

Implementation

Future Role of the Advisory Committee

Membership: Every two years new members will be selected from a pool of applicants and serve alongside representatives from DNR and WDFW for a 2-year term. The next term will begin on July 1st, 2015. At the end of each term, current members may re-apply to the committee. The committee will continue to include legislatively mandated groups such as the Yakama Nation, local agriculture interests, Kittitas county government, local conservation organizations, the local community, and the Department of Ecology.

Meeting dates will be set by joint agreement with the Advisory Committee and the Agencies, with an initial schedule of quarterly meeting of the entire Advisory Committee. Additional meetings will be called as necessary.

Issues: The Advisory Committee will provide advice on ongoing issues of land management including:

- Periodic updates of the Management Plan
- Review of progress on Performance Targets and Measures and development of new ones as old targets are accomplished and new ones are needed.
- Review of proposed projects
- Review of new uses on the community forest, such as any commercial use, or of community forest resources, such as water rights.
- Helping to develop future plans, such as the Recreation Plan.
- Engaging in discussions on landscape-level resource management issues such as the forest health of the greater watershed and watershed-level fire prevention efforts.

Recreation Plan: The Recreation Planning Committee will be composed of AC members who commit to regularly participating in the process. It is anticipated that the Recreation Plan will take 1 – 1 ½ years to complete, and will need monthly meetings.

Agency Relationship

The agencies will engage in a collaborative land management approach, sharing information and decision-making authority. As such, employees working together in the TCF shall consider themselves members of a single TCF team that share the job of implementing the TCF management plan. The agencies will be guided by the YBIP goals laid out in RCW 90.38, the TCF Goals laid out in RCW 90.38.130, the TCF Management Plan, the Habitat Easement between DNR and WDFW, and the Interagency Agreement.

Planning Horizon and Adaptive Management

The Management Plan is a document designed to allow for constant learning and adaptation throughout its planning horizon; 2025. As agencies and partners implement actions, built-in feedback mechanisms will ensure that the collection and analysis of data provide learning and adaptation opportunities. This adaptation will occur through a variety of mechanisms such as:

- The performance targets and measures which lay out the steps for implementation and monitoring.
- Regular and frequent technical review and analysis by agency staff of projects and associated monitoring.
- Regular AC meetings, where the agencies will annually review and discuss the progress and results from these targets and measures,
- Through annual adjustments to field work and monitoring based on this learning.

This ongoing cycle of implement, monitor, analyze, learn, and modify will provide the platform for evaluating the effectiveness of the plans' strategies in meeting the TCF objectives.

Prioritization

In order to achieve the YBIP goals for which the TCF was established, the agencies will undertake activities that will restore and protect watershed health and wildlife habitat. Habitat projects affecting endangered or threatened species shall be a top priority. These activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Baseline monitoring to understand current conditions.
- Restoration projects that target a priority stream
- Road maintenance and abandonment projects that target road segments with the greatest contribution to sediment load, which contribute to stream channel confinement, or that border on priority streams.
- Riparian and floodplain meadow restoration and protection projects that border on priority streams.
- Recreation projects that improve watershed health or wildlife habitat, or that are important for public health and safety.
- Forest management projects that reduce the risk of fire or improve wildlife habitat.
- Grazing management projects that improve watershed health or wildlife habitat.

The agencies will review project proposals based on the priorities defined above and in Performance Targets and Measures. Where competing interests collide, restoration has the priority. The agencies will meet at least annually to review project proposals for the coming year. Organizations/partners interested in undertaking a project in the Forest will be asked to provide a brief description of the project and how it meets the priorities and the goals of the TCF. The agencies will work with the submitting organization to improve the project proposal if appropriate, this may include changing the location to a priority work area, including elements that provide additional benefits to the TCF, or to ensure that multiple projects interface effectively and efficiently. AC Advisory committee thoughts and input will be solicited and used by the Agencies as they select projects