

Goal 3 – Recreation, Objective 1: Planning - Develop a Recreation Plan for the forest.

Recreation Planning

The Teaway Community Forest Recreation Plan will be developed with input and assistance of various individuals and organizations representing a wide range of interests and backgrounds. The public planning process includes open public meetings, Recreation Planning Committee meetings, a user survey, and public ideas and suggestions submitted via email, phone calls, and letters.

The recreation planning process will focus on two major steps. The first step are presentations and mapping of critical information about biological, geological, soil, and management criteria as they relate to land suitability for recreational use. Suitability maps will be developed to help identify areas that are less suitable for recreation based on user type and facility development. These maps provide the foundation for the development of recreation use recommendations. Specific locations of all proposed facilities and trails will also require site based assessments prior to construction.

The Recreation Planning Committee will spend a large amount of time then reviewing and discussing various recreational use draft concepts for the Teaway, with an objective of finding a concept that they can all support. This multi stepped processes will balance the social values by looking at the historic uses, past planning efforts, current conditions, land suitability, resource protection, public use needs, adjacent land uses, and other issues identified during the planning process.

It will be the goal that the final recreational concept maps reflect the comprehensive planning process and are supported by the majority of the planning committee. The plan is intended to guide recreation and public access opportunities for the next 10-15 years within the Teaway Community Forest.

The Recreation Planning Committee is a vital component of the overall process. This group of volunteers consists of community members that represent a wide variety of user interests, and the Committee helps to guide the course of the planning effort and offer input and suggestions. The collaborative process yields a plan that is consistent with the goals of the Teaway Community Forest, addresses environmental responsibilities, and provides for continued public access and safe and sustainable recreational opportunities. The plan will likely also promote the development of new recreational opportunities. Implementation of individual projects is contingent on acquiring adequate funding, and future development of facilities and trails will undergo site specific analysis. The final plan will be evaluated periodically as part of adaptive management, and changes will be made as necessary to ensure compatibility with Teaway Community Forest goals.

The process to develop this plan includes the following seven phases:

Phase 1: Pre-Planning

- Develop project scope
- Identify data collection needs

- Create stakeholder involvement plan
- Identify need and process for interagency planning

Phase 2: Recreation Land Suitability

- Identify and map areas with long-term limiting factors for recreational use
- Conduct field trips

Phase 3: Inventory and Public Involvement

- Identify public issues and concerns
- Hold public meetings
- Establish a Recreation Planning Committee
- Conduct an online user survey

Phase 4: Assessment

- Evaluate and discuss biological, geological/soils, and management suitability data with Recreation Planning Committee
- Compile the data from the online user survey
- Develop preliminary concepts for recreation management

Phase 5: Alternatives

- Refine recreation concepts into one recommended plan
- Develop objectives and strategies for the plan
- Develop an implementation approach for the proposed plan
- Complete a draft write up of the plan

Phase 6: State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review

- Conduct a non-project SEPA review for the proposed plan

Phase 7: Plan Completion

- Finalize the plan for publication
- DNR and WDFW adopt the recommended plan with support from the TAC

Recreation Land Suitability

Biological, geological/soils, and management suitability assessments will be completed for recreation opportunities in the Teaway Community Forest. The assessments will result in composite maps that help to guide the Recreation Planning Committee and the planning effort. The purpose of the assessments is to identify and map areas within the TCF that have long-term limiting factors that could affect recreation planning.

The composite maps will identify locations within the TCF that have low or moderate suitability for recreational facilities, motorized trails, non-motorized trails for bikes and horses, and hiking trails; motorized and non-motorized winter activities will also be included in the suitability assessment. The suitability assessment was intended to be broad scale and

does not replace future site-specific analysis for individual projects where they are required.

Scientists, planners, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysts, and land managers will all be involved in developing the suitability maps. The process will include identifying and mapping biologic, soils/geologic, and management criteria within the Recreation Planning Area.

The criteria listed below are limiting factors that will be considered when locating recreational trails and facilities in a manner that preserves and enhances the resources of the TCF. Using these criteria, along with mitigation, will help ensure that the goals of the TCF are met as they will identify areas that have low or moderate suitability for facilities or trails. Areas with low suitability have long term limiting factors for recreational development. Moderate suitability areas require less mitigation and potential impacts are fewer compared to low suitability areas. Management actions to reduce impacts will be used; these actions can include best management practices for trail design and maintenance (which are being developed as part of the DNR's Sustainable Recreation Policy public process), engineered crossings, seasonal closures, or area closures. The need for a management action to reduce an impact is both resource-specific and dependent on recreation user type. If an existing trail or facility does not meet the criteria, then it will be, repaired, removed, or relocated and the area restored.

Suitability Criteria:

1. *Soils and Geology*

- Highly erosive soils
- Steep slopes
- Streams and rivers
- 100-year flood plain
- Areas with high potential for landslides (unstable slopes)
- Rock features
- Cliffs and Bluffs

2. *Biological*

- Riparian areas and buffers
- Wet Meadows
- Wetlands and buffers
- Fish Habitat
- Threatened and endangered species and their habitat
- Elk calving, summer forage, winter range
- Natural Heritage
- Unique habitats
- Sensitive wildlife areas
 - Ex: wolf denning sites, NSO nest sites, elk wintering range, salmon spawning areas

3. *Management*

- Access Points—public and private

Teaway Recreation Criteria

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- Private landowners, neighboring land owners, and in-holdings.
- Easements and right-of-ways
- Water sources
- Rock sources
- Utility easements
- Noise – decibels, duration, and timing:
 - Buffer private homes and inholdings from trails and campgrounds
 - Buffer campgrounds from trails
- Air quality - dust
- Reduce conflict with the following management activities:
 - Domestic livestock grazing operations
 - Forestry operations
 - Restoration projects
- Reduce conflicts with other users and avoid displacing users.
- Cultural and archaeological resources

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