

TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**



January 12, 2017

In Attendance:

Committee Members

Darcy Batura	Sage Parks	Jim Halstrom
Doug Schindler	Martha Wyckoff	John Littel
Mike Reimer	Jeri Downs	Kitty Craig
Wayne Mohler	Deborah Essman	Paul Jewell
Kathy Young	JJ Collins	Scott Nicolai
Andrew Cromarty	Andrea Imler	Scott Gray

Agency Staff

Todd Welker	Larry Leach	Glenn Glover
Doug McClelland	Mike Williams	Mike Livingston
Stephanie Margheim	Elizabeth Eberle	Bruce Botka
Eric Winford	Eryn Couch	Patricia Jatczak

Meeting Purpose: To introduce Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee members to the recreation planning process and DNR/WDFW staff; members to gain a common understanding of the committee's charge, and Teanaway Community Forest recreation planning mission.

Welcome: Doug McClelland, DNR Recreation Planner, reviewed agenda, and Todd Welker, DNR Southeast Region Manager, and Mike Livingston, WDFW Region 3 Director, welcomed attendees and introduced agency staff. Doug Schindler gave an update on leg budget and how to help.

Introductions: Glenn Glover, DNR's Recreation Planning Manager, and Larry Leach, Southeast Region's Assistant Region Manager for State Lands, explained the importance of recreation planning from the statewide level and encouraged committee members to work with their respective groups/affiliations to share information and bring outside ideas to the process. Larry Leach gave an overview of recreation plans in Southeast Region. This will be Southeast Region's third recreation plan (Ahtanum, Naneum, Teanaway).

Committee Introductions: Larry Leach asked the committee members to introduce themselves and talk about the group or organization they represent and their interest/passion in recreation.

- Doug McClelland – DNR's South Puget Sound Assistant Region Manager (until 1/13/17), will be working as the DNR Recreation Planner with the help of Dana Leavitt; enjoys most outdoor recreation.
- Scott Nicolai (sub for Phil Rigdon) – Yakama Nation fish habitat biologist, loves all non-motorized recreation, hunter, RV camping
- Paul Jewell – Kittitas County Commissioner 8 years, represents Kittitas County. Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP), longtime Kittitas county resident, loves RV camping, backpacking, cycling, hunting
- Kitty Craig –The Wilderness Society with an interest in conservation, YBIP, enjoys trails in many ways

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- John Littel – local resident. Works for labor union. Has hiked, camped in the Teanaway for his whole life.
- Jim Halstrom – lived in Kittitas County since 1995, started Friends of the Teanaway (FOTT)
- Andrea Imler – Washington Trails Association (WTA), lifelong WA resident, hike, backpack, mountain bike, cross country ski in Teanaway for 15 years
- JJ Collins – Ronald resident. Hikes, fly fish, mountain bike
- Deborah Essman – past President of Kittitas County Field & Stream. 27 year resident of Kittitas County. Hunts, fishes, horses, ATVs, hikes, enjoys everything outdoors, jeeper, teaches hunter ed, board of Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN), birder
- Jeri Downs – Lifetime Teanaway resident; farmer at MP2. Fishing, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife viewing.
- Martha Wyckoff – Farms at Swauk Prairie, involved nationally in conservation for 30 years. Loves all outdoor recreation.
- Sage Park – Tom Tebb's alternate for Department of Ecology. YBIP. Likes to hike, fly fish, snowshoe. Interested in watershed protection.
- Andrew Cromarty – Family farm/timber property for 60 years in Teanaway, actively harvests timber. Loves all recreation.
- Kathy Young – Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) President. Representing horsemen, also protect trails for all users, BCHW has a huge volunteer base. Lives on west side, recreates on east side.
- Wayne Mohler – Washington State Snowmobile Association (WSSA), snowmobiling, public health/engineering background. Mountain bikes, supports multiple-use.
- Mike Reimer – Motorized representative. Has property in Kittitas County, lives on west side, and recreates on east side. Motorized user. Also skis, snowmobiles, hikes. Supports multiple-use.
- Doug Schindler – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, 4th gen WA resident. Grew up recreating outdoors: hiking, skiing, trekking. Experience on planning groups. Interested in increasing public access.
- Darcy Batura – The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Roslyn resident. Lifelong WA resident. Grew up outdoors. Worked on salmon recovery board previously. Represents Central Cascades Forest, LLC.
- Scott Gray – Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA), 11 year Kittitas County resident. Experience on Parks & Rec District.
- Todd Welker – DNR Southeast Region Manager. Into all recreation.
- Mike Livingston - WDFW Region 3 Director. Bird hunt, fly fish, other fishing, camping, enjoys outdoors in general.
- Laura Osiadacz – alternate Kittitas County Commissioner, Roslyn resident 15 years.

Review Committee Ground Rules: Doug McClelland reviewed charter, participation agreement.

Public Comment Period: Doug McClelland explained how public comment will work: short public comment period on meeting agenda, also comment cards, email list, email comments, community meetings.

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Public Comment: Derek Young – local business person (fly fishing in Ellensburg). Trout Unlimited chapter – protect cold water resources. 500+ hours river cleanup work on the river last year, taught etiquette on the Teanaway River. Had an intern working on habitat protection last summer and should have two interns (communications, conservation) this year. HeadwatersMatter.org or Yakima River Headwaters on Facebook.

The committee would like to look into cooperative efforts and reinforce communication between the committee and the trout unlimited group.

Annie Presso (sp?) from Roslyn with NW Anthropology, works with Wanapum Band and here to listen, interested in protection of traditional plants beyond what's on ESA list.

TCF Management Plan: Mike Livingston gave a brief overview of the TCF management plan completed in June 2015 and legislative priorities. Management plan is available online.

Recreation is Goal Three of the management plan: "To maintain and where possible expand recreation opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding and snowmobiling."

Questions: What altitude do we approach this process? 20,000 ft. The committee will look at maps where recreation may occur and may be looking at trail specifics when it comes to connecting to neighboring landowner trails.

Regarding the charter, if your term is up, are you allowed to stay? Everyone is here for 2 years and there will be a separate conversation after that.

Can you give an overview of October public meeting? Everything from the October public meeting is on the website.

Review TCF Committee Guidelines: Doug McClelland gave an overview of committee guidelines.

Brief Overview of Recreation Planning: Doug McClelland gave an overview of recreation planning with a PowerPoint Presentation. PowerPoint is on the website.

Planning area – The Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) is within DNR's Southeast Region, there are 6 regions in total. Ahtanum State Forest and Naneum Ridge State Forest have already gone through the recreation planning process, as well as several throughout the state on state trust lands and natural areas. This one is different as it is within a community forest. We will include the trust lands within the TCF and the First Creek block, as well as the Cabin Creek block. Suitability maps will be made for these areas.

Purpose of Planning – to look out 10-15 years and determine types of recreation, locations within the forest, connections across the landscape, partners and volunteerism, and develop a prioritized list/phases.

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Objectives – develop recreation plan for forest, evaluate motorcycle possibility, build network of trails, look at recreation opportunities consistent with watershed protection, look and think about new collaborations, and consistent enforcement presence. There will be seven phases – pre-planning, inventory/suitability, recreation inventory/public involvement, assessments, alternatives, SEPA & communications (non-project SEPA), adoption.

Planning Goals – protect resources, public safety, and recreation experience. Adhere to planning process timeline.

Recreation Planning Committee – Advisory committee is here to assist in data gathering, assessment, and recommendations.

Recreation Land Suitability – Layers: biology (series of layers), soils/geology, management (cultural resources, adjacent landowners, noise buffers, rock pits, intensive restoration areas, grazing, etc). Four maps: winter recreation, motorized, non-motorized, facilities.

Questions:

Scott Nicolai – How do we make 20,000 foot level decisions and know those will actually work on the ground? Actual projects will require more assessment, on-site SEPA, etc.

JJ Collins – 10-15 years, why not 100 years? Priorities for 10-15 years, will talk about 100 years when we get to visioning.

Kitty Craig – Land suitability, how can we be involved? You will see all layers as they come in and final version using existing data.

Martha Wyckoff – Where does the big idea part come in? Assessment is the big idea portion.

Darcy Batura – Involved in separate effort with Roslyn Forest, TNC land, into Teanaway, can suitability cover down into the Roslyn Forest? Yes, suitability will be on entire map (including adjacent lands).

Andrew Cromarty – What's the timeframe for maps? Will be figured out around meeting 3-5.

Wayne Mohler – 10-15 years seems to be a reasonable time to plan for something. Things change and plans need revisited.

Communication Strategy: Eryn Couch, DNR Recreation Communication Manager, and Bruce Botka, WDFW Public Affairs Unit Manager, presented a PowerPoint on Communications and Outreach.

PowerPoint is posted the website.

Communication/Outreach Goals – ensure the public and recreation advocates receive the information they need to understand and participate, increase public understanding of the relationship between recreation and watershed protection and other priorities, build long-term public support for the forest. Strategies – timely, targeted outreach, use website/e-news, outreach to news media. There is a statewide audience for this project.

Communication Outreach/Opportunities – website, e-newsletter, social media, news releases, open houses, presentations to stakeholders, surveys

Measuring Success – website visits, social media metrics, e-news subscribers, survey participation, media coverage, meeting attendance.

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Small Group Break-Out Exercise: 4/group-mixed. Spend a few minutes talking about the recreation experience you have in the planning area and present a couple of “a-ha’s” or other observations/comments and report back.

Group 1 – Camped at 29 Pines late spring and came across a black bear near CG; fears that allowing motorized use will decrease access to seeing wildlife. The increase in people coming to the TCF since its formation. Forest health and fire → fears, number of recreationists, unhealthy fires.

Group 2 – Landscape is important to outsiders, but VERY important to those in the community for decades. Locals camp and recreate here, even though it's so close to home. Owling & howling.

Group 3 – Connectivity between landscapes – three river systems. John Wayne Trail (North Bend to South Cle Elum) to Coal mines trail, Roslyn Forest trails, to TNC, to TCF to Suncadia.

Group 4 – Condition of existing campgrounds – keeping primitive nature intact, was it the right thing to do? Resource protection issues around primitive CGs. Connections of Ronald, Roslyn, Cle Elum to TCF to Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Year round recreation potential and uniqueness. Overselling → overuse of TCF can be negative.

Homework Assignment #1 – Doug passed out copies of maps to committee members. During meetings 3-6, members will present what they learned from talking to their user groups/constituencies. Educate the group about recreation that occurs in the Teanaway by your user group. 10-15 minute presentation each. Electronic version of map will be posted on the website.

Each meeting will be the second Thursday of the month from 1500-1800. Next meeting is February 9th at the Putnam Centennial Center in Cle Elum.

Documents will be available electronically on the website.

Kitty Craig would like mingle time before meetings with advisory committee members and the public to have another opportunity to chat with them. The group agrees. Kitty also suggested the committee members try other ways of intercepting the public to perform outreach.

Darcy Batura would like the public comment period to go slower and add more time to make sure the public has time to comment.

Jeri Downs would like a set time for public comment at each meeting so the public knows when to be here.

Andrew Cromarty would like contact info for those in attendance. Also, would like the public to have a way to be up to speed with what is going on. Everything will be up on the website as soon as it is possible to post, and paper copies will be available at the meeting.

Paul Jewell would like introductions to include the audience members.

Meeting adjourned 1753.

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