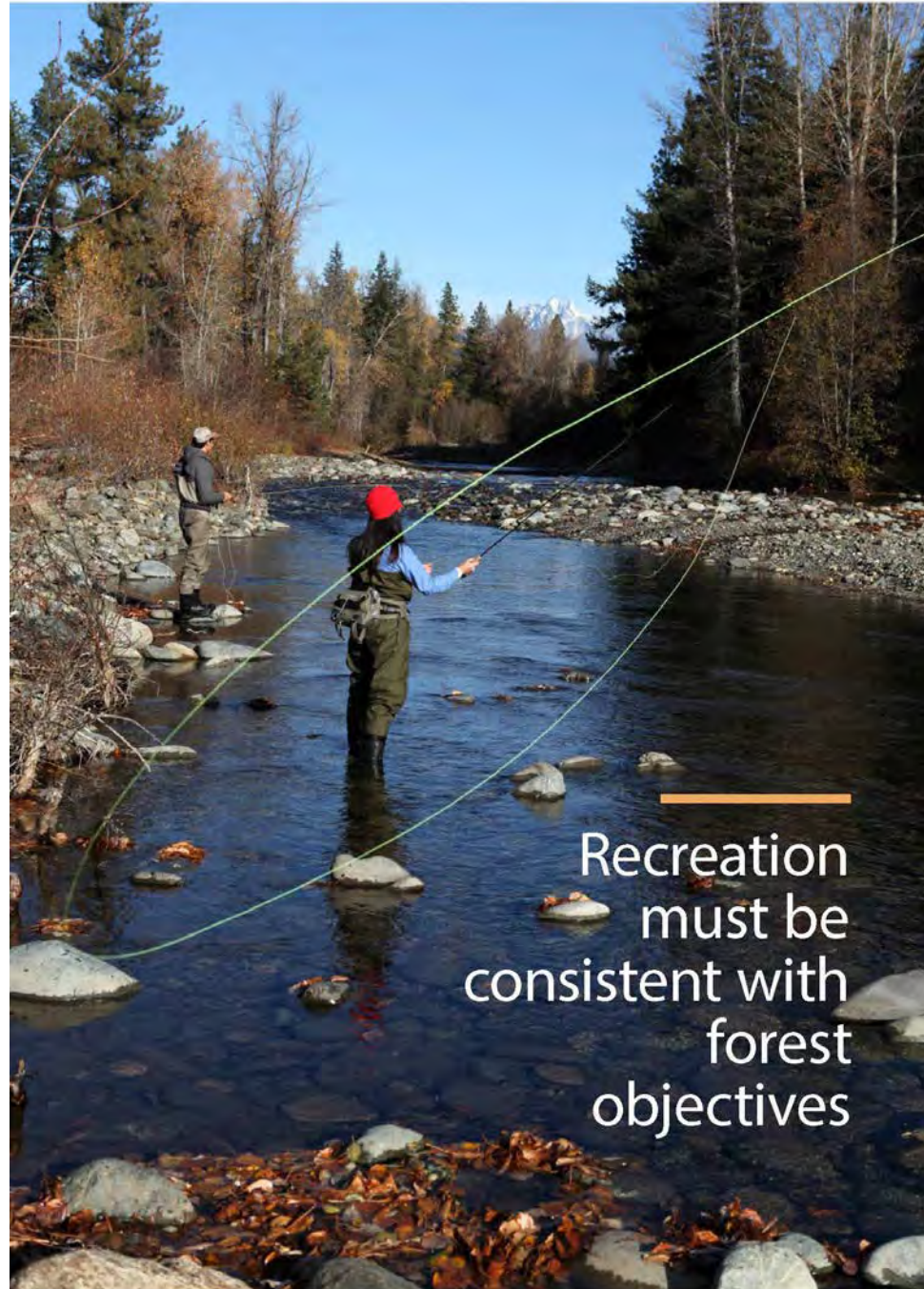


# Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan

## Overall Management Goals

- “To protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed;
- To maintain working lands for forestry and grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat;
- To maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding, and snowmobiling;
- To conserve and restore vital habitat for fish, including steelhead, spring Chinook, and bull trout, and wildlife, including deer, elk, large predators, and spotted owls; and
- To support a strong community partnership, in which the Yakama Nation, residents, business owners, local governments, conservation groups, and others provide advice about ongoing land management.”

## RECREATION



Recreation  
must be  
consistent with  
forest  
objectives



## OBJECTIVES

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

## KEY POINTS

- Provide recreational opportunities ✓
- Consistent with watershed protection ✓
- Important to regional economy ✓
- Provide social, mental and health benefits ✓
- Consider social and biological factors ✓
- Opportunities for partnerships ✓
- Improve campgrounds & facilities ✓
- Provide consistent and proactive law enforcement and user education ✓



## RECREATION

# Strategies & Tools



### Develop a recreation plan for the forest

With input from the Advisory Committee and the public, DNR and WDFW will develop a plan that directs recreation activities and infrastructure development to appropriate areas within the Community Forest.

The plan will be based in large part on an analysis of the suitability of specific areas within the forest for various recreational uses and facilities, which will be displayed on maps that provide a visual foundation for the recreation plan. The suitability criteria described on page 44 will be the starting point for this analysis. The recreation planning process will also review historic recreational uses in the forest, along with past planning efforts, and current forest conditions.

The recreation plan will emphasize "leave no trace" principles and other guidelines for recreational users that will be designed to maximize recreational opportunities while protecting the Teanaway watershed and ensuring the other goals of the Community Forest are met.

A recreation planning committee will help the agencies guide the planning effort, and members will offer input and suggestions. Ultimately, the recreation plan will be consistent with the goals of the Community Forest, address environmental responsibilities, and provide for continued public access and safe, sustainable recreational opportunities.

The plan will lay a foundation for the restoration, maintenance, and development of recreation opportunities. Future development of facilities and trails will undergo site-specific analysis and be contingent on the availability of funding. The final recreation plan will be evaluated and revised periodically to ensure compatibility with Teanaway Community Forest goals.

### KEY POINTS

**Conduct suitability analysis that serves as basis for planning**

**Emphasize leave-no-trace principles to protect natural resources**

**Work with recreation planning committee**

**Plan will be foundation for future restoration, maintenance and development of recreational opportunities**

**Periodic review of plan to allow adaptive management compatible with 5 forest goals**

### Evaluate motorcycle use within the recreation planning process



Off-road motorized recreation occurred in the past in what is now the Teanaway Community Forest, when prior landowners allowed snowmobile use and limited access for two-wheeled motorcycles. DNR and WDFW continued this practice when they acquired the property.

As of January 2015, two-wheeled motorcycles within the Community Forest could access three multiple-use trails: the Middle Fork (FS 1393), Yellow Hill (FS 1222), and West Fork (FS 1353), and motorcyclists were required to follow all applicable laws and rules, including prohibitions on closed trails, closed roads, and cross-country travel.

DNR and WDFW will use the results of a recreation planning process to determine whether the use of two-wheeled motorcycles is appropriate in the Community Forest. All other motorized vehicles – ATVs, ORVs, wheeled all-terrain vehicles, and 4x4s – will continue to be prohibited from trails, closed roads, and cross-country travel.

If the agencies decide motorcycle use is appropriate, the recreation planning process will use the criteria on page 44 to determine where it could occur. Any motorcycle use would be conditioned on an education and self-policing campaign by users; enforcement by WDFW and DNR; and compliance by the motorcycle community. If conditions are not met, or if serious environmental degradation occurs, the agencies would prohibit motorcycle use.

Two-wheeled motorcycle use will be permitted on the three multi-use trails while a recreation plan is being developed, although seasonal restrictions may be needed to prevent environmental damage. The recreation planning process will evaluate the trails to determine current conditions and to establish a baseline for evaluating the impacts of future use. This evaluation also will determine whether the trails should be repaired, relocated, or closed.

The recreation planning committee will encourage broad participation in discussions of motorcycle use and will evaluate motorcycle options in relation to the recreation needs and interests of all user groups, including those of neighboring land owners.

### KEY POINTS

**History: Motorcycle use has been allowed on 3 USFS multi-use trails. Other motorized vehicles, except snowmobiles, were not permitted on other roads or trails before and will continue to be prohibited in the TCF**

**This planning process will determine if motorcycle use is appropriate within the TCF, and if so where and under what conditions it would occur.**

**Criteria (p.44) will be used to determine appropriate use**

**The 3 USFS multi-use trails will be evaluated to determine appropriate use and make recommendations for repair, restoration, relocation**

**Advisory committee will encourage broad participation in this discussion by multiple user groups and neighbors**



## RECREATION

# Strategies & Tools (CONTINUED)

### Provide a sustainable network of safe, enjoyable recreational trails

Designate and build non-motorized trails for hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and others that:

- Emphasize scenic destinations and high-quality experiences.
- Accommodate multiple skill levels, be designed as loop trails when appropriate, and connect to U.S. Forest Service trails and the regional trail system.
- Provide separate trails for specialized uses as appropriate to enhance users' experiences and safety.

Provide winter trails for snowmobiles, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing that:

- When practical, provide loop routes and connections to regional snowmobile trails.
- Are designed, maintained, and, if necessary, relocated to protect water and fish and wildlife.
- Include groomed and un-groomed snowmobile trails and ski trails.
- Include marked, un-groomed trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, with access points that connect to regional snowshoe and cross-country ski trails.

All trail systems will be managed to protect water, fish and wildlife habitat, working lands, and other valued resources. DNR and WDFW, with volunteer help when appropriate, shall work to:

- Restore damaged areas, such as unauthorized trails, and use educational signs or enforcement measures as appropriate.
- Upgrade, mitigate for, relocate, or decommission trails and trail segments that are 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, neighboring landowners, local communities, and other neighbors to evaluate and resolve issues such as access, trail use, and enforcement across parcels owned by different organizations.

## KEY POINTS

Provide non-motorized trails for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders that:

- Emphasize scenic destinations
- Accommodate multiple skill levels
- Provide loop trails
- Connect to USFS trails
- Separate uses where appropriate

Provide winter trails for snowmobiles, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing that:

- Provide loop trails
- Provide connections to regional trails
- Located/ relocated to protect water, fish, wildlife
- Include groomed and un-groomed trails

All trails will be managed to protect water, fish, wildlife habitat, working lands; trails may be relocated or decommissioned if needed

Work with USFS, adjacent landowners, and community to resolve recreation issues and coordinate enforcement

## KEY POINTS

Evaluate forest road system for forest management and recreational access

Identify needed trailheads and access for summer and winter recreation

Provide recommendations for/ identify campgrounds, day use areas, river access

Allow walk in back country camping away from rivers and high use areas

Provide access for people with disabilities

Provide recommendations for a permit system for large group activities and events

Provide recommendations for how to manage commercial recreation

Designate firewood collection areas

Protect fish and wildlife habitat especially along river corridors

### Provide recreation opportunities and facilities that are consistent with watershed protection

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

- Evaluate the road system to determine its ability to provide access and meet recreation needs.
- 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. Provide basic amenities such as fire rings and picnic tables. Promote wildlife-friendly camping practices.
- Designate day-use areas and trails with parking facilities and interpretive signs for activities such as walk-in fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and river access.
- 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.
- Provide opportunities to access the forks of the Teanaway River, and design these river access sites to avoid damage to fish and wildlife habitat.
- Provide recreation access for people with disabilities as required by federal and state laws and consistent with DNR policies and practices for all recreation areas.
- Use a permit system for large group activities and events. Considerations will include safety, capacity for participants, staffing needs, sanitation requirements, and the needs and priorities of private property-owners within and adjacent to the forest.
- Determine how to manage and, if necessary, limit commercial recreational activities in the forest.
- Provide designated firewood collection areas.
- Manage high-use areas, especially along the river corridor, for public access, safety, and the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.



## RECREATION

# Strategies & Tools (CONTINUED)

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

- Partner with volunteer groups and non-profit organizations, community groups, and recreation clubs to educate the public and to maintain and restore the forest.
- Develop partnerships with local communities and adjacent public land managers to provide linkages and common messaging for the network of regional trails.
- Support partnerships that involve local schools and youth groups in recreation and environmental education.
- Use technology and new media, such as social media, blogs, e-newsletters, websites, email, and citizen science to increase outreach to potential volunteers.

### KEY POINTS

#### Partner with volunteer groups, non-profits, community groups, recreation clubs to:

- Educate the public
- Maintain and restore the forest
- Provide linkages and common messaging for regional trails
- Environmental education with school groups

Use technology and new media such as social media, blogs, e-newsletters, websites, email, citizen science to increase outreach to potential volunteers

### Establish a consistent enforcement and education presence

Employ an integrated enforcement strategy involving WDFW, DNR, and partner organizations.

- Increase the presence and visibility of law enforcement personnel in the Community Forest.
- Use education, engineering, and enforcement strategies to develop a coordinated approach to enforcement and public education, including federal, state, and local agencies and partner organizations as appropriate.
- Work with local emergency responders to develop an emergency access plan for the community forest, with specific response plans for trailheads and campgrounds.
- Use gates, signs, and maps to create travel routes where natural resource laws, recreation rules, and motor vehicle laws can be readily enforced.
- Establish procedures for forest users to report infractions.
- Provide signs at entrances, trailheads, and day-use areas to inform the public of permitted uses, regulations, fire danger, private land owners, noxious weeds, and safe wildlife encounters.
- Provide signs with historical or environmental information when appropriate.
- Permit the discharge of firearms during lawful hunting seasons. Prohibit target shooting, and prohibit the discharge of firearms within 500 feet of established campgrounds.

### KEY POINTS

#### Integrate enforcement efforts between DNR and WDFW and partner organizations

- Increase presence and visibility of LEOs
- Coordinate education, design, enforcement for messaging
- Work with local emergency responders to develop an emergency access plan
- Provide enforceable gates, signs, maps
- Provide information and signs at trails and facilities to inform public of permitted usage, fire danger, private landowners, and safe use
- Provide interpretive and educational signage
- Permit firearms during lawful hunting season, prohibit target shooting

## Where should recreation take place in the Community Forest?

The legislation that created the Teanaway Community Forest identified key environmental and economic priorities – including watershed protection, restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, and preservation of forestry and grazing – that will require analysis of the suitability of specific areas for different types of recreation.

DNR and WDFW staff will begin this land suitability analysis by mapping the forest to show attributes that will influence the siting of specific recreational activities. This analysis will include social considerations, such as the interests of neighboring landowners and the availability of recreation opportunities on nearby lands outside the Community Forest.

The presence of specific attributes, such as cliffs or steep slopes, would not automatically disqualify a particular location from being used for recreation, but rather that extra care must be taken to ensure recreation is appropriate and compatible with safety, environmental, visual, and cultural values. The agencies and the recreation planning committee will consider, but are not limited to, the following criteria:

### Maps will identify the following soil and geological conditions:

- Steep, unstable slopes with high potential for landslides
- Highly erosive and compactible soils
- Streams and rivers and 100-year flood plains
- Rock features, including cliffs and bluffs

### Maps will display the following 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
- Natural heritage sites
- Sensitive wildlife areas, such as deer and elk winter range and endangered species habitat

### Public access points and forest management elements, including:

- Public access points
- Private and public property in and around the forest, including easements and rights-of-way
- Water and rock sources
- Locations where noise buffers are required, such as campgrounds and private residences
- Locations where recreation may affect air quality
- Cultural and archaeological resources, such as historic town sites

### Social considerations will also be analyzed, including:

- 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 – that may not be captured by existing data sources



## Measuring Performance

### RECREATION PLANNING

#### Priority actions

- ✓ Develop a recreation plan by December 2016, including the following steps:
  - ✓ a. Identify the project scope, related data needs, and conduct other pre-planning tasks.
  - ✓ b. Establish the recreation planning committee and determine how to involve interested parties, and the public in the process.
  - ✓ c. Conduct land suitability analysis and mapping as described on page 44.
  - ✓ d. Identify and evaluate recreation management options, including factors that could limit access, such as cultural or archeological resources.
  - ✓ e. Refine recreation options into a recommended plan, with goals, priority actions, and implementation plans and maps.
  - f. Conduct analysis required under the State Environmental Policy Act.

Within recreation planning, determine appropriate limits to commercial recreational use of the forest, campground size, and large-event size.

#### Performance measures

- Complete a recreation plan by December 2016, including the deliverables described above.
  - Complete a prioritized recreation project list, including new facilities and trails, by December 2016.
- Upon adoption of the recreation plan, the agencies, with input from the Advisory Committee, shall update these performance measures.

### ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION

#### Priority actions

- Increase the presence of enforcement officers.
- Develop an emergency access plan.
- Develop maps, handouts, and other educational material for recreation users by April 2016.
- Establish a network of volunteers for restoration, education, and self-policing by April 2016.

#### Performance measures

- Number of Community Forest users by type.
- Number of users contacted and educated about recreation.
- Number of volunteer and recreation groups involved in volunteer events, including the number of hours and dollar value of their contributions.
- Number of enforcement contacts regarding natural resource laws, motor vehicle requirements, recreation rules, and other regulations and statutes.

### TRAIL NETWORK

#### Priority actions

- Conduct a survey of trail conditions and assess restoration needs by May 2016.
- Develop a work plan for priority projects by December 2016.
- Organize partners and volunteers interested in trail restoration and maintenance by August 2015.

#### Performance measures

- Number and length of trail sections improved.
- Number and length of trail sections that are abandoned or improved to enhance compatibility with watershed protection.
- Number and length of new trails added.

### RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Priority actions

- Identify improvements to campgrounds and other developed areas needed to meet public safety and health and develop a list of priority projects by September 2016.
- Identify roads, trailheads, and other recreational infrastructure needed to improve recreational access by December 2016.

#### Performance measures

- Number and dollar value of facility improvements or new facilities completed annually.
- Number of projects completed to improve access to rivers, trails, campgrounds, and other recreational opportunities.

## Topics Covered by other DNR Recreation Plans

- Recreation Trails
- Recreation Facilities
- Dispersed Recreation
- Public Road Access
- Recreation trails/ facilities
  - Maintenance, Relocation, Decommissioning, Restoration
- Organized Events
- Adaptive Management
- Partnerships and Volunteer Coordination
- Education and Enforcement
- Sustainable Funding
  
- PMOs (Primary Management Objectives)
- TMOs (Trail Management Objectives)

## Other issues raised by Teanaway Planning

- Teanaway is the first Community Forest
- Balancing the 5 Goals
- YBIP Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
- Emergency Planning
- Public Road Access
- Seasonal wildlife habitat sensitivities
- Fees, Hosts, Reservations for Campgrounds, Sno Parks
- Connections across landscapes to USFS and communities
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?
- ?