

THE TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST WATER RIGHT

Objective

Carefully manage the water rights in a manner that does not diminish the value of the asset now or into the future through the use of the following framework and decision-making criteria.

- 1) Advisory Committee Support: As in all TCF management issues, the Advisory Committee consensus is not required but highly desirable.
- 2) Legal Risk: The proposal must be able to demonstrate low political and legal risk. These two types of risk must be specifically addressed by a proposal since we are aware that both types of risk exist currently in the world of water banks in Kittitas County.
- 3) Fair Market Value: Any proposal must adhere to good business practices including a fair market value assessment.
- 4) Support of other YBIP Partners/Water Users: It would be advisable for the proposal to have the WDOE, Yakama Nation, The Bureau of Reclamation, and other major water users review and support it. The Water Transfer Working Group appears to be a meaningful vehicle for obtaining that review and support.
- 5) YBIP Goals: The proposal must be consistent with the goals of the YBIP. Mitigating for existing unmitigated wells would be a viable use of water, in the context of an otherwise supportable proposal.
- 6) Benefit(s) to the TCF: Long term benefit to the TCF is an essential element of any successful proposal. This means addressing an overriding concern about ongoing stewardship resources such as revenue for the Community Forest Trust. This issue was a strong concern of all parties involved in the purchase of the Teanaway and was specifically called out in the YBIP Watershed Lands Subcommittee Report. Proposals that directly address that long term need will be favored over short term proposals. The agencies will be looking at any proposal through the lens of long-term economic benefit to the TCF (ie, potable water for campgrounds, revenue generation for stewardship of the forest).
- 7) Combined TCF/YBIP Benefits: Ensuring that the TCF achieves its role in the YBIP is essential to the success of a proposal. Use of the water that directly meets the resource goals of the YBIP and provides long-term, ongoing benefits back to the TCF is desirable.
- 8) Opportunity Costs: Any proposal must address how it will provide compensation for lost opportunities as a result of it being implemented.
- 9) Any future use of the water inside the community forest shall not impact late-season base flows for fish. Uses for restoration purposes shall not exceed three years without justification.
- 10) Any future use outside of the community forest must ensure that no water goes to projects that damage aquatic habitat, such as developments in the floodplain.
- 11) Any future use shall meet the requirements of the state's water code, such as proper fish screens.