Overall Management Goals

- “To protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed;
- To maintain working lands for forestry and grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat;
- 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;
- To conserve and restore vital habitat for fish, including steelhead, spring Chinook, and bull trout, and wildlife, including deer, elk, large predators, and spotted owls; and
- To support a strong community partnership, in which the Yakama Nation, residents, business owners, local governments, conservation groups, and others provide advice about ongoing land management.”

Recreation must be consistent with forest objectives

KEY POINTS

- Provide recreational opportunities
- Consistent with watershed protection
- Important to regional economy
- Provide social, mental and health benefits
- Consider social and biological factors
- Opportunities for partnerships
- Improve campgrounds & facilities
- Provide consistent and proactive law enforcement and user education
Develop a recreation plan for the forest

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

The plan will be based upon an analysis of the suitability of specific areas within the forest for various recreational uses and facilities, which will be generated 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 that area, along with past planning efforts, and current forest conditions.

The recreation planning process will emphasize "leave no trace" principles and other guidelines for recreational users that will be designed to maximize recreational opportunities while protecting the forests' remote character 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 planning process will have to 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 the 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 Treasuny Community Forest goals.

KEY POINTS

Conduct suitability analysis that serves as basis for planning

Emphasize leave-no-trace principles to protect natural resources

Work with recreation planning committee

Plan will be foundation for future restoration, maintenance and development of recreational opportunities

Periodic review of plan to allow adaptive management compatible with 5 forest goals

Evaluate motorcycle use within the recreation planning process

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

As of January 20, two-wheeled motorcycles within the Community Forest could access three multiple-use trails: Middlefork (FS 1199), Yellow Hill (FS 1222), and West Fork (FS 1223), and motorcycle users were required to follow all applicable laws and rules, including prohibitions on closed trails, closed roads, and cross-country travel.

DNR and WDWF 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, and wheeled all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles—will continue to be prohibited from trails, closed roads, and cross-country travel.

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

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

KEY POINTS

History: Motorcycle use has been allowed on 3 USFS multi-use trails. Other motorized vehicles, except snowmobiles, were not permitted on other roads or trails before and will continue to be prohibited in the TCF.

This planning process will determine if motorcycle use is appropriate within the TCF, and if so where and under what conditions it would occur.

Criteria (p.44) will be used to determine appropriate use

The 3 USFS multi-use trails will be evaluated to determine appropriate use and make recommendations for repair, restoration, relocation

Advisory committee will encourage broad participation in this discussion by multiple user groups and neighbors.
KEY POINTS

Provide non-motorized trails for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders that:
• Emphasize scenic destinations
• Accommodate multiple skill levels
• Provide loop trails
• Connect to USFS trails
• Separate uses where appropriate

Provide winter trails for snowmobiles, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing that:
• Provide loop trails
• Provide connections to regional trails
• Located/ relocated to protect water, fish, wildlife
• Include groomed and ungroomed trails

All trails will be managed to protect water, fish, wildlife habitat, working lands; trails may be relocated or decommissioned if needed

Work with USFS, adjacent landowners, and community to resolve recreation issues and coordinate enforcement

Provide recreation opportunities and facilities that are consistent with watershed protection

The recreation plan will guide the efforts of forest managers to:
• Evaluate the road system to determine its ability to provide access and meet recreation needs.
• Develop new and upgrade existing trailheads, including interpretive signs and parking facilities, to ensure recreational access and minimize environmental damage.
• Where appropriate, new winter parking areas will be established.
• Provide winter trail maintenance while improving existing campgrounds to protect public health and safety, and fish and wildlife habitat. Provide basic amenities such as fire rings and picnic tables. Promote wildlife-friendly camping practices.
• Designate day-use areas and trails with parking facilities and interpretive signs for activities such as walk-in fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, and river access.
• Allow access to backcountry camping areas from heavily used areas.
• Designate access for people with disabilities as required by federal and state laws and consistent with ICFP policies and practices for all recreation areas.
• Use a permit system for large group activities and events. Considerations will include safety, capacity for participants, staffing needs, sanitation requirements, and the needs and priorities of private property owners within and adjacent to the forest.
• Determine how to manage and, if necessary, limit commercial recreational uses in the forest.
• Provide designated firewood collection areas.
• Manage high-use areas, especially along the river corridor, for public access, safety, and the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

KEY POINTS

Evaluate forest road system for forest management and recreational access

Identify needed trailheads and access for summer and winter recreation

Provide recommendations for/identify campgrounds, day use areas, river access

Allow walk in back county camping away from rivers and high use areas

Provide access for people with disabilities

Provide recommendations for a permit system for large group activities and events

Provide recommendations for how to manage commercial recreation

Designate firewood collection areas

Protect fish and wildlife habitat especially along river corridors
RECREATION
Strategies & Tools (CONTINUED)

Maintain existing partnerships and establish new collaborations between public agencies, user groups, and citizen volunteers

- Partner with volunteer groups and nonprofit organizations, community groups, and recreation clubs to educate the public and to maintain and restore the forest.
- Develop partnerships with local communities and adjacent public land managers to provide linkages and common messaging for the network of regional trails.
- Support partnerships that involve local schools and youth groups in recreation and environmental education.
- Use technology and new media, such as social media, blogs, e-newsletters, websites, email, and citizen science to increase outreach to potential volunteers.

KEY POINTS
Partner with volunteer groups, non-profits, community groups, recreation clubs to:
- Educate the public
- Maintain and restore the forest
- Provide linkages and common messaging for regional trails
- Environmental education with school groups

Use technology and new media such as social media, blogs, e-newsletters, websites, email, citizen science to increase outreach to potential volunteers

Establish a consistent enforcement and education presence

Employ an integrated enforcement strategy involving WDFW, DNR, and partner organizations.
- Increase the presence and visibility of law enforcement personnel in the community forest.
- Use education, engineering, and enforcement strategies to develop a coordinated approach to enforcement and public education, including federal, state, and local agencies and partner organizations as appropriate.
- Work with local emergency responders to develop an emergency access plan for the community forest, with specific response plans for trailheads and campgrounds.
- Use gates, signs, and maps to create travel routes where natural resource laws, recreation rules, and motor vehicle laws can be readily enforced.
- Establish procedures for forest users to report infractions.
- Provide signs at trailheads, trailheads, and day-use areas to inform the public of permitted uses, regulations, fire danger, private land owners, and wildlife encroachment.
- Provide signs with historical or environmental information when appropriate.
- Permit the discharge of firearms during lawful hunting seasons. Prohibit target shooting, and prohibit the discharge of firearms within 500 feet of established campgrounds.

KEY POINTS
Integrate enforcement efforts between DNR and WDFW and partner organizations
- Increase presence and visibility of LEOs
- Coordinate education, design, enforcement for messaging
- Work with local emergency responders to develop an emergency access plan
- Provide enforceable gates, signs, maps
- Provide information and signs at trails and facilities to inform public of permitted usage, fire danger, private landowners, and safe use
- Provide interpretive and educational signage
- Permit firearms during lawful hunting season, prohibit target shooting
Where should recreation take place in the Community Forest?

The legislation that created the Toowong 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. DNRK and WDPF staff will begin this land suitability analysis by mapping the forest to showatifation 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 these attributes.

Maps will identify the following soil and geological conditions:
- Steep, unstable slopes with high potential for landslides
- Highly erodible and eroded 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 bogs
- 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 access 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

Measuring Performance

RECREATION PLANNING

Priority actions:
- Develop a recreation plan by December 2016, including the following steps:
  a. Identify the project scope, related data needs, and conduct other pre-planning tasks.
  b. Establish the recreation planning committee and determine how to involve interested parties, and the public in the process.
  c. Conduct land suitability analysis and mapping as described on page 44.
  d. Identify and evaluate recreation management options, including factors that could limit access, such as cultural and archeological resources.
  e. Define recreation options into a recommended plan, with goals, priority actions, and implementation plans and maps.
  f. Conduct analysis required under the State Environmental Policy Act.
- Within recreation planning, determine appropriate limits to commercial recreational use of the forest, campground size, and large-event size.

Performance measures:
- Complete a recreation plan by December 2016, including the deliverables described above.
- Complete a prioritized recreation project list, including new facilities and trails, by December 2016.
- Upon adoption of the recreation plan, the agencies, with input from the Advisory Committee, shall update these performance measures.

ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION

Priority actions:
- Increase the presence of enforcement officers.
- Develop an emergency access plan.
- Develop maps, handouts, and other educational material for recreation users by April 2016.
- Establish a network of volunteers for restoration, education, and self-policing by April 2016.

Performance measures:
- Number of Community Forest users by type.
- Number of users contacted and educated about recreation.
- Number of volunteer and recreation groups involved in volunteer events, including the number of hours and dollar value of their contributions.
- Number of enforcement contacts regarding natural resource laws, motor vehicle requirements, recreation rules, and other regulations and statutes.

TRAIL NETWORK

Priority actions:
- Conduct a survey of trail conditions and assess restoration needs by May 2016.
- Develop a work plan for priority areas by December 2016.
- Organize partners and volunteers interested in trail restoration and maintenance by August 2015.

Performance measures:
- Number and length of trail sections improved.
- Number and length of trail sections that are abandoned or improved to enhance compatibility with watershed protection.
- Number and length of new trails added.

RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority actions:
- Identify improvements to campgrounds and other developed areas needed to meet public safety and health and develop a list of priority projects by September 2016.
- Identify roads, trailheads, and other recreational infrastructure needed to improve recreational access by December 2016.

Performance measures:
- Number and dollar value of facility improvements or new facilities completed annually.
- Number of projects completed to improve access to rivers, trails, campgrounds, and other recreational opportunities.
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