

Goal 3 as defined by the legislature is, “Maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding and snowmobiling;”

The Teaway Community Forest Advisory Committee’s focus related to Goal 3 is to provide recommendations for how to maintain and where possible, expand recreation when it is consistent with watershed protection efforts. This means that regardless of the type of recreation experience ultimately desired, it must be consistent with all the other objectives for the community forest.

Historically allowed recreational activities include camping, swimming, kayaking, hiking, trail running, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, mushroom hunting, gold panning, and target shooting. Off-road vehicles (ORVs), was not an allowed use under either of the previous owners, American Forest Holdings or Boise Cascade, though non-sanctioned ORV usage did occur. Non-motorized recreation historically occurred on 334 miles of forest roads built by the previous property owners to manage the forest. Access to these roads is controlled by berms, earthen barricades, and 24 vehicle gates. Camping occurred on two campgrounds, or on Indian Camp located on State Trust Lands. Historically the previous landowners did not allow dispersed camping.

There are 6.5 miles of community forest roads and 10 miles of USFS managed roads open to vehicles during the summer season. Many of the Teaway roads are seasonally closed by snow. Only the county roads, Middle Fork Teaway and North Fork Teaway, are cleared of snow up to where the pavement ends. A snowmobile group entered into an agreement with the previous property owners to groom portions of the forest for winter-season motorized use.

Many organized events (groups greater than 25 people) occur in the Teaway every year. Historically, there was no permitting process for organized events. There are countless groups including BCH, church groups, outfitter/guides, tours, family reunions, races, and biking events occurring nearly every weekend during the summer months on the Teaway Community Forest (TCF).

Recommendations are needed to help in identifying the type of experiences the forest should provide, to understand the desired balance between high intensity structured events such as group orienteering rides or outdoor races and more personal non-organized experiences such as hiking, camping, trail riding, hunting, or fishing. This may range from the current pattern of random or dispersed use to a completely different, more structured, experience in which types of uses are controlled in some manner.

While past landowners attempted to actively manage recreational opportunities in the forest it was not their primary objective. With the TCF there is the opportunity to create an active recreation management program that provides a wide range of great recreational opportunities in a manner which becomes a model of compatibility, not only between traditionally non-compatible uses, but more importantly in a manner which supports watershed protection.