



Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan

Draft October 24, 2018



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people and organizations contributed to the development of this recreation plan, including the members of the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee.

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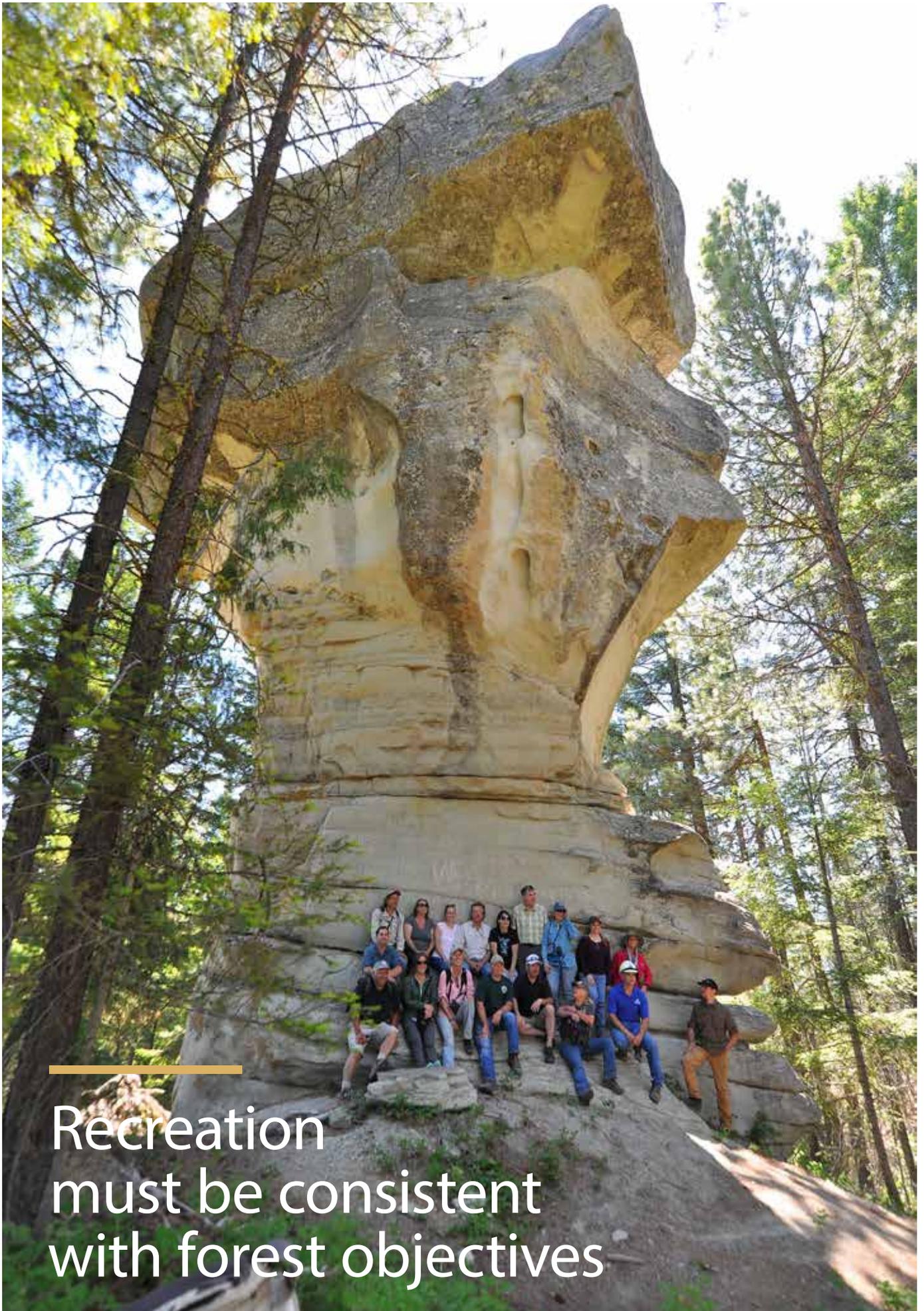
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
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except where otherwise noted.

Cover Photos

(clockwise from top right):

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Department of Natural Resources
Deborah Essman
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Insert Agency Letter



Recreation
must be consistent
with forest objectives



TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST 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 Plan

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

The land within the Teanaway Community Forest has been valued throughout history. Beginning as early as 11,500 years ago, Native Americans have lived, hunted, fished, and gathered berries and plants throughout the Teanaway watershed. From the time the pioneers first settled here to the present, generations of Kittitas County residents and other Washingtonians have also cherished this special place.

In 2013, the state legislature authorized the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (YBIP). Within that authorizing legislation, the Teanaway Community Forest, Washington’s first community forest, was created. The Community Forest is managed for multiple benefits including water supply and watershed protection, grazing and timber production, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and strong community partnerships in a manner that is consistent with the watershed protection objectives of YBIP. These five management goals were given equal priority in the law that authorized the creation of the Teanaway Community Forest.

When the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and a citizen advisory committee developed the overall management plan for the Teanaway Community Forest in 2015, they agreed more time was needed for recreation planning. For that reason, the 2015 plan did not prescribe detailed management approaches, but identified broad goals for recreation and issues, such as motorcycle use, that needed to be addressed in greater depth.

Specifically, the agencies and the advisory committee agreed the recreation plan should:

- Ensure recreational activities and facilities are consistent with watershed protection, working lands, and habitat restoration.
- Provide a sustainable network of safe, enjoyable recreational trails.
- Evaluate the suitability of continued and/or expanded motorcycle use within the forest.
- Establish a consistent law enforcement and public education presence between public agencies, user groups, and citizen volunteers.
- Support existing partnerships and promote new collaboration between public agencies, user groups, and citizen volunteers.

The agencies also agreed to continue to encourage and provide opportunities for public input and participation in the recreation planning process to preserve the Teanaway’s unique qualities for future generations.

The strategies described in this document will guide recreation management and public access in the Community Forest. It reflects the Community Forest management goals adopted by the Governor and Legislature when they approved the Teanaway forestland purchase in 2013 as a key element of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP).



The Plan

This plan describes how DNR and WDFW will manage recreation and public access in the Teanaway Community Forest over the next 15 years. It was developed in collaboration with the Community Forest Advisory Committee and extensive public input.

In developing the recreation plan, the agencies and the Advisory Committee created “recreation concept maps” to identify the types and location of recreational opportunities that could be provided in the Community Forest. Proposed recreational uses were discussed in relation to the goals of the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan to ensure that recreation is compatible with the priority of conservation and restoration of the upper Yakima Basin. Adjacent land managers and communities were consulted to address common issues and consider connections across landscapes. The Advisory Committee was also guided by a land suitability assessment and extensive public input.



RECREATION

Concept Maps

One of the key outcomes of the planning process was the development of concept maps that show the general locations of proposed recreational uses as the plan is implemented. These maps are based on broad scale mapping information. Exact locations and site-specific details related to the proposed projects will be generated from on-the-ground site assessments to ensure safety, sustainability, habitat protection, and a positive user experience.

After conducting a land suitability analysis, which looked at biological, soil, geologic, and management constraints, recreation opportunities were understood to be different in the winter and summer. The needs of wildlife, such as critical nesting, calving, and denning seasons must be considered when planning for recreation during the spring and early summer, but are less of a factor during the fall and winter. Planning for sustainable trails, camping areas, and trailheads in spring, summer and fall need to take soil erosion and river floodplain areas into account. In the winter, snow coverage eliminates some of these constraints.

These seasonal variations informed the development of two different overall recreation management strategies – called Primary Management Objectives (PMOs) – one PMO for spring, summer, and fall and another PMO for winter. PMOs identify the principal recreational use or uses for which an area is managed. The PMO does not necessarily mean that other recreational uses in an area are excluded. PMOs are a tool intended to provide recreational visitors with an understanding of the types of recreational activities to expect.



Primary Management Objective (PMO) for Summer Recreation

During the spring, summer, and fall, recreation in the Community Forest will be managed primarily to provide opportunities for non-motorized recreation, including but not limited to hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and camping, as well as fishing, hunting, and nature activities. Secondary uses include scenic driving on designated forest roads and motorcycle riding on multi-use trails that connect to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.



Primary Management Objective (PMO) for Winter Recreation:

During the winter, recreation in the Community Forest will be managed primarily to provide groomed motorized and non-motorized trails with opportunities for dispersed snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and winter play.

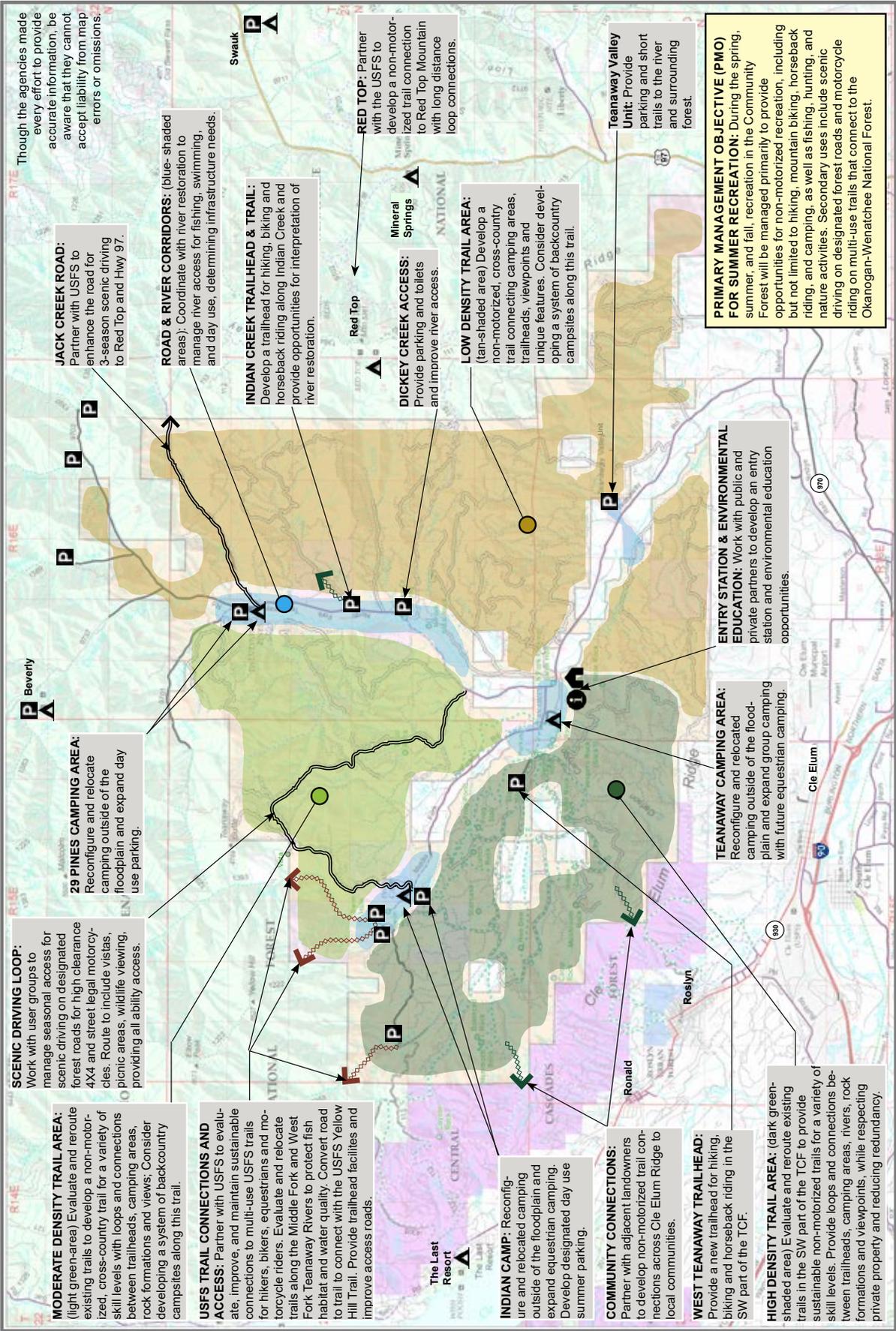


PHOTOGRAPHS TOP TO BOTTOM: KATHY YOUNG, DEBORAH ESSMAN, KRANK EVENTS

The Summer Concept Map

The Summer Concept Map shows general locations of facilities such as trailheads and camping areas, key recreation connections, and areas with varying trail development. Key features of the summer concepts include:

- **Zones** identified for high, moderate, and low-density trail development. The different zones are based on the land suitability assessment and current use patterns, planning for a higher density of trails in areas with geologic features and vistas, and a lower density of trails in areas with sensitive wildlife habitat.
- **River corridors** that provide access for fishing, swimming, and day use, in coordination with stream restoration activities.
- **Camping areas** improved at Teanaway, 29 Pines, and Indian Camp.
- **Trailheads** with parking, restrooms, and information kiosks. Also, trailheads that provide daytime access to rivers and non-motorized trails as well as parking for access to the multi-use Forest Service trails.
- **Connections** to multi-use trails in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and motorcycle riding on the West Fork, Middle Fork, and Yellow Hill trails, in partnership with U.S. Forest Service.
- **Connections** to non-motorized trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding from the Community Forest across Cle Elum Ridge to the communities of Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald, and to the National Forest, in partnership with adjacent land managers and local communities.
- **Scenic driving routes on forest roads** to improve access for all ages and abilities within the Community Forest. Develop a loop drive from Indian Camp to the North Fork Teanaway Road providing views in the Teanaway Butte area and restoration activities along Lick Creek. Enhance connections at Jack Creek Road to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and Hwy 97.



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

JACK CREEK ROAD: Partner with USFS to enhance the road for 3-season scenic driving to Red Top and Hwy 97.

ROAD & RIVER CORRIDORS: (blue-shaded areas): Coordinate with river restoration to manage river access for fishing, swimming, and day use, determining infrastructure needs.

INDIAN CREEK TRAILHEAD & TRAIL: Develop a trailhead for hiking, biking and horseback riding along Indian Creek and provide opportunities for interpretation of river restoration.

RED TOP: Partner with the USFS to develop a non-motorized trail connection to Red Top Mountain with long distance loop connections.

DICKEY CREEK ACCESS: Provide parking and toilets and improve river access.

LOW DENSITY TRAIL AREA: (tan-shaded area) Develop a non-motorized, cross-country trail connecting camping areas, trailheads, viewpoints and unique features. Consider developing a system of backcountry campsites along this trail.

Teanaway Valley Unit: Provide parking and short trails to the river and surrounding forest.

PRIMARY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE (PMO) FOR SUMMER RECREATION: During the spring, summer, and fall, recreation in the Community Forest will be managed primarily to provide opportunities for non-motorized recreation, including but not limited to hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and camping, as well as fishing, hunting, and nature activities. Secondary uses include scenic driving on designated forest roads and motorcycle riding on multi-use trails that connect to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

ENTRY STATION & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: Work with public and private partners to develop an entry station and environmental education opportunities.

TEANAWAY CAMPING AREA: Reconfigure and relocate camping outside of the floodplain and expand group camping with future equestrian camping.

SCENIC DRIVING LOOP: Work with user groups to manage seasonal access for scenic driving on designated forest roads for high clearance 4X4 and street legal motorcycles. Route to include vistas, picnic areas, wildlife viewing, providing all ability access.

MODERATE DENSITY TRAIL AREA: (light green-area) Evaluate and reroute existing trails to develop a non-motorized, cross-country trail for a variety of skill levels with loops and connections between trailheads, camping areas, rock formations and views; Consider developing a system of backcountry campsites along this trail.

USFS TRAIL CONNECTIONS AND ACCESS: Partner with USFS to evaluate, improve, and maintain sustainable connections to multi-use USFS trails for hikers, bikers, equestrians and motorcycle riders. Evaluate and relocate trails along the Middle Fork and West Fork Teanaway Rivers to protect fish habitat and water quality. Convert road to trail to connect with the USFS Yellow Hill Trail. Provide trailhead facilities and improve access roads.

INDIAN CAMP: Reconfigure and relocated camping outside of the floodplain and expand equestrian camping. Develop designated day use summer parking.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: Partner with adjacent landowners to develop non-motorized trail connections across Cle Elum Ridge to local communities.

WEST TEANAWAY TRAILHEAD: Provide a new trailhead for hiking, biking and horseback riding in the SW part of the TCF.

HIGH DENSITY TRAIL AREA: (dark green-shaded area) Evaluate and reroute existing trails in the SW part of the TCF to provide sustainable non-motorized trails for a variety of skill levels. Provide loops and connections between trailheads, camping areas, rivers, rock formations and viewpoints, while respecting private property and reducing redundancy.



KEY

- High Density Trail Area
- Moderate Density Trail Area
- Low Density Trail Area
- River and Road Corridor
- Non-motorized trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding
- Multi-Use trails for hiking, biking, horse & motorcycles
- Scenic driving roads, seasonal access

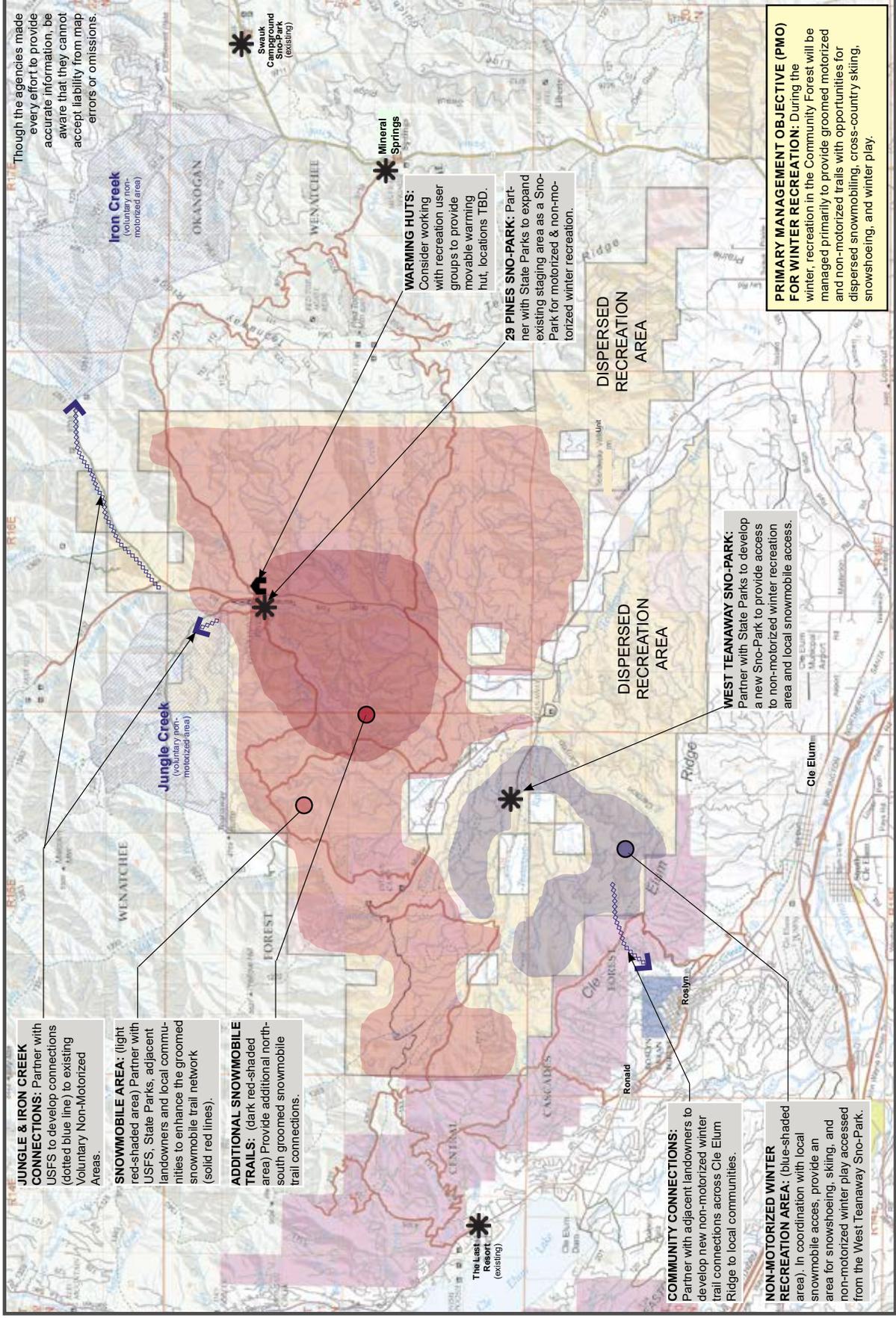
Teanaway Community Forest
**Summer Recreation
 Concept Map**



The Winter Concept Map

The Winter Concept Map shows general locations of facilities such as Sno-Parks, community connections, and the primary management objectives (PMOs) assigned to different areas of the forest. Key features of the winter concepts include:

- **Zones** for motorized and non-motorized winter recreation including: a snowmobile area to enhance the groomed snowmobile trail network, and a non-motorized winter recreation area for snowshoeing, skiing, and non-motorized winter play.
- **Sno-Parks** located at 29 Pines camp area for access to the snowmobile area and at the West Teanaway camp area for access to the non-motorized winter recreation area.
- **Trail Connections** from the Community Forest to local communities, Cle Elum Ridge, and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.
- **Warming Huts** developed and managed in cooperation with user groups.



Teanaway Community Forest

Winter Recreation Concept Map



ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT

The Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan identified recreation objectives (see sidebar to right) and provided general strategies and tools for managing recreation in the Community Forest. This recreation plan builds on the strategies that were presented in the Management Plan and provides additional strategies that were identified during this planning process by Advisory Committee members and by members of the public who called on DNR and WDFW to:

- Focus on improving existing trails, camping areas, trailheads and roads before developing additional recreation opportunities.
- Develop a system of loops and cross-country trails connecting unique geologic features, vistas, and rivers to camping areas and trailheads.
- Partner with adjacent landowners to improve connections between the Community Forest and the communities of Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald.
- Partner with the U.S. Forest Service to maintain and improve trail connections between the Teanaway Community Forest and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.
- Improve access for people of all ages and abilities by providing opportunities for scenic driving.
- Improve efficiency by using summer trailheads, trails, and forest roads for snowmobile, ski and snowshoe trails in the winter.

The following includes strategies from the Management Plan and additional strategies and tools that were identified during the recreation planning process.

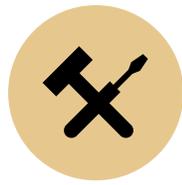


OBJECTIVES

- **Provide opportunities for access and recreational use of the Community Forest consistent with watershed protection and in recognition of the importance of outdoor recreation to the regional economy.**
- **Provide social benefits through a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, which allow the community to enjoy better mental, physical and societal health.**
- **Consider social as well as physical and biological factors in determining where recreation should take place within the Community Forest.**
- **Identify opportunities for partner organizations and volunteers to help develop and maintain recreational facilities and assist with recreation management.**
- **Ensure that improvements to camping areas and other recreation facilities meet users' needs, protect public health and safety, and contribute to achieving other Community Forest goals.**
- **Provide a consistent and pro-active law enforcement and education presence to ensure forest users understand and follow recreation rules and other forest requirements.**



TOP PHOTOGRAPH: THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY



RECREATION

Strategies & Tools

Provide recreation opportunities and facilities that are consistent with watershed protection

- Evaluate the road system to determine its ability to provide access and meet recreation needs.
- Develop new and renovate existing trailheads, including interpretive signs, sanitation and parking facilities, to ensure recreational access and minimize environmental damage. Where appropriate, new winter parking areas will be established.
- Designate day-use areas and trails with parking facilities, sanitation and interpretive signs for activities such as walk-in fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and river access.
- Provide opportunities to access the forks of the Teanaway River, and design these river access sites to avoid damage to fish and wildlife habitat.
- Manage high-use areas, especially along the river corridor, for public access, safety, and the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.
- Provide recreation access for people with disabilities as required by federal and state laws and consistent with DNR policies and practices for all recreation areas.
- Provide designated firewood collection areas.

Enhance opportunities for overnight camping

Teanaway Valley has a long history of serving as a camping destination for families. Camping builds strong connections to the land and wildlife, trails and rivers, and between people. The forest has three existing camping areas: West Fork Teanaway, Indian Camp, and 29 Pines. The following are recommendations and strategies to improve camping in the Community Forest:

- Renovate existing camping areas by relocating campsites out of the river floodplains, consistent with watershed protection.
- Provide a mixture of designated individual and group sites with picnic tables, approved fire rings, and designated parking for cars, trucks, trailers, and RVs.



SECOND PHOTO FROM TOP: DEBORAH ESSMAN

- After completing camping improvements, consider utilizing volunteer campground hosts and explore employing concessionaires or partnerships to manage camping.
- Continue to manage the majority of campsites on a first-come first-served basis. Explore the potential for reservations at group or individual sites.
- Install signage and kiosks with information about camping area rules, emergency contacts, important announcements, and maps of campsite locations and trails in the Community Forest.
- Post signage to educate people about “Leave No Trace” principles and to promote wildlife-friendly camping practices.
- In partnership with equestrian groups, improve equestrian camping and facilities by:
 - Providing mounting blocks, high lines or corrals, manure bins, and wheelbarrows.
 - Providing designated equestrian campsites.
 - Exploring the potential for providing water.
- Provide designated parking for day use, which is separate from parking for campers.
- Provide designated trails for access to the river from the camping and day-use parking areas.
- Consider adding day-use shelters for picnicking and environmental education when consistent with zoning laws.

Provide opportunities for backcountry camping

- Provide maps and signage to indicate locations of designated backcountry campsites with associated rules.
- Pilot providing remote hardened designated tent sites in backcountry locations (no campfires are allowed and “Leave No Trace” principles apply).
- Work with user groups and volunteers to help manage remote campsites.
- Partner with adjacent land managers to develop a connected system of backcountry campsites.
- In partnership with adjacent landowners, explore volunteer-based or commercial hut systems.
- Prohibit dispersed camping near heavily used areas, along county roads, and other open roads within the forest.



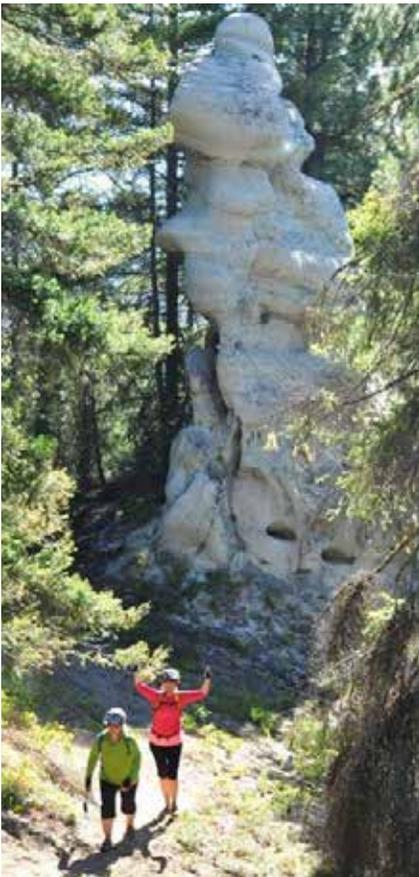
EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE

Provide a sustainable network of safe, enjoyable recreation 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.
 - Upgrade, mitigate for, relocate, or decommission trails and trail segments that are unsafe or that harm water quality, are difficult to maintain, have highly erodible soils or steep slopes, or cut through sensitive wildlife habitat.
 - Inform forest visitors about what they can do to protect the Community Forest environment.

DNR and WDFW will work closely with the USFS, neighboring landowners, local communities, and other neighbors to evaluate and resolve issues such as access, trail use, and enforcement across parcels owned by different organizations.



BOTTOM PHOTO: KRANK EVENTS

Resolve the motorcycle use question and provide opportunities for scenic driving

The 2015 Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan called for DNR and WDFW to use the recreation planning process to determine whether the use of two-wheeled motorcycles is appropriate in the Community Forest. The planning process used information gained from the recreation land suitability analysis, field visits, user surveys, community meetings, and extensive Advisory Committee discussion to determine appropriate motorcycle use in the forest.

Based on this analysis, DNR and WDFW will continue to permit motorcycle use on three multi-use Forest Service trails: Middle Fork (FS 1393), Yellow Hill (FS 1222), and West Fork (FS 1353), all of which originate within the Community Forest. All three trails are highly technical and suitable only for skilled riders. Hikers, horse riders, cyclists, and motorcycle riders share these trails for access into Forest Service lands.

The Middle Fork and West Fork trails are located near streams and have many water crossings. Nearby communities and users value these unique trails. To protect water quality, spawning fish, stream banks, important habitats, and define the trail routes, significant repairs and relocation of certain trail segments within the Community Forest are necessary. Coordinating with the Forest Service in managing these trails will be important as most of the trails are located on Forest Service land.

A scenic driving loop, providing access for people of all ages and abilities, will be developed for use by high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles and street-legal motorcycles from Indian Camp to the North Fork Teanaway Road. The route will provide views of the Teanaway Butte area and opportunities to view restoration activities along Lick Creek. The final route will be determined during project development.

No additional motorcycle routes are being considered. Connections to additional Forest Service trails and motorized trail connections across Cle Elum Ridge and Liars Prairie were evaluated during the planning process. Lack of legal easements, private landowner concerns, broad floodplains on the West Fork Teanaway River, habitat protection goals, and limited capacity for development and maintenance of new trails on adjacent ownerships were deciding factors in this decision to not develop additional trails.

The management plan calls for motorcycle use in the forest to be conditioned on an education and self-policing campaign by users; enforcement of the rules by DNR and WDFW; and compliance with the rules by the motorcycle community for continued use. 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.

Provide opportunities for environmental education, group events, commercial recreation, and guide services

Group events and commercial recreation play an important role in introducing people to outdoor recreation, and provide opportunities for environmental education and community building. Permits are required for large groups, events, and other specialized uses to help manage access in the Community Forest.

- Issue and manage recreation permits in accordance with WAC 332-52- Public Access and Recreation.
- Recreation use by the public will be given priority over commercial uses.



JERRY GAMEZ-NW MULTISPORT

- Prioritize nature-based and educational events hosted by non-profit groups over for-profit enterprises:
 - Support partnerships that involve local schools and youth groups in recreation and environmental education.
 - Welcome proposals by groups to provide environmental education opportunities to tell the story of the forest's natural and cultural history, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, and the history of the community forest project.
 - Welcome proposals by groups to conduct scientific research activities consistent with the goals of the forest.
 - Provide information on appropriate recreational uses.
- Explore employing concessionaires and utilizing partnerships to manage camping.
- Consider how events and commercial recreation can support the management of the Community Forest. Provide opportunities to generate income and encourage participants to volunteer.
- Develop permit requirements in coordination with adjacent landowners.
- Collaborate with user groups to develop a management system for group events:
 - Establish set application deadlines with an approval timeline.
 - Reduce frequency of events and establish blackout dates.
 - Ensure that fees cover expenses and/or produce revenue.
 - Ensure permit requirements reflect safety, sanitation, enforcement, watershed protection, fish and wildlife, and access needs.



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

- Partner with volunteer groups and non-profit 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.

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.
- Encourage user-groups to self-police, and empower stakeholders to be advocates for the forest.
- Use gates, signs, and maps to create travel routes where natural resource laws, recreation rules, and motor vehicle laws can be readily enforced.
- Control access through seasonal closures, gates, and other tools.
- Establish procedures for forest users to report infractions.
- Provide signs at entrances, trailheads, and day-use areas to inform the public of permitted uses, regulations, fire danger, private land owners, noxious weeds, and safe wildlife encounters.
- 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.



RECREATION

Project Implementation

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES AND PHASES

Project implementation priorities and phasing were established based on input from the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee, local communities, agency staff, and wildlife protection priorities, as well as logical sequencing of related projects. Development and construction of the prioritized projects over the next 15 years is dependent on the availability of secure funding for staff to complete site-specific planning, design, construction and maintenance. The sequencing and implementation of projects may vary from this idealized list to take advantage of emerging opportunities like new partnerships and funding. Cooperative agreements with partners could assist in project implementation.

See project implementation phases on the next page.



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

PHASE 1 TEANAWAY CAMPING AREA: Reconfigure camping area to provide more sustainable facilities located outside of the river floodplain; expand group camping with future equestrian camping.

1

INDIAN CAMP: Reconfigure camping area to provide more sustainable facilities located outside of the river floodplain; expand equestrian camping; expand designated day-use parking.

SIGNAGE AND INFORMATION: Improve signage, maps, and information at facilities and along trails in the Community Forest. Provide links to downloadable GPS-enabled maps.

TEANAWAY VALLEY UNIT: Provide parking and information for non-motorized recreation.

PHASE 2 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: Partner with adjacent landowners to develop non-motorized trail connections across Cle Elum Ridge to the communities of Roslyn, Ronald, and Cle Elum for summer and winter recreation.

2

HIGH DENSITY TRAIL AREA: (dark green-shaded area) Evaluate and reroute as necessary existing trails in the southwest part of the Community Forest to provide sustainable non-motorized trails for a variety of skill levels. Provide loops and connections between trailheads, camping areas, rivers, rock formations and viewpoints for hikers, bikers and equestrians, while respecting private property and reducing trail redundancy.

WEST TEANAWAY TRAILHEAD: Provide a new trailhead at the end of the West Fork County Road with parking, toilets and information for hiking, biking, and horseback riding in the southwestern part of the forest.

WEST TEANAWAY SNO-PARK: Partner with State Parks to manage the West Teanaway Trailhead as a Sno-Park during the winter to provide access to the non-motorized winter recreation area and to provide local snowmobile access.

NON-MOTORIZED WINTER RECREATION AREA: (blue-shaded area). In coordination with local snowmobile access and connections from private properties, provide an area for snowshoeing, skiing, and non-motorized winter play in the southwestern part of the forest, with groomed cross-country ski trails with tracks accessed from the West Teanaway Sno-Park.

29 PINES CAMPING AREA: Reconfigure and relocate portions of camping area to provide more sustainable facilities located outside of the river floodplain.

29 PINES TRAILHEAD: Provide designated day use parking for winter and summer trail access with toilets and information kiosks.

29 PINES SNO-PARK: Partner with State Parks to expand and manage the 29 Pines Trailhead as a Sno-Park for motorized and non-motorized winter recreation.

SNOWMOBILE AREA: (red-shaded area) Partner with USFS, State Parks, adjacent landowners and local communities to enhance the groomed snowmobile trail network in the northern part of the Community Forest; evaluate existing trails and relocate them to more sustainable locations where needed in coordination with forest road planning. Provide additional north-south groomed snowmobile trail connections to improve grooming efficiency by creating loop trails.

TEANAWAY VALLEY UNIT: Provide trails accessed from parking area to the river and surrounding forest.

TEANAWAY SCENIC DRIVING LOOP: Work with user groups to manage seasonal access for scenic driving on designated forest roads for high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles, and street legal motorcycles. Route to include vistas, picnic areas, wildlife viewing, providing all ability access. Final location to be determined.

ENTRY STATION: Work with public and private partners to locate and develop an entry station for visitors to the Community Forest.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

PHASE

3

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: Work with public and private partners to locate and develop environmental education opportunities in the Community Forest.

ROAD AND RIVER CORRIDORS: (blue-shaded areas): Coordinate with river restoration efforts to manage river access for fishing, swimming, and day use, determining infrastructure needs.

DICKEY CREEK ACCESS: Provide parking and toilets and improve river access.

INDIAN CREEK TRAILHEAD AND TRAIL: Develop a trailhead for hiking, biking and horseback riding along Indian Creek, and provide opportunities for interpretation of river restoration. Trailhead to include parking for horse trailers and passenger vehicles, information and toilets.

WARMING HUTS: Work with recreation user groups to provide movable warming huts at locations to be determined and look at options for expansion in the future, if appropriate.

MODERATE DENSITY TRAIL AREA: (light green-shaded area) Evaluate and reroute existing trails to develop a non-motorized, cross-country trail for a variety of skill levels with loops and connections between trailheads, camping areas, rock formations and views for hikers, bikers and equestrians; Consider developing a system of backcountry campsites along this trail.

WEST FORK TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD: Develop a trailhead with parking, information, and toilets for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and motorcycle riders accessing the multi-use West Fork Trail. Partner with USFS to evaluate, improve, and relocate portions of the trail along the West Fork of the Teanaway River to protect fish habitat and water quality and to create a more sustainable trail, which starts in the Teanaway Community Forest and continues into the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

MIDDLE FORK TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD: Develop a trailhead with parking, information, and toilets for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and motorcycle riders accessing the multi-use Middle Fork Trail. Partner with USFS to evaluate, improve, and relocate portions of the trail along the Middle Fork of the Teanaway River to protect fish habitat and water quality to create a more sustainable trail, which starts in the Teanaway Community Forest and continues into the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

YELLOW HILL TRAIL AND TRAILHEAD: Develop a trailhead with parking, information, and toilets and convert the forest road to a trail connecting to the multi-use Yellow Hill Trail for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and motorcycle riders. Partner with USFS to evaluate, improve, and maintain the trail, which starts in the Teanaway Community Forest and continues into the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

PHASE

4

JACK CREEK ROAD: Partner with US Forest Service to enhance the road for 3-season scenic driving to Red Top and Hwy 97.

RED TOP CONNECTION: Partner with the USFS to develop a non-motorized trail connection from the Community Forest to Redtop with long distance loop connections.

LOW DENSITY TRAIL AREA: (tan-shaded area) Develop a non-motorized, cross-country trail connecting camping areas, trailheads, viewpoints and unique features for hikers, bikers and equestrians. Consider developing a system of backcountry campsites along this trail.

WINTER JUNGLE CREEK AND IRON CREEK CONNECTIONS: Partner with USFS to develop connections to existing Jungle Creek and Iron Creek voluntary non-motorized areas.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING: Pilot providing a system of remote hardened designated tent sites in backcountry locations in partnership with adjacent land managers.



The Planning Process

The recreation plan was developed with input and assistance from individuals and organizations representing a wide range of interests and backgrounds. The planning process included two public open-house meetings, twelve Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee meetings with public comment, an online user survey, and ideas and suggestions submitted by groups and individuals.

The Advisory Committee played a vital role in the recreation planning effort, as it did in developing the 2015 Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan. The group helped to guide the planning effort and provided valuable insights from the perspectives of Teanaway-area residents, community leaders, and recreation advocates from across the state.

DNR and WDFW also met with managers of neighboring forestlands to address common issues and improve connections between the landscapes, based on the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

Planning Phases

The planning process to develop this recreation plan included the following five phases:

PHASE 1 PRE-PLANNING AND PROJECT KICKOFF

1

Determine the need and scope, project team, stakeholder involvement plan, and data collection needs. Kick-off the project by holding a community open house.

PHASE 2 RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

2

Collect recreation field data, determine land suitability and planning context for the project, determine public issues and concerns.

PHASE 3 ALTERNATIVES EXPLORATION AND CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

3

Determine the BIG IDEA, or management concept for the planning area (what are we going to do where). Discuss issues and opportunities, explore alternatives and describe the preferred alternative (how and to what degree will recreation be provided).

PHASE 4 WRITING THE PLAN AND SEPA REVIEW

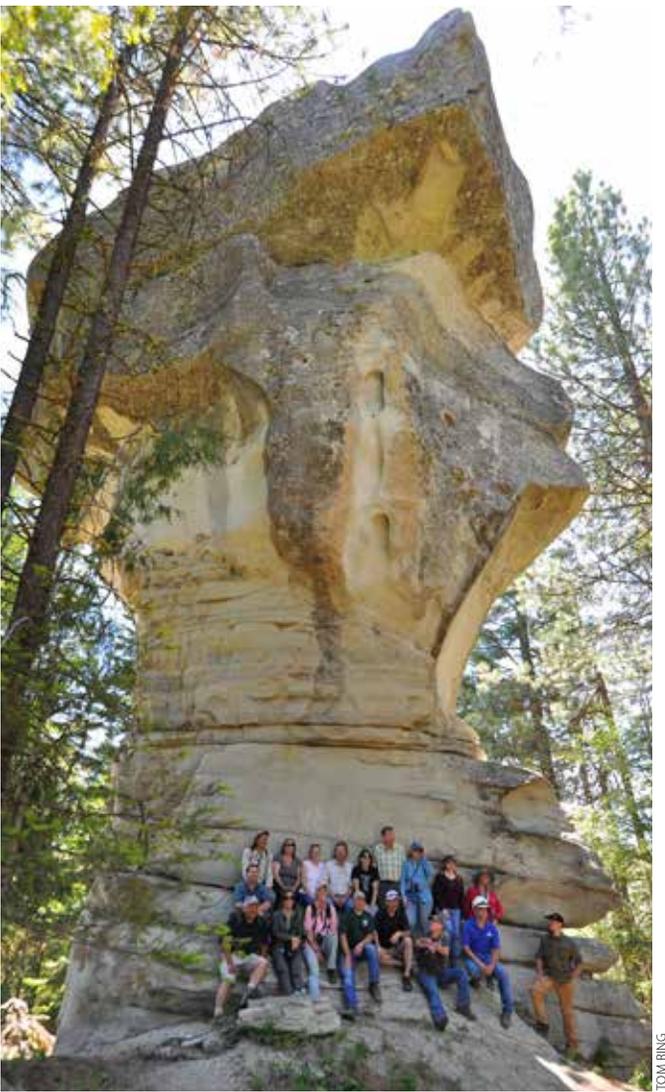
4

Plan is completed and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review is conducted for public comment, and the plan is edited and formatted for publication.

PHASE 5 ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

5

Plan is adopted and implemented by the agencies.



TOM RING

Teanaway Advisory Committee

The law authorizing the Teanaway purchase directed DNR, in consultation with WDFW, to establish a Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee with representation from the Washington Department of Ecology, the Yakama Nation, the Kittitas County Commission, local communities, local agricultural interests, land conservation organizations, and recreation user groups. The Advisory Committee helped develop the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan and continues to provide advice about ongoing land management.

In October 2016 the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee embarked on a 16-month recreation planning process to develop a recreation plan for the Community Forest in accordance with the Management Plan. The committee met monthly to exchange knowledge and ideas. DNR and WDFW shared information with the committee regarding Community Forest management including all goals of the forest, environmental and resource responsibilities, and funding limitations. Committee members provided information about various recreation interests in the Community Forest. The collective information was used to recommend what types of recreation to provide and where.

PHASE PRE PLANNING AND PROJECT KICKOFF

1

During the winter of 2016, DNR and WDFW staff and the Advisory Committee developed the project scope and identified initial data collection needs.

In October 2016, DNR, WDFW and the Advisory Committee kicked-off the planning process by inviting the community to an open house at Putnam Centennial Center in Cle Elum. The open house provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the planning process, ask questions, and provide input on ways to improve recreation in the Teanaway Community Forest. Approximately 100 people attended the meeting.

Participants at the community meeting were asked to share feedback about:

- Opportunities for trail connections from the Community Forest to the National Forest, Cle Elum Ridge and the towns of Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald
- Enjoyable recreation activities
- Missing recreation opportunities
- Favorite places to visit
- Concerns about the future of recreation management

PHASE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

2

Starting in January 2017, the Advisory Committee began meeting monthly. The first meetings were devoted to mapping, research, and data collection to understand historic and current use of the Teanaway Valley with a focus on recreation. This phase also included an environmental suitability analysis and public outreach to gather information about what types of recreation opportunities people would like to see provided in the Community Forest.

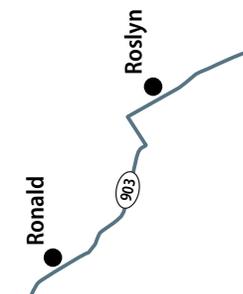
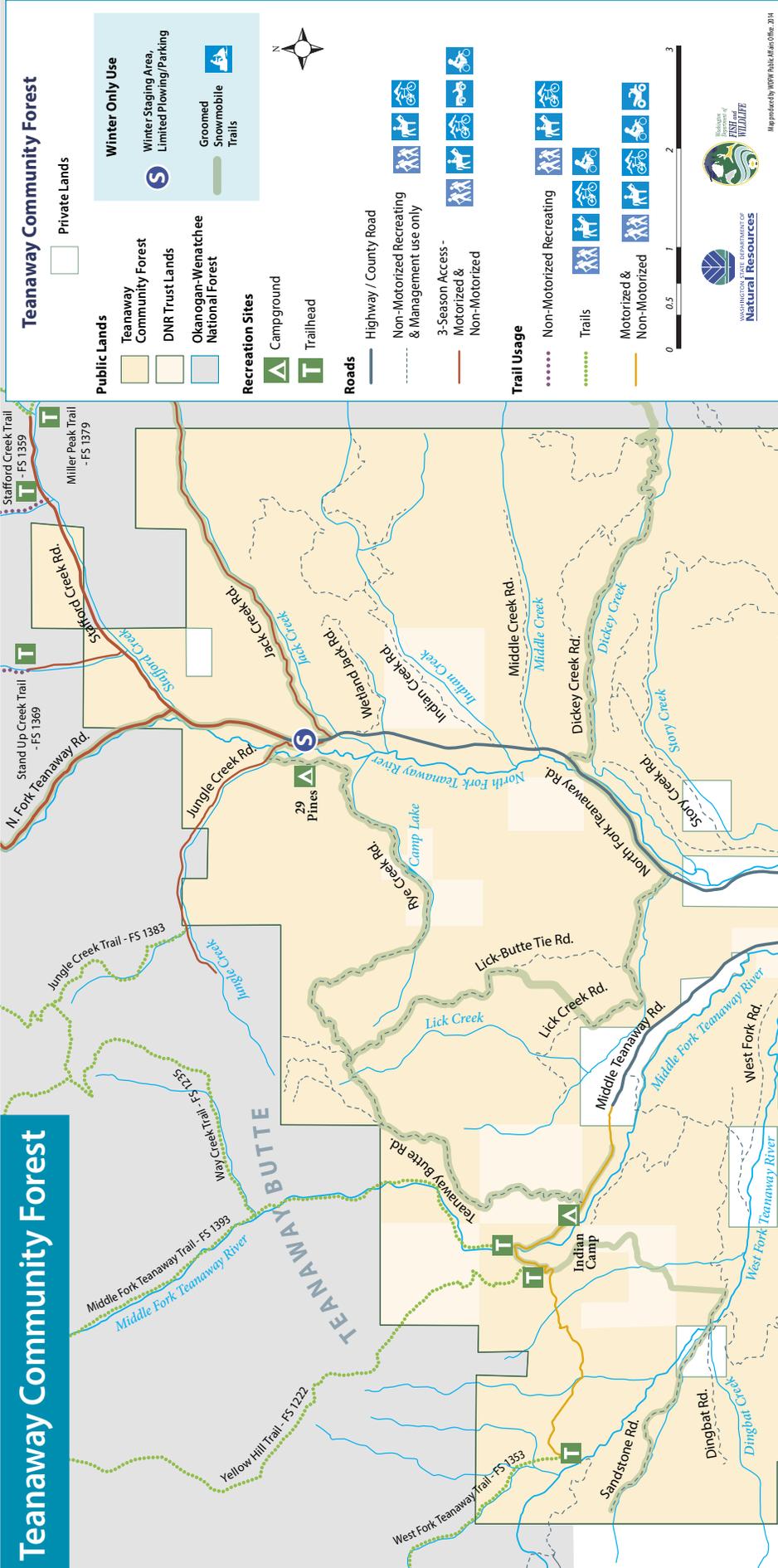
Recreation Inventory and Public Use Patterns

The first meetings provided an overview of the recreation planning area, history of use, information on developed and dispersed recreation, current use patterns, and illegal or inappropriate use. Committee members shared their own knowledge about the Community Forest and surrounding lands. Members also shared their experiences with recreational activities in the forest.

Agency staff and Committee members organized field trips to explore the Community Forest. They discussed issues and identified opportunities. Field visits focused on winter recreation, unique rock formations, recreation land suitability, U.S. Forest Service multi-use trails, camping areas, river access, user interactions, and enforcement.

Because developing connections to nearby communities and landscapes was identified as a high priority during planning, existing conditions maps were developed to show the Teanaway Community Forest and the surrounding context including the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Central Cascades Forest on Cle Elum Ridge, and the nearby towns of Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald. The inherited network of undesignated trails, parking areas, groomed snowmobile trails, forest roads, and unique features such as summits and rock formations were mapped across all of these lands.

Teanaway Community Forest



Existing Recreation

RECREATION PLAN

Where should recreation take place in the Community Forest?

RECREATION LAND SUITABILITY ANALYSIS

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and the legislation that created the Teanaway Community Forest identified key environmental and economic priorities that required an analysis of the suitability of specific areas for different types of recreation. These priorities included watershed protection, restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, and preservation of forestry and grazing. In order to determine where recreation should take place in the Community Forest, several meetings were dedicated to identifying and mapping critical information about biological elements, geological and soil conditions and social and management considerations. The presence of specific attributes such as cliffs or steep slopes, river floodplains, or critical wildlife habitat 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 following criteria were considered:

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
- Sensitive wildlife areas, such as nesting, calving and denning areas, deer and elk winter range, and endangered species habitat
- Natural heritage sites and high quality or rare plant communities
- River restoration priorities

Soil and geological conditions

- Steep, unstable slopes with high potential for landslides
- Soils which are highly erosive, compactible or poorly drained
- Streams and rivers and 100-year floodplains
- Rock features, including cliffs and bluffs

Public access and forest management considerations

- Public access points
- Private and public property in and around the forest, including easements and rights-of-way
- Communication and management sites and utility easements
- Locations where noise buffers are required (near camping areas, private residences, and critical wildlife habitat)
- Locations where recreation may affect air quality
- Water and rock sources
- Cultural and archaeological resources, such as historic town sites

Social considerations

- 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

HERE ARE THE KEY FINDINGS FROM THE SUITABILITY ANALYSIS:

Summer Suitability

- There are sensitive times to be aware of during the spring and early summer for nesting, calving, and denning of wildlife.
- Highly erosive soils in the Teanaway require sustainable trail design and construction.
- Some existing trails should be relocated to avoid floodplains and areas adjacent to streams stream adjacent locations.
- Portions of existing camping areas should be relocated out of floodplains.

Winter Suitability

- Opportunities for winter recreation are less constrained due to snow coverage.

Data layers were compiled using geographic mapping to develop composite maps that identify areas with long-term limiting factors that could affect planning for summer and winter facilities and trails. Sensitive areas with low suitability for recreation were mapped in purple, moderately suitable areas were mapped in orange, and areas with few or no constraints for recreation planning were left clear (no added color overlay). These maps provided a foundation for the development of recreational use recommendations.

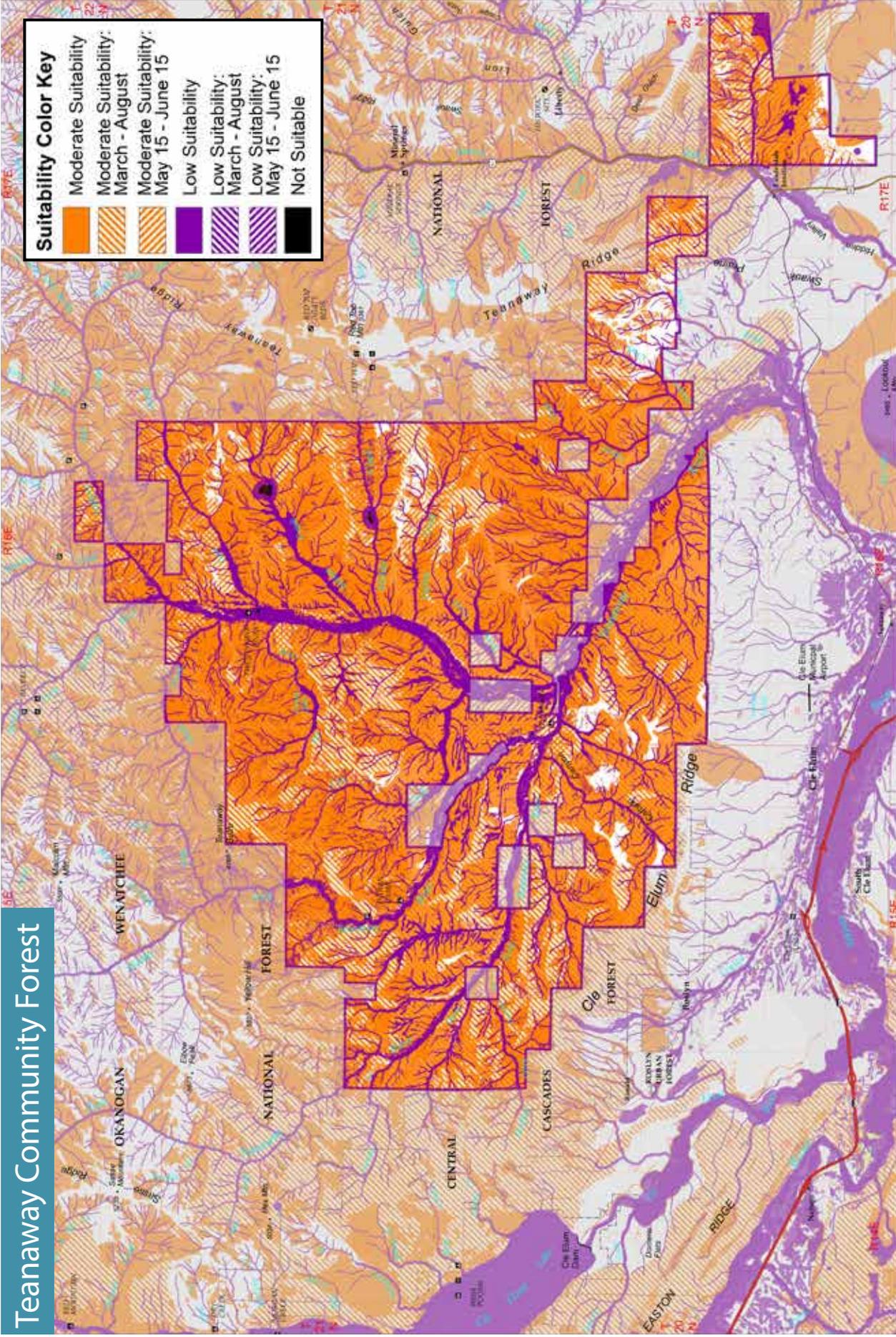
See suitability maps on following pages.



Teanaway Community Forest

Suitability Color Key

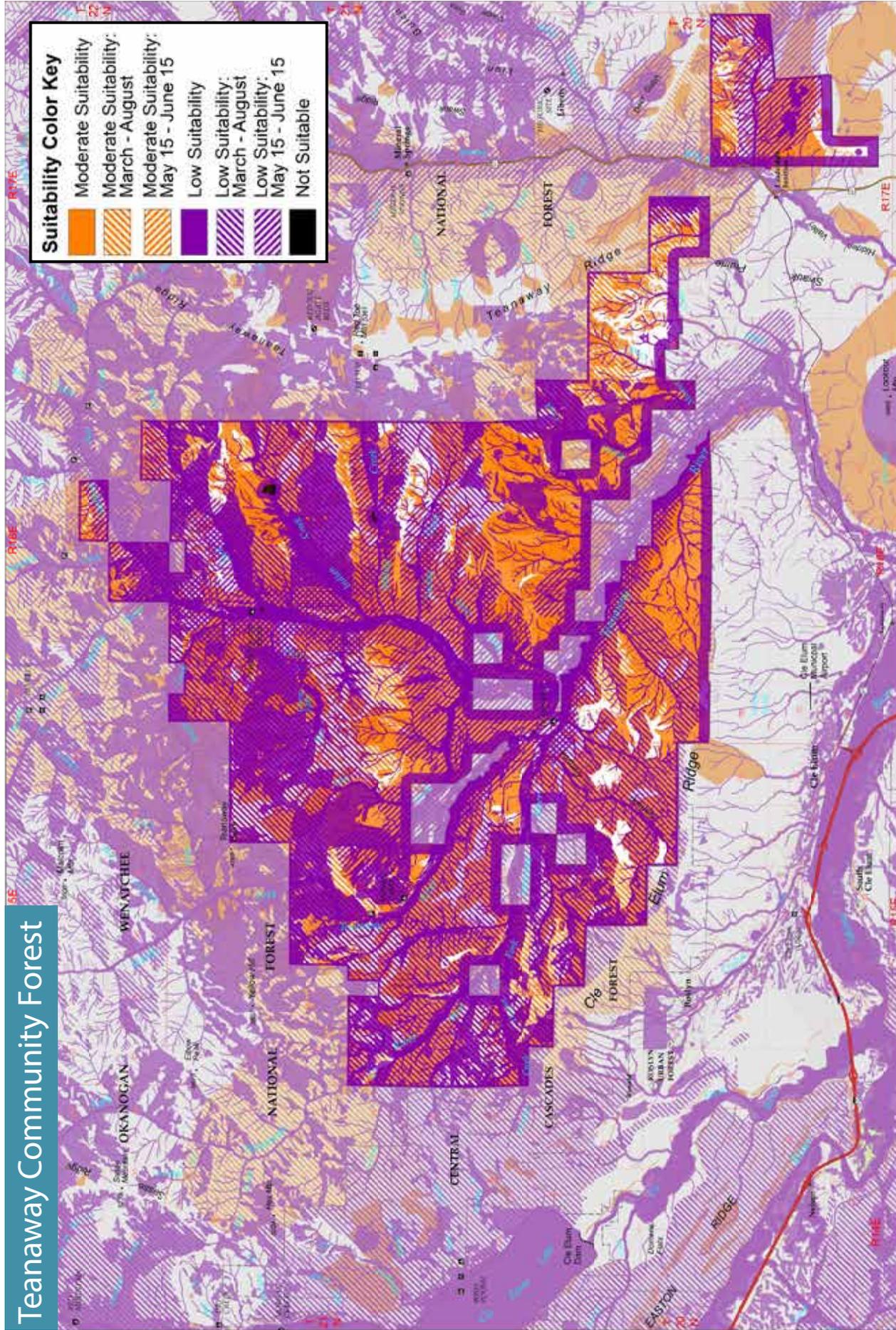
-  Moderate Suitability
-  Moderate Suitability: March - August
-  Moderate Suitability: May 15 - June 15
-  Low Suitability
-  Low Suitability: March - August
-  Low Suitability: May 15 - June 15
-  Not Suitable



Summer Non-Motorized Trails Suitability Map



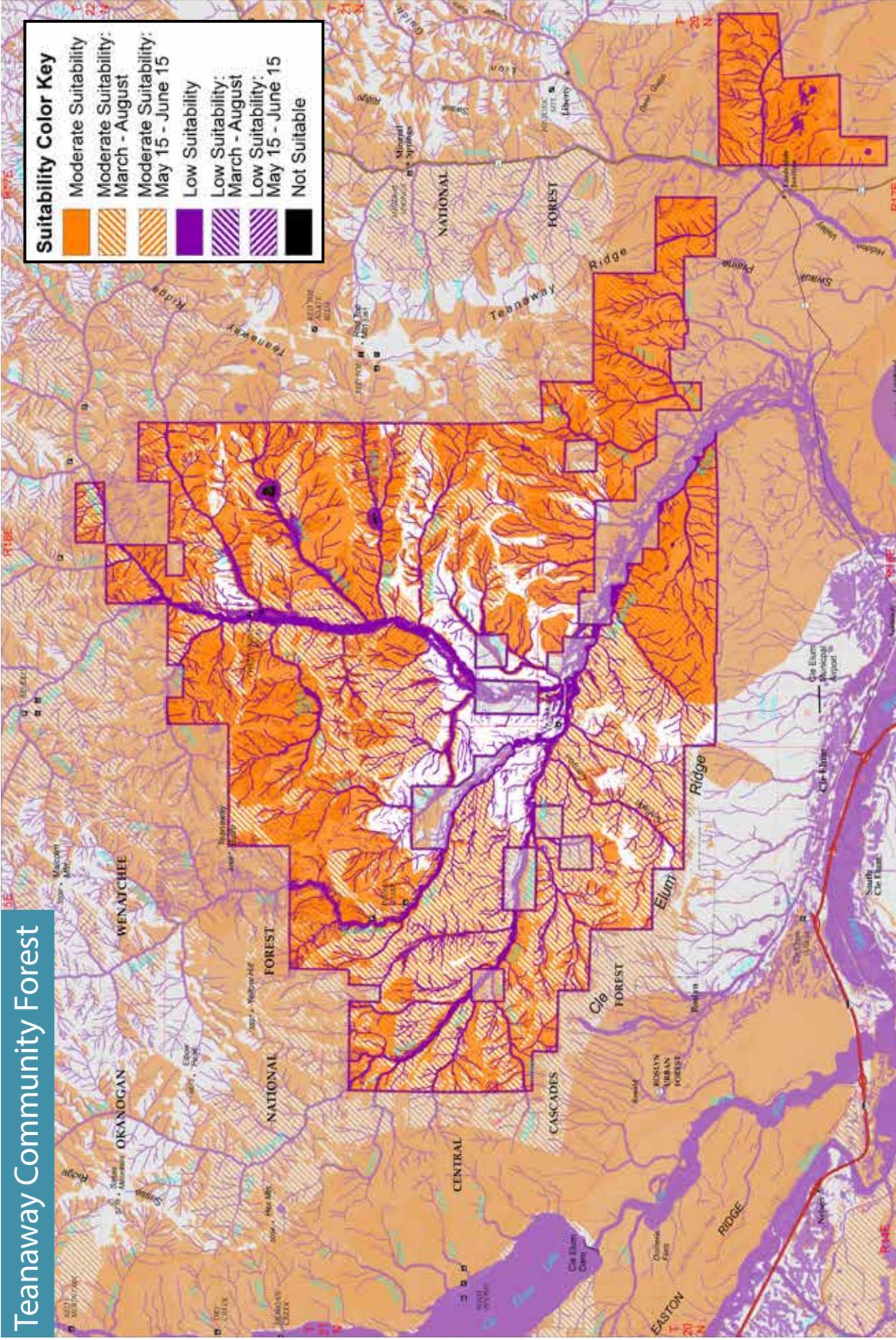
Teanaway Community Forest



Summer Motorized Trails Suitability Map



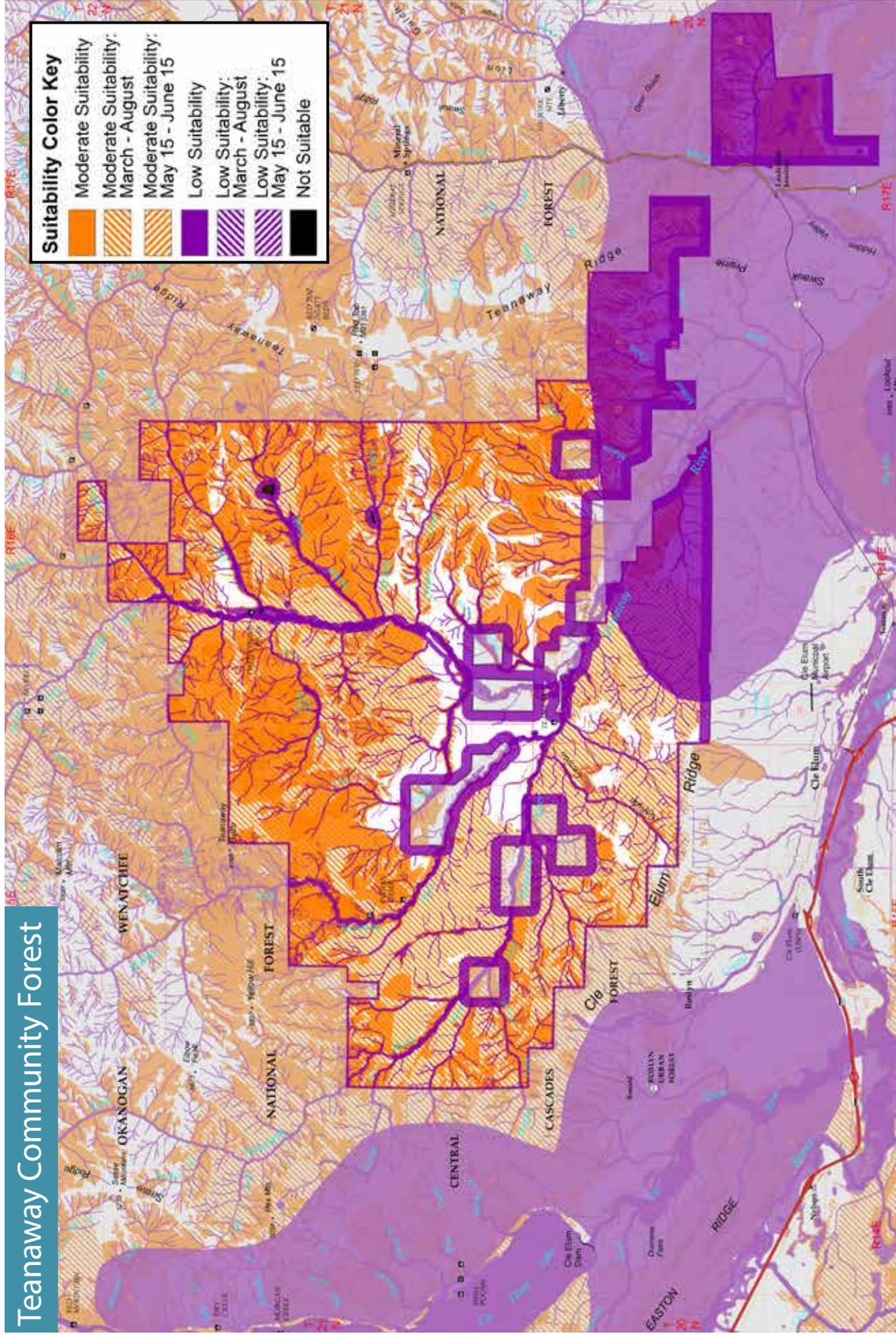
Teanaway Community Forest



Winter Non-Motorized Trails Suitability Map



Teanaway Community Forest

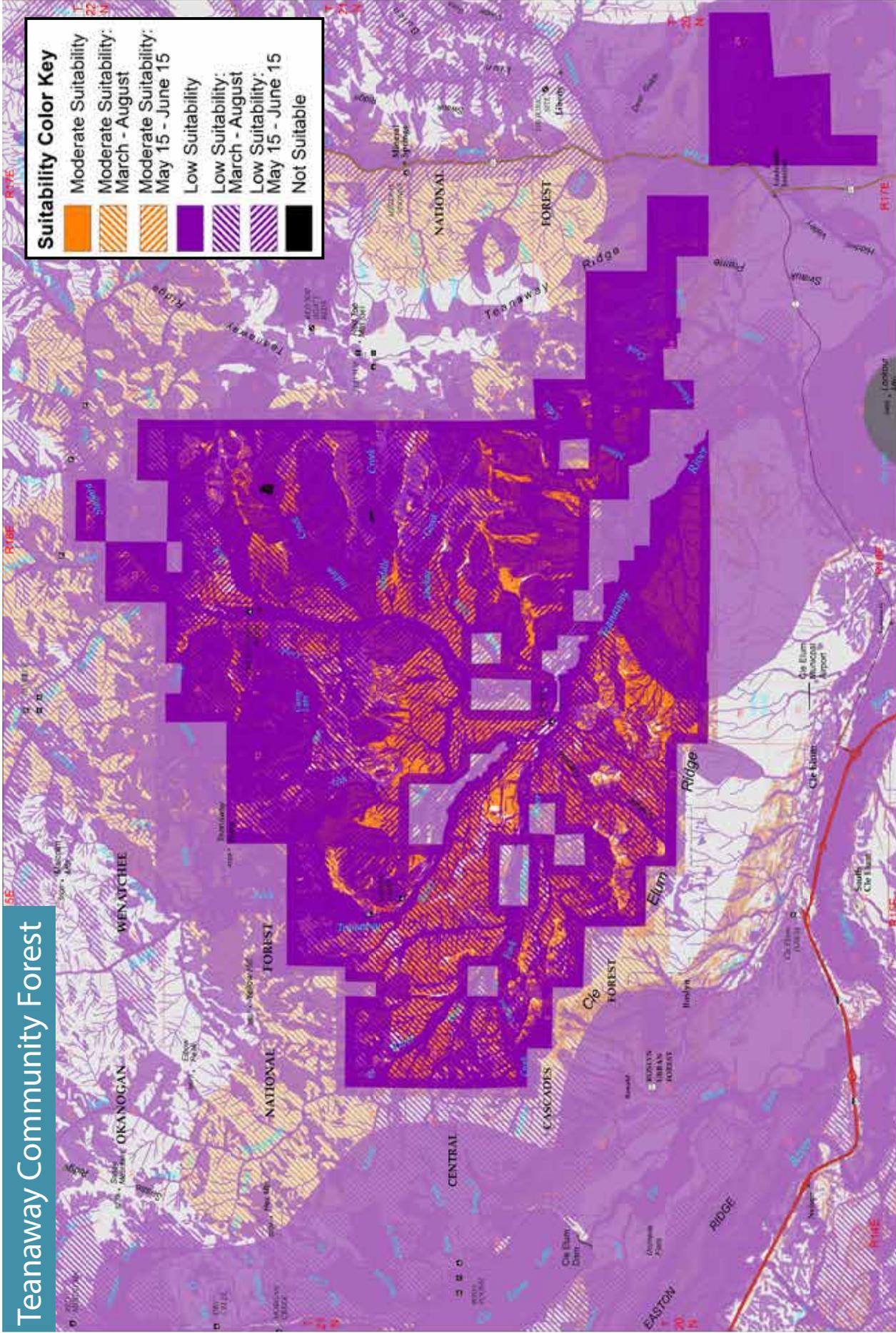
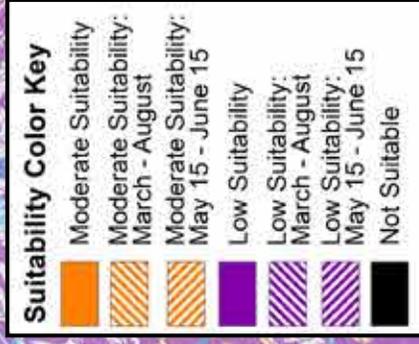


Suitability Color Key	
	Moderate Suitability
	Moderate Suitability: March - August
	Moderate Suitability: May 15 - June 15
	Low Suitability
	Low Suitability: March - August
	Low Suitability: May 15 - June 15
	Not Suitable

Winter Motorized Trails Suitability Map



Teanaway Community Forest



All-Season Facilities Suitability Map



Public Outreach and User Survey

Community participation in the planning process was an integral part of creating this plan. The outreach process included several main components, each of which provided an opportunity to gather public input:

- A project “kick-off” community meeting to introduce the project and collect public input.
- Representation of key stakeholder groups on the Advisory Committee including local community organizations and representatives, land conservation organizations, and recreation user groups.
- Public comment period at all advisory committee meetings.
- External information gathering and issue identification from a variety of sources, including letters and emails received throughout the process.
- Teanaway web page updates to provide general information on the planning process and to solicit comments.
- E-news updates and blogs to inform the public on the progress of planning efforts and invite participation.
- Web-based user survey, described below.
- Public comments on the draft plan as a part of the SEPA review process.

In the summer of 2017, the Advisory Committee, with agency support, conducted an online user survey to gather information about recreation in the Teanaway Community Forest. More than 2,600 people responded and contributed information about current recreational use, concerns, and the opportunities they would like to see provided. The survey incorporated a combination of multiple choice questions and write-in responses. The survey was not intended to be a statistical representation of use; it was utilized as a tool to gain additional information about how the Teanaway Community Forest is being used for recreation.

On the following page is a “Word Cloud” (Figure 9) from the user survey that gives prominence to the words that appear more frequently in the written responses.



KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SURVEY WERE:

- People who responded to the survey value the Teanaway Valley for its natural beauty, rustic feeling, all-season recreation opportunities, and family tradition.
- Most people visit the Teanaway Valley for more than 5 hours at a time.
- Hiking, camping, and non-trail based activities such as nature & wildlife viewing, photography, river access, hunting, fishing, foraging, and birding, were by far the most common activities enjoyed by people visiting the valley. The Teanaway Valley is also a popular destination for horseback riding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, mountain biking, and motorcycle riding.
- Recreation users who responded to the survey shared an interest in cross-country style trails.
- Improving and developing trail connections from the Community Forest to local communities and adjacent lands was a high priority.
- The Teanaway Valley brings economic benefits to nearby communities, with 94% of survey respondents indicating that they stop in Cle Elum, Ronald, Roslyn or Ellensburg when they visit the valley to buy gas, food, rent equipment, go shopping, or stay overnight.

PHASE 3 ALTERNATIVES EXPLORATION AND CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Starting in September 2017, equipped with the suitability assessment, additional first-hand knowledge gained in the field, and results from a public survey, the committee and DNR and WDFW staff dedicated the remaining meetings to discussing issues and developing alternatives.

Ideas for what types of recreation to provide in the Community Forest were drawn onto maps for discussion. Two separate maps were developed to address seasonal differences in suitability: one map for summer recreation (including spring, summer, and fall) and one for winter recreation (snow season). Mapping was conceptual, describing large areas (or blobs) and important connections, access points, and facilities, rather than site specific locations and trails routes.

The planning process was iterative. The first concept maps captured all of the initial ideas reflecting what committee members had learned from field trips, suitability mapping, historic use patterns, user survey, public comments, and feedback from their own communities and organizations. These initial summer and winter recreation concept maps were then discussed and revised at subsequent Advisory Committee meetings until arriving at the final recreation concept maps.

The Advisory Committee discussed several subjects in greater depth such as motorized use, commercial recreation, guide services and group events, as well as how to improve camping areas and provide back-country camping.

In April 2018 DNR & WDFW staff and the Advisory Committee held a community meeting to present the draft recommendations, concept maps, and priorities for implementation. After a brief presentation and question and answer period, the public was able to provide feedback at listening stations set up around the room.

In May 2018, the Advisory Committee and agency staff met again to discuss what they had learned from the community meeting and make final revisions to the concept maps, strategies and tools, and prioritized list of projects.

PHASES 4+5 WRITING THE PLAN, SEPA REVIEW, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

After the committee meeting in May 2018, DNR and WDFW staff completed the Draft Recreation Plan and initiated SEPA review with an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft plan. Following completion of the SEPA review, the agencies make a decision on the adoption of the plan. See page 70 of the management plan for the next steps for project implementation, role of the Advisory Committee, and opportunities for public participation.