

## Comments from the Public Open House - December 4, 2014

### **Community Partnerships**

- User groups that are active in preserving trail quality should be given preference.
- Wonderful geology education opportunities – connect with CWU’s Geology Dept.
- Same info as the AC gets in advance – process improvement suggestions
- Look world-wide for creative options – or create creative options yourselves. It’s a unique opportunity.
- Forestry needs to remain a part of the long-term revenue stream to support the forest.
- Lease the water rights
- Education
  - o What is open grazing? Need signs
  - o Mark the forest entrances
  - o Maps – show private property and note no public access, and mark info kiosks.
- Maps of existing conditions, roads, trails, neighboring ownerships
- Maps of adjoining landowners, TNC, Roslyn Town Forest etc
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### **Wildlife Habitat:**

- Plan should recognize the value of the TCF for the vibrant ponderosa pine bird community, including white-headed woodpecker, flammulated owl, pygmy owl, pygmy nuthatch, etc. Many birders from W. Washington travel to Cle Elum specifically to see the birds.
- Prioritize stream and floodplain restoration in outlined action items.
- Modify master hunter program in TCF.
- Bring back the herds.
- Bring back hunters and fair access.
- Opportunities for all hunters.
- Strive for ecological resilience through protecting native plant communities.
- Soil conservation.
- Preserve serene environment/habitat by limiting motorized use.

### **Recreation:**

- Prioritize Goals:
  1. Watershed Protection
  2. Wildlife
  3. Community
  4. Sustainable Forestry
  5. Recreation

A clean and healthy environment is the only thing that will sustain “us”.

- People have seen a lot of irreversible damage to the habitat in the TCF.
- Once ORV is open, tribal hunters will come in and hunt so have seasonal closures and more LEO presence.
- TCF needs to get grants for maintaining enforcement, etc. (NOVA Grant, ORVs)
- Better communication between user groups. For example: USFS has a Facebook page that lets groups know about events and work parties, etc.
- A true sportsman should respect all user groups- Don't “divide and conquer”.
- Have user fees to fund restoration proportional to the amount of impact that each type of use has.
- All user groups should have access.
- There is no need to separate user groups. They can work together to maintain trails.
- Motorized groups want to help with educational signage, etc.
- People would like to see engagement from user groups. For example: Maintenance, trail stewardships, it's “our” trail so they'll want to protect it.
- Continue to allow horseback riding, hiking and snowmobiling
- Provide areas for cross-country skiing; marked routes would be good. Provide winter plowing of parking lots.
- Include all user groups:
- Stakeholders-invite them to participate as well!
- Include Bird watching and quiet areas.
- Encourage linkages with CWU Geography Students, etc. for fieldwork and mapping.
- Have limited ORV use to protect riparian areas and adjacent properties.
- Protect meadows and other wildlife areas.
- Reduce Motorized recreation especially near waterways and riparian zones.

- Out of area/state groups should not be lobbying for a local community forest. Let the people that will use the area provide the input.
- Excited about this public community effort. Thank you for making a space that was receptive to diverse views and feedback.

### **Camping-**

- Keep campgrounds primitive.
- More areas for stock camping.
- No dispersed camping.

### **Trails-**

- In 25 square miles at Cle Elum there are about 271 miles of motorized trails, but no dedicated mountain bike trails. Need more mountain bike trails.
- Very interested in creating network of Mt Bike Trails. These can be a variety of types
  - o Single track bike only
  - o Bike/hike
  - o Bike/moto/etc
- Want varying types of terrain from family friendly to competitive downhill single track. Loops and stacked for distance, variety.
- Mt. Bike community is strong. Lots of people in local community are Mt Bikers and they are eager to be volunteers, stewards and help create grass root movement to bring good efforts to the Community Forest.
- Connect Roslyn and TCF
- Stacking length/abilities/dedicated single use/dedicated double use.
- Winter Rec Mt. Biking becoming a huge national interest. Works well with Snow shoeing, XC and Ice Bikes.
- Check out Methow XC trail system for a system that is working very well.
- Develop better trail heads- but no need for asphalt for horses.
- Have proper mix of trails- some more advanced than others and well-marked for mountain bikers. These could be integrated.
- Connect trails to Cle Elum/Roslyn communities and especially nature conservation and “The Ridge”.
- Increase connectivity of mapping recreation with adjacent lands (USFS RUF).
- Have connecting trails to Cle Elum, Roslyn.
- Have dedicated mountain bike trails.
- Have dedicated cross country ski looped trails.
- Would like to see designated cross country ski trail system (and snowshoeing).

- Have motorized and non-motorized separate.
- No one should be excluded from the TCF but each group/activity does need space allocated to the activity. IE: Moto should have a allocated role/space in the plan.
- Separate motorized and equestrian access points and trails.
- People would like to see separated trails where possible to keep user groups safe and areas well maintained for the specific use.
- Have winter trail heads that are non-motorized.
- Trails that have an “end of trail” are a cause of users to blaze unregulated routes. So the stacking/loops are important for good maintenance, and enforcement etc.
- Allow connectivity from river to ridge – needs to be cohesive, right now too fragmented.
- Single use looped trails for mountain bike trails.
- More mountain bike trails with various skill levels accommodated.
- Mountain bikers have no dedicated trails in Kittitas County. We would like a few in the Teanaway. Keep up the good work. I know it’s not easy.
- Develop loops for mtn. bikes – 10, 20, 50 miles.
- Need to have some separated trails for different user groups, especially for safety of newer recreation users. Have trails marked for skill levels; staked loops, utilize space better.
- Have multi-use Horse/Hiker trails.
- Use regional models to develop trail systems. For example:
  1. Bend, OR
  2. Winthrop, WA
  3. Hood River, OR
- Don’t “reinvent the wheel”- Look at Hood River Recreation Area (Post Canyon) that is multi-use. Also, Capital Forest, etc.
- Teanaway should be for non-motorized use, the traditional, local community use should be primary.

**Motorized Vehicles Use-**

- ORV is a wonderful partner in all our goal management areas.
- Don’t cut off access to USFS and allow ORVs to use.
- Jeep trails are important.
- There are concerns that motorcycles ruin trails for other user groups, so at least keep separate.

- Allow limited ATV/ UTV use on trial basis.
- Partner with ORV groups to restore trail water crossings with bridges.
- Middle Fork Rd- have community forest access for motorized.
- Have connections for motorcycles to access FS trail systems. (North Fork, Middle Fork, West Fork, and Miller Peak).
- Motorized recreation is not compatible with stated goals.
- Preserve the serene nature of the area and remove motorized/hunting user groups. There are plenty of options for them in adjacent areas. Give non-motorized users preference in the area.
- No motorized vehicles in the Teanaway Forest because:
  1. They're damaging to the trails
  2. Noise pollution- stressful to wildlife and humans
  3. Fire hazard
  4. It is dangerous for non-motorized users
  5. They ignore regulations
- Keep the TCF as it has been (open to hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders). No motorized vehicles. If you want to see the damage that motorized vehicles do, visit Buck Meadows or the Wenas. They have damaged roads, created wheel ruts, that don't drain-off, washboard on trails, off-roading in areas they shouldn't be. We left the west side of the mountains after losing all the beautiful, pristine forests we rode in. Don't make that mistake with the TCF. Let's keep it beautiful, quiet and filled with wildlife; not noisy ATVs and motorbikes.
- No motorized access to the TCF.
- TCF should be non-motorized (as is) because it's too hard on trails and can scare wildlife.
- Absolutely no motorized vehicles in the TCF because it's bad for the economy. If there is, keep separate.
- Don't let ORV bully their way into an area they never had before.
- Keep lower zone (Roslyn/Cle Elum should remain non-motorized).
- Once the ORV is in they never come out.
- Is motorized recreation even a possibility?
- Have USFS ORV Ranger Come to TCF Meeting (Mikki Douglass).

- WG CASA Community can develop access areas for motorized use, and then promote those areas, protected habitat can be preserved, I look forward to participating in the solution (Chuck Radawick 253-651-7074)
- Motorized use is food for the local economy. It brings in people who eat at the restaurants, buy gas at the local stations, shop at the stores, etc.
- I am an off-road motorcycle rider and would like to see more open mindedness from the hiking and horseback riding communities. Lockin out a user group will never be the answer to proper use of public lands.
- Motorized trails are 100% sustainable and non-damaging when managed/maintained properly.
- Motorized use is not mutually exclusive to habitat preservation. Let the users help.
- The motorized community is a great resource and great partner for restoration and improvements on the TCF. Working together with land managers, the ORV families have made continuous and important improvements to the environment in the Naches and Cle Elum Ranger Districts. I'm happy to provide those examples. (Dan Huff 509-952-0290)
- There are concerns that it will be hard to regulate and keep motorized users off private land.
- At least 9 people voted for motorized recreation in the TCF.
- Single use looped trails for ORV to connect to USFS.
- Connect USFS trails with TCF to make loops for motorbikes and all users.
- Make sure there is law- conformance, especially with ORV users No single use trails:
  1. Have multi-use non-motorized trails.
  2. Have multi-use motorized trails.

**Grazing:**

- Kiosks should have geology info provided.
- Glad to see keeping grazing in the TCF is being considered.
- People want to see sheep grazing as it provides the benefit of reducing fire danger/ fire fuels.
- People would like to see sheep in the valley for fire wise and cattle as well.
- No fencing. Restoration of native grasses and native plants.
- Chipping for restoration purposes:
  1. Weed control
  2. Compaction

### 3. Compost

- People would like to see the continuation of forest management and grazing.
- Promote logging in the community forest.
- Move away from owl circles to make a healthy forest.
- Share history of Teanaway at kiosks including:
  1. Grazing
  2. Homesteading
  3. Logging
  4. Ski Resort
- TCF needs better signage for what open range really means. More info at Kiosks showing benefits and history of grazing.
- Manage forest for forest health. Make it more defensible in fires and thin forest.
- There's a lack of fencing for riparian areas.
- Continue grazing but protect riparian areas. Limit access to streams.