

SEPA Nonproject Review Form

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. The Nonproject Review Form (NPRF) is an optional tool to help the lead agency evaluate the environmental consequences of a nonproject proposal and to provide information to decision-makers and the public.

The NPRF cannot be used as a substitute for the environmental checklist, but may be attached as supplemental analysis. Applicable information in the NPRF can be referenced in the environmental checklist without having to repeat the information.

The NPRF is intended to be used concurrently with the development of a nonproject proposal. To achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency the initial use of the form should begin at the time a nonproject proposal is being contemplated, i.e. upon identification that a plan, policy or rule is likely to be needed or is mandated.

The information and analysis in the NPRF should be updated as the proposal is developed. The number of revisions will depend on the complexity of the proposal. If the proposal is minor, one iteration of the NPRF may be sufficient. For more complex proposals, the NPRF should be revised as analysis is completed or key issues resolved.

If you are unfamiliar with the form, you should review all of the questions before providing any answers. This will help familiarize you with the questions and should avoid duplication of information. Please note that when a nonproject proposal is first contemplated, it is often premature to respond to some questions in the NPRF. Answers may also change as the proposal is developed and analysis is completed.

NONPROJECT REVIEW FORM

DATE: **October 19, 2018**

COMPLETED BY: **Doug McClelland, Recreation Planner, DNR**

PART I - FRAMEWORK

1) Background

- a) Name of proposal, if any, and brief description.

Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan

The Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan is intended to guide the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in developing and managing recreation and public access in the Teanaway Community Forest for the next 15 years. It outlines a vision for recreation and public access in the Teanaway by developing recreation management concepts, setting priorities, and presenting specific strategies and tools for implementation. This recreation plan is a supplement to the existing Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan of May 2015.

- b) Agency and contact name, address, telephone, fax, email

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Doug McClelland, Recreation Planner

Conservation, Recreation and Transactions Division

MS 47014

Olympia, WA 98504-7014

206.920.5907 Cell

360.902.1789 Fax

doug.mcclelland@dnr.wa.gov

- c) Designated responsible official

Todd Welker, DNR, Southeast Region Manager

713 Bowers Road

Ellensburg, WA 98926

d) Describe the planning process schedule/timeline

Winter 2016	DNR and WDFW staff developed the project scope, identified initial data collection needs and created a stakeholder involvement plan for the Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan.
October 2016	DNR and WDFW held a public open house meeting in Cle Elum to identify public concerns about Teanaway Community Forest and initiate the planning process. DNR established a webpage, eNews, blog and email list to provide information on the planning process.
Winter/Spring 2017	Monthly advisory committee meetings started. 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. A land suitability assessment that included biological, soils, geology, and management components was developed and presented to the planning committee to inform recommendations related to access, trail, and facility location.
Summer 2017	The agencies initiated a web based user survey to solicit further information from recreation users. Committee members spent much of the summer in the field with staff, exploring the Community Forest, and identifying issues and opportunities. Field visits included winter recreation, unique rock formations, suitability, US Forest Service multi-use trails, camping areas, river access, user interactions, and enforcement.
Fall/Winter 2017	With the additional first-hand knowledge gained in the field, and results from a public survey, the committee, DNR and WDFW staff dedicated the remaining meetings to discussing issues and ideas, while developing alternatives.
Spring 2018	The advisory committee with public input developed draft recreation management concepts, priorities, and specific strategies and tools for implementation. The

committee also discussed and made recommendations on motorcycle use.

April 2018

DNR/WDFW held a community open house meeting to present the Teanaway Community Forest recreation planning process including concepts, phased projects, strategies and tools to the public for questions and comments. Committee members and staff from both agencies were available to answer questions related to the planning process and the concepts proposed through the plan.

Summer 2018

The agencies completed the Draft Recreation Plan and initiated SEPA review including an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft plan. Following completion of the SEPA review, the agencies will make a decision on the approval and implementation of the plan.

Over a sixteen-month period, the planning committee met twelve times. Meeting notes from the advisory committee meetings and public comments from the public meetings can be accessed on the DNR website.

Public Open House Meeting Dates

October 25, 2016

Recreation Planning Process Kick-off

April 12, 2018

Draft Concepts, Priorities and Strategies

Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee Meeting Dates (Public invited)

January 12, 2017

April 13, 2017

May 11, 2017

June 8, 2017

July 13, 2017

August 10, 2017

October 12, 2017

November 9, 2017

December 14, 2017

February 8, 2018

March 8, 2018

May 10, 2018

e) Location - Describe the jurisdiction or area where the proposal is applicable.

This non-project proposal occurs in 49,933 acres in Kittitas County in portions of

- **Township 20N, R15E; R16E; R17E**
- **Township 21N, R15E; R16E**
- **Township 22N, R16E**

Please see map – Figure 1

f) What is the legal authority for the proposal?

RCW 79.155 ‘Community Forest Trusts’ created the community forest trust program and authorized DNR to acquire and manage forestland within this program. RCW 90.38.130 authorized the purchase of the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) and directed DNR to create a management plan in conjunction with WDFW, under this Community Forest Trust program. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources retains the legal authority to implement policies and guide the management of state lands. Specific authority to plan and provide recreation is contained in the Multiple Use Act (Chapter 79.10.100 and 130 RCW). The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife retains the legal authority to implement policies and guide the management of wildlife and fish and habitat throughout the state. The Department of Fish and Wildlife Mandate (Chapter 77.04.021 RCW) and the Wildlife Program Management (Chapter 77.12.990 RCW) provide the administrative authority for WDFW to develop this plan.

g) Identify any other future nonproject actions believed necessary to achieve the objectives of this action.

None anticipated

2) Need and Objectives

a) Describe the need for the action. (Whenever possible this should identify the broad or fundamental problem or opportunity that is to be addressed, rather than a legislative or other directive.)

This Recreation Plan fulfills a stated priority of the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan, which was adopted by DNR and WDFW in May 2015. The Management Plan outlined five goals of equal importance, to ensure compliance with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, for which the land was originally acquired. See Section 2c below for more information about the five goals. Providing recreation opportunities for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, camping, birding, and snowmobiling was one of the five goals of the Management Plan. However, during the planning process, it became clear that additional planning was needed to ensure appropriate and well-managed recreation in the Community Forest. As a result, the Management Plan called for the development of a supplemental recreation plan for the forest that would evaluate motorcycle use within the process and would plan for a sustainable network of safe and enjoyable recreation trails and facilities that would be consistent with watershed protection.

b) Describe the objective(s) of the proposal, including any secondary objectives which may be used to shape or choose among alternatives.

The Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan is intended to guide the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in developing and managing recreation and public access in the Community Forest for the next 15 years. It outlines a vision for recreation and public access in the Teanaway by developing recreation management concepts, setting priorities, and presenting specific strategies and tools for implementation.

- c) Identify any assumptions or constraints, including legal mandates, which limit the approach or strategy to be taken in pursuing the objective(s).

This proposal supplements and builds upon the existing objectives, strategies, and tools developed in the existing Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan of May 2015. The Legislature provided clear management direction for the Teanaway Community Forest to be consistent with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan by providing these five 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;**
- **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.”**

These goals formed the foundation of the May 2015 Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan and this subsequent Recreation Plan. Objectives are based off these goals.

The 2013 Teanaway Habitat and Working Lands Easement between DNR and WDFW describes the collaborative land management approach the two agencies will take, as well as reiterate the legislatively mandated goals that define the values and general uses of the land.

In addition, the following are legal mandates that govern the approach:

- **RCW 79.155 ‘Community Forest Trusts’ created the community forest trust program and authorized DNR to acquire and manage forestland within this program.**
- **RCW 90.38.130 authorized the purchase of the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) and directed DNR and WDFW to create a management plan.**

- d) If there is no legislative or other mandate that requires a particular approach, describe what approaches could reasonably achieve the objective(s).

The approach to achieving the objectives stated above in question 2(b) is to implement the proposal based on input from the general public and the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee. Other alternative approaches to address the key issues were considered by the public and committee as described in question 8(b), later in this document. This proposal has been determined by the agencies to be consistent with state and federal laws, and Fish and Wildlife Commission policy direction. The management strategies in the proposal provide the necessary landscape level of detail and conceptual framework to allow the objectives and strategies to be accomplished, as funding allows, and given the need for sustainable levels of enforcement and education and on-going maintenance.

3) Environmental Overview

Describe in broad terms how achieving the objective(s) would direct or encourage physical changes to the environment. Include the type and degree of likely changes such as the likely changes in development and/or infrastructure, or changes to how an area will be managed.

With implementation, one of the intents of the proposal is an increase in resource protection and restoration in parts of the Teanaway Community Forest. Ongoing recreation will be more closely managed, including relocation and redirection of some recreation uses to less sensitive locations, reducing potential future impacts. This recreation plan provides conceptual guidance on where and how to accomplish future site-specific project proposals. All trails and facilities will be designed and managed to meet, at minimum, required environmental standards and the strategies of this plan.

Environmental standards and strategies are set by federal and state laws, as well as in DNR and WDFW plans and policies including the 2015 Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan, Teanaway Advisory Committee recommendations, and this proposed recreation plan.

Trail and facility development efforts will focus in areas with fewer known environmental issues and away from areas with high concentrations of environmental issues. As the plan is implemented individual proposals will undergo site-specific SEPA, when required and establishes connectivity to compatible recreational opportunities.

4) Regulatory Framework

- a) Describe the existing regulatory/planning framework as it may influence or direct the proposal.

COUNTY CODES

- **Kittitas County Code Chapter 17A KCC
Critical Areas Ordinance, Noise Ordinance, Land Use Development permits,**

Stormwater permits, Grading and Drainage permits

STATE LAWS

- **The Multiple Use Act (Chapter 79.10 RCW)**
This 1971 legislation directs DNR to allow recreational use on trust uplands if such use is consistent with applicable trust provisions.
(<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=79.10.120>)
- **Department of Fish and Wildlife Mandate (Chapter 77.04.012RCW)**
The commission, director, and the department shall preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish in state waters and offshore waters.
(<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=77.04.012>)
- **Wildlife Program Management (Chapter 77.12.880 RCW)**
The department shall manage wildlife programs in a manner that provides for public opportunities to view wildlife and supports nature-based and wildlife viewing tourism without impairing the state's wildlife resources.
(<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=77.12.880>)
- **State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW)**
The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires state agencies to review proposed actions for probable significant adverse impacts and, when necessary, to prepare an environmental impact statement for actions that may have a probable, significant adverse impact on the environment. Compliance with SEPA ensures timely analysis, public comment processes, and mitigation of the probable significant environmental impacts during various activities, including project planning and implementation, as well as during programmatic or policy-level planning efforts.

The SEPA Rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC) provide more details for implementing this law. They also establish uniform environmental review requirements for all agencies. Often department activities related to forest management, i.e., planning, road development, harvesting, tree sales, and sometimes silvicultural activities are subject to SEPA. Similar activities by private landowners are not subject to SEPA unless a private proposal is a Class IV Forest Practice. Development of any motorized recreation facilities, any non-motorized camping areas with more than 12 sites or any non-motorized parking lots for more than 20 vehicles generally require SEPA review.

- **Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW)**
The Growth Management Act requires local governments to establish comprehensive growth management plans that address a range of natural resource issues, including timber and other resources that may be on forested state lands.

- **Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 RCW)**
- **Forest Practice Act (RCW 76.09)**
- **Hydraulic Projects Approval (RCW 77.55.021)**
A Hydraulic Project Approval is required from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (or from DNR associated with Forest Practices) for most work done in or above a body of water. This is often necessary for road or trail construction projects, which may or may not occur in conjunction with timber harvest activities from forested state lands. If a forest practices application is filed for the activity, the landowner does not have to file separately for a HPA. However, DNR may be required to apply for an HPA if a management activity on state lands does not require a forest practices permit but involves a state body of water.
- **The State Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 90.48 RCW)**
The Water Pollution Control Act requires that the state of Washington maintain the highest possible standards to ensure the purity of all waters of the state, consistent with public health and public enjoyment; the propagation and protection of wildlife, birds, game, fish and other aquatic life; and the industrial development of the state. It also requires the use of all known available and reasonable methods by industries and others to prevent and control the pollution of the state's waters.
- **Maximum Environmental Noise Levels (Chapter 173-60 WAC)**
The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) adopted WAC Chapter 173-60 pursuant to the agency's authority to regulate noise under RCW Chapter 70.107. The Maximum Environmental Noise Levels regulate the intensity, duration, and character of sounds on specific receiving properties.

FEDERAL LAWS

- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**
The Endangered Species Act protects federally listed species and their ecosystems. Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1539) authorizes a landowner to negotiate a habitat conservation plan with the United States Secretary of the Interior to minimize and mitigate any incidental impact to threatened and endangered species while conducting lawful activities such as forest practices. A habitat conservation plan may allow the landowner to develop habitat for endangered species at a landscape level, rather than protecting the individual sites at which the species is found on the landowner's property. As long as the landowner manages under the terms and conditions of the habitat conservation plan, the landowner will not be prosecuted for "take" of an individual animal. The permit issued to the landowner by the federal government is referred to as an "Incidental Take Permit," and identifies the range of activities allowed under each habitat conservation plan.

- **Federal Water Pollution Control Act (CLEAN WATER ACT)**
The Clean Water Act relates to protecting water quality. Washington's Forest Practices Rules are co-adopted by DNR and Ecology so that meeting the requirements of the rules also meets the requirements of the state Clean Water Act and federal law.
- **The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**
The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The Act provides criminal penalties for persons who "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle ... [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof." The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb."
Paper copies or access to electronic copies of all Reference Documents maybe requested from the DNR SEPA Center at 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA 98504, or electronically at sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TREATIES AND OTHER AGREEMENTS

- **Yakama Nation Treaty of 1855**
- b) Identify any potential impacts from the proposal that have been previously designated as acceptable under the Growth Management Act (GMA), chapter 36.70A RCW.
This proposal is consistent with the intent and purpose of the Growth Management Act as well as Kittitas County's Comprehensive Plan. Kittitas County designates county lands within the Recreation Planning Area as part of its Commercial Agriculture Zone, Forest and Range Zone, and Commercial Forest Zone. Kittitas County's Land Use map designations within the Recreation Planning Area include Commercial Forest, Commercial Agriculture, and Rural Working.

5) Related Documentation

- a) Briefly describe any existing regulation, policy or plan that is expected to be replaced or amended as a result of the proposal. (Adequate descriptions in section 4.a may be referenced here, rather than repeated.)
No existing regulations, policies or plans will be replaced or amended as a result of this proposal. This plan is a supplement to the existing Teanaway Community Forest Management plan of May 2015.
- b) List any environmental documents (SEPA or NEPA) that have been prepared for items listed in 4.a. or that provide analysis relevant to this proposal. **Note:** Impacts with previous adequate analysis need not be re-analyzed, but should be adopted or incorporated by reference into the NPRF. Identify the:

- i) Type of document
- ii) Lead agency and issue date
- iii) Where copies can be viewed or obtained
- iv) The portions of the document applicable to the current proposal and briefly explain relevancy. Summarize the relevant impact assessment or, provide reference to discussion(s) in Part II that includes this information.

The following documents provide analysis relevant to this proposal and are available by request from the DNR SEPA Center at 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA 98504, or electronically at sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov

- **Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan Non-Project SEPA. 2015 Washington Department of Natural Resources**
- **Teanaway Habitat and Working Lands Easement, Environmental Checklist. 2013 Washington Department of Natural Resources.**
- **Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington. 2011. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.**
- **Forest practices rule proposal: Extending the performance period for Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan to July 1, 2021. Forest Practices Board. March 2011 Environmental Checklist.**
- **Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Final Programmatic EIS. US DOI – Bureau of Reclamation and Washington Department of Ecology. 2012.**

- c) List other relevant environmental documents/studies/models which have been identified as necessary to support decision making for this proposal. Other plans or models used in suitability analysis?

Recreation Land Suitability Assessment -- biological, geological, soils, and management suitability assessments were completed for recreation opportunities in the Teanaway Community Forest. The assessments resulted in composite maps that helped to guide the Advisory Committee and the planning effort (See Suitability Maps in the Plan). The purpose of the assessments was to identify and map areas within the planning area that have long-term limiting factors that could affect recreation planning. The suitability assessment was intended to be broad scale and does not replace future site-specific analysis for individual projects. Below is a summary of the biological, geological, soils, and management criteria that were used to map sensitive areas.

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

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

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 flood plains
- Rock features, including cliffs and bluffs

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

Data Sources (WADNR GIS System) for Recreation Land Suitability Maps:

Geology and Soils

- **Soils Risk for Recreation:**
 - WA DNR LiDAR
 - gSSURGO
- **Slope Percentage**
 - DNR LiDAR
- **Poorly Drained Soils**
 - WA DNR Soils: gSSURGO-Poorly Drained
- **Areas with High Potential for Landslides/Unstable Slopes**
 - WA DNR LiDAR**
- **Areas That Have Moved in Previous Landslides**
 - DNR Forest Practices Landslide Inventory

- **Flood Plains**
 - **FEMA Flood Data**
 - **Kittitas County Floodways**

Biological

- **Fish Habitat**
 - **WA DNR Forest Practices Hydro**
- **Deer and Elk, Winter Range**
 - **WA DFW Priority Habitats and Species (PHS)**
 - **WA DFW Local Knowledge**
- **Wetlands and Wetland Buffers**
 - **WA DFW Yakima Basin Integrated Plan**
 - **USFWS National Wetland Inventory**
 - **NRCS Hydric Soils**
 - **USFS BPS data**
 - **WA DNR LiDAR**
- **Riparian Areas and Open Water**
 - **WA DNR Forest Practices Hydro**
- **High Quality and Rare Plant Communities**
 - **WA Natural Heritage Program**
- **Deer and Elk, Fawning and Calving Area**
 - **WA DFW Priority Species**
 - **WA DFW Local Knowledge**
- **Northern Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk**
 - **WA DNR**
 - **WA DFW**
 - **Forest Service**
 - **Oregon State University**

Management

- **Communication and Management Sites:**
 - **WA DNR Southeast Region**
- **Land Adjacent to Other Properties:**
 - **WA DNR**
 - **Kittitas County**
- **Riparian Restoration Areas:**
 - **WA DFW**
 - **WA DNR**
- **Rock Sources:**
 - **DNR Southeast Region**

In addition the following studies and reports were used as foundational information for recreation land suitability analysis:

- **TCF Deed of Habitat Restoration and Working Lands Easement held by WDFW**
- **Teanaway Community Forest Aquatic Restoration Strategy (80% Draft)**
- **NF Teanaway River Geomorphic Assessment (2018)**

- **Spotted Owl Recovery Plan**
- **Steelhead Recovery Plan**
- **Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan Reiss, K.Y, Thomas, J., Anderson, E. Cummins, J. 2012**
- **Teanaway Comm. Forest Fish and Wildlife Baseline Report (YBIP Crew) see here:
https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/abt_dml_tcf_habitatreport2016.pdf**
- **Yakima River Watershed, Salmonid Habitat Limiting Factors Analysis**
- **Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Analysis (Statewide).
<https://waconnected.org>**
- **Teanaway Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load – Detailed Implementation Plan Creech, J. 2013. Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), Publication No 03-10-025.**
- **Yakima River Watershed. Water Resource Inventory Areas 37 – 39 Haring, D. 2001. Habitat Limiting Factors – Washington State Conservation Commission.**
- **Teanaway Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load – Submittal Report Irle, P. 2001. Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE), Publication no 01-10- 019**
- **Teanaway River Basin Temperature Pilot Technical Assessment Stohr, A. and Leskie, S. 2000.. Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), Publication No 00-03-015.**
- **Yakima River Basin Study, volume 1: Proposed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and WA Department of Ecology. 2011.. USBOR Contract No. 08CA10677A ID/IQ.**
- **Watershed Analysis for the Teanaway WAU (North Fork Teanaway River). Boise Cascade. 1996.**
- **Yakima Subbasin Plan Yakima Subbasin Fish and Wildlife Planning Board. 2004.**
- **Forest Practices Board Manual 2013. Advisory technical supplement**
- **Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance**
- **Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program**

6) Public Involvement (Optional)

- a) Identify agencies with jurisdiction or expertise, affected tribes, and other known stakeholder groups whose input is likely to be specifically solicited in the development of this proposal.

The following groups had representatives of their organizations on the Advisory Committee:

- **Yakama Nation, Department of Natural Resources**
- **Washington Department of Ecology**
- **Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners**
- **Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Working Group**
- **The Wilderness Society**
- **Washington Trails Association**

- **Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance**
- **Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust**
- **Trout Unlimited**
- **Washington Back Country Horsemen**
- **Kittitas County Field and Stream Club**
- **Washington State Snowmobile Association**
- **Kittitas Environmental Education Network**
- **Friends of the Teanaway**
- **Back Country Horsemen of Washington**
- **Northwest Motorcycle Association**

Also on the committee were local landowners not representing a specific group.

- b) Briefly describe the processes used or expected to be used for soliciting input from those listed. [Examples: ad hoc committees, tribal consultations, interagency meetings, public workshops or hearings, newsletters, etc.]

Public participation in the planning process was an integral part of creating the plan. The input process included six main components:

- **A series of public meetings held throughout the planning process:**
 - **Kick-off meeting to introduce the project and collect public input.**
 - **Public open house meeting to present concept maps and collect public input.**
 - **Public comment at twelve advisory committee meetings**
- **Use of the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee to discuss challenges and recommend improvements within the Teanaway Community Forest.**
- **External information gathering from a variety of sources including local recreation user groups, community land management organizations, adjacent landowners, tribal interests, the US Forest Service, and Kittitas County. DNR and WDFW staff communicated with these groups multiple times, including via letters, emails, phone calls, and on-site consultations.**
- **Creation of a webpage to provide general information on the planning process and solicit comments.**
- **Distribution of a web-based survey to assess user patterns, concerns, and overall impressions of recreation in the Teanaway Community Forest.**
- **Periodic distribution of an email update to a large mailing list of interested public and stakeholders, including the above mentioned agencies and organizations.**
- **The agencies provided public comments to the advisory committee for review to see if any substantial issues were raised or if issues were missed.**

PART II – IMPACT ANALYSIS AND ALTERNATIVES

7) Affected Environment

Generally describe the existing environmental landscapes or elements (e.g., character and quality of ecosystem, existing trends, infrastructure, service levels, etc.) likely to be affected if the proposal is implemented. Include a description of the existing built and natural environment where future “on the ground” activities would occur that would be influenced by the nonproject proposal.

Note: When complete, this section needs to provide information on existing conditions for the elements of the environment discussed in sections 8 and 9. A list of both the built and the natural elements of the environment is found in WAC 197-11-444, and included at the end of this form.

Watershed:

The Teanaway Community Forest is located in the upper Yakima River basin south of the Stuart Range. The TCF comprises 49,933 acres in two separate parcels. The main block is north of I-90 along the three forks of the Teanaway River: North Fork, Middle Fork, and West Fork. The First Creek parcel is to the south-east of the main block. The geology is a mix of metamorphic rocks of the Ingalls Tectonic Complex, sedimentary sandstone deposits of the Swauk and Roslyn Formations, volcanic basalts, and glacial and river deposits (DNR, 2010). There are more than 30 different soil units within the Teanaway Community Forest, with textures ranging from clay to sand to loam to gravel. Major soil units include Nard, Ampad, and Keechelus (DNR 2010). The topography varies from 1,900 feet near the mouth of the river to 4,100 feet along the ridgelines. Slopes range from 0 to 100 percent. There is evidence of old, large-scale mass wasting events within the drainage, though a study in 1996 found only 44 mass wasting features in 41 years, and most of these were associated with streambank erosion (Boise, 1996). Soil surveys show that small areas within the community forest have high potential for landslides (DNR, 2010).

The climate of the region is one of cold, wet winters and warm, dry summers. The hottest months are July and August with average high temperatures around 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The coldest months are December and January with average low temperatures around 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Most precipitation falls in the months from November to February. Average annual snowfall is 83 inches (WRCC, 2015). The Teanaway River is a major tributary to the upper Yakima River and provides connectivity to high elevation cold water for fish (USBOR and DOE 2011). There are approximately 460 miles of streams within the Community Forest, including 86 miles of fish-bearing streams. The rivers are free-flowing and the hydrograph rises gradually through February and March, peaks in the months of April and May as snow melts, and then declines sharply (Stohr and Leskie, 2000). It is during the winter and spring months that the river has historically flooded, often after a severe rain-on-snow event (Stohr and Leskie, 2000). During the dry and warm summer months stream flows drop, leading to higher temperatures in the streams.

Average annual peak flows from 1971-1998 were 1000 cfs and low flows were 15 cfs, with a one-time high of 8,000 cfs and low of 6 cfs (Stohr and Leskie, 2000). Streams in this watershed are naturally prone to heating due to low

flows and warm summer weather (Stohr and Leskie, 2000). Historic logging, grazing, rail-road building and road-building practices by former property owners likely exacerbated this natural cycle, leading to less riparian vegetation, less large woody debris in the river, altered stream banks and stream locations, and ultimately to higher stream temperatures (Boise, 1996; Stohr and Leskie, 2000; Irle, 2001). In 1998, portions of all three main forks of the Teanaway exceeded maximum temperature limits set by the Department of Ecology (DOE) to protect fish habitat (Stohr and Leskie, 2000). Climate change may alter the timing and quantity of precipitation and flows; winter flows are expected to be higher, and spring and summer flows lower (US BOR and DOE, 2011). (See Figure 2 - Rivers)

Working Lands:

Forests, with species such as ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas fir, and grand fir, cover most of the TCF. Historically, the forests were predominately open stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir that experienced frequent, low-intensity fires (Boise, 1996; Wright and Agee, 2004). Higher elevation areas had denser stands of grand fir that experienced less frequent but more severe fires (Boise, 1996, Jolly Mountain 2017). Logging began on the lands within the TCF early in the 20th century at first using the river to transport logs and then using railcars around 1916 (Boise, 1996). Logging continued throughout the 20th and into the 21st century, with ownership changing multiple times until the State of Washington purchased it in 2013. The lands were commercially harvested and the companies removed substantial volumes of timber through the years. Insect attacks and diseases have affected this forest and the surrounding lands, with several notable outbreaks of western spruce budworm, fir engraver, and various types of bark beetles occurring during the past 15 years (DNR, 2015). Current information on stand densities and species composition is lacking, though DNR ortho-photo surveys provide a general map. The dead and dying trees from the budworm infestation adds to the already high risk of severe wildfire. Wildlife species such as the northern spotted owl – an endangered species – need particular types of habitat for nesting, roosting, and foraging, much of which suffered high mortality from insects, was logged or otherwise lost features needed by the species (WDFW, 2012). (See Figure 3 - Vegetation).

Agriculture and grazing began in the area toward the end of the 19th century (Boise, 1996). Agricultural has continued on private lands in the watershed, while open grazing of both sheep and cattle occurred on the lands within the TCF. Grazing began in 1920, at points, several thousand head of cattle grazed in the watershed (Boise, 1996). Currently, there are three grazing operators who move cattle into the area in June and remove them in October. These combined operators have 345 cow/calf pairs within the TCF. This portion of Kittitas County is designated as open range, so little of the area is fenced. Since purchase of the Teanaway Community Forest we have installed 4.4 miles of lay down fence and 4 miles of electric fence for stream protection. There is an additional 20 miles of fence to be completed with future contracts. Range riders are used by one of the operators to move the cattle around, to help prevent wolf/cattle conflicts, and to help round up the cattle in the fall.

Recreation Opportunities:

There are three camping areas in the TCF -- Teanaway, 29 Pines, and Indian Camp. Campsites are unmarked so some users place camps directly adjacent to the river. Hunting and fishing are popular activities within the TCF – many hunters use the area during seasons for deer, elk, and turkey.

During the summer months, use of the rivers for swimming is a popular activity. Parking, however, is limited. There are no designated trail systems maintained by the state in the Teanaway Community Forest, though three USFS trails start within the community forest trails (Middle Fork Teanaway Trail, Yellow Hill Trail, and West Fork Teanaway Trail). Off-road motorcycle recreationists can utilize the three USFS multi-use trails. Many recreationists hike, bike, and ride horses on the forest roads for dispersed recreation. During the summer, there are four unimproved forest roads open for motorized recreation that are maintained by the USFS but occur partly within the Community Forest, this includes Jack Creek Rd., Jungle Creek Rd., Stafford Creek Rd., and North Fork Teanaway Rd. The state maintains Middle Fork Teanaway Rd. from the end of the county road to the property boundary with the USFS. There are approximately 140 miles of user-created recreation trails throughout the TCF. The trails are located predominately in the southwest part of the forest where there are unique rock formations, camping areas and vistas. During the winter, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers can access the forest from parking areas along the North Fork Teanaway Rd. and West Fork Teanaway Rd. Groomed snowmobile routes are maintained by a local snowmobile group in conjunction with Washington State Parks. (See Figure 4 – Campgrounds and Trails)

Wildlife Habitat:

The Teanaway River and its tributaries historically supported spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout, along with other fish species (Haring, 2001). Currently, steelhead and bull trout are listed as threatened on the Federal Endangered Species List, and populations of spring Chinook are depressed from historical levels, though recently improvements in population levels have been noted (BOR and DOE, 2012). The current quality and quantity of habitat for these fish is limited due to high summer stream temperatures, reduction in riparian habitat, loss of spawning gravels, and lack of woody debris in streams (Stohr and Leskie, 2000). Within the TCF boundary, there are several road culverts that block fish passage to upstream habitat, additionally, unmanaged domestic livestock, recreation users, or excessive sediment from incised stream banks or roads can damage salmon spawning grounds, or redds (Haring, 2001). In 2000, the Bonneville Power Authority, in conjunction with the Yakama Nation, opened an acclimation facility in the community forest along Jack Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Teanaway River.

Since 2015 the following miles of stream restoration work led by the Yakama Nation has been completed:

- Middle Creek LWH (Large Wood Habitat) treatment miles completed: 1.1 mile

- **Jungle Creek LWH completed: 1.0 mile**
- **Indian Creek LWH completed: 3.0 miles**
- **Rye Creek LWH completed by September: 1.0 mile**
- **Lick Creek LWH completed by October: 0.8 mile**

Total by Fall 2018: 6.9 miles of Large Wood Habitat treatments in five tributaries

The Community Forest provides habitat for elk, deer, bear, wolf, mountain lion, and other species that are habitat generalists but are sensitive to disturbance during certain times of the year, for example, during calving, nesting and denning season. Portions of the community forest are within the winter range of the Colokum elk herd, and during the summer these animals may roam throughout the community forest and beyond. A gray wolf pack – a federally endangered species - moved into the area in recent years (Becker et al. 2014). Gray wolves are habitat generalists and there is plenty of prey for them, however their population numbers are low and their dens may need to be protected (Wiles et al. 2011). The Northern Spotted Owl – a federally endangered species – historically had numerous nests in the area but currently there is limited suitable habitat for nesting, roosting, and foraging (WDFW, 2012; Forsman et al. 2012). Currently, there is only one active nest in the TCF. (See Figure 5 – Elk Winter Range and Spotted Owl Habitat)

Though a comprehensive vegetation survey has not been done, typical forest plant associations found in the area include components of the ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and grand fir series (Lillybridge et al, 1995).

There are also numerous open meadows, some of which have substantial amounts of invasive weeds, including hounds tongue, diffuse knapweed, and meadow knapweed. No known endangered plant species are found within the community forest or on land directly adjacent to the forest, though the Wenatchee checkermallow and Wenatchee larkspur have been found in nearby areas (CH2MHILL, 2010).

Community:

The Community Forest is within the lands ceded by the Yakama Nation in the Treaty of 1855, and the nation maintains the right to conduct their usual and accustomed practices on these lands. Beginning in the late 19th century, settlers began to enter the Teanaway Valley and start farming, ranching, and logging operations while mining occurred on nearby Swauk Creek and in Cle Elum (Ficken, 1995). The Cascade Lumber Company formed in 1903 to take advantage of logging opportunities in the area around the Teanaway. Operators would float logs down the river to the confluence with the Yakima. By 1916, it had built infrastructure, including extensive railroads and a town, known as Casland, near the forks of the Teanaway River (Henderson, 1990). Railcars became the primary method of transport, which allowed for substantial amounts of timber to be harvested and moved. In 1957, Cascade combined with Boise Payette Lumber Company to form Boise Cascade, which continued logging in the area until 1999, when it sold the Teanaway property to American Forest Holdings LLC.

The Teanaway watershed is approximately 207 square miles within Kittitas County. The upper third of the watershed is public lands under federal management (USFS: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest), the community forest occupies the middle third, and the lower third is mostly private lands. There are a number of private parcels and Washington State Trust Lands within the TCF boundary. To the south and south-west, once-private timberlands are now managed by the non-profit The Nature Conservancy. The First Creek parcel is surrounded by USFS lands and private lands. The lands within the community forest are zoned as commercial forest and range; lands bordering the forest are zoned commercial forest, forest and range, and rural working. The 25 miles of rivers classified as “Shorelines of the State” within the community forest are listed as Rural Conservancy.

One main public road provides access to the Teanaway: Teanaway Rd, which is maintained by Kittitas County; the county also maintains sections of the Middle Fork Teanaway Rd and North Fork Teanaway Rd. There are 315 miles of active forest roads owned by Washington State within the TCF, only 6.5 miles of these roads are open to the public for street legal vehicle use. There is an additional 9.5 miles of Forest Service roads within the TCF which are open to street legal vehicle use (Jungle Creek Rd., Stafford Creek Rd., Jack Creek Rd., and North Fork Teanaway Rd.). There are eight forest road bridges maintained by Washington State. Access to forest roads is controlled by twenty-four vehicle gates. The road system is integral to management of the forest, and also provides access to private property within the TCF and to the federal lands adjacent to the TCF. There have been 37 miles of road abandoned since purchase with 7 fish passage barriers replaced and 2 scheduled for CY 2018. (Figure 1 – Overview of the Teanaway Community Forest)

8) Key Issue Assessment

List the identified key issues or areas of controversy or concern and include a brief statement of why each is a key issue. For each item listed:

- a) Identify alternative options or solutions for the objective or concern.
- b) Describe the environmental considerations/impacts relevant to each of the alternatives identified in 8.a.
- c) Describe reasonable mitigation of adverse impacts identified.
- d) Identify those alternatives to be carried forward for further analysis.
- e) Briefly describe why those alternatives rejected from further consideration were not carried forward.

The Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan called for the development of a supplemental recreation plan for the forest that would plan for a sustainable network of safe and enjoyable recreation trails and facilities that are consistent with watershed protection and would evaluate motorcycle use within the planning process. Staff from DNR and WDFW and the Advisory Committee integrated information from the land suitability analysis, public survey, public comments, field trips, and committee meeting

discussions in order to identify issues, explore alternatives, and develop recommendations for what and where types of recreation opportunities are provided in the Teanaway Community Forest over the next 15 years.

Based on the land suitability analysis, recreation opportunities were understood to be different in the winter and summer. Critical nesting, calving, and denning seasons for wildlife present challenges for recreation during the spring and summer, but are not a factor during the fall and winter. Erosive soils and river flood plains factor into the sustainable location of trails, camping areas and trailheads during spring, summer, and fall, whereas winter recreation is less constrained due to snow coverage. These seasonal variations informed the development of different overall recreation management strategies, or Primary Management Objectives (PMO's), for summer and winter.

Primary Management Objectives (PMOs) identify the principal recreational use or uses for which an area is managed. The Primary Management Objective does not necessarily mean that other recreational uses in an area are excluded. PMO's are a tool intended to provide recreational visitors with an understanding of the types of recreational activities to expect.

Ideas for what types of recreation to provide in the Community Forest and where 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-fall) and one for winter recreation (snow season). Mapping was conceptual, describing large areas (or blobs) with important connections, access points, and facilities rather than site specific locations and trails routes.

The planning process was iterative. The first concept maps, created by the advisory committee, captured all of the initial ideas reflecting what committee members had learned from field trips, suitability mapping, historic use patterns, the 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 five subsequent advisory committee meetings (open to the public) and one community open house meeting until arriving at the final draft recommendation for summer and winter recreation.

This process is outlined below:

Summer (Spring-Summer-Fall) Recreation:

Because recreation in summer, spring and fall is constrained by erodible soils and critical nesting, calving, and denning seasons the overall Primary Management Objective (PMO) for summer recreation in the Community Forest is non-motorized, including but not limited to hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and camping, as well as fishing, hunting and nature activities. Discussions focused on management and improvement of camping areas, trail-based recreation, river access, driving on forest roads, connections to communities and adjacent forests, and whether motorcycle use would be allowed as a secondary use on select trails.

A. Alternatives:

The first concept captured all of the initial ideas for what types of recreational uses, connections and access point to provide and where. This initial conceptual plan was then revised and changed at subsequent meetings until arriving at a final recommendation. The first concept included:

- Improving three existing camping areas (Teaway, 29 Pines, Indian Camp)
- Improving existing popular river access locations
- Improving non-motorized trails to popular rock formations in the SW part of the forest
- Evaluating existing multi-use Forest Service trails (West Fork, Middle Fork, Yellow Hill) for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and motorcycle riding
- Providing a new cross-country trail around the Community Forest that connects all of the camping areas and includes back-country campsites.
- Improving existing and providing new connections to the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ridge and the communities of Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald, including possible new non-motorized trails (hike, horse, bike), multi-use trails (allows motorcycles), and seasonal vehicle access to forest roads for scenic driving.

B. Environmental Considerations:

The initial concepts highlighted a number of issues that needed to be resolved through subsequent iterations:

- How to provide opportunities to access and recreate along the river while protecting water quality and fish habitat:
 - **Camping Areas:**
 - Based on the user survey, camping is one of the most popular activities in the Teaway. However, portions of existing camping areas are located in river flood plains, and without designated sites, people are currently driving and camping everywhere, impacting vegetation and the floodplain.
 - **River Access:**
 - Some of the most popular swimming spots are located in areas where the river bedrock has been exposed from past land management practices which changed flow patterns of the river, contributing to high water temperature, while reducing water temperature is one of the priorities of the Management Plan.
 - **River adjacent Trails:**
 - Segments of two popular multi-use Forest Service trails (West Fork Trail and Middle Fork Trail) used by hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers and motorcycle riders are located in river flood plains and have many stream crossings. The large number of stream crossings was understood to be problematic because of sediment delivery to streams and because trails would be washed out easily and hard to maintain.

- **How to provide a variety of shorter and longer non-motorized trail-based opportunities in the forest that provide sustainable access to popular destinations such as rock formations and summit peaks while protecting critical wildlife habitat and reducing impacts to sensitive soils and geological features:**
 - **Based on the suitability analysis, critical nesting, calving, and denning areas are located in the northern and eastern part of the Community Forest, whereas the southwestern part of the forest is less environmentally constrained.**
 - **The southwestern part of the forest also has the highest density of use, with large numbers of user built trails going to popular rock formations.**
 - **Dry powdery soils in the summer are more suitable for a lower density network of cross-country trails and less suitable for a higher density of specialized trails with challenging gradients.**

- **Proposals to connect to neighboring lands and communities need to be coordinated with adjacent land managers:**
 - **Further discussions with adjacent landowners revealed that many of the desired connections to adjacent lands were difficult or currently not feasible due to lack of legal easements, private and public landowner concerns, regulatory constraints, broad flood plain impacts, and limited capacity for development and maintenance of new trails on adjacent lands.**

- **Evaluate Motorcycle use as a secondary use in the Community Forest:**
 - **Based on the suitability analysis, motorcycle use in the Community Forest is constrained by critical nesting, calving, and denning habitat in the northern and eastern part of the forest and by dry erodible summer soils throughout.**
 - **Three multiple-use Forest Service trails: Middle Fork (FS 1392), Yellow Hill (FS 122) and West Fork (FS 1353), which originate in the Community Forest, are shared by hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers and motorcycle riders. These trails are highly technical and require skilled users.**
 - **The Middle Fork and West Fork Trails are located adjacent to streams with many water crossings, as described above.**
 - **Due to the technical nature of the trails, use levels and speeds are lower.**
 - **Water quality and long-term maintenance costs were understood to be impacted more by the stream adjacent location of the trails than by the particular mix of recreational uses.**

C. Mitigation:

- **Mitigation of impacts to rivers and streams:**
 - **Camping areas: create defined drive aisles and campsites and locate campsites out of floodplains. Provide designated day-use parking and picnic areas. Design pathways from multiple sites that allow proper**

- **access to the river.**
- **River Access:** provide designated river access locations, so that stream restoration projects and natural functions can work around them.
- **Stream adjacent trails:** Evaluate, renovate and relocate segments of the multi-use Middle Fork and West Fork Forest Service trails to protect water quality, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and reduce conflicts with river restoration work and natural functions.
- **Mitigation of impacts to wildlife, soils and geological features:**
 - **Create three conceptual zones to concentrate use in areas that are more suitable to recreational use.**
 - **High Density Trail Area** is located in the southwestern part of the forest, where there are less impacts to critical wildlife nesting, denning and calving habitat. This area will evaluate existing trails and provide new non-motorized trails to popular rock formations, eliminating redundant trails and relocating segments to sustainable locations.
 - **Moderate Density Trail Area** located in the northwestern part of the forest will provide a cross-country trail to connect Indian Camp and 29 Pines and include access to rock formations and summits.
 - **Low Density Trail Area** located in the eastern part of the forest will improve an existing trail up Indian Creek, with interpretation of the stream restoration project and a possible connection to Red Top.
 - **Reduce the total number of trails by providing cross-country trails that are designed to be shared by hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers.**
 - **By better planning trails water crossings, soil erosion, and vegetation disturbance can be reduced from the current network of user built trails.**
- **Mitigation of impacts to adjacent landowners:**
 - **Partner with adjacent land managers to identify and improve connections, which are mutually compatible and feasible. Maintain buffers along private property lines by relocating trails.**
- **Motorcycle Use:**
 - **Continue to allow motorcycle use as a secondary use on the multiple-use Forest Service Trails, including Yellow Hill, West Fork, and Middle Fork. These trails originate in the Community Forest, and cross into the National Forest after about one mile. Partner with the Forest Service to improve and manage the trails to protect water quality.**

D. Alternatives Carried Forward:

- **The Primary Management Objective (PMO) for Summer Recreation in Teanaway Community Forest:**
 - **Three-season non-motorized recreation in the spring, summer, and**

fall. Motorcycle use is a secondary use on designated trail connections to the three multi-use Forest Service trails.

- **Camping Areas:**
 - Improve existing camping areas, define campsites and drive aisles, locate campsites out of flood plains, provide designated equestrian camping, group camping, and day-use parking and picnic areas. Provide information about rules, fire safety and nearby recreation opportunities.
- **River Access:**
 - Coordinate with river restoration to manage river access and determine infrastructure needs for fishing, swimming, and day use. Provide a parking area, restroom and information and improve the trail to access a popular swimming spot on Dickey Creek.
- **Non-motorized Trails:**
 - Provide non-motorized trails, shared by hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers in accordance with the High, Moderate, and Low Density Trail Areas. Provide trailheads with parking, restroom and information.
- **Multiple-Use Forest Service Trails:**
 - Partner with the Forest Service to improve and manage the Yellow Hill, West Fork and Middle Fork Trails for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers and motorcycles. Renovate and relocate segments out of the floodplain while retaining the technical character of the trails to protect water quality, maintain low speeds, and reduce user conflicts. Improve parking facilities at trailheads.
- **Scenic Driving:**
 - Provide seasonal access to a forest road loop to provide a scenic driving loop for street legal 4WD vehicles and street legal motorcycles within the Community Forest, most likely in the northwestern part of the forest. Partner with the Forest Service to improve and manage the Jack Creek Forest Road as a seasonal scenic driving connection between the Community Forest and Highway 97.
- **Connections:**
 - Partner with adjacent land managers to provide connections to adjacent lands and nearby communities:
 - Partner with The Nature Conservancy and the cities of Cle Elum, Roslyn, and Ronald to provide non-motorized trail connections between the Community Forest, Cle Elum Ridge, and local communities.
 - Partner with the Forest Service to improve and maintain the three multi-use trails (Yellow Hill, West Fork, and Middle Fork), and evaluate non-motorized connections to Red Top.
 - Partner with the Forest Service to manage seasonal access to the Jack Creek Forest Road for scenic driving

E. Alternatives not carried Forward:

The following alternatives were not carried forward due to various suitability issues.

- **Ideas for Connections – not carried forward: Improve and maintain Forest Road 4305 and Dickey Creek Rd for scenic driving, provide new multi-use trail to Jungle Creek, provide new non-motorized ridgeline trail to the east. These connections were not carried forward due to lack of easements, private and public landowner preferences, flood plain impacts, and critical habitat suitability analysis.**
- **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 and public 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.**
- **Idea for an Around-the-Forest Non-motorized Trail - transformed: This idea was transformed when the three zones (High, Moderate, and Low Density Trail Areas) were introduced to reflect differences in environmental suitability for trails in different areas of the forest. The importance of connecting camping areas by trails, providing trails to popular rock features, and providing a few backcountry campsites was incorporated into the zones.**

Winter Recreation:

Recreation in winter has less land suitability constraints than summer recreation. Winter snow pack provides protection for wildlife and coverage for sensitive soils. Critical nesting, calving, and denning seasons end by mid August. In addition, recreation user numbers are less in the winter months. The overall Primary Management Objective (PMO) for winter recreation in the Community Forest is groomed motorized and non-motorized trails with opportunities for dispersed snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and winter play. Discussions focused on management and improvement of parking areas, enhancing the groomed snowmobile system, providing a groomed trail area for cross-country skiing, developing trail connections across Cle Elum Ridge, and exploring partnerships with user groups to provide winter warming huts.

A. Alternatives:

The first concept captured all of the initial ideas for what types of recreational uses, connections and access points to provide and where. This initial conceptual plan was then revised and changed at subsequent meetings until arriving at a final recommendation. The first concept included the following:

- **Provide a new non-motorized winter recreation area for groomed cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and winter family recreation in the West Fork area with a new Sno-Park near Teanaway Camping Area.**
- **Expand existed 29 Pines staging area as a Sno-Park for motorized and non-motorized recreation.**
- **Relocate the groomed Rye Creek snowmobile trail to a more sustainable location. Evaluate the existing snowmobile trail network for more sustainable**

trail locations.

- **Establish new groomed snowmobile north-south loop connections from 29 Pines.**
- **Partner with local communities and the Nature Conservancy to develop new non-motorized trail connections across Cle Elum Ridge.**
- **Plow the Middle Fork Teanaway Road to Indian Camp to establish a new mixed-use staging area near Indian Camp.**
- **Provide a new access at the Teanaway Valley Unit for non-motorized family friendly recreation.**
- **Partner with USFS to develop groomed non-motorized trail connections to the Jungle Creek and Iron Creek voluntary non-motorized areas.**
- **Partner with user groups to establish warming huts at trailheads.**

B. Environmental Considerations:

The initial concept highlighted two issues that needed to be resolved through subsequent iterations:

- **How to co-locate winter and summer trailheads to reduce environmental impacts, improve user experience and provide efficiencies in management.**
- **What should be the size and location of the non-motorized groomed trail system to avoid steep terrain, to allow local snowmobile access, and to reduce potential conflict with motorized uses.**
- **Traffic impacts on the existing county roads.**

C. Mitigation:

- **Mitigation of impacts to rivers and streams:**
 - **Sno-Parks: co-locate winter and summer trailheads. Consolidate locations along existing County roads to reduce winter snow plowing and impact to riparian areas.**
- **Mitigation of impacts to wildlife:**
 - **Maintain a dispersed recreation area along the southeast forest boundary to protect elk and deer winter range.**
- **Mitigation of impacts to adjacent landowners:**
 - **Partner with adjacent land managers to identify and improve connections, which are mutually compatible and feasible. Maintain buffers along private property lines by relocating trails.**
- **Mitigation to ensure user experience:**
 - **Ensure local resident snowmobile access from the West Fork Teanaway Sno-Park.**
 - **Reduce size and adjust boundary of non-motorized area to reduce user conflict and avoid steep slopes.**

D. Alternatives Carried Forward:

- **The Primary Management Objective (PMO) for Winter Recreation in Teanaway Community Forest: is groomed motorized and non-motorized trails with opportunities for dispersed snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing, and winter play.**
- **Provide a new non-motorized winter recreation area for groomed cross-**

country skiing, snow shoeing and winter family recreation in the West Fork area co-located as a Sno-Park at the West Fork Teanaway Trailhead.

- Expand existing 29 Pines staging area as a Sno-Park for motorized and non-motorized recreation.
- Provide additional north-south groomed snowmobile connections. Evaluate the existing snowmobile trails and relocate to more sustainable locations where needed in coordination with forest road planning.
- Partner with adjacent forest landowners to develop new non-motorized trail connections across Cle Elum Ridge to the communities of Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald.
- Partner with USFS to develop groomed non-motorized trail connections to the Jungle Creek and Iron Creek voluntary non-motorized areas.
- Partner with user groups to establish warming huts at Sno-Parks.

E. Alternatives not carried Forward:

The following alternatives were not carried forward due environmental suitability issues and management efficiency.

- **Additional access points – not carried forward:**
 - Plow the Middle Fork Teanaway Road to Indian Camp to establish a new mixed-use staging area near Indian Camp -- replaced with a co-located Sno-Park at West Fork Teanaway for management efficiency and to reduce impacts of facility development.
 - Provide a new access at Teanaway Valley Unit for non-motorized family friendly recreation deleted as size and location are not central for winter access.

9) Proposed Nonproject Action or Alternative Actions

Describe a range of reasonable alternatives or the preferred alternative that will meet the objective(s). For each alternative, answer the following questions referring again to the list of the elements of the environment in WAC 197-11-444:

Two recreation concept maps were developed, one for summer and one for winter. The recreation concept 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. These concept maps show the general locations of proposed recreational uses as the plan is implemented over the next 15 years.

The Summer Concept Map (Figure 6) shows general locations of facilities such as trailheads and camping areas, key recreation connections, and areas with varying trail densities. Key features of the summer concepts include:

- **Trail areas for high, moderate, and low density trail use. 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 where stream restoration is coordinated with access for fishing, swimming, and day use while determining infrastructure needs**
- **Camping areas improved at Teanaway, 29 Pines, Indian Camp**
- **Trailheads providing parking, restrooms, information and daytime access to rivers and non-motorized trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding at Indian Creek, 29 Pines, Indian Camp, West Teanaway, USFS trails, and Dickey Creek**
- **Multi-use trail connections to trails in Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and motorcycle riding at West Fork, Middle Fork and Yellow Hill Trails. (Partner with Forest Service)**
- **Non-motorized trail connections to the communities of Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald across Cle Elum Ridge for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. (Partner with adjacent landowners and local communities)**
- **Scenic driving 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.**

The Winter Concept Map (Figure 7) 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:

- **Primary Management Objective areas (PMO) for snowmobile and non-motorized uses**
 - **Sno-Parks located at 29 Pines for primarily snowmobile use and West Teanaway primarily for non-motorized use**
 - **Groomed Connections to communities, Cle Elum Ridge, and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest from the Community Forest.**
 - **Warming Huts managed in cooperation with user groups**
- a) If this alternative were fully implemented (including full build-out development, redevelopment, changes in land use, density of uses, management practices, etc.), describe where and how it would direct or encourage demand on or changes within elements of the human or built environment, as well as the likely effects on the natural environment. Identify where the change or affect or increased demand constitutes a likely adverse impact, and describe any further or additional adverse impacts that are likely to occur as a result of those changes and affects.

The Draft Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan is intended to improve environmental conditions, provide a mechanism for restoration of damaged resources and to identify management strategies for ongoing recreation activities in the Community Forest. The plan includes recreation management concepts that identify areas for future trail and facility location that are consistent with the environmental responsibilities of both agencies. A land suitability assessment that

identified potential limiting factors for recreation was conducted during the planning process. Planners, scientists, geographic information systems (GIS) analysts, and land managers were involved in developing the suitability maps. The process included identifying and mapping biologic, soils/geologic, and management criteria within the planning area.

It is anticipated that the Draft Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan will reduce the potential for adverse impacts to the natural environment in areas where camping is occurring within flood plains, duplicate trails are located on sensitive soils or stream adjacent, and parking for trail or river access is in sensitive locations. The plan provides management strategies that direct existing and future recreational use such as trails, camping, and parking and locating them in the areas that are less likely to cause adverse impacts.

The existing Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan provided strategies and tools for recreational trails, facilities, community partnerships and education and enforcement. The recreation planning process provided a clearer picture of where people like to recreate and where they prefer to see enhanced recreation possibilities. This plan adds additional strategies and tools for camping, commercial recreation, guide services, groups and events.

- b) Identify potential mitigation measures for the adverse impacts identified in 9.a and describe how effective the mitigation is assumed to be, any adverse impacts that could result from the use of the mitigation, and any conflict or concern related to the proposal objectives and/or key issues identified.

Mitigation measures would be developed for the site-specific proposals to direct recreation use in areas less likely to cause adverse impacts. The conditions of approval for any permit would be coordinated with responsible agency staff to ensure the proposed mitigation offsets the impacts. By planning for the future use, agencies can direct it to areas with less resource sensitivities.

- c) Identify unavoidable impacts and those that will be left to be addressed at the project level.

This is a non-project proposal. However, anticipated future projects, including future trail and facility locations for recreation uses, are proposed for areas with less potential for adverse impacts. Site-specific field assessments will be included as part of the trail system, trailheads, camping areas, and day-use facilities design and construction process. There will be some unavoidable impacts from recreational use, such as public safety issues, erosion and storm water movement toward surface water or streams and fish habitat, noise, and wildlife disturbance from recreation use patterns. If there are cases where avoidance is not possible, DNR and WDFW biologists will be consulted to determine site-specific management strategies to minimize recreation disturbance in such areas. Restoration work will reduce existing impacts to all listed resources.

The total capacity for recreation use in the area and the associated impacts will be better defined as parking capacity is established, facilities are constructed, and other control measures are put in place (e.g., directing trail use, defining parking areas, gates, and enforcement). Recreational use is expected to increase over time with or without planning.

- d) Describe how the proposal objectives will or will not be met if the impacts described in 9.c were to occur.

Adaptive management strategies are established mechanisms to address unforeseen circumstances and site conditions. Specific strategies to be applied include:

- **Evaluate site-specific conditions when implementing projects on the ground.**
- **Respond and adapt to new or changing information and variable site conditions. See also response to question 11(b) below.**
- **Consider proposals submitted to DNR or WDFW by others that are consistent with achieving The Plan’s concepts, goals, strategies and objectives, and are compatible with agency requirements.**
- **Evaluate new or emerging recreation activities for compatibility with the management objectives laid out in The Plan and the management goals of the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan – May 2015.**
- **Utilize the advisory committee which represents key stakeholders to review and provide collaborative partnerships towards implementation of the projects.**
- **Hunting and fishing will continue to operate under the rules promulgated by the WDFW Commission, which includes a separate public process.**

Note: Alternatives may be rejected at any point in the process if: they have no environmental benefit, are not within existing authority, are determined unfeasible, or do not meet the core objectives.

PART III – IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

10) Consistency of the proposal with other plans, policies and laws.

- a) Internal consistency - If there are internal inconsistencies between this proposal and your agency’s previously adopted or ongoing plans and regulations, identify any strategies or ideas for resolving these inconsistencies.

No inconsistencies have been identified between this proposal and DNR and WDFW’s previously adopted or ongoing plans and regulations. Ongoing

discussions between the agencies will help to identify any areas where inconsistencies may develop. The collaborative and joint-decision making approach the agencies have adopted to manage the Community Forest will help to resolve any potential inconsistencies.

- b) External consistency - If there are external inconsistencies between this proposal and adopted or ongoing plans and regulations of adjacent jurisdictions and/or other agencies, identify any strategies or ideas for resolving these inconsistencies.

No external inconsistencies have been identified between this proposal and adopted or ongoing plans and regulations of adjacent jurisdictions or agencies. We are going to continue to work with our neighbors, including the Forest Service – Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest, The Nature Conservancy, private landowners, and others to identify and resolve any as-yet unidentified inconsistencies between their approach and the approach laid out in this management plan. DNR and WDFW are both involved in the Tapash Forest Collaborative with these organizations. The two agencies are also involved in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, where dialogue between many external groups can identify and resolve inconsistencies.

11) Monitoring and Follow-up

- a) Describe any monitoring that will occur to ensure the impacts were as predicted and that mitigation is effective, including responsible party, timing, and method(s) to be used.

Ongoing management of developed facilities will identify and address any unforeseen impacts that may occur.

- b) Identify any plans or strategies for updating this proposed action based on deviation from impact projections or other criteria.

The Advisory Committee will stay active and involved in the ongoing management of the Teanaway Community Forest. The agencies will update sections of the plan as needed based upon new information and review of the performance measures. Adjustments in the strategies paraphrased in the key issues Section 8 of this non-project review form and in the attached Plan will be considered if needed in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan.

If unanticipated environmental impacts are discovered or identified, DNR will take actions to mitigate for such impacts. Actions may include restricting, limiting or relocating recreation access or timing of use to prevent or minimize impacts. Adaptive management strategies will be applied as necessary.

WAC 197-11-444, Elements of the Environment

Natural Environment

a. Earth

Geology, Soils, Topography, Unique physical features, Erosion/enlargement of land area

b. Air

Air quality, Odor, Climate

c. Water

Surface water movement/quantity/quality, Runoff/absorption, Floods

d. Plants and animals

Habitat for and numbers or diversity of species of plants, fish, or other wildlife, Unique species, Fish or wildlife migration routes

e. Energy and natural resources

Amount required/rate of use/efficiency, Source/availability, Nonrenewable resources, Conservation and renewable resources, Scenic resources

Built Environment

a. Environmental health

Noise, Risk of explosion, Releases or potential releases to the environment affecting public health

b. Land and shoreline use

Relationship to existing land use plans and to estimated population, Housing, Light and glare, Aesthetics, Agricultural crops

c. Transportation

Transportation systems, Vehicular traffic, Waterborne, rail, and air traffic, Parking, Movement/circulation of people and goods, Traffic hazards

d. Public services and utilities

Fire, Police, Schools, Parks and other recreational facilities, Maintenance, Communications, Water/storm water, Sewer/solid waste, Other governmental services or utilities

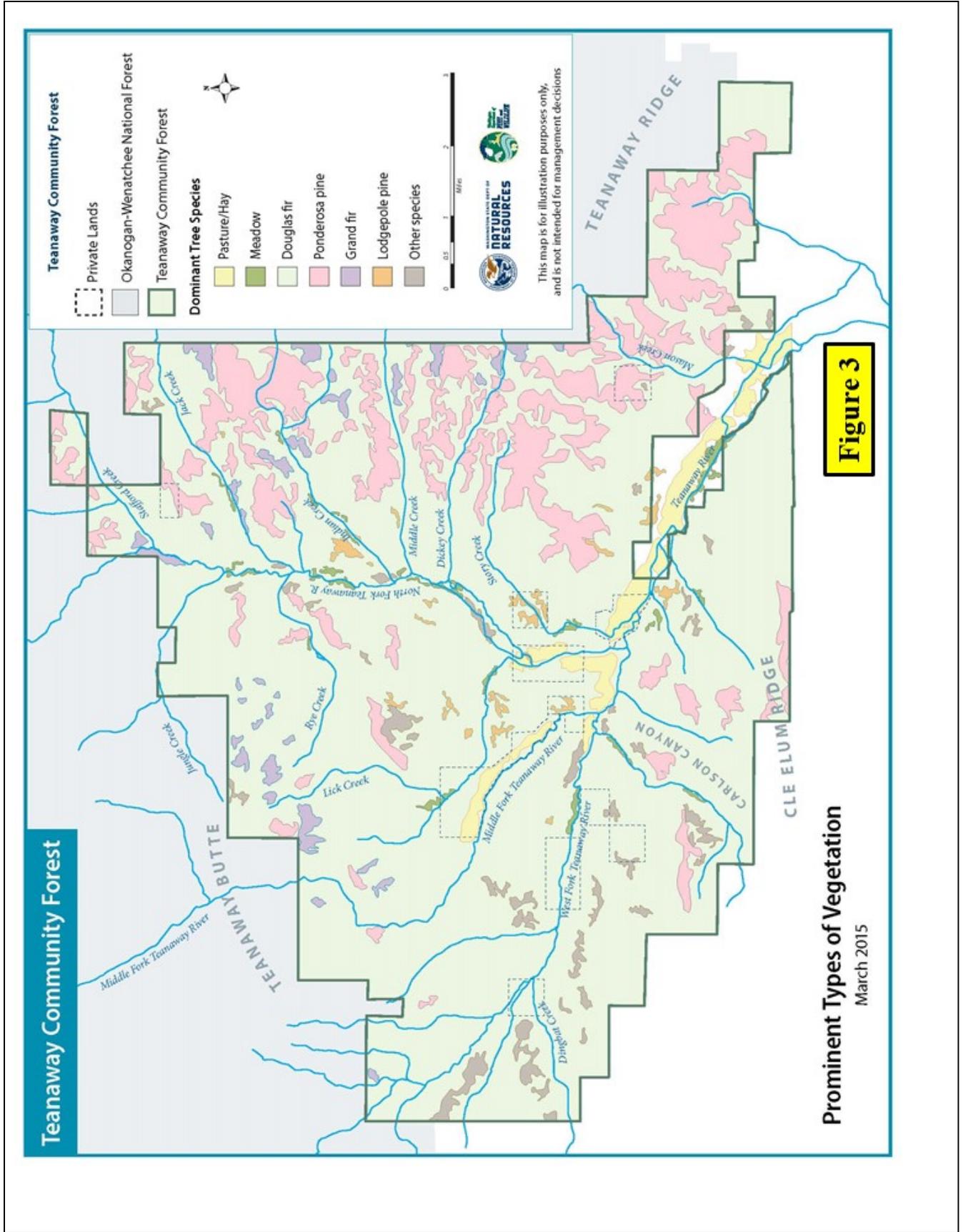


Figure 3

Prominent Types of Vegetation
March 2015

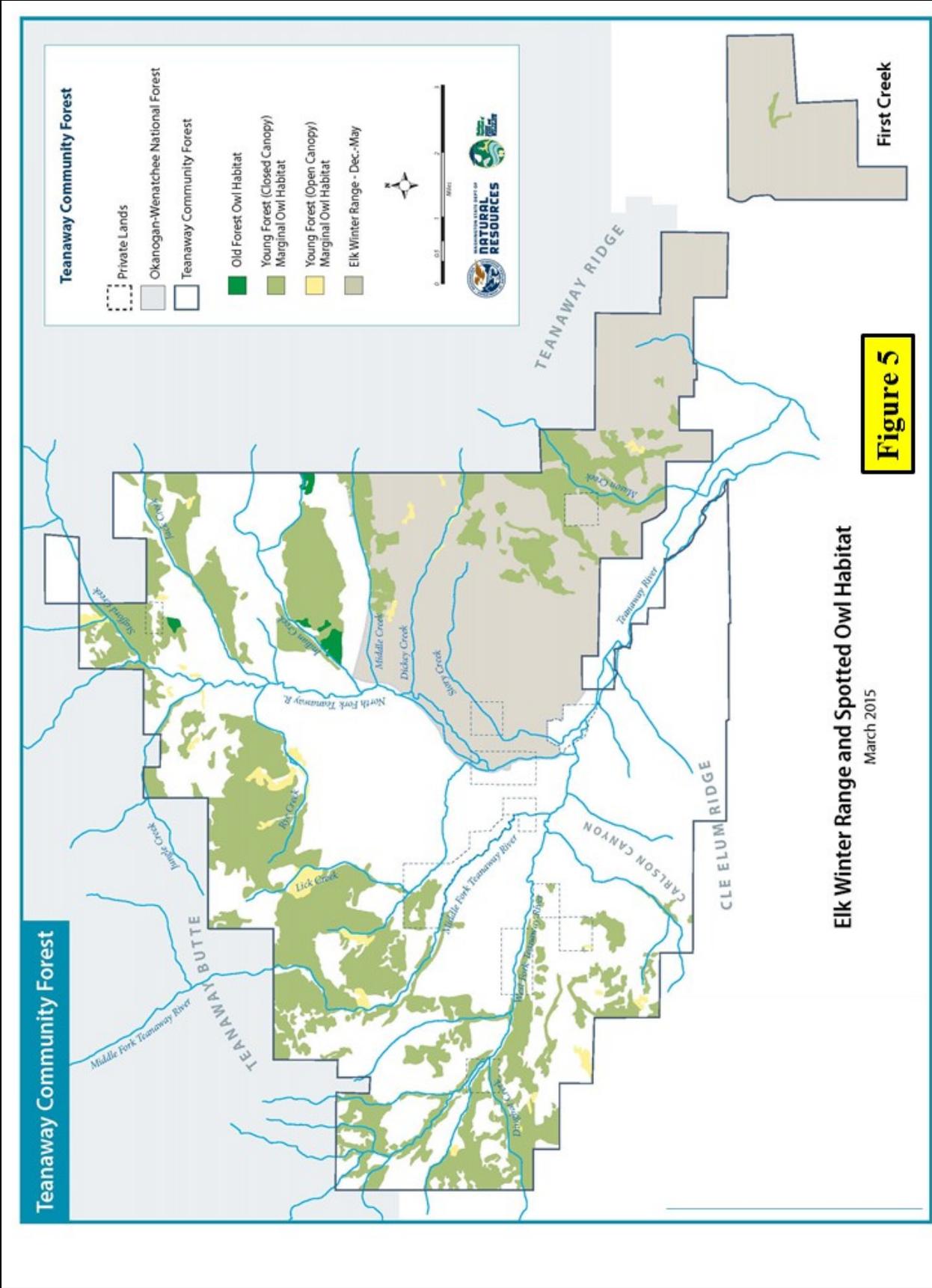
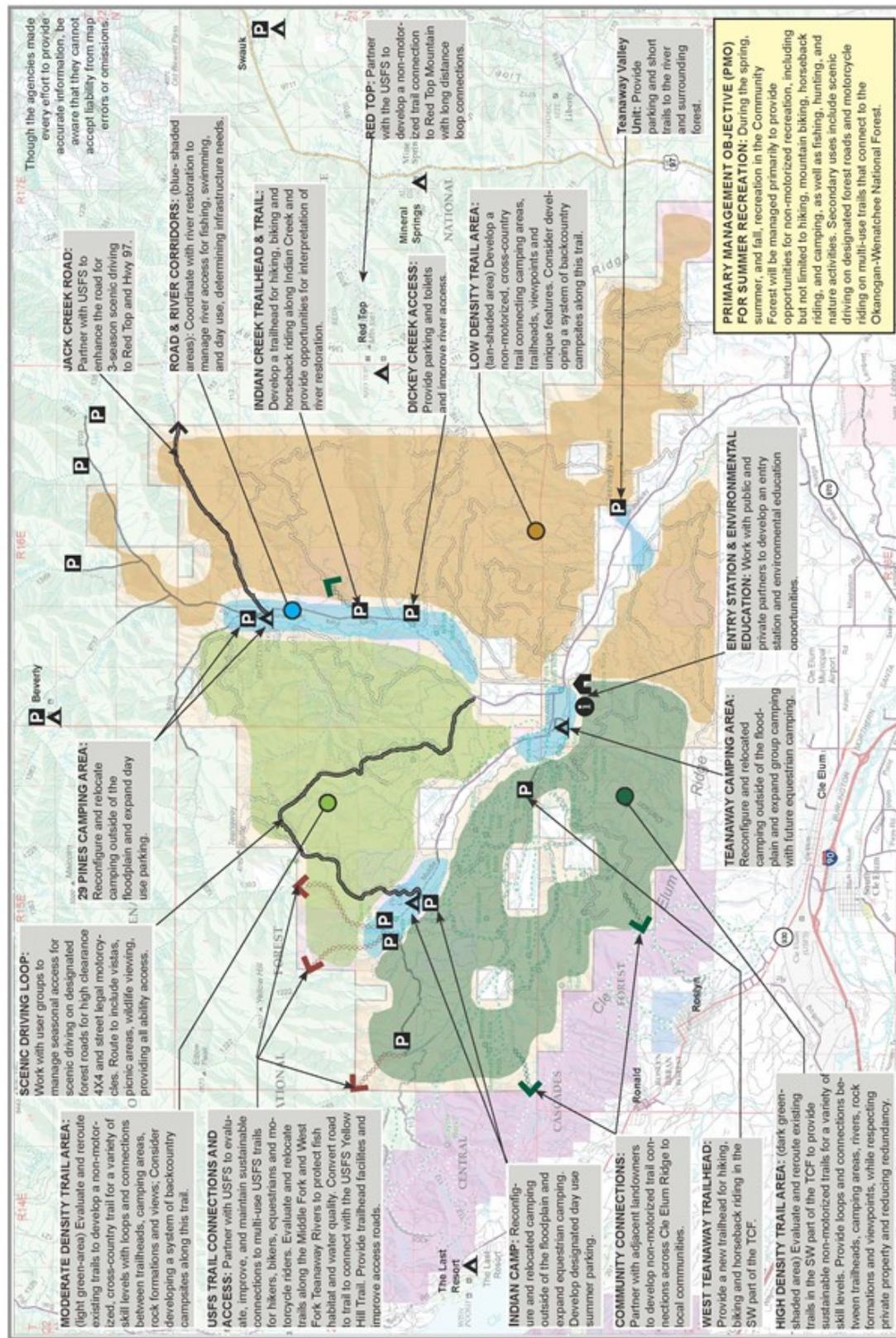


Figure 5

Elk Winter Range and Spotted Owl Habitat

March 2015

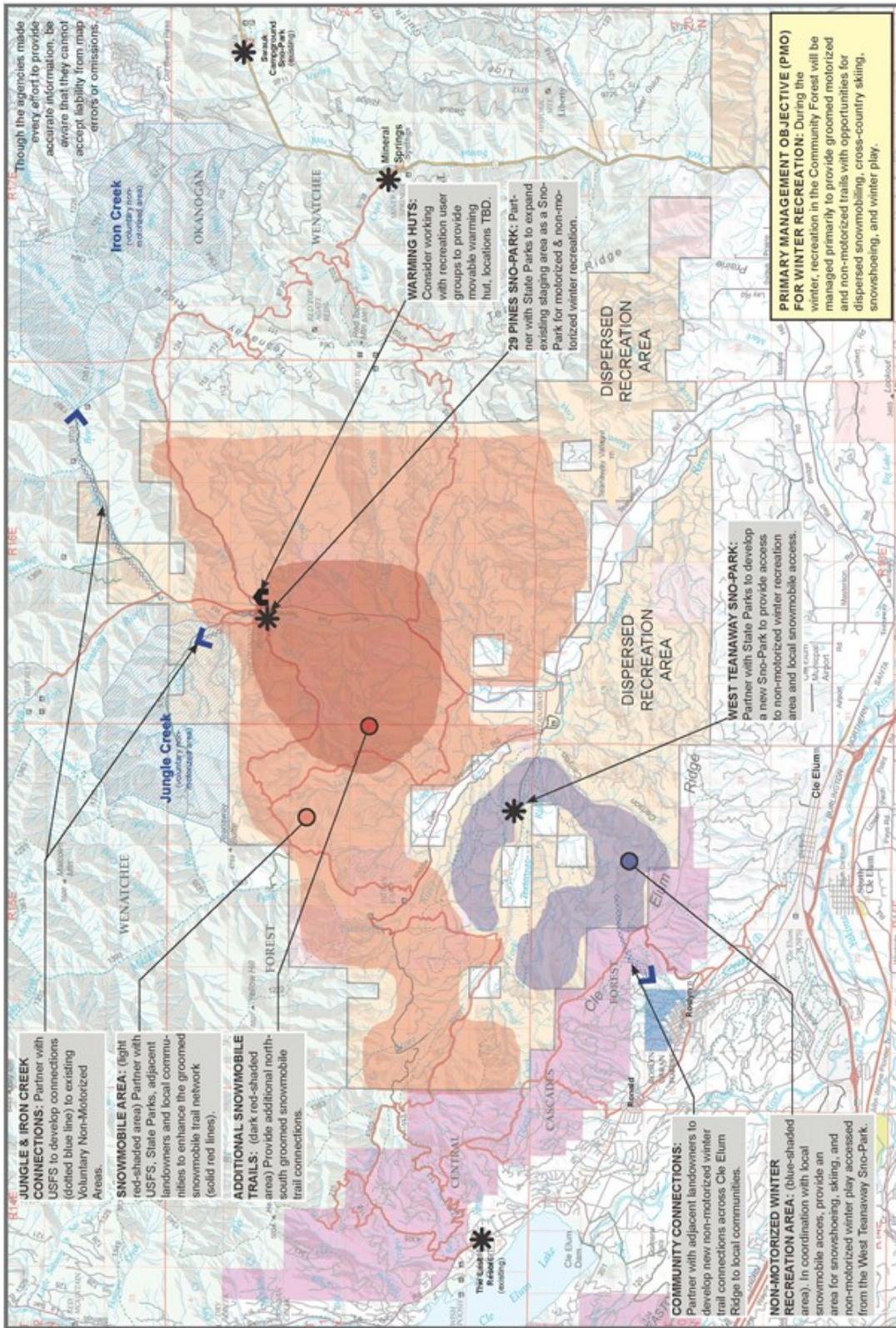


KEY

- 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**

Figure 6



KEY

- Light red shaded area: Snowmobile Area with groomed trails.
- Blue shaded area: Non-motorized winter recreation area with groomed cross-country ski trails.
- Dotted blue line: Groomed snowmobile trails to be evaluated and rerouted where needed.
- Solid red line: Non-motorized winter recreation area with groomed cross-country ski trails.
- Blue arrow: Non-motorized connections for skiing and snowshoeing.

Scale: 0 to 6 Miles

Logos: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound National Forest, National System of Public Lands, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Teanaway Community Forest
 Winter Recreation Concept Map
Figure 7