

# Teanaway Community Forest



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**



WASHINGTON STATE  
**Natural Resources**

## Charter for the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee

### Introduction

The Teanaway Community Forest was opened to the public on October 1, 2013, as Washington's first state-managed Community Forest. Through a series of voluntary joint agreements between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) is managed by DNR and WDFW in an equal partnership, based on the principle of joint decision-making. DNR and WDFW have jointly established the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee in compliance with Chapter 90.38 and Chapter 79.155 in the Revised Code of Washington. The first members of the Advisory Committee were jointly selected by DNR and WDFW and appointed on March 10, 2014.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide DNR and WDFW with advice and recommendations on the creation of the Management Plan for the Teanaway Community Forest and its subsequent ongoing management. In accordance with the principles of the Community Forest Trust Program, which is founded upon the concept of communities working together with the State to preserve the forests they love, the Advisory Committee is intended to embody a balanced and representative sample of the governments, communities, and stakeholders who successfully advocated for the creation of the TCF and remain invested in its future. DNR and WDFW retain decision-making authority over the landscape and will consider recommendations from the Advisory Committee in making those decisions. The Advisory Committee will provide DNR and WDFW with the information and feedback required to ensure that their joint management of the TCF reflects the priorities of a broad consensus of the Washingtonians who cherish the Teanaway Community Forest.

### Principles

Members of the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee should strive to conduct themselves with collegiality, respect, and patience at all times while fulfilling their duties as Committee members. Members of the Advisory Committee are expected to view themselves as members of a single team, working collaboratively to provide advice to DNR and WDFW that is as broadly supported and reflective of the Advisory Committee as a whole, as feasible. Members of the Committee should endeavor to avoid unnecessary conflicts by building strong working relationships with other Committee members, founded upon mutual trust and respect for divergent priorities.

### Membership Selection & Term

The membership of the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee is chosen at the sole discretion of DNR and WDFW within the parameters set by the Washington State Legislature in Chapter 90.38 of the Revised Code of Washington. The size of the Advisory Committee shall not exceed 20 members. The term of the first appointments of the Advisory Committee shall last until June 30, 2015. All subsequent appointments will be for one year, beginning on July 1, and may be renewed indefinitely by DNR and WDFW. No alternates or substitutes will be accepted on behalf of any Committee member

except for the representatives of the Yakama Nation, Department of Ecology, and Kittitas County Board of Commissioners.

Members may be removed and replaced by joint agreement between DNR and WDFW if their conduct contradicts the expectations laid out in this charter. Members may be appointed in the case of a vacancy or at the end of the term of an existing member. In the case of the resignation, removal, or death of an existing member, DNR and WDFW may appoint a replacement that will serve the remainder of the previous member's term.

### **Member Representation**

In Chapter 90.38, DNR is directed to appoint "representatives" to the Advisory Committee from the Yakama Nation, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners. In accordance with legislative direction, these three members are expected to speak officially on behalf of the entities they represent. Because of the legislative direction that requires mandatory representatives from these three entities, they are given a limited waiver from the prohibition against alternates/substitutes for three meetings-per-year. This waiver may be utilized as soon as a designated alternate for these three meetings is agreed upon with DNR/WDFW.

In the same statute, DNR is also directed to appoint representatives from the local community, land conservation organizations, and local agricultural interests. Multiple members of the first committee appointed are members of these three broad interest groups, so there is no single designated representative for any of these three additional groups. DNR and WDFW will ensure that the Advisory Committee remains in compliance with the law by ensuring that the six statutorily-mandated groups are always represented on the Committee.

Except for the representatives of the Yakama Nation, the Department of Ecology, and the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners, all other members of the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee are appointed "at large" as individuals, not as delegates of organizations. If a member was endorsed by a stakeholder organization to represent its interests on the Advisory Committee, they are encouraged to frequently consult with that organization to ensure that the constituents they represent are informed and heard. However, these members are expected to approach each issue with an open mind as individuals and may disagree with the positions expressed by any organization that endorsed or supported their appointment.

### **Administration of the Advisory Committee**

The Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee is administered and supervised by DNR and WDFW on the basis of equal partnership and joint decision-making. DNR and WDFW jointly schedule all meetings, prepare agendas and staff reports for all meetings, and provide staff to administer the meetings. The Advisory Committee will be supported by the regional representatives of DNR and WDFW that are given decision-making authority under the TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT, signed by the leaders of the two agencies on October 1, 2013.

DNR and WDFW retain the sole authority to appoint a chair for the Advisory Committee, either from their respective staffs or from the existing roster of the Advisory Committee. In the absence of an appointed chair, the committee meetings will be administered and managed by a facilitator appointed by DNR or WDFW, or by staff representatives of the agencies. In concert with any chair or facilitator they appoint, DNR and WDFW have the sole authority to start, conduct, and adjourn meetings of the Advisory Committee.

### **Advisory Committee Decision-Making**

All recommendations of the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee are made after the

Committee members are given sufficient time to study, discuss, and deliberate on an issue. Full consensus among Committee members will be sought, but not required, for the Advisory Committee's final recommendation. In the case where consensus cannot be reached after significant effort by the Advisory Committee, a formal tally will be taken and the outcome recorded. Majority and minority opinions will be noted in meeting documentation, and specific points or issues where consensus could not be reached will be included.

Of those members present at a meeting, a majority of votes (of the members present at the meeting) are necessary to officially adopt a recommendation. A Committee member must be present to vote, and a tally will not be delayed due to the absence of a Committee member. Advisory Committee members have a responsibility to be briefed if they miss a previous meeting, and there will not be repeat discussions for a member who was previously absent unless the full Committee agrees.

If the Advisory Committee cannot agree on a recommendation in a timely fashion, it should not delay DNR and WDFW from making land management decisions related to the issue being discussed.

### **Advisory Committee Scope of Work**

The initial responsibility of the Advisory Committee is to advise DNR and WDFW on the completion of the first Management Plan for the Teanaway Community Forest by June 30, 2015. In Chapter 90.38 of the Revised Code of Washington, the Washington State Legislature gives clear direction on what the Management Plan must include:

"The plan must ensure that the land is managed in a manner that is consistent with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan principles for forestland acquisitions, including the following:

- (i) To protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed;
- (ii) To maintain working lands for forestry and grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat;
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) 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
- (v) 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."

This high-level, strategic Management Plan will formalize the general principles, expectations, and parameters of how DNR and WDFW will manage the Teanaway to comply with the legislative direction quoted above. The Advisory Committee will hold work sessions, open to the public, to discuss and identify objectives for each of the five goals laid out by the legislature. The Advisory Committee will also recommend strategies to achieve those objectives.

Though the initial Management Plan will provide direction for subsequent implementation plans, it will not deal with specific projects and actions to be taken on the landscape. The Advisory Committee will also advise the agencies about the structure and level of long-term community involvement in the management of the Teanaway Community Forest.

Committee members are also expected to help inform and engage with the public about the development of the Teanaway Community Forest, as well the Management Plan and its implementation. Members are encouraged to engage with constituents, understand their concerns, and relate those concerns to the committee at large. Agendas of the Committee meetings will be made public prior to the meeting; and the notes from the meeting will be made public after it. Other forms of public outreach will be undertaken through open houses, online surveys, and other methods deemed appropriate. Comments taken from the open houses and online surveys will be compiled and delivered to the Committee for their review.

Though Advisory Committee members are encouraged to engage with the public, they may not speak on behalf of the Committee at large or claim to represent the Committee at large unless expressly authorized to do so by the Committee and by DNR and WDFW.

**Charter Amendments**

This charter may be amended through the joint written agreement of DNR and WDFW through the processes outlined in the TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.

**Term of Charter and Termination**

This charter will remain in place indefinitely, except if the Teanaway property is transferred out of community forest status for failing to meet the water supply facility permit and funding milestones set forth in RCW 90.38, or if the land management partnership of DNR and WDFW is otherwise terminated through the processes outlined in the TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.