

# Teaway Community Forest Recreation Plan April 12, 2018 – Community Comments

## Key:

Highlighted yellow – discussion items for committee

No highlight – already in recreation plan or no action needed

Highlighted grey – Not compatible with recreation plan (i.e. suitability, impact to TCF goals, not in TCF)

## Station 1: Suitability

Public Comments moved to other stations – information shared with Community

## Station 2: Winter Recreation

Public Comments from Community:

- Non-motorized area too low elevation for snow - short section of Jungle Creek is higher
- Extend the non-motorized winter trails over to Carlson Canyon and Bible Rock
- Need more non-motorized trail (groomed or just a corridor) that motorized can cross but not follow
- Non-motorized corridor along North Fork from West Fork to Jungle Creek/ 29 Pines
- Southern dispersed recreation area is overused by snowmobiles; why no dispersed non-motorized areas? Suitability for snowmobiles?
- Cross-country ski access is quiet
- Keep plenty of motorized opportunity so that people with limited mobility will have winter access
- Loop snowmobile trail on NF from Dickey Creek to 29 Pines
- Snow groomed trail on coal mine at proper location (not in TCF)
- Jungle Creek should be closed to snowmobiles
- Voluntary non-moto not working; both encounters and impact from tracks

## Station 3: Summer Recreation

Public Comments from Community:

- Look at Shuttle options from Roslyn & Cle Elum to TCF (and vice versa) for hiking, biking, etc.; people could park in town and take a shuttle and hike or bike back to town
- Need immediate recreation signage -- don't wait for system to be complete
- Have trail maps that are downloadable GPS enable now
- Clearly delineate boundary between TVU and private lands and direct trails accordingly
- Places for people to come in and picnic for 1-2 hours -- maybe pullouts along scenic drive or separate areas in campgrounds

- What will happen to the three USFS trails as you evaluate them? Do not close access to these trails.
- Understand OPDMD (Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices) policy and opportunities for access for all abilities
- Need connection between West Fork and Yellow Hill for non-street legal bikes (or improve road for trailers, or create trail along side of road)
- Consider a community forest that allows access to a portion of the forest for motorized vehicles. It is the only way that disabled and elderly will be able to enjoy our great area. There is plenty of land to accommodate everyone.
- Ensure that when we assess high-density trails, consider wider widths or separated trails in high use areas
- Keep the gates closed; don't open it up; value the quiet
- Road beyond 29 Pines is in poor condition; tough with horse trailers
- Parking improvements at Dickey Creek and Indian Creek are good
- Need connections from Horse Park to Coal Miners Trail to Ridge then on to TCF (Especially when park has official events going on).
- Can street-legal WATV's use open roads?
- West Fork Teanaway: maintain road from end of pavement to the gate
- No ATVs but keep connections to existing motorized USFS trails
- Manure management in high density areas
- Ensure fisheries are managed in concert with recreation, so don't lose fishing
- Fire danger is all over; people leaving campfires burning at undesignated campsites
- Evaluate the Middle Fork Trail for sustainable stream crossings. Is the trail good for fish?
- User groups help educate other users if there are people causing problems.
- Is there a possible way to reconstruct the 4305 Road Bridge for at least hiker, biker, and motorcycle use?
- Consider a downhill mountain bike trail option
- Can you create a system for motorized outside of suitability conflicts (e.g. when animal sensitivities are past)?
- Is there a sound level that limits single-track motorcycle use? Could we have lower sound levels for motorcycles? What about electric bikes? Need to plan for that? Think about time horizon!
- What opportunities are there in the Ronald/ Roslyn where most property owners live for ATV use and family recreation? Need more 4x4 opportunities (play area).
- Concern about motorized use impacts on trail conditions
- Look at developing a single-track motorcycle trail that follows the scenic drive road to avoid traffic and allow a more challenging trail
- Private property needs to be marked now, you don't know when you trespass, especially in the West Fork
- Erosion also occurs with horse use
- Look at connections at SE edge of TCF also with horse park
- Need more 4x4 designations

## Station 4: Project Phases

### Public Comments from Community:

- USFS Trail connections are very popular – many cars parking there now; parking is not organized and a safety hazard. Move this up in priority.
- #1 Priorities: camping, parking, enforcement, garbage

## Station 5: Camping

### Initial Ideas by Committee - Camping:

- ❖ Need a volunteer or host presence in the campgrounds
- ❖ Need reservations for group campsites
- ❖ Prefer first-come first-serve campsites
- ❖ Build covered picnic shelters
- ❖ Need intuitive and clear signage
- ❖ Need garbage cans/dumpsters
- ❖ Plan for more campsites

### Initial Ideas by Committee - Backcountry Camping:

- ❖ Provide single and group sites along trails in moderate & low density areas
- ❖ No camping near rock formations
- ❖ Need a map of backcountry sites
- ❖ Need backcountry rangers to support the system
- ❖ Teanaway Community Forest is too small and accessible to provide a good backcountry experience; USFS lands provide a better backcountry experience
- ❖ Pull-outs along roads with sign and trail to walk-in sites

### Initial Idea by Committee – Huts

- ❖ Winter Warming Huts stocked with wood; also serve as an emergency overnight shelter
- ❖ Partner with Towns-to-Teanaway to provide winter huts on the ridge between Roslyn & Teanaway – used by all, run by volunteers, and removed in the summer.
- ❖ Partner with user groups to put up, take down, and manage the huts on a volunteer basis.
- ❖ Huts could be used 4-seasons for “glamping” – need more research

### Public Comments from Community:

- Mix of reservation sites & first come first serve sites
- Use North Cascades camping model: mix of reserved, first come first served, and local community campsites
- First come first serve
- Less built, more primitive
- Campground host
- Expand designated equestrian sites in Teanaway Campground. Water, manure bin, wheel barrow, Leave No Trace signage; Funding for supporting manure bin
- Keep campgrounds primitive, fire ring, picnic table, vault toilet, no shelters or fancy stuff

- Remote camp sites on trails
- Cameras for surveillance
- Charge for camping to raise money for TCF
- Dispersed camping for RVs
- Reservation a percentage of campsites for Kittitas County residents for some time
- No backcountry camping; camping in campgrounds only; if so, must be registered
- Lottery system for sites (example Grand Canyon)

## Station 6: Commercial Recreation/ Events/ Groups

### Initial Idea by Committee – Commercial Rec/ Events/Groups

- ❖ Events should not overwhelm normal use
- ❖ Consider limiting the size and number of events per given weekend/month
- ❖ Prefer nature-based events– provide opportunities for education and revenue for the forest
- ❖ Events should focus on non-profit groups first
- ❖ Events are a good way to introduce people to a new recreation
- ❖ Provide opportunities for education in a fun setting – learn about geology, forest health, fish and wildlife, river restoration, etc. while hiking with other people.
- ❖ Opportunity to generate revenue for the Teanaway Community Forest
- ❖ Limit commercialization or vendors

### Public Comments from Community:

- Not all races/events have an equal impact. Orienteering vs mountain bike, etc.
- Trade volunteer pre-work to prioritize permits
- Do limit size and number of events
- Consider concierge (sub-contracting) to manage events per your requirements; Hook up with Chamber of commerce, rotary, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, etc.
- Publicize commercial events
- Vendors to bid on limited event permits
- Reference available services (guides for each ) at trailheads and kiosks
- Guided motorized use to mitigate current motorized and impacts

## Station 7: Environmental Education

### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What groups should we collaborate with for environmental education? (Schools, non-profits, etc.)
- ❖ What places in the forest are best for education?
- ❖ What should be the focus of the curriculum? (forests, fish, rivers, water, wildlife, fire, sustainability)
- ❖ How to manage costs and make education accessible to the entire community?
- ❖ How should we provide environmental education?
- ❖ What should the facilities look like?

### Public comments from Community:

- Specific education programs addressing resource use issues, garbage, livestock interactions
- Vocation training for high school students, forestry, saw mills (portable), fisheries, guiding, birding, and orienteering
- Interpretive signage around campgrounds
- Allow reservations at campsites for educational groups
- Human impacts/ degradation (forest fires, erosion, dispersed camping, logging)
- Teach people about sustainably harvesting mushrooms; they are currently over picked
- Signs notifying visitors when areas have been cleared/restored
- Target key developmental ages (12-15)
- Use landscape to teach higher standard of recreation use; treat it like wilderness, teach these practices: implement wilderness trail standards, pack it out, teach that TCF is a special preserve experience, have visitors learn how to be low-impact
- Develop scout curricula and outreach programs
- Scavenger hunt to unique places (orienteering, geocaching)
- Can DNR use public-service announcements to reach couch potatoes?
- Program idea: Impacts from litter/ trash; plastics vs glass vs hay vs manure from an environmental perspective.
- Possible Groups:
  - Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS)
  - North Cascades Institute ( look at their models)
  - Kittitas Audubon
  - Scout troops
  - Outdoor schools