

# Teanaway Community Forest



## Comments Received at the June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Public Open House on Future Objectives for the Teanaway Community Forest

**Note:** Each legislative goal had a table where the goal was presented and a question asked: What do you want to see accomplished for this goal in the Teanaway? The recorded responses are listed below.

### **Goal 1: Watershed protection –Protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed;**

- Functioning floodplain to store the snowmelt & slow down water
- Don't need more wilderness; don't need to manage the TCF as a wilderness
- Large woody debris as a possible restoration tool; a lot of people are opposed/afraid, education and outreach is needed
- Where water protection is critical, create bridges of alternate routes to allow ORV, bicycle, horse, etc., use.
- Protect water quality and river bank integrity through limitation or segregation of livestock access and grazing.
- To protect stream habitat you need to keep out motorized vehicles that can quickly destroy the landscape.
- Manage water availability for livestock & wildlife to minimize impacts to streams. (used to be an area near Camp Lake, stock pond?)
- Strict control of grazing (cattle) to protect streams.
- Design location of recreation facilities for long-term sustainability and water quality.
- Use bridges to allow for trails that don't have impacts to streams.
- Built/design trails to be compatible with watershed protection needs.
- Why does running through the water hurt the watershed? I.e, a motorcycle doesn't generally dump oil in water.
- If funds are necessary for bridges, please ask ORV groups. I am sure we, as well, as other recreation groups, would find a way to help and protect the watershed.
- Remove old culverts that have been replaced with new ones.
- Questions about large woody debris tool: cost, impact, safety, ugly aesthetic
- Evaluate existing roads & decommission the worst ones for silt introduction into the watershed. Replace/close, as with "Green Dot" program.
- Consider water storage on the TCF. Not a huge one, but look at the potential.

- Ensure appropriate law enforcement resources to enforce closures/restrictions to protect watershed.
- Middle Fork trail, 17 river crossings, concerned it will just be closed altogether, could see it being re-routed.
- Concerned that recreation will be closed when it is not warranted due to watershed protection (ex: Middle Fork Trail).
- Manage for slow release of water. Beavers are great.

**Goal 2: Working Lands – Maintain working lands for forestry and domestic livestock grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat;**

Forestry

- How much timber is harvestable?
- Make sure it is logged appropriately & make sure income comes back here.
- Thin forest for forest health, keep disease down or stop
- Manage brush to reduce fire risk from logging
- Use select cutting & replanting; use youth for workers, get good work experience
- Want to see sustainable timber harvest
- Limit timber harvesting, impact to area by logging in 2013 was substantial, roads & trails became unusable in dry conditions
- See more reforestation projects
- Less timber harvest, but use selective, low-impact practices for harvest in interim.
- Want to see healthy forests. No problem with grazing.
- Harvest diseased & dead trees. Reduce fire hazard.
- Want to see more shelterwood harvests.
- Want to see a working forest & timber harvest continue
- Reduce bug infestations.
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Grazing

- Want to see same stocking rate & retain cattle on landscape
- More diligence; grazing should be managed to move stock around to keep fuels down for fire
- Reduce livestock impact to river & streams, but support limited grazing & small herd size (cattle only)
- Control noxious weeds.
- Want to see grazing continue, keeps weeds down, keeps it real life
- Limit grazing to protect watershed
- Effort to reduce invasive weeds, they are a fire risk; applies to forest & grazing
- Diversify grazing to include other species (sheep)
- Watch carefully to ensure not overgrazing.

- Make sure cattle are not by water or degrading riparian area. Fence out and provide water.
- Livestock grazing is appropriate with proper management. Targeted grazing & mixed species.
- Need to have appropriate funding mechanism in place for off-channel water & BMP & noxious weeds.
- Keep cattle from sensitive riparian areas; reduce their impact on small streams.

#### General

- See a return of native plant communities. Involve public through work projects.
- More education of the public to show them what a forest should be. Hands on!
- Why control invasive species...? Let things happen naturally.
- Want to see a working forest & timber harvest to continue & grazing continue
- Signage to tell people to “close gates”, “respect cattle”, etc.
- Provide for more info to the public to understand livestock interaction & their dogs.
- Rivers protected from grazing.

### **Goal 3: Recreation – Maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, birding and snowmobiling;**

#### General

- Need: easy trails, winter recreation, multiple levels of difficulty.
- What are stories for each recreation interest/ how are they described across landscape and how can we weave those together on TCF with technical trails on USFS (ie, family friendly).
- Recreation opportunity for local community
- Separated trails, non-motorized vs. motorized (ie, specific horse trails & specific network for horse-users).
- Single track vs. roads
- Opportunities for all ability
- Multi-use trails with zoned use trails
- Community/groups volunteerism opportunities
- Create legitimate system for volunteer opportunities
- Enforcement – clear understanding of rules
- Maintain multi-use history
- Education for proper trail use
- Enhance signage, well established/clear for all to understand
- Staging areas/parking access (regular and for events)
- Expand horse parking, doesn't work at Indian Camp
- Trails/trailheads meet capacity – consider turning radius
- Preserving geology/pristine nature
- Formal map

- Retain recreation levels of Boise-Cascade, don't attract large #s of users
- Keep development low – we are not trying to expand to Disneyland, “not everything has to be developed”
- Focus more on nature/ “pristine” environment
- Successes in partnerships: Tiger Mtn, Evergreen Mtn. Bike Alliance can be replicated here for Mtn. bikes
- Establish recreational corridors to community forests, Roslyn & Cle Elum.
- Manage system in order to reduce conflicts, possibly through zoning
- Reiterate importance of enforcement
- Control gates & access is what keeps use levels low & ORV use
- Need to establish well-organized trail maintenance program with a community focus
- Kiosks trails, etc. someone should contact CWU geology department to get a better understanding & to share info w/ public
- Don't want the place overrun by people.
- Ensure recreation is buffered from private property inholdings
- Kiosk with general information
- Maintain relaxed “hanging out” environment
- Education/awareness noise, traffic, trash, driving
- Education designed for new visitors to area: etiquette, neighbors, wildlife
- Continue to allow dogs off leash except at campgrounds/high volumes
- Encourage responsible dog owners.
- Encourage people to keep things clean & not litter.
- More markers & signs for trails & intersections
- Want to see boundary signs,

#### Winter Recreation

- Consider cross-country skiing along snowmobiling
- Cross-country ski trails groomed and not groomed, gentle roads, XC ski only, Middle Fork and West Fork
- Snowmobiling – retain ability to enjoy snowmobiling, winter recreation in the forest, because low impact.
- Road to Indian Camp: after recent road grading, need to gravel dirt road up to black top. Winter – only plow just beyond turn-around to allow for snowmobiling.
- There are hundreds of miles of trails for motorcycles, ATVs and snowmobiles out of the Middle Fork/29 Pines area. I advocate preserving much of the area accessed from the Teanaway campground/West Fork area be used for walking and in particular cross-country ski/snow-shoe trails. There are zero ski trails in the Teanaway & the West area is beautifully suited to it.
- Opportunities to add parking for ski, cross-country, winter recreation

#### Summer Recreation, non-motorized

- Retain primitive trail opportunities, less signed trails, retain game/livestock trail opportunities

- Separation of ORV/equestrian trails if allowed.
- Designate trails with parking area & bathroom at trailhead for hikers and horseback riders. Use existing trails & old roads where possible. Some of the gravel roads are not really suitable for trails. End of West For Rd, to the south are trails & roads. To the north is mostly crosscountry with some roads & trails. Indian Creek area, First Creek area.
- Provide access points to Storey Creek area, Ley Road. First Creek – develop trails south of First Creek.
- Seasonal closures when trails are not snow-free or have not been logged. Open trails when snow free, dry, and logged out.
- Please have mountain bikes put a bell on their bikes so we can hear them coming.
- Don't reinvent the wheel – use local experts that know about trail construction. Design trails for sustainability. Design for expected user – group . this is flat topo.
- Potential hike-only trails
- Horse, hike, and bike enhancements
- Know what set-back rules are for horses by river/incorporate rules
- Adopt a trail/facility implementation
- Trails address multiple uses across entire landscape
- Side forest, above Cle Elum maintain trails
- Trails on lands to North are really important connections for Teanaway
- Link up trails through Teanaway to National Forest

#### Motorized Use

- No ORV trails because of safety, because of trail sustainability
- Other uses besides hiking & horseback riding: hunting, Keep ORV/ATV out of areas with trails. Perhaps just designate one area for them, perhaps Dickey Creek or Rye Creek. Designate totally non-motorized area (like Blewett Pass) for skiing/snowshoeing
- Think trails should all be multiple use. I am a big motorcycle rider. Like to do loops on trails so do not have to go on too many roads. Think people need to understand what to do if come across other users though.
- ORV trails that provide interaction with wildlife and nature and views.
- Would like to see motorized ORV use on land south of the Middle Fork. Many trails/roads already present. Leave remainder of forest non-motorized.
- Enforce no motorized rec rules/regulations. Write tickets. Confiscate vehicle.
- No motorized recreation should be allowed! Motorized recreation damages trails and causes erosion.
- Along with ORV trails come NOVA funding opportunity
- I have private property on 5420 Teanaway Rd. I do not want off road ORVs to cross from Mason Creek access.
- Connections from trails are important, especially to communities & other lands. Involve Cle Elum Ranger District in ORV uses. Maps available, contact Mikki Douglass. Volunteer program: “adopt a site”, “adopt a trail”

- All trails should be multi-use (non-moto & moto)
- Motorized use access from Bear Creek (The Last Resort) and come all the way down cross west fork to Middle Fork. Private property owners try to keep them out. Not so successful.
- I really like to see the elk & deer and they don't stay around when the ATVs are there.
- Bridge at the end of 4305, over West Fork Teanaway
- Would love to keep ORV trails open from Ronald. This area is possible for my family to enjoy and for future generations. These trails are beginner friendly, unlike current Teanaway Trails.
- Motorized uses pose public safety hazard. If they went slower and more respectful it might work.
- Please don't generalize all ORV riders.
- Forest not appropriate for motorized use. There are plenty of other places for motorized use.
- No there are not. There are no places in eastern Washington where families and kids can ride dirt bikes away from illegal forest service roads.
- ORV use will bring higher maintenance. If ORVs are allowed the trails will need to be highly engineered. Look at user built trails – decide which need to stay or go. Watershed protection will drive location for trails.
- ORV groups come and build/maintain bridges at their own cost. This is a kind of win/win situation where the community can share rather than hate.
- Soils not compatible with large scale ORV use. Topography is too flat and will allow ORVs to go all over the area – it will be difficult to contain them.
- Keep existing motorized trails & roads open to ORV use. Motorized use should keep access for local uses, as well develop trail heads. Easements to Forest Service for their trails that enter TCF.
- ORV Use – good backcountry riding, connection to forest service to tie existing trails
- Travels vs. use of roads
- Hiking, ORV, trails tied into Geology (education)
- Opportunities for easier trail riding – ORV
- Horses and ORVs are not compatible, zoning for primary use
- Concern about ORV & Fire & damage
- Less restricted trails, more multiple use
- Do not shut down ORVs

### Campgrounds

- Campgrounds: improve existing ones (already being done some). Provide bathrooms. Provide drinking water. No RV hook-ups, but have some sites large enough for RVs. Keep campsites 100 feet from water. New areas for campsites: Indian Creek/ Middle Creek, Rye Creek, First Creek
- Equestrian. Overflow parking needed at Indian camp for horses.
- Boise-Cascade campground for horses/camping?
- Indian Camp: install speed limit signs, install speed bumps, slow traffic down, increase safety.
- Need stock area camping & day-use parking on West Fork – Teanaway campground
- Is Boise Cascade/Teaway campground OK for horse camping? West Fork Rd.
- Campgrounds cleaned up, properly designate

- Campsites not too close to river, enhance riparian corridor
- Manastash campground is good example
- Camping experience upgraded, focused plan, considering increasing population (sustainable growth)
- Zone campgrounds for motorhomes v. single tent camping
- Investment for safe and clean camping
- We have enough campground, improve ones we have

#### Other

- Allow target shooting

#### **Goal 4: Fish and Wildlife Habitat – *Conserve and restore vital habitat for fish, including steelhead, spring chinook, and bull trout, and wildlife, including deer, elk, large predators, and spotted owls;***

- Who (& where) are releasing beavers? Control plan?
- Protect wolf pack even if it limits recreational access
- Control wolf pack
- Seasonal closures OK
- Roads to remain available for easy access to view wildlife, scenery, etc.
- Don't need more roads
- No fencing, free movement for game
- Limit the wolves, not the recreation
- Re: Game – wish there was more enforcement
- Re: ORV/ATC Access & Operation, too much chasing/agitating wildlife
- Provide a spot/beat on the river where youngsters could use spinners, live bait; age is the determinant (eg, 10 or 12).
- Constructing bridges at current low water crossings
- ORVs not compatible with wildlife, scared by the noise. Horses do not.
- Create programs to attract school students & classes to familiarization tours/seminars (wildlife, Teanaway River, geology)
- Use signage to ID features, geology, historic sites (Caslan Village)
- USE TCF as an educational opportunity (“Community Forest for Community Schools”)
- Reduce the wolf & cougar population
- Improve the fish habitat along the 3 forks of the river
- Fish populations improve
- Control of hunters, through gates; Access is controlled; Perhaps zoning for hunting, to limit access to wildlife corridors
- Beavers are good for water retention & forming wetlands. Use beaver to help restore channelized streams; but manage them in a way so they don't destroy infrastructure.
- Too many wolves & cougars, need balance for predators & prey.

**Goal 5: Community Involvement – *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.***

- Respect private property rights & privacy of landowners (Reduce or eliminate trespassing by foot, horse, bike & motorized vehicles).
  - o Work with individual property owners to determine acceptable & effective methods including gates, signage, enforcement.
- Provide property boundaries, fence or post boundaries
- Consider geology in working lands and recreation. TCF has a lot of unique geology (Contact Nick Zentner, CWU), to incorporate/avoid impacts and as a public education opportunity (road-side kiosks).
- Who belongs to gate @ end of road on West Fork? We do not want it removed but road to it past campground needs Help!!! Please advise owners.
- Find ways to create/support more local jobs
- Want to see compromise from all sides
- See boundary signs in areas where it is not clear what is public or private.
- Publicize the history of the area so people are educated on why this place is important.
- Want to see more/better maps & GPS
- Good Signage; public education about boundaries
- Mechanisms for updating the plan