

May 10, 2018

In Attendance

Committee Members

Kitty Craig	Jeri Downs	Darcy Batura
Kathy Young	Deborah Essman	Scott Nicolai
Martha Wyckoff	John Littel	Laura Osiadacz
Paul Schmitt	Andrea Imler	JJ Collins
Andrew Cromarty	Michael Callahan	
Wayne Mohler	Tom Ring	

Agency Staff

Doug McClelland	Glenn Glover	Patrica Jatczak
Ross Huffman	Bruce Botka	Jeff Burnham
Laura Cooper	Elizabeth Eberle	William Meyer

Meeting Purpose: Teanaway Community Forest – management updates. Review April Community Meeting comments for winter and summer concepts and project phases. Review strategies and tools for camping, commercial recreation, events, groups and environmental education. Discuss next steps in recreation planning.

Welcome: Introductions and review of March meeting notes. [Committee Meeting Documents](#)

Teanaway Community Forest – Management Updates: Scott Nicolai – update on woody debris placement. Restoration and management update (Larry Leach, William Meyer, Jeff Burnham)

Public Comments:

Ryan Rockhill, Teanaway resident: Google search shows the TCF as the Burke Barn on Highway 97 and has the Swauk Teanaway Grange address, which leads to people unfamiliar with the area trying to recreate on private land. Feels like nothing is being done to protect private property adjacent to TCF land or delineate private property at TCF/TVU boundary. ”

Scott Nicolai, Kittitas county resident: Big fan of camping in the Teanaway (29 Pines) and loves the way it is now except for some sites that need moved away from the river. Don't fix the road; potholes are great speed bumps. Long history of campers who like it the way it is, including undesignated campsites.

Ann Fonken, Middle Fork property owner: The issue of fire is not addressed enough in the plan. Concerned with how fast the October fire moved. Middle Fork and West Fork resident, as well as those in the camping areas, don't have a fire escape. The scenic drive could be a fire escape for people in the Middle Fork over to Rye Creek and Jack Creek to Highway 97. Where Dickey Creek is fenced cows can't get in to graze so the grass/weeds get waist high and that's a fire danger. Please mow it or allow a few grazing animals in there to reduce fuels.

TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST RECREATION PLAN

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Tracy Rooney, resident: Was on the cattle grazing committee 1.5 years ago. Fences shouldn't get in the way of recreation – they should have gates. There should be a gate in the mile of fence near his house so the residents don't have to use the road to get around the gate. The committee isn't taking into account how the residents recreate. Regarding the Lick Creek re-alignment – hasn't heard from the county public works yet.

Advisory Committee – Letter Discussion:

The committee discussed the meeting in March when the decision about motorized use occurred. The US Forest Service updated the committee about their status regarding existing and new trails on the district. Overall, the committee felt the recreation planning process and data used to come to a decision was sound and that the decision aligns with the five goals of the community forest set by the legislature.

Review April Community Meeting comments:

Winter Comments

- Most of the states sno-parks are too low, but putting them higher brings in snow removal issues.
- Voluntary non-motorized area on USFS seems to be adhered to well.
- May not be enough snow in the non-motorized area.
- Keep private property in mind.

Summer Comments changes

- Explore private shuttles - it reduces parking lots.
- Downloadable GPS maps, avenuza product that shows private lands.
- Install signage & kiosks that show you where you are at.
- "Leaving public lands" signs.

Phases Comments changes – thumbs up

- Complete USFS trail and trailhead work at the same time.
 - Prioritize each trail/trailhead pair: 1-MF (phase 3), 2-WF (phase 3), 3-YH (phase 4)

Review Strategies & Tools:

Camping Comments changes

- Have a combination of reservation and first come, first served camping – with a certain number of campsites with reservations.
- In the future, reservations will probably be necessary.
- Reservations would be a good source of revenue.
- Stay with non-reservation system until you have the capacity/capability to work with a reservation system. USFS is moving away from concessionaires in Cle Elum District.
- Elevate priority of reservations for youth education groups.
- Explore reservations and fees. Separate campgrounds and do it as a study – start with one having reservations. Tie in fee structure with improvements in CGs/THs/Trails
- Long time users don't want to pay, but generating revenue creatively should be considered – group reservations, permits, etc.
- By requiring pay to play, we may be leaving out a demographic. Not everyone is able to afford to visit the forest. People should be able to have spontaneous adventures and affordability.

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Backcountry Camping

- Popular/regularly used spots should be hardened, but less popular spots could be “dispersed” and not designated or hardened.
- GPS mapping system could show areas that are OK for dispersed camping.
- A few designated backcountry sites as a pilot project. Sign dispersed camping rules on kiosks.
- Use a phased approach to make management realistic.
- If there’s a hardened site, people may migrate towards that. Dispersed camping may trash the area or disturb wildlife.
- Explore huts.
- Do not allow campfires.

Teanaway Community Forest Work Party on June 23. Teanaway Community Forest Facebook Page is not live and will have work party information posted soon.

Commercial Events

- Limit the number of people at events.
- Limit the frequency of events.
- Dates with no events (holidays).
- Identify allowable types of commercial recreation
 - Business must be compatible with experience we are trying to provide and the state should benefit from their profits.
- Dedicated group area – away from the rest of the sites (meadow next to Teanaway Camp).
- Do research on the comparable cut the USFS takes or private businesses take.
- Consider staffing/capacity to manage all of the events.
- Event applications should be submitted more than 60 days ahead of event date.
- Outfitter/guide permits should be tackled.

Environmental Education

- A facility may be appropriate for these events.
- Committee to work on partnerships with other organizations down the line at future meetings.
- Prioritize educational groups to get reservations.
- Have a section on “Shared Stewardship”
 - Environmental Education
 - Partnerships for implementation

Logistics – Next Steps & future meetings:

- Recreation Plan SEPA Hearing in July/August TBD
- TCF Advisory Committee Meetings
 - September 13th -- Swauk Teanaway Grange -- 3-6PM
 - December 13th -- Swauk Teanaway Grange -- 3-6PM

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