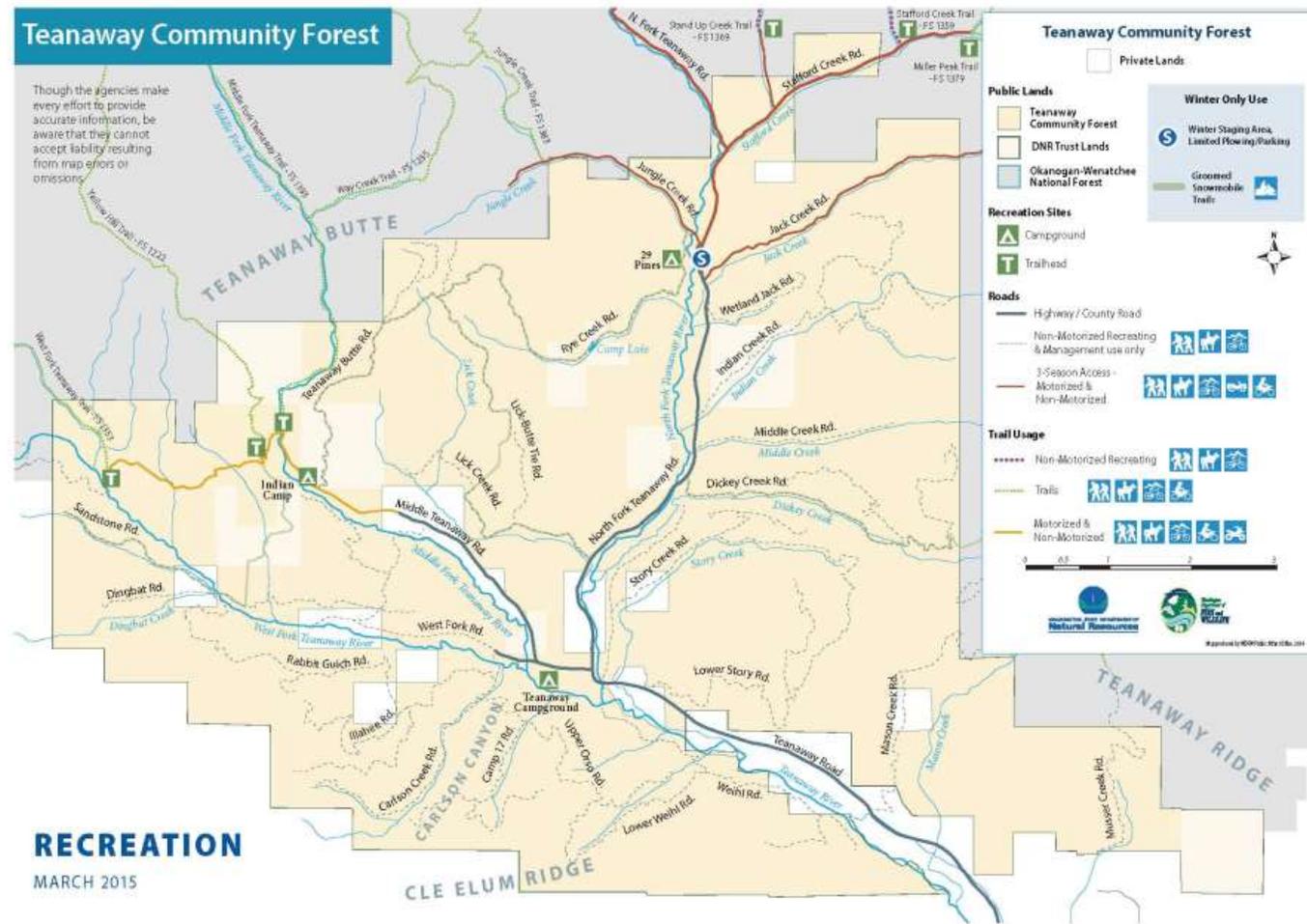
- Public access points
- Private and public property in and around the forest, including easements and rights-of-way
- Water and rock sources
- Locations where noise buffers are required, such as campgrounds and private residences
- Locations where recreation may affect air quality
- Cultural and archaeological resources, such as historic town sites

Social considerations will also be analyzed, including:

- The availability of recreational opportunities near the Community Forest
- The potential impact of specific activities on adjacent landowners
- The potential for conflicts among user groups, including the displacement of one group by another
- The importance of directing recreation to areas that will not prevent wildlife from moving through the landscape
- The potential for recreational activities to degrade the watershed
- Opportunities for connecting recreational uses to surrounding lands
- Significant recreational assets – sites that are important to the local community – that may not be captured by existing data sources

Teanaway Community Forest

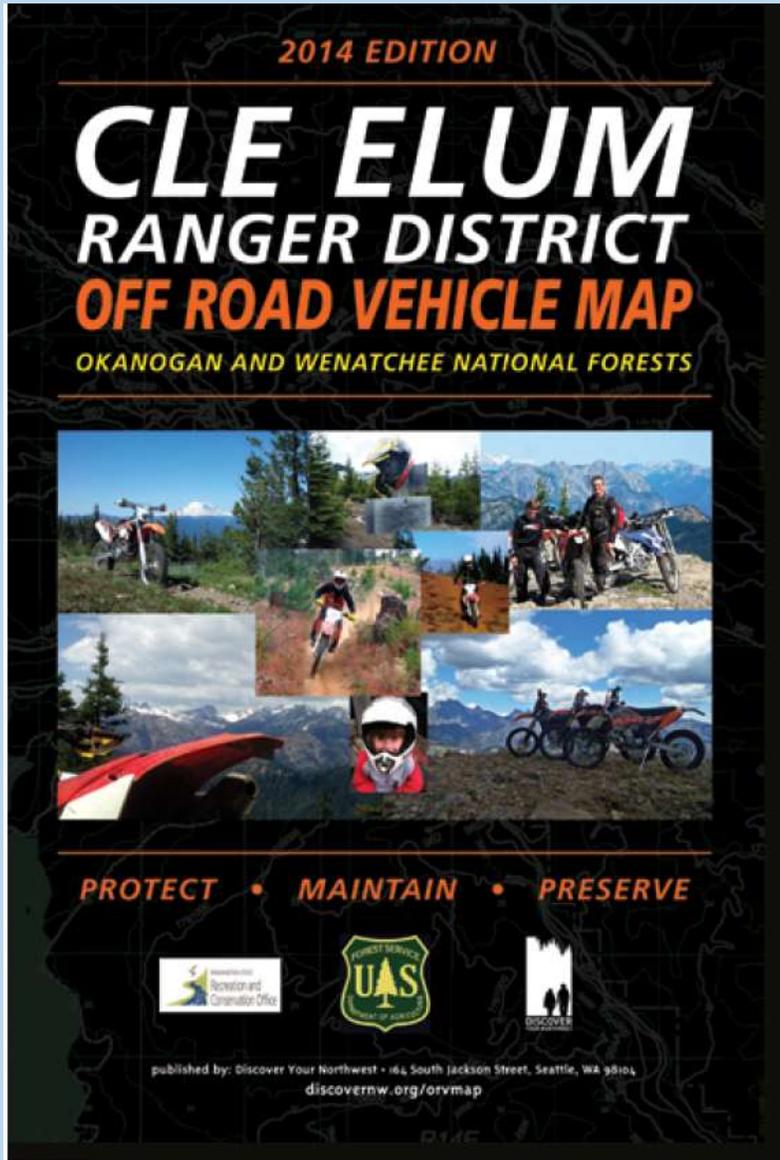
Though the agencies make every effort to provide accurate information, be aware that they cannot accept liability resulting from map errors or omissions.

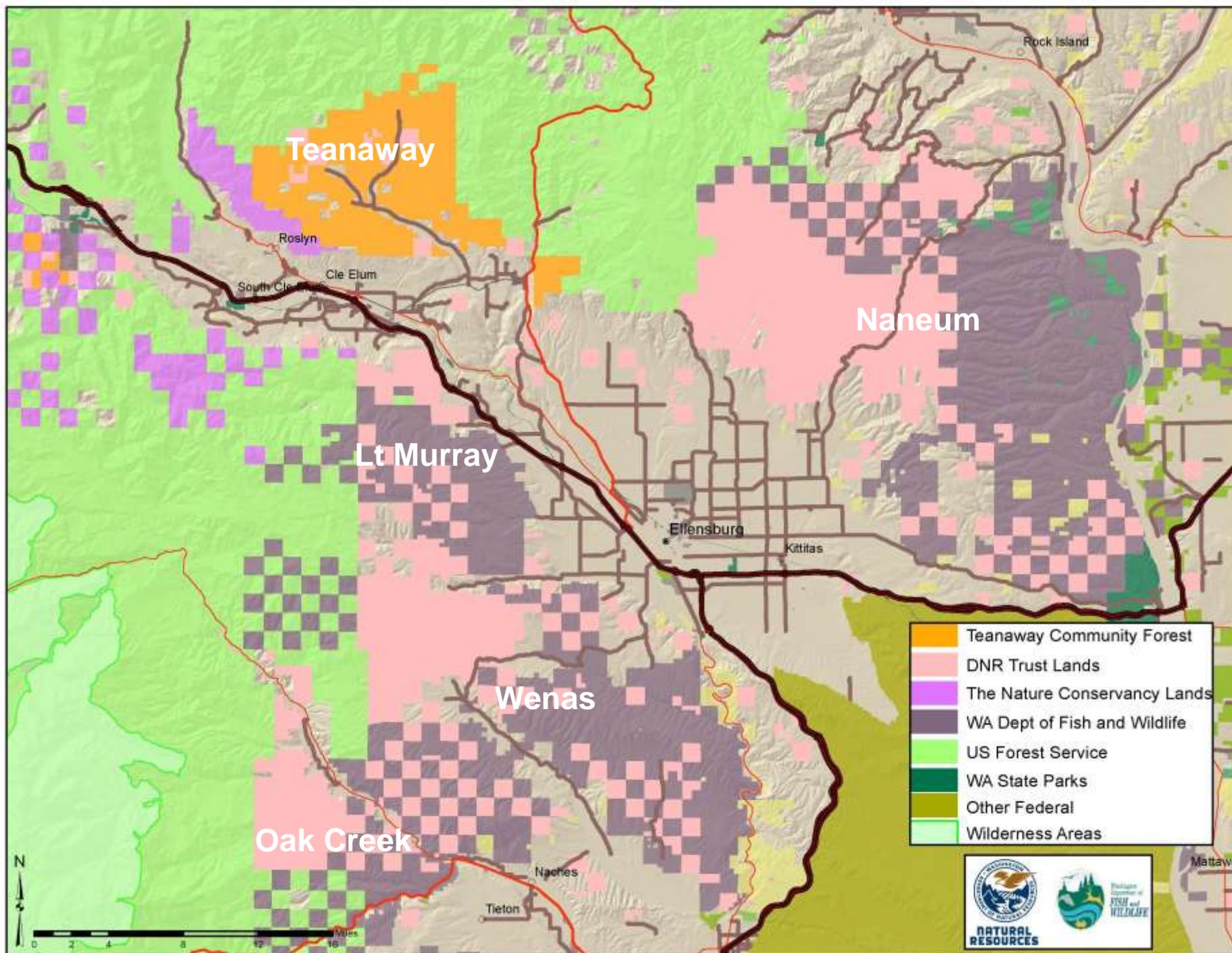


RECREATION

MARCH 2015

Summer Recreation – Motorized





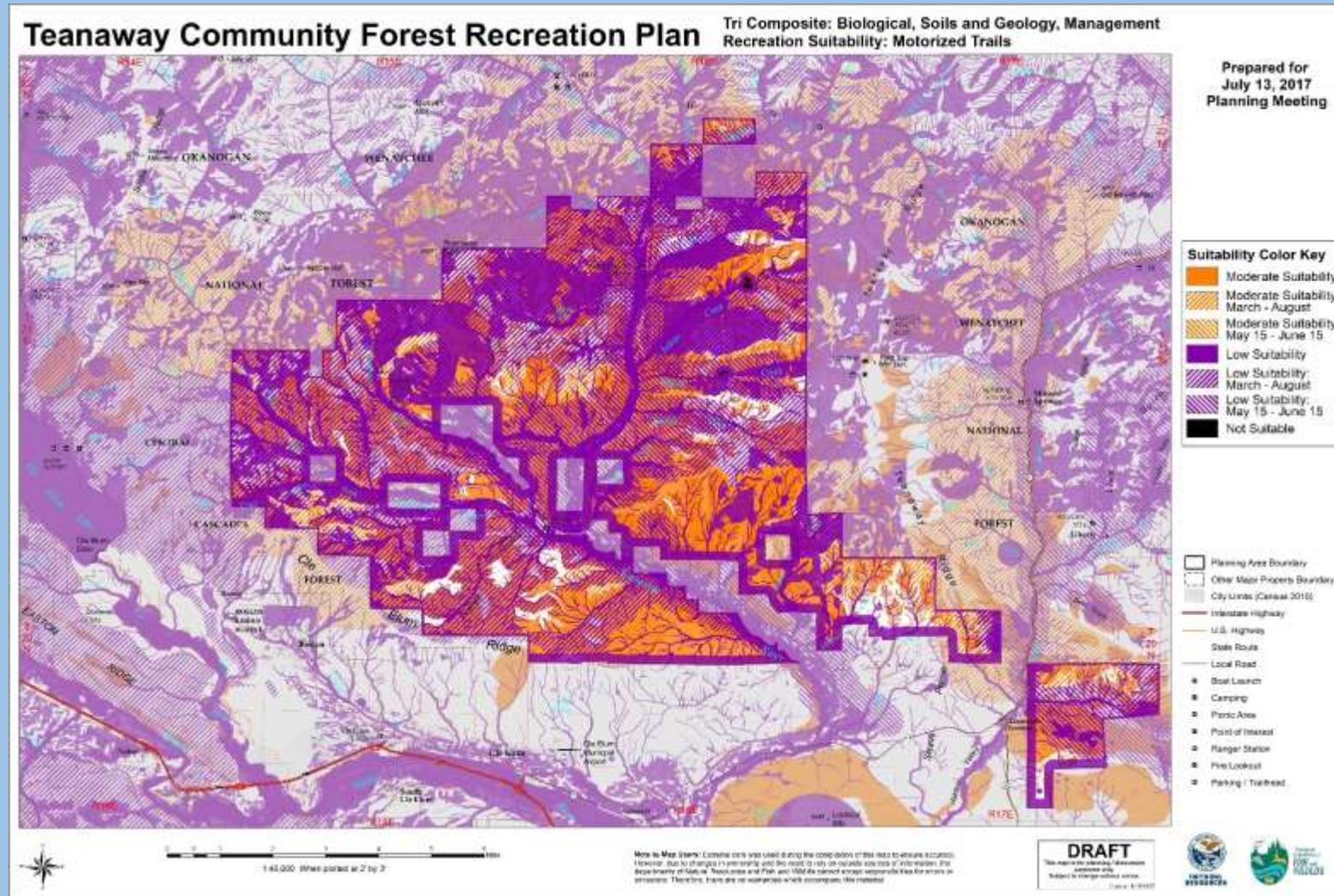
TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST RECREATION PLAN

Tri-Composite Criteria

Biological	Soils and Geology	Management
Wetlands & Wetlands Buffers 120'	Soils Risk for Recreation (Erosion)	Communication and Management Sites
Riparian: streams, open water, buffers Fish 120', Non-fish 50', Unknown 25'	Areas with High Potential for Landslides/Unstable Slopes	Rock Sources (existing and future)
Salmonids and Fish Habitat Informational Only **	Slope Percentage	Utility Easements
Deer & Elk Winter Range	100 - Year Flood Plains	Land Adjacent to Other Properties
Deer & Elk Calving/fawning range May 15 - June 15 Buffer 300 meters	Poorly Drained Soils	Wells and Water Sources
Sensitive, Threatened & Endangered Species (plants & animals)**	Areas with High Potential for Avalanche (Cabin Creek)	Riparian Restoration Areas
High Quality or Rare Plant Communities	Areas that have Moved in Previous Landslides	Cultural and Archeological Resources
Northern Spotted Owl / Northern Goshawk (March - August)		
Large Carnivores - Gray Wolf ** March 15 - June 15		** Items Not Shown on Map

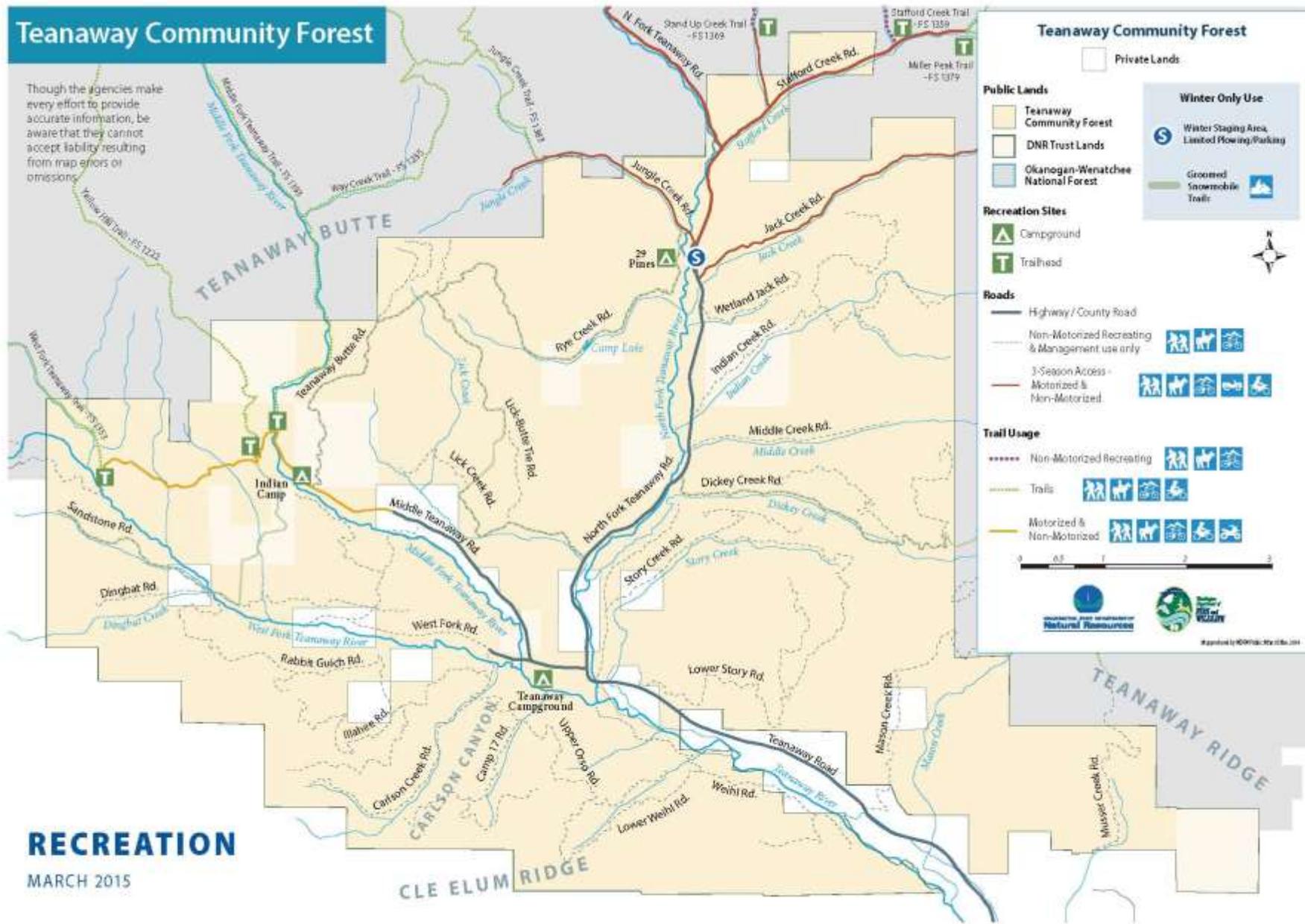
TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST RECREATION PLAN

Motorized Trails



Teaway Community Forest

Though the agencies make every effort to provide accurate information, be aware that they cannot accept liability resulting from map errors or omissions.



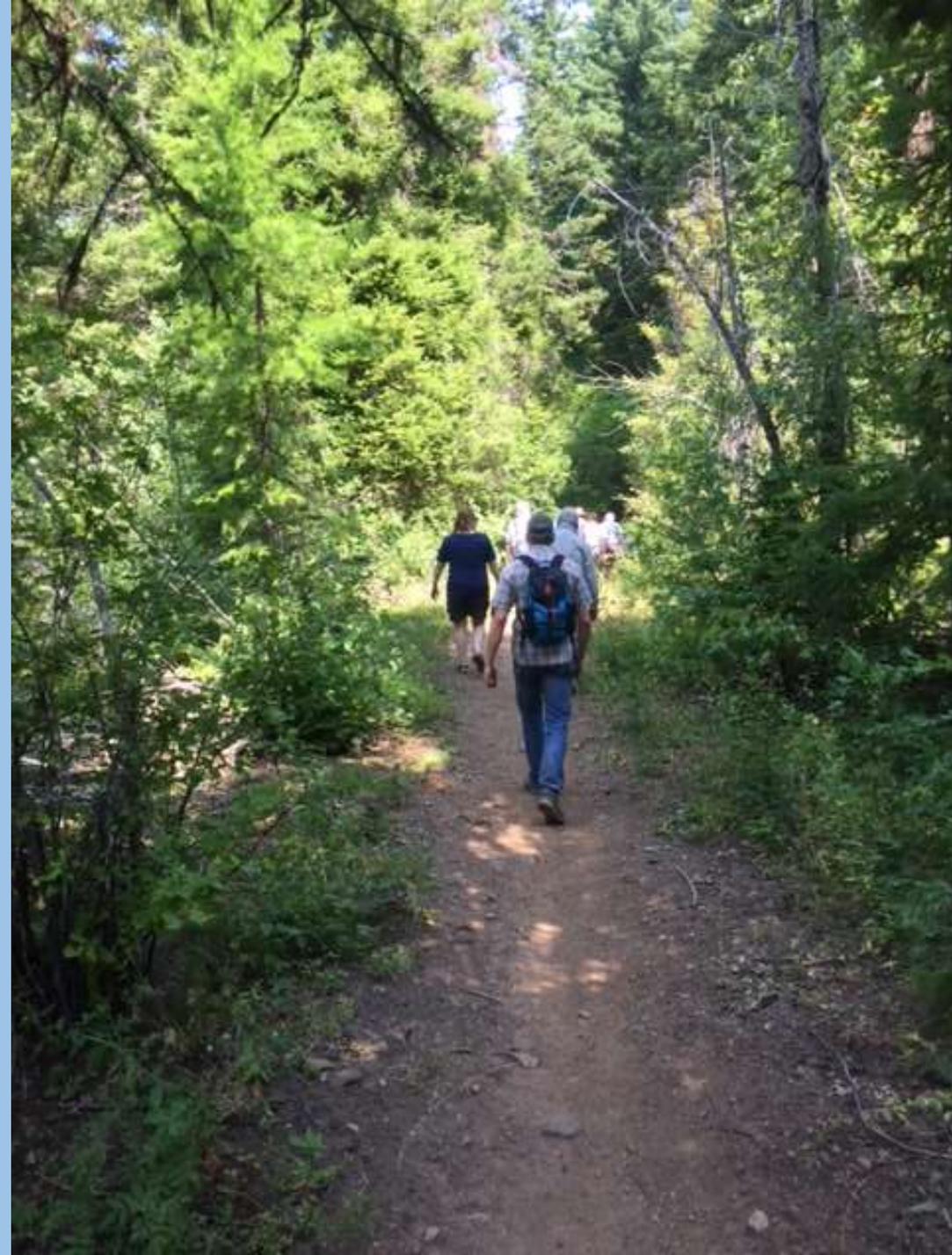
RECREATION

MARCH 2015



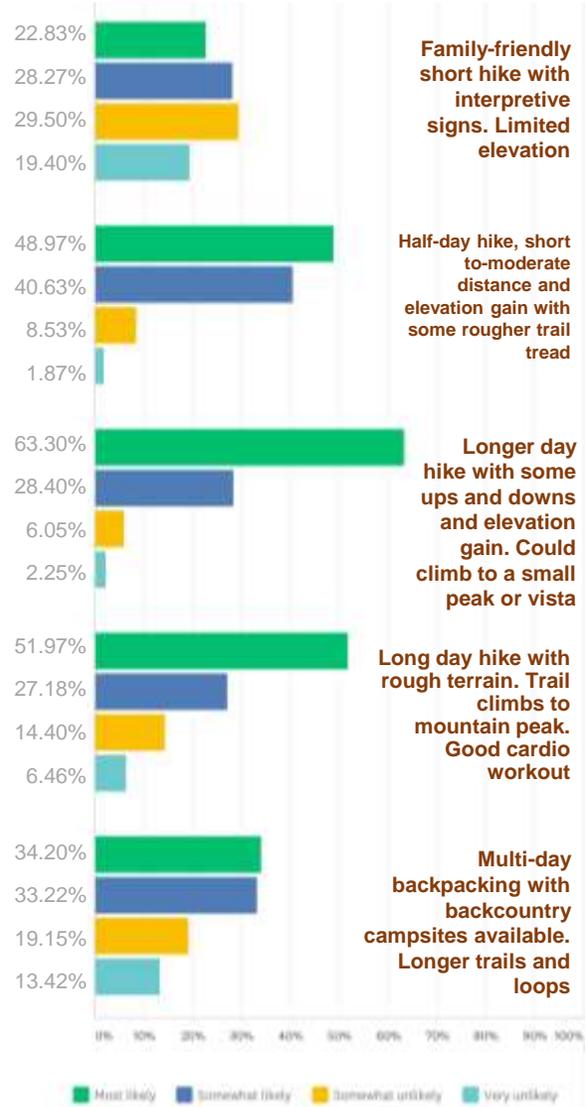
M. FORK TEANAWAY TRAIL
NO. 1393
JOLLY CREEK TRAIL 7
JOHNSON MEDRA TRAIL 8
M.FORK TEANAWAY SPUR 11





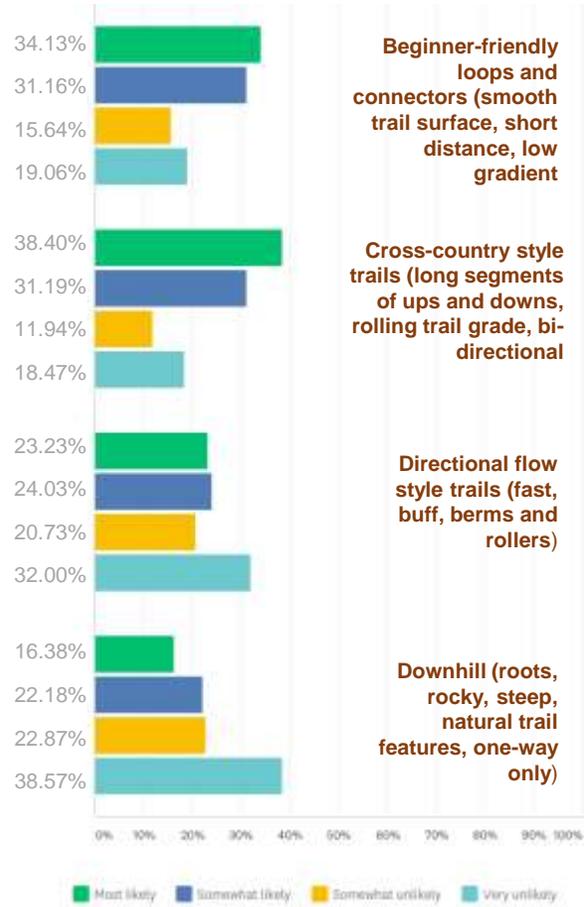
Q13: If you enjoy hiking, how likely are you to use the following types of trail?

• Answered: 1,570 Skipped: 1,112



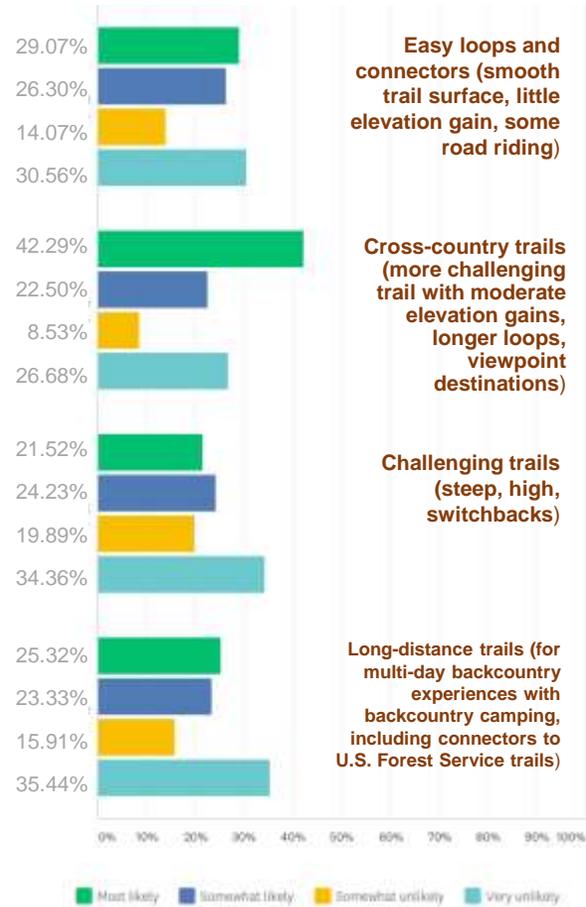
Q14: If you enjoy mountain biking, how likely are you to use the following trail types?

Answered: 902 Skipped: 1,780



Q15: If you enjoy horseback riding, how likely are you to use the following trail types?

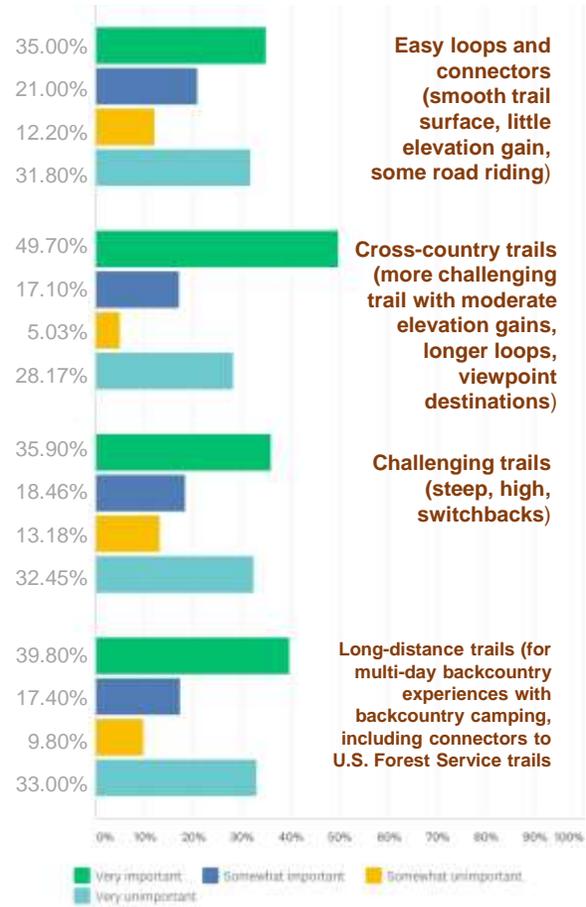
Answered: 565 Skipped: 2,117



Q17: If you enjoy motorcycling, answer the following question: If motorcycle use was permitted after recreation planning, how important are the following trail types?

Answered: 508 Skipped: 2,174

(Motorcycle use in the Teanaway Community Forest is presently only permitted on the three U.S. Forest Service-managed multi-use trails: Middle Fork, Yellow Hill and West Fork trails).



Q15 (Horseback Riding)

Write-in Response Highlights

Happy to share the trail, but they probably want fewer hikers.

Have had horses in the past, will again someday... and will use trails then!

Prefer to use trails that don't allow motorized vehicles or bikes. Hikers and dogs are fine.

Wide, reclaimed road beds

I will ride any and all of the trails that are in the park and available for Horses to use.

Endurance competition weekends

Love being able to access water while horseback riding in the Teanaway!!



Q17 (Motorcycle Riding)

Write-in Response Highlights

Connections to Forest Service Trails would be excellent.

Connecting through the TCF to NF and local communities is top priority to me.

Please don't take our trails, there are MANY trails for hiking in Washington but few for Motorcycles. ALSO, please don't lump motorcycles with quads and 4x4s, we do less damage than horses

I do own a dirt bike (YZ426) and love to ride - even in the Teanaway. I just don't think dirt bikes belong in the new Community Forest.

I ride, but Teanaway should be non-motorized.

I have plenty of other places to do this. I don't need to grow this type of recreation in the Teanaway.

Motorcycles have long been a part of Teanaway. I support their use.

Trails for all skill levels are most important

Rate the difficulty at trail head and map.

Need beginning trails for my kids. Yellow Hill, MF, and WF trails are all too difficult for beginners/kids.

Keep motorcycles separated from hikers, bikers, horses, like Capital Forest.

No need for motor bikes around private properties we like it quiet!! Animal friendly

Due to previous injuries, using a motorcycle is the only way I can enjoy the area, as it is impossible to hike in! If motorcycles are banned so will be my recreation opportunities!

I do not ride motorcycles, so extensive trails for motorized use are not something I would like to see. But I have a friend in a wheelchair who would like to have access to a fishing opportunity on the Teanaway. Easy parking and an easy wheelchair trail down to the shore. A short loop or shoreline trail for wheelchair users or folks with limited mobility would be so great!! Also for families with young children who really can't hike very far. Thank you so much!

I don't ride motorcycles and would like access for motorcycles to be available but limited to specific areas

Trails that are accessible for a disabled rider and inexperienced riders



Accessibility

I believe that loop road systems to accommodate vehicles should be part of the Teanaway... to allow people with disabilities to be able to enjoy the forest at a basic level... Sure a disabled person can have a picnic, but the opportunity to visit high elevation scenic areas is [currently] only available to persons who ride a bike, motorcycle, walk or ride a horse.

Myself being disabled can't walk very well or very far so camping sites that I could drive my motor home to would really be my only option.

Develop a jeep trail system that allows older folks who can't hike, bike, or horseback ride, to have equal access to the forest.

Being retired and over 70 years of age, we have gone into WATV vehicles for forest recreation. It is important to have road and trail systems where we can ride. Please do not shut us out.

Comments in favor of allowing motorized use

We desperately need more easy to moderate motorcycle trails. Current trails are only usable by very skilled riders and are somewhat dangerous. Many of us locals would gladly help in such moderate trail creation and maintenance.

I have recreated in the TCF for 50 yrs. In my opinion the area can support ORVs if managed. The trails and roads are already there. I have seen how the DNR and Capitol Forest has managed ORVs and it seems to work.

Please consider allowing motorcycle riding to some extent. My family has ridden motorcycles in this area for 40yrs. It is part of our heritage to do this together as a family.

I think it is paramount that multi-use trails exist in our community forest. Motorcycles and snowmobiles should have every right to enjoy our community forest. As a whole we are responsible stewards of the land and are highly likely to volunteer to maintain the trail system.

Comments in favor of limiting motorized use

My biggest concern moving forward is the expanded allowance of off-road vehicles in the Teanaway. I don't doubt that they are fun to use, but there are already a ton of nearby areas where they are allowed. We spend our lives in cars and around the combustible engine, when I head into the wilderness the roar of an engine is the last thing I want to hear.

Please limit motorized access to areas on the western side of the forest.

Motorcycles having access to trails would discourage me from using the area because of the noise and other environmental impacts.

I hope that motorized access is limited and that recreation as a whole is limited especially in sensitive wildlife areas.

Please do not increase the use of motorized vehicles. The peaceful slow pace of the valley is what makes the Teanaway so special.

Creative Ideas

Provide some type of Community Calendar

Have volunteers out on weekends to welcome campers or some kind of host that can help with questions.

Maps indicating lawful river access points

Please make it easy for school groups and youth groups to have camping and backcountry experiences.

Much more forest health work. FULL time WCC crew engaged in RX Fire, fuels reduction and Rex work. More WCC equals more jobs and opportunities for local young adults. Also, the cost benefits of a full time crew cannot be matched.

I would like to make sure there is still some sort of pathway connecting Hwy 97 to Forest Service Rd 3506 for emergency fire evacuation.

Consider allowing endurance rides [with road access for event staging]

Frame the question:

- Five questions
- Each committee member votes once on each question
– yes/no/or conditional support
- Use a green/red/or yellow dot
- Group discussion after voting. Be prepared to explain your vote.
- Discussion is motorcycle use only. Pleasure driving handled during alternatives. Emergency access is not a recreation alternative.
- Advisory only -- final determination thru planning process, SEPA and final agency decision

Questions (all answered Yes/No/Conditional Green/Red/Yellow Dot)

1. Allow motorcycles in the Teanaway Community Forest?
2. Allow motorcycles on existing USFS multi-use trails? Vote on each trail separately. (reroute, close and/or improve these expert level USFS multi-use trails)
 - a. West Fork
 - b. Yellow Hill
 - c. Middle Fork
3. Add additional motorcycle trails or connections as an option; this could be used to mitigate for possible changes somewhere else? (Adaptive management)
4. Develop a Primary Management Objective (PMO) cross county motorcycle trail area separated from other non-motorized users
5. Allow motorcycle use on PMO non-motorized trails as a shared use?