

Teanaway Community Forest Community Partnerships and Outreach Committee Charter

Introduction

Overview

In 2013 the state took a bold step forward to protect the 50,241-acre Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) as the state's first community forest and most significant land conservation achievement in 45 years. It represents a new model in state land management that allows the state to partner with communities to conserve the forests they love and manage them to ensure the protection of the landscape's environmental, economic, and social benefits. The acquisition of the Teanaway represents the first major step taken to implement the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, a larger effort to protect and restore the headwaters of the Yakima basin to ensure a sustainable water supply for the working lands, wildlife, and communities of the basin.

The Teanaway serves as a critical link in the network of public lands in upper Kittitas County. Nearly 400 miles of free-flowing streams run through the landscape, and a wide variety of species from [FISH to FISH] to gray wolves and moose depend on vital habitat. The working lands of the Teanaway also provide for grazing and timber operations, and the area attracts a diversity of recreational users. When lawmakers approved the Teanaway purchase, they established clear goals for the management of the forest to ensure a balance of uses grounded in the principles of watershed restoration and protection, including:

Goal 1. Protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed;

Goal 2. Maintain working lands for forestry and grazing and grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitats;

Goal 3. Maintain and where possible expand recreation opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, birding and snowmobiling;

Goal 4. 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

Goal 5. Support strong community partnerships, in which the Yakama Nation, residents, business owners, local governments, conservation groups and others provide advice about ongoing land management.

These goals serve as the foundation for the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan, which was completed in June 2015. The state-appointed 20-person Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee worked together to develop a management plan for the Community Forest. The Advisory Committee is made up of Teanaway neighbors and community residents, conservationists, and lovers of all kinds of recreation, and stand ready to work with the agencies to ensure sound management of this forest well into the future.

Challenge

While the protection of the Teanaway was a great conservation achievement, the management and long-term stewardship of this complex landscape poses challenges for the state agencies without sustained funding and

staffing resources to meet competing priorities and demands. It is clear the \$100 million purchase price of this property has challenged the state’s ability to secure sufficient funding for long-term land management. Last year, the state received only 10 percent of its request, and only 20 percent of its request this year. Without adequate funding and robust stewardship, the Community Forest will only make marginal progress toward its goals, and the promise of the state’s first community forest will be unfulfilled.

Opportunity

One of the most unique aspects of the community forest management model is the role of the community in guiding and informing state land management. One critical role the community can also play is to support the state agency in achieving its goals in a variety of ways—through innovative partnerships, fundraising, advocacy, ongoing stewardship, and more. The Advisory Committee can serve some of these functions, but a more proactive, organized and sustained community-driven effort is necessary to make the vision for the Community Forest a reality.

As the state’s first community forest, an incredible opportunity awaits to forge a new model of community engagement, partnership, and support to ensure the Teanaway can accomplish the ambitious goals set forth by the state legislature, fulfill the protection and restoration goals of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, and create something the community is proud of and views as an irreplaceable asset. Sustained advocacy and a committed constituency are essential to realizing the goals of the Community Forest as well as driving more of a landscape-scale approach to land management in the greater Teanaway basin.

Purpose and Guiding Principles

The core purpose of the Coalition/Community Partnerships and Outreach Committee is to cultivate a constituency that will work with the state agencies to make the vision of the Teanaway Community Forest a reality. We want the community to come to love the Teanaway and join in the collective effort to accomplish shared goals in creative ways. We will work closely with state agencies to implement Goal 5 of the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan. The committee aspires to:

- Raise awareness about Community Forest and grow a sense of pride among the community
- Be the “grease” to getting the Teanaway Community Forest moving toward its goals
- Cultivate and curate champions for the Teanaway
- Uphold civic discourse on the role of the Community Forest in the larger basin
- Collaborate with a diversity of partners
- Leverage and grow funding and resources committed to the Teanaway
- Balance the tension between the Teanaway as the community’s backyard as well as a state resource

The work of the committee will be guided by the following principles:

- We involve and engage the community
- We strive to collaborate, leverage, and share for the betterment of the whole
- We seek a diversity of opinions and views, striving for a balanced approach
- We work to break inertia in creative ways to ensure a path to progress
- We seek and provide expert advice to complement ongoing efforts on the Community Forest

Committee Action Areas

Working from the strategies, goals, and objectives presented in Goal 5 of the TCF Management, the committee has established five action areas:

1. **Facilitate and Communicate.** The committee will partner with the TCF Advisory Committee and state agencies to ensure transparency, maintain clear and open lines of communication, and facilitate partnership opportunities to accomplish goals.
2. **Educate and Engage.** The committee will work to educate and engage the community and TCF users about the TCF and raise awareness about the forest in creative ways.
3. **Cultivate and Collaborate.** The committee will work to cultivate a committed constituency for the Teanaway that will leverage resources to accomplish goals, generate new partnerships, and ultimately grow a broad-based coalition to support the forest over the long-term.
4. **Leverage and Advocate.** The committee will work to leverage and grow the pool of resources available to accomplish TCF goals and advocate on behalf of the state agencies to ensure adequate resources are allocated and actions taken to support the TCF.

Members

The Committee is composed of Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee members and other key partners and individuals that will help accomplish the committee's goals.

Committee Commitments and Expectations

Each member of this committee works to support efforts on the Teanaway Community Forest and to accomplish goals set forth by this committee. To the extent of their interests and abilities, all members will: (1) encourage their members (if applicable) to advocate for the Teanaway Community Forest vision and implementation of the management plan; (2) help build and mobilize grassroots support for the TCF and encourage members to support the TCF through social media, events, and other tools; and (3) advocate for and participate in community engagement and outreach activities.

Committee Structure

TBD

Meetings

TBD

From the MGMT PLAN (as a reference)

Maintain existing partnerships and establish new collaborations between public agencies, user groups, and citizen volunteers.

- Welcome interest and support from individuals and organizations that want to partner with the agencies to develop a non-profit foundation to enhance and assist the agencies' efforts in the Community Forest.
- Use the diverse membership of the Teanaway Advisory Committee to seek ongoing advice about land management
- Participate in land and resource management discussions at both a regional and local level.
 - a. Continue to participate in collaborative forest management organizations, such as the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative, to coordinate forest management across land ownerships.
 - b. Continue to participate in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan to coordinate watershed restoration activities.
 - c. Use the resources in these groups to move toward landscape-level planning, especially for subjects related to watershed health, forestry, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and river management.
- Partner with volunteer groups and non-profit organizations, community groups, and recreation clubs to educate the public and to maintain and restore the forest.
- Develop partnerships with local communities and adjacent public land managers to provide linkages and common messaging for the network of regional trails.
- Use technology and new media, such as social media, blogs, e-newsletters, websites, email, and citizen science to increase outreach to potential volunteers.
- Provide volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups to assist with the management of the forest. Use volunteers from non-governmental organizations, the local community, schools, and universities to provide services that would otherwise not be completed due to lack of funding. Leverage existing resources to provide opportunities in areas, such as:
 - a. Citizen science/monitoring
 - b. Recreation: trail maintenance, campground maintenance
 - c. Forest Watch/Eyes in the Woods
 - d. Restoration projects
 - e. Advocacy for the Teanaway Community Forest
- Bring together a broad group of interested organizations and individuals when creating and implementing the recreation plan.

Develop programs to educate the public about the Teanaway Community Forest.

- Develop the Teanaway Community Forest as a learning center for the social and ecological topics for which it is ideally suited.
 - a. Welcome proposals by groups to provide environmental education opportunities to tell the story of the forest's natural and cultural history, the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, and the history of the community forest project.
 - b. Welcome proposals by groups to conduct scientific research activities consistent with the goals of the forest.
 - c. Provide education on appropriate recreational uses.
- Support partnerships that involve local schools and youth groups in recreation and environmental education.

Ensure that revenue generation within the community forest is consistent with legislative goals; develop revenue streams.

- Income generated from the Community Forest or with Community Forest materials will be used to support activities within the forest.
- Provide economic opportunities for the forest from the following sources:
 - a. Forestry
 - b. Grazing
 - c. Water
 - d. Recreation
- Require the use of the Discover Pass for recreating in the forest. Consider other permits, such as large group permits and special recreation permits.
- Establish a process to define commercial activities and how they would be approved. Any income generated would be returned to the forest.
- Search and apply for appropriate grants to fund staff, work, and infrastructure in the Community Forest.
- Welcome support from others who want to raise funds for the Community Forest.
- Build a coalition to assist in funding efforts, including legislators, agencies, non-governmental organizations, agricultural partners and community members.

Ensure an enforcement and education presence in the Community Forest.

- Provide an active education and enforcement presence in the forest using agency recreation rules and enforcement officers, partners, and volunteers.
- Control access through seasonal closures, gates, and other tools.
- Deploy enforcement resources to address the broad array of commercial activities – including forest products harvesting, logging, hydraulic project development and related activities – that will occur in the forest.
- Encourage user-groups to self-police, and empower stakeholders to be advocates for the forest.
- Assert the authority to restrict use if damage occurs.