

Teanaway Community Forest

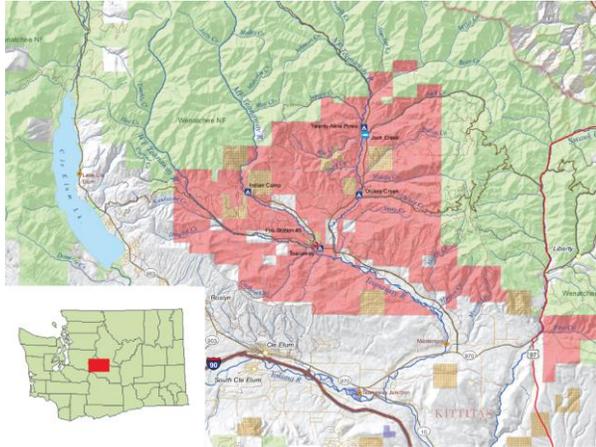


Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



WASHINGTON STATE
Natural Resources

Teanaway Community Forest Q & A



In October 2013, Washington established the first state-managed community forest in Washington. The Teanaway Community Forest sits on a 50,272-acre property that was purchased by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The forest is situated at the headwaters of the Yakima Basin watershed.

DNR will collaboratively manage the forest with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), with significant public input from a community-based advisory committee.

What is a Community Forest?

The Community Forest Trust model is designed to give communities a tool to work with DNR to preserve the forests they love and have a say in how they are managed.

Why did the state buy the Teanaway Community Forest?

The Teanaway Community Forest was identified as critical habitat for the conservation and restoration of many species, especially fish. The Teanaway Community Forest is also a key component of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, which is designed to safeguard the Yakima Basin water supply and associated habitat, and to support the economy by preserving working lands and recreational opportunities.

How will the public be involved in the management of the Teanaway Community Forest?

DNR and WDFW will engage the local community and interested stakeholder groups in a discussion about how the forest will be managed. As part of the Community Forest planning process, there will be many opportunities for public involvement including open houses and public surveys. A 20-member advisory committee will meet regularly to provide DNR and WDFW with recommendations for the management plan. The public will be able to attend and observe these meetings, which will include an opportunity for public comment.

The Teanaway Community Forest planning process will establish management objectives. DNR and WDFW will then collaboratively manage the land to meet those objectives.

“The Teanaway is an extremely valuable area ecologically and to the community as a whole. It plays a pivotal role in the continued success of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.”

**—Urban Eberhart
Yakima Basin Irrigator**

Who will fund the management of the Teanaway Community Forest?

The State Legislature is committed to providing ongoing funding for the Teanaway Community Forest.

Will I still be able to use the recreation trails and facilities in the Teanaway?

The Legislature directed DNR to maintain and, where possible, expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection. To identify when and where recreational access will be maintained or expanded, the Teanaway Community Forest planning process will incorporate the latest biological, geological, soils, and management data in its discussions with the Community Forest Advisory board.

Can I still camp at the campgrounds? Will campfires be allowed?

Teanaway West Fork and 29 Pines Campgrounds are open to the public as of October 2013. Please be sure to pack out your garbage, as services are unavailable at the campgrounds. Campfires are currently allowed in campfire pits at the 29 Pines and Teanaway West Fork Campgrounds. Be sure to check DNR's website for any temporary burn restrictions at www.dnr.wa.gov.

Will I need a Discover Pass or WDFW Vehicle Access Pass?

At this time you do not need a Discover Pass or WDFW Vehicle Access Pass to visit the Teanaway Community Forest. This issue will be revisited and discussed during the community engagement process to develop the management plan.

How do I find out what is happening with the advisory committee?

Subscribe to the Teanaway Community Forest e-newsletter to learn more about the advisory committee and the application process. Sign up at http://bit.ly/DNR_newsletter.

Will the Teanaway still be considered open range with grazing permitted?

The Legislature directed DNR to maintain working lands for forestry and grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat.

Is any of this land proposed for wilderness designation?

No. A wilderness designation is a federal decision. The Legislature's intent is for the Teanaway property to remain a state-owned Community Forest that supports multiple uses.

What happens to the land if the Yakima Integrated Plan falls short of its water storage goals?

If certain Yakima Basin Integrated Plan objectives aren't met by June 30, 2025, the Legislature has empowered the state Board of Natural Resources, which oversees state trust lands, to keep the Teanaway as a community forest; to transfer it to the Common School Trust for commercial forestry; or to otherwise dispose of the property.

Does this purchase affect my ability to manage my land?

The purchase does not affect the use of private lands in the Teanaway River valley. Please contact Kittitas County for information on any county planning efforts that could affect privately owned lands in the area.



Photos Courtesy of The Wilderness Society