

NOTE: The following is a compiled list of public comments concerning the Teanaway Community Forest, received at the Advisory Committee meeting at the Teanaway Grange, from letters, and from the online survey tool.

Teanaway Community Forest, public comments given to the online survey tool

2/29/2015 – 3/19/2015

Total Comments – 9

Goal 1 - Protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed – 0 comments

Goal 2 - Maintain working lands for forestry and domestic livestock grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat – 0 comments

Goal 3 - Maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, birding and snowmobiling – 34 comments

03/15/2015	I would like to see the Teanaway open to non motorized recreation use exclusively where do-able. It would be wonderful to have specific trails designated for bikers and hikers. With other trails open to motorized use since that used good is a bit harder on the trails.
03/12/2015	Dear TCF Committee, I live in the area of concern, and I would like to provide input. We live and recreate here because of the quiet, and semi-pristine (ie yes it was logged in the past, and cattle graze nearby now) nature of the region. We love that the forest is quiet, and we see such a variety of wildlife; we've even seen the wolves! I am very worried about the push by the dirt bike and other off-road vehicle groups to be allowed access to this area. They have EVERYTHING else in our area. This is the only place we can go to not be run off the trails by dirt bikes, or choke on their dust clouds. This is a very dry area in the summer. Allowing dirt bikes here not only places us in a dangerous user-conflict situation, like it is in other places in Kittitas County, but also creates air & water quality issues, and also fire hazards. I have heard word-of-mouth from residents that have lived here longer than me that dirt bikes were once allowed in some of these areas, but were banned because of their dangerous conduct, and the huge dust clouds that could be seen for miles. I have read some of the comments posted in this survey on the posted pdfs (on the TCF main page). I heartily disagree with some of the comments the pro-ORV groups are posting; for example, the man who posts a brochure each go around, suggesting that horses, hikers and dirt bikes all get along well. No, they don't. Hikers & horse riders are scared of the dirt bikes--they whip around corners, belch fumes & dust clouds at us, and scare the very wildlife we are trying to watch while out in the forest. In the Taneum area, I've been run off trails time and time again by dirt bikes, to the point where I only hike in the Teanaway

	<p>now. Considering the elk, turkey and wolf population that all frequent this area, I think it should be illegal just from that standpoint alone. I respectfully request that before you make a final recommendation, you look at the trail maps provided by the forest service, and the DNR/WDFW maps, and see just how many are open to ORV. You will see that it is ALL of our public lands in Kittitas County, excepting the TEanaway, and the tiny little portion of Alpine Lakes Wilderness that just barely meets Kittitas County's northernmost boundary. It is not fair to us other users that the ORV crowd gets this area, too.</p>
03/11/2015	<p>As a citizen, business owner, father, outdoor enthusiast and community activist of Ellensburg, I strongly encourage the committee to consider excluding motorized access to the TCF. To quote the Washington Outdoor Alliance letter "There is a critical shortage of non-motorized trails around Cle Elum and Kittitas County. Within the 625 sq mi centered around Cle Elum (a square of 25 miles on each side, see attached map) there are only 17 miles open to mountain biking, 20 miles for equestrian, and 36 miles exclusively for hiking. There is no similar shortage of trail open to motorized use around Cle Elum and Kittitas County. According to data compiled from the USFS trails list and geodatabase there are 271 miles of motorcycle trails within 625 sq mi centered at Cle Elum. Within 2500 sq mi (50 miles by 50 miles) this increases to 445 miles of motorcycle trail and additionally there are over 160 miles of roads, double track, and trails specifically designated for 4WD or ATV. Within this same 2500 sq mi there are only 47 miles of non-motorized trail open to mountain biking - despite mountain biking being one of the fastest growing trails activities in the state." This is absolutely true. There isn't a single legal trail built in the interest of mountain bikers within 90 minutes of Ellensburg. I have ridden many trails that are shared, and while they can provide a decent experience, they are far from desirable and generally not suitable to weaker riders or children of any age. I am not anti-motor, in fact I own an off-road motorcycle, which is part of what makes me acutely aware of how the presence of ORV's changes a landscape. Suffice it to say, trash, noise and dust do not constitute an improvement for any other user group. As a member of the Naneum Ridge Recreation Planning Citizen Committee, I know the challenges you face and thank you for your hard work and time.</p>
03/11/2015	Build more trails.
03/11/2015	<p>I feel that the Discover Pass should be required at all three of the campgrounds. Teanaway Campground, Indian Camp Campground, and 29 Pines. and current signs posted at the campgrounds, indicating it is now state property. Thank you! love camping and riding my horse in Teanaway Valley, either horse camping or day trip.</p>
03/09/2015	<p>As a single track motorcycle user, I am astounded at the inequity of trail mileage available in Washington. This does not keep with the mission of the Department of Natural resources. Despite claims to the opposite, motorcycle riding can be a relatively low environmental impact sport with the use of reasonable exhaust systems and low disturbance "trials" tires. Please allow legal recreation of off road-motorcycles in the Teanaway Community forest.</p>
03/09/2015	<p>Hello, Donna here again from Evergreen Packgoat Club as well as a private packgoat stock user. I have seen updated information on the forest, but it still says, hikers, bikers and equestrians. Again, I am asking for the following to be on</p>

	the final information - hikers, bikers, equestrians and other stock users. Packgoat users still remain left out of so many updated forest and land/trail information - I understand we are a low use stock, but we are still there. Thanks a bunch - Donna
03/09/2015	Please include ORV and hunting use in your planning.
03/05/2015	I am writing to support the use of motorcycles in the TCF

Goal 4 - Conserve and restore vital habitat for fish, including steelhead, spring chinook, and bull trout, and wildlife, including deer, elk, large predators, and spotted owls – 0 comment

Goal 5 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 – 1 comment

Teanaway Community Forest – public comments given as letters, 2/28/2015 – 3/19/2015

March 11, 2015

Awesome first, well third draft!

Attached is the pdf with comments highlighted.

In summary, please acknowledge in the document the very real issues between habitat damage, enhancement goals, and grazing legislative language w/o a lot of budget is going to be difficult. We all understand the political ramifications but ignoring the revenue disparity to expenditures needed to accomplish both goals seems like lost opportunity to moving both rancher and habitat goals forward.

Please forward to the board members as my comments at 7:30 pm tomorrow would come after and not as part of the discussion. Besides, Lisa's 2:30 minute dinger would get me...

Also feel free to add the comments to the public comments for this month.

Regards,

Tracy Rooney

<Comments on the plan are attached below. Pages with no comments were redacted for brevity.>

Chapter 1: Water supply and watershed protection

Goal 1: "To protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed"

The Teanaway Community Forest contains approximately one-third of the Teanaway River watershed. Nearly 400 miles of free-flowing streams and rivers join together in the forest to form the main stem Teanaway River, which flows on to the Yakima River.

Water demand in the Yakima River basin exceeds supply, and demand is still rising due to population growth and continuing agricultural use. By protecting the water in the Teanaway Community Forest from future development, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan seeks to ensure the river can provide in-stream flows for fish and the water can continue downstream to supply agriculture and urban uses. However, the amount of water flowing through the Teanaway River watershed drops during the dry summer months, often disconnecting streams and adversely affecting vital fish habitat. In addition, more runoff is occurring earlier in the year than it did historically in the watershed. Eroded stream banks, high levels of sediment and a lack of streamside vegetation also affect portions of the Teanaway watershed.

Restoring natural floodplain functions will slow runoff and increase water storage, making more water available in the summer, when demand intensifies. More water flowing through the Teanaway watershed later in the year also will benefit fish.

The road network in the community forest has the potential to affect water supply and watershed health as well as other management objectives. Roads can damage fish habitat by contributing sediment to streams or can restrict interaction between a stream and its floodplain. However, access to the forest for recreation and forest management requires an efficient road network. After assuming ownership of the forest lands in 2013, the departments surveyed the road system to understand the extent and condition of roads, culverts, and bridges. They found a widespread, yet aging, road network that is damaging fish habitat in some locations. The steps outlined in the strategies section describe a process for improving watershed health by removing unneeded roads and upgrading others while providing access for recreation, timber harvest and grazing.

Advisory Committee input

The advisory committee brainstormed approaches to meet the Legislature's directive for water supply and watershed protection. The committee's dialogue provided the central ideas for the objectives, strategies, and tools. The committee generally agreed on the importance of a restored and properly functioning watershed.

Committee members place a high priority on actions to restore streams and reconnect them to floodplains and groundwater. Overall, the forest and meadows of the Teanaway Community Forest should act like a sponge, storing water during the winter and spring as snow or in the groundwater, and then releasing it slowly through the summer and fall as cold, clean, base flows. To accomplish this, restoration will be necessary on many streams and floodplains, including the use of beavers and large woody debris.

Stream restoration efforts will be aimed at reducing runoff and sediment from hardened or impervious surfaces, like roads, and from poorly vegetated hillsides, which can occur following severe fires. The advisory committee was particularly concerned about the negative effect of roads on the watershed. The committee recommended strategies to remove roads from floodplains and make road densities more appropriate to the watershed protection goal.

Summary of Comments on Teanaway Community Forest

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Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/19/2015 11:22:17 AM
And what causes this? Why not ID it so that the public understands the very real delemma of cattle grazing, the legislative language and on the ground conditions.

Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:39:38 PM
There were also many on the committee worried about the impact of grazing on sedimentation, canopy cover and other impacts.

Objectives

- Conserve and restore the Teanaway watershed to facilitate the natural functioning of its streams, rivers, and floodplains.
- Manage the watershed to reduce peak flows, increase late season base flows, and decrease summertime water temperatures.
- Minimize damage to the watershed and habitat by ensuring that road and trail networks are appropriate in size and location.
- Manage water rights in a manner that preserves the watershed values of the Community Forest and is consistent with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

Strategies

Increase the water storage capacity of forests, meadows, and floodplains.

- Use large woody debris or other approaches as appropriate in streams and floodplains to capture sediment to achieve a more natural stream channel and reconnect streams to their floodplains.
- Consider reintroducing beavers to encourage the impoundment of surface and ground water.
- Prioritize stream reaches that provide the most benefit to steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout, have the greatest potential for fish production, and help achieve other objectives.
- Use practices such as forest thinning or gap creation to increase the capture and retention of snowpack.
- Create forest conditions in which precipitation and runoff is captured and retained by the forest floor.

Minimize runoff from uplands and timber harvest practices.

- Use low-impact timber harvest techniques such as over-the-snow logging, cable systems, low-pressure ground equipment, the use of helicopters and harvesting when soils are dry to reduce soil compaction and minimize sediment delivery to streams. Conduct these practices whenever forest harvest occurs. Restore areas where past forest practices have led to problems.
- Conduct forest management operations to reduce the risk of high-severity, stand-replacing fires that increase erosion and reduce the capacity of the forest to store runoff. Use methods such as mechanical thinning, hand thinning, or others as appropriate. Focus this strategy in areas where fuel loads are high, that are in areas that have a higher risk of ignition, and that help achieve other objectives.

Improve the function of riparian areas, wetlands, and meadows.

- Protect and restore riparian areas to support a mature riparian buffer that contains an appropriate mix of trees, shrubs, and grasses.
- Ensure that the riparian areas of smaller streams are protected, restored, or enhanced during forestry operations. Consider restoration through plantings if appropriate to the site.
- Focus protection and restoration efforts in priority stream reaches that show the best chances for success.
- Protect and restore meadows and wetlands by allowing water to flow over and through those areas.
- Redesign, relocate, or remove roads, trails and other features that harm riparian areas, wetlands or meadows. Reduce soil compaction from grazing or other activities on these sites. Restore sites that have been damaged.
- Minimize the damage of grazing, timber harvest, and other activities on riparian areas and stream zones. Use tools such as range riders, salt blocks, low-moisture blocks, off-site water improvements, fencing, or natural barriers to draw cattle away from riparian areas and sensitive stream banks. **Protect recently restored riparian areas until they are resilient enough to withstand grazing or other activities, continuing to monitor these areas.**

Develop a sustainable road and trail system that minimizes damage to water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and the watershed while still taking into account the needs of forest users.

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Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 9:43:51 AM

What will be the cost of protection versus the income potential of eliminating grazing on these restored areas? And is this the best use of public dollars when there will be more projects competing for funding than funds?

- Assess the road network. Categorize and identify locations for roads based upon their future purpose: Roads that are needed for forest management, grazing management, recreation, public access or have an easement by another entity; roads that do not have a purpose, or provide duplicative access and can be decommissioned.
- Evaluate how each road affects water quality, watershed function, and fish and wildlife habitat. Prioritize roads that do the most harm for decommissioning, repair, relocation or realignment. Maintain roads with an identifiable forest management purpose if the potential damage these roads cause can be mitigated by improvements. Roads that have a purpose but also harm water quality, the watershed or fish habitat will be further evaluated based on the criteria below.
- Determine the appropriate tool – based on the potential harm of the road, purpose of the road and available funding – to minimize damage that can be caused by the road. Tools include road improvements, relocation, conversion to trails, and abandonment/decommissioning.
- Determine if additional roads are needed to meet a management need. Build new roads only if they will have minimal impact on water quality, watershed function, and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Monitor results and repeat these steps as necessary to meet the objective.
- Consider the use of seasonal or permanent road closures to reduce harm to water quality.
- Work with neighbors and partners when assessing and evaluating the road system.
- Ensure roads are maintained to a high standard.
- Work with partners to find funds for road projects.

DNR and WDFW will use the following criteria to lease the water rights associated with the Community Forest:

- Water Rights associated with the Community Forest shall not be permanently sold. All use of the water shall first prioritize restoration of the forest, fish habitat and appropriate uses therein. They may be leased for use by others as follows: "Back mitigation" for domestic or agricultural use in the greater Yakima Basin or temporary drought mitigation. The water right will not be used to support any new development in either the Teanaway or the greater Yakima River Basin.
- Advisory Committee Support: As in all TCF management issues, the Advisory Committee consensus is not required but highly desirable.
- Legal Risk: The proposal must be able to demonstrate low political and legal risk. These two types of risk must be specifically addressed by a proposal since we are aware that both types of risk exist currently in the world of water banks in Kittitas County.
- Fair Market Value: Any proposal must adhere to good business practices including a fair market value assessment.
- Support of other YBIP Partners/Water Users: It would be advisable for the proposal to have the support of the Washington Department of Ecology, Yakama Nation, Bureau of Reclamation, and other major water users. The Water Transfer Working Group appears to be a meaningful vehicle for obtaining that review and support.
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) Goals: The proposal must be consistent with the goals of the YBIP. Mitigating for existing unmitigated wells would be a viable use of water, in the context of an otherwise supportable proposal.
- Benefit(s) to the TCF: Long-term benefit to the TCF is an essential element of any successful proposal. This means addressing an overriding concern about ongoing stewardship resources such as revenue for the Community Forest Trust. This issue was a strong concern of all parties involved in the purchase of the Teanaway and was specifically called out in the YBIP Watershed Lands Subcommittee Report. Proposals that directly address that long-term need will be favored over short-term proposals. The agencies will be looking at any proposal through the lens of long-term economic benefit to the TCF (i.e., potable water for campgrounds, revenue generation for stewardship of the forest).

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T Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:40:46 PM

Please acknowledge the need for emergency access in and out of the valley as the county road infrastructure only has one way in and out... I realize this is ID eslewhere but it's hugely important.

T Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:42:03 PM

Please define "new development" as I have Teanaway neighbors who have lots that have been in existence for more than 20 years that will not be able to use them because of the water red zone regulations. Does your definition of "new development" include them even though they have been dry camping on their land for years?

- **Combined TCF/YBIP Benefits:** Ensuring that the TCF achieves its role in the YBIP is essential to the success of a proposal. Use of the water that directly meets the resource goals of the YBIP and provides long-term, ongoing benefits back to the TCF is desirable.
- **Opportunity Costs:** Any proposal must address not only the opportunities but the costs of the proposal and how it will provide compensation for lost opportunities as a result of it being implemented.
- Any future use of the water inside the community forest shall not reduce late-season base flows for fish. Uses for restoration purposes shall not exceed three years without justification and shall focus on early-season withdrawals.
- Any future use outside of the community forest must ensure that no water goes to projects that damage aquatic habitat, such as developments in the floodplain, and must be as efficient as possible.
- Any future use shall meet the requirements of the state's water code, such as proper fish screens.

Measuring Progress

Water temperature and flows

Priority Actions

- Determine baseline conditions for water temperature and flows by February 2016.
- Design and establish monitoring protocols to track changes for water temperature and flows at the watershed scale and project level scale by April 2016.

Performance measures

- Base flow increases in late summer to early autumn.
- Summer-time base flow water temperature decreases.

Water: Sediment and Fish Barriers Contributed by Roads, Trails, and Infrastructure

Priority Actions

- Conduct a road survey by February 2016 to evaluate forest roads and assess whether they meet forest practice rule standards.
- Conduct an analysis of the Teanaway road and trail network to determine the amount of sediment delivery to streams using the Washington Roads Sediment Model by February 2016.
- Determine where road access is a high priority for management and recreation users by March 2016.
- Develop an assessment tool to identify priority projects by April 2016. Update and run the assessment tool again as projects are completed and new information becomes available.
- Develop a work plan to implement the highest priority projects by May 2016.
- Remove fish passage barriers as required under state forest practice rules by September 2021.
- Complete sediment delivery projects as required under state forest practice rules by September 2021.

Performance measures

- Number of fish passage barriers removed.
- Linear feet of stream opened to fish movement.
- Number of improvements applied (surfacing, crossings, traffic controls, drainage, vegetation, road decommission/abandonment, etc.).
- Number of culverts removed, replaced or newly installed.

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Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 9:59:48 AM

Please include "canopy cover" as a performance measure impacting stream temperatures and location data to identify issues and where improvements can be made. LiDAR imagery should be able to help with this metric.

- Develop harvest schedules based primarily on healthy forest habitat objectives, and secondarily, for a reliable source of wood products.

Enhance the snowpack retention capacity of the forest.

- Use techniques such as thinning, gap creation, or other appropriate methods to allow more snow to reach the ground.
- Focus snowpack retention on the areas consistent with other objectives for fish and wildlife, fire, and insects and disease.

Reduce the rate of runoff from rain-on-snow events.

- Reduce runoff and erosion from rain-on-snow events by creating conditions where the forest vegetation and forest floor will slow down and absorb runoff.

Manage the forest to reduce the risk and severity of fire near infrastructure and sensitive fish and wildlife areas.

- Assess the risk and potential severity of fire across the forest.
- Implement fuels reduction projects to reduce the risk or severity of fire.

Work with neighboring landowners and partners to address forest health and habitat issues across ownership boundaries.

- Work within the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative and other organizations to identify and implement projects that reduce uncharacteristically severe fire and insect outbreaks.
- Work with neighboring landowners and agencies to improve landscape-scale fish and wildlife connectivity.
 - a. Identify locations and actions to improve habitat connectivity with neighboring landowners. Advocate for neighboring land management that will improve habitat connectivity. Identify further analyses to be done.
 - b. Engage with neighbors about the importance of increasing habitat for northern spotted owls.

Measuring performance for working forests

Forest habitat improvements

Priority Actions

- Develop a short-term forest management activity schedule by May 2016. Identify immediate restoration needs based upon the current inventory of forest habitat.
- Develop a long-term forest management activity schedule by May 2018 to provide habitat for diverse species.
 - a. Conduct a forest inventory to determine the current structure and condition of the forest.
 - b. Identify potential distribution of future forest habitats.
 - c. Develop a long-term restoration schedule to improve forest conditions by modifying the structure and composition of the forest.
- By 2019, identify sub-watershed basins where tree age and density do not meet desired conditions to reduce the rate of runoff from rain-on-snow events.

Performance measures

- Number of acres of forest treated to enhance watershed protection, forest health, fish and wildlife habitat.
- Increase in the percentage of forest land that contains the appropriate mix of vegetation for long-term forest health.
- Net revenue generated by the sale of timber and wood products to improve forest stewardship.
- Increase the number of watersheds that reduce the rate of runoff from rain-on-snow events.

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Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 10:54:19 AM

Wildlife connectivity and corridors are mentioned several times in the document. I agree that they are very important as I'd prefer the bears, elk and other large wildlife use the river and stream corridors to move about versus walking adjacent to my house. I've actually established some very nice pass through routes for this very purpose but am hindered by the need to fence the cattle out. Allowing the cattle the same access makes no sense as it would force them to use the very sensitive riparian areas. Solution? It's certainly not reminding me that it's my responsibility to fence the cattle out and this is a shared problem that will impede the efforts of establishing wildlife connectivity corridors.

Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:44:50 PM

The Lick Creek basin as as a result of extensive logging and the fire of 2005 caused by logging does not need to wait until 2019 to be identified as one of the highest impact areas on habitat, residential and road infrastructure for rain and snow events.

Forest fire risk reduction

Priority actions

- Begin the assessment of fire risk during the summer of 2015 and complete it by May 2016.
- Evaluate ignition probability, fuel loads, and location of valued resources (such as infrastructure and sensitive fish and wildlife areas).
- Identify priority projects to reduce the risk of damage to valued resources.
- Develop a work plan of management actions to implement priority projects by June 2016. Continue to re-assess and re-evaluate as projects are completed and new data becomes available.

Performance measures

- Number of acres of forest treated to enhance watershed protection and forest health.
- Reduction in risk of high-severity fires that could damage valued resources.

Grazing

The lands of the Teanaway Community Forest have supported domestic livestock operations since the late 19th century.

The Legislature intended this historic use to continue while also protecting watershed health and fish habitat

Historically, both cattle and sheep grazed the Teanaway watershed in large numbers. The intensity of grazing has slowly declined over the past century. By 2015, only three operators were using forest lands, moving cattle into the area in June and removing them in October.

Poorly managed grazing can harm the watershed and fish and wildlife habitat when livestock are allowed to tread through streams and riparian areas. Given the potential for resource damage, grazing in the community forest will be held to a high standard of sustainability with respect to watershed protection, riparian protection, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Advisory committee input

Advisory committee members had diverse opinions regarding grazing practices on the forest. A number of committee members viewed grazing as a community benefit and wanted to support local ranchers to ensure the historic practice can continue into the future. Others supported grazing only at levels that will not impede recovery of fish habitat, riparian vegetation and water quality and wanted assurances that appropriate steps will be taken to ensure compatibility. The committee agreed that there should be a high standard imposed to protect floodplains, riparian areas, fish and wildlife habitat and water quality.

Objectives for grazing

- Manage domestic livestock grazing to maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Ensure measures are in place to accommodate grazing and protect watershed health.
- Restore riparian areas and meadows that have been damaged by domestic livestock grazing.
- Provide opportunities for livestock to graze in locations other than meadows and riparian areas.

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- 1 Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:45:41 PM
Egress issues.
- 1 Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:47:22 PM
This section, as well as others should outline that implementation will require additional funding and what happens if it is not obtained. In the case of grazing, will the ~12k revenue offset the total costs involved minus the controversial supposition that grazing reduces wildfire costs? If the plan cannot be completed with out add'l funding will grazing be suspended until it can be funded with habitat as a priority? Public funding of private enterprise is controversial at best. It should be noted that this is very much what is needed to implement what the committee is recommending.
- 1 Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:53:00 PM
Please spend some time word smithing here and the definition of "supported" as grazing has caused as many problems as have logging and road infrastructure.
- 1 Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:48:57 PM
Incorrect. The leases allow access in May and I've had a 1,0000 lb. + bull straggler walk across my yard in the snow in November.
- 1 Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:49:59 PM
can? should be "has" This document needs to acknowledge the impact of grazing, the legislative mandates and how they have the potential to be at odds. Please do not avoid the issue.
- 1 Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 11:23:23 AM
I would like this document to acknowledge the negative impacts grazing does to roads as well as how "open range" fencing requirements impact habitat and recreational connectivity corridors. A lot of non rural readers will not understand the issue.
- 1 Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 11:27:58 AM
word smith to add something along the lines of "while minimizing private property and non lease forest service grazing intrusions.

Strategies for grazing

Adjust the timing, duration, frequency, and location of grazing to be consistent with meadow and riparian restoration.

- Control domestic livestock grazing patterns and pressure with herd numbers, hardened crossings, off-site water, salt and low-moisture molasses blocks, range riders, grouping of herds, natural barriers, and fencing to improve upland livestock distribution and direct livestock away from riparian and stream zones.
- Use these practices to limit livestock access in areas where habitat restoration is occurring or has recently occurred and needs ongoing protection. Also employ these techniques to minimize potential damage to riparian areas, stream banks, and fish spawning habitat.

Develop and implement a monitoring program that facilitates adaptive management.

- Use an interdisciplinary team to develop and implement a monitoring program.
- Monitoring will be designed to detect short-term damage and long-term changes to riparian and upland habitats, stream-bank stability, and vegetation composition. It will be repeatable and responsive to management needs, and reflect the best available science.

Implement range infrastructure projects to ensure no damage occurs to water quality, fish and wildlife habitat.

- Work with partners and lessees to fund, design, and implement range infrastructure projects, such as off-site watering areas, low-moisture molasses blocks, fencing, and other barriers.
- Locate, design, and implement stream crossings and stream access points in appropriate places to protect fish habitat, especially spawning areas.
- Work with leaseholders and other interested parties to remove excess or unneeded fencing.

Minimize conflict between domestic livestock and wildlife.

- Work with partners and lessees to design, fund, and implement practices to minimize depredation on livestock herds.

Ensure a sustainable grazing program.

- Consider the benefits of grazing multiple or various species, such as sheep and/or goats in addition to cattle.
- Ensure that grazing leases make tenant responsibilities explicit and facilitate adaptive management.

Measuring progress for grazing

Priority actions

- Develop a schedule for sustainable domestic livestock grazing by March 2016.
- Use an interagency and interdisciplinary team to develop a rangeland and riparian adaptive management program that includes steps on monitoring for impacts and making changes to practices by March 2016. The program will monitor both Teanaway forest-wide and site-specific conditions including priority streams, restoration sites, and turnout and gathering sites.
 - a. Conduct annual surveys on stream bank alteration, riparian vegetation, and upland and meadow condition within select areas and along priority streams.
 - b. Inventory livestock stream crossings and determine if these are proximate to historic salmonid spawning grounds or suitable spawning habitat by October 2016.

- c. Inventory existing range improvements and determine the need for additional improvements in order to protect watershed health and improve rangeland health by October 2016.
- d. Survey existing fences and assess their suitability and need for current management by October 2016.
- Implement range improvement projects to protect watershed health and fish and wildlife habitat and improve rangeland health by May 2016. Continue to monitor to determine if additional actions are needed.
- Locate appropriate stream crossing sites by March 2017. Monitor to determine if inappropriate crossings are being used and restore those areas.

Performance measures

- Number of stream crossings removed, relocated, or improved.
- Number of range infrastructure improvements added (off-channel watering sites, low-moisture molasses blocks, exclusion zones, etc.).
- Linear feet of fencing (and other infrastructure) removed or added.
- Number and type of projects to protect aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitat.
- Number of documented wildlife-domestic livestock conflicts
- Acres within riparian areas and meadows restored to address damage from domestic livestock grazing.
- Acres provided for livestock grazing away from meadows and riparian areas.

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Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 11:55:09 AM
 Add: Number of cattle car collisions. Number of road shoulder repairs needed. Number of cattle issues reported to DNR/DFW and county officials. eg Cows in the road, cows in the river, bulls exhibiting bad behavior or threatening the public.

- Identify opportunities for partner organizations and volunteers to help develop and maintain recreational facilities and assist with recreation management.
- Ensure that improvements to campgrounds and other recreation facilities meet users' needs, protect public health and safety, and contribute to achieving other Community Forest goals.

Recreation strategies

Provide a sustainable network of safe, enjoyable recreational trails

Designate 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.
- Enforce access and natural resource laws and regulations.
- Upgrade, mitigate for, relocate, or decommission trails and trail segments that are identified in the recreation plan as 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, The Nature Conservancy, local communities, and other neighbors to evaluate and resolve issues such as access, trail use, and enforcement across parcels owned by different organizations.

Provide recreation opportunities and facilities that are consistent with watershed protection

The recreation plan will guide the efforts of forest managers to:

- Develop new and renovate existing trailheads, including interpretive signs and parking facilities, to ensure recreational access and minimize environmental damage. Where appropriate, new winter parking areas will be established.
- Provide rustic camping experiences while improving existing campgrounds to protect public health and safety, and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Designate day-use areas with parking facilities, including parking for walk-in fishing and hunting.
- Allow for walk-in/pack-in backcountry camping away from heavily used areas.
- Prohibit camping along county roads and other open roads within the forest.
- Design water access sites to minimize the impact of recreation on fish and wildlife habitat.
- Provide recreation access for people with disabilities as required by federal and state laws.

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Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:02:39 PM

"and away from rivers and streams" was something that was discussed and hugely important. Personally I do not see how dispersed camping can be low impact (human waste, fire issues, water quality issues) without budget dollars for enforcement.

Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:06:15 PM

Previous documents indicated distance requirements from roads as well as residents as it should...

Chapter 4: Fish and wildlife habitat

Goal 4: “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”

The Teanaway Community Forest includes large sections of all three forks of the Teanaway River and several smaller tributary streams, which flow on to the Yakima River. Spring Chinook, steelhead and bull trout were once abundant in the Teanaway watershed. But populations have declined to the extent that steelhead and bull trout are federally protected in the Yakima Basin watershed and beyond.

To thrive, salmon and trout need streams with cold, clean water and deep pools. However, the abundance of fish has been reduced in the Teanaway watershed due to low flows, higher water temperatures, eroded stream banks and a lack of streamside vegetation.

The Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee focused their recommendations on conserving and restoring fish and wildlife habitat in the forest. Fish and wildlife population management is not within the scope of the committee’s responsibility. This distinction is important because other plans and processes are in place for species management on a large scale.

WDFW has specific objectives and plans for game species and state-listed species. For example, all major elk herds in Washington are managed under a herd-specific management plan. Most of the elk that reside in the Teanaway Community Forest are considered members of the Colockum elk herd for management purposes; specific management goals for this herd are outlined in the Colockum Elk Herd plan.

For state or federally listed species, including steelhead, bull trout, wolves, and spotted owls, there are federal and/or state plans or strategies that drive population management. For example, WDFW completed the Washington State Wolf Conservation and Management Plan in 2011. This plan describes WDFW’s wolf population management objectives and strategies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) still has primary authority through the federal Endangered Species Act for management of wolves in the western two-thirds of Washington, including the range of the Teanaway pack.

This goal is addressed in separate sections for fish and wildlife habitat.

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Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:12:21 PM
as caused by xxxx. It's hard to fix things w/o acknowledging causes.

Increase the number of deep pools.

- Place large woody debris in tributary streams to the main three forks of the Teanaway River to help capture sediment and raise the stream height. Consider the use of beavers or other approaches to restore tributary streams and floodplains.

Limit activities that increase the amount of fine sediment in fish spawning areas.

- Enforce seasonal cattle restrictions to minimize damage to spawning areas (during both spring and fall spawning periods).
- Educate recreational users about the importance of spawning areas and explain how to limit the harm they do to these sensitive sites. In the recreation plan, determine restrictions on recreation to protect spawning habitat.

Reduce runoff from uplands.

- Minimize sediment from timber harvest practices.
- Use low-impact timber harvest techniques – such as over-the-snow logging, cable systems, low-pressure ground equipment, and dry soil conditions – during harvest to reduce soil compaction.
- Conduct these practices whenever forest harvest occurs. Restore areas where past forest practices have led to problems.

Improve stream-side riparian habitat for fish.

- Minimize the damage that grazing, timber harvest, recreation and other activities can cause in riparian areas and stream zones.
 - a. Use range riders, salt blocks, off-site water improvements, low-moisture blocks, fencing, or natural barriers to draw cattle away from riparian areas and sensitive stream banks. Use these practices to help restore riparian areas near priority stream reaches.
 - b. Protect recently restored riparian areas until they are resilient enough to withstand grazing or other activities. Monitor these areas to ensure the riparian zone is functioning properly.
- Protect and restore riparian habitat to support a mature riparian buffer with an appropriate diversity and sizes of tree, shrub, and grass species suitable to the stream reach.
 - a. Ensure that the riparian areas of smaller streams are protected during forestry operations. Consider restoration through plantings if appropriate to the site.
 - b. Focus restoration efforts in areas near priority stream reaches that have a lack of riparian shading, and show the best chances for success. Focus protection efforts on recently restored sites.

Restore and protect wetland and riparian habitats.

- Reconnect streams to their floodplains, restoring the interaction of surface water and ground water.
 - a. Where appropriate, place large woody debris in streams and floodplains to capture sediment and raise the stream height, or other approaches as appropriate to restore streams and floodplains. Consider using beavers to encourage the impoundment and spreading of surface and ground water.
 - b. Prioritize projects in stream reaches that provide the most benefit steelhead, spring chinook and bull trout, that have the most production potential, and that help achieve other objectives.
- Minimize the impact of grazing, timber harvest, and other activities on riparian areas and stream zones.
 - a. Reduce the damage of grazing, timber harvest, and other activities on riparian areas and stream zones. Use tools such as range riders, salt blocks, low-moisture blocks, off-site water improvements, fencing, or natural barriers to draw cattle away from riparian areas and sensitive stream banks. Use these practices to help restore riparian areas that overlap with priority stream reaches. Protect recently restored riparian areas. Monitor these areas to ensure the riparian zone is functioning properly.
- Protect and restore riparian habitat to support a mature riparian buffer with an appropriate diversity and sizes of tree, shrub, and grass species suitable to the stream reach.

- a. Ensure that the riparian areas of smaller-order streams are protected during forestry operations. Consider restoration through plantings if appropriate to the site.
- Focus restoration efforts on areas near priority streams. Focus protection efforts on recently restored sites.

Improve water quality for fish.

- Reconnect streams to their floodplains, restoring interaction between surface water and groundwater.

Measuring progress for fish habitat

Priority actions

- Organize partners interested in habitat restoration on permitting, planning, funding, and communications activities by February 2016.
- Survey fish habitat in priority streams to establish current baseline (i.e. condition of pools, spawning gravel, bedrock exposure, riparian cover, floodplain connectivity, etc.) by February 2016.
- Initiate a habitat restoration project on the highest priority stream by February 2016.
- Develop a restoration work plan for priority streams by April 2016.
- Survey riparian, wetlands, and floodplain meadows near priority streams to assess baseline conditions by December 2016.
- Develop a restoration work plan for priority riparian, wetland, and floodplain meadow projects by April 2017.
- Periodically reassess priority stream designations as part of the adaptive management process.

Performance measures

- Number and linear feet of stream restoration projects.
- Number and linear feet of riparian restoration projects.
- Number and acres of wetland restoration projects.
- Number of stream miles and acres hydrologically reconnected to their floodplain.
- Number of acres of riparian vegetation responding to restoration.
- Number of new beaver dam complexes
- Number of new pools created.
- Number of linear feet of new spawning gravel established.
- Reduction of sediment levels in priority stream reaches.
- Number of new redds above baseline conditions.

Wildlife Habitat

Advisory committee input

For wildlife habitat, the advisory committee provided recommendations for improving and restoring high-quality habitat for all species. Every species has particular habitat requirements; the meadows, riparian areas, and forests in the Teanaway Community Forest can provide varied and diverse habitats. Knowing that wildlife do not recognize ownership boundaries, the committee recommends connecting wildlife habitat and maintaining migration corridors. The committee would also like to see efforts **to minimize conflict between wildlife and private landowners and forest users**. To help wildlife thrive, the agencies should protect sensitive sites such as nests, dens, and seasonal concentration areas. The densities and locations of the road and trail network should not harm wildlife or disconnect habitat.

Volunteers can be an important way for the community to feel ownership, and can also be an economically feasible means of providing a number of services that would not otherwise be funded. The agencies should look to the local community as potential stewards of the forest, and offer outreach and education to users and neighbors.

Committee members also recommend that a foundation be established to enhance and assist efforts by state agencies in the management and operation of the forest, including staffing, fund-raising, education, restoration, outreach, research, and other opportunities to enhance the Teanaway Community Forest experience.

Objectives

- Manage the Community Forest through an open, transparent process with the active, ongoing support and participation of stakeholders.
- Identify and act on opportunities to work with neighboring property owners, volunteers, conservation organizations and other partners to fulfill the goals established by state lawmakers.
- Identify and act on opportunities to educate the public about the Community Forest.
- Find sustained sources of funding and opportunities to generate revenue for stewardship of the forest.

Strategies and tools

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

- Use the diverse membership of the Teanaway advisory committee to seek ongoing advice about land management
- Participate in land and resource management discussions at both a regional and a local level.
 - a. Continue to participate in collaborative forest management organizations such as the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative to coordinate forest management across land ownerships.
 - b. Continue to participate in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan to coordinate watershed restoration activities.
 - c. Use the resources in these groups to move toward landscape-level planning, especially for subjects related to watershed health, forestry, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and river management.
- 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.
- Use technology and new media, such as social media, blogs, e-newsletters, websites, email, and citizen science to increase outreach to potential volunteers.
- Provide volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups to assist with the management of the forest. Use volunteers from non-governmental organizations, the local community, schools, and universities to provide services that would otherwise not be completed due to lack of funding. Leverage existing resources to provide opportunities in areas such as:
 - a. Citizen science/monitoring
 - b. Recreation: trail maintenance, campground maintenance
 - c. Forest watch/ Eyes in the woods
 - d. Restoration projects
 - e. Advocacy for the Teanaway Community Forest
- Bring together a broad group of interested organizations and individuals when creating and implementing the recreation plan.

Excellent. Citizens should not have to resort to the public disclosure process as I did to better understand something as simple as the rights and responsibilities, or not of a lease for grazing.

Establish opportunities to increase education about the Teanaway Community Forest.

- Develop the Teanaway Community Forest as a learning center for the social and ecological topics for which it is ideally suited.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Welcome proposals by groups to conduct scientific research activities consistent with the goals of the forest.
 - c. Provide education on appropriate recreational uses.
- Support partnerships that involve local schools and youth groups in recreation and environmental education.

Ensure that revenue generation within the forest is consistent with legislative goals; develop revenue streams.

- Income generated from the community or with community forest materials shall be returned to the Teanaway Community Forest to support activities therein.
- Provide economic opportunities for the forest from the following sources:
 - a. Forestry
 - b. Grazing
 - c. Water
 - d. Recreation
- Require the use of the Discover Pass for recreating in the forest. Consider other permits, such as large group permits and special recreation permits.
- Establish a process to define commercial activities and how they would be approved. Any income generated would be returned to the forest.
- Search and apply for appropriate grants to fund staff, work, and infrastructure in the community forest.
- Welcome support from others who want to develop a non-profit foundation for the community forest.
- Build a coalition to assist in funding efforts, including legislators, agencies, non-governmental organizations, agricultural partners and community members.

Ensure an enforcement presence in the forest.

- Provide an active education and enforcement presence in the forest using agency recreation rules and enforcement officers, partners, and volunteers.
- Control access through seasonal closures, gates, and other tools.
- Deploy enforcement resources to address the broad array of commercial activities – including forest products harvesting, logging, hydraulic project development and related activities – that will occur in the forest.
- Encourage user-groups to self-police, and empower stakeholders to be advocates for the forest.
- Assert the authority to restrict use if damage occurs.

Sidebar on Wild and Scenic River designation

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan recommends designation of some lands and rivers within the Yakima Basin for conservation as wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, or as national recreation areas. These designations would support the objectives of the Integrated Plan because they could help protect cold water habitat, spawning and rearing grounds and migration corridors for bull trout, salmon, and steelhead. In addition, they could offer increased protection for important natural sources of water supply."

Recommendations from the Integrated Plan for Wild and Scenic River designation include portions of the North, Middle, and West Forks of the Teanaway River.

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Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:34:19 PM
An equivalent section should be included for expenditures.

Author: Tracy Subject: Highlight Date: 3/11/2015 12:36:43 PM
Include a section on what if enforcement funding is not secured or below what is needed for full implementation of the plan.