

## March 8, 2018 Meeting Notes

### In Attendance

#### *Committee Members*

Dale Bambrick  
Darcy Batura  
Wayne Mohler  
Jeri Downs  
Deborah Essman

Paul Schmitt  
Laura Osiadacz  
Kitty Craig  
Mike Reimer  
Andrea Imler

Doug Schindler  
Tom Ring  
JJ Collins

#### *Agency Staff*

Doug McClelland  
Stephanie Margheim  
Mike Livingston  
Larry Leach

Laura Cooper  
Todd Welker  
William Meyer  
Ross Huffman

Elizabeth Eberle  
Bruce Botka  
Barry Collins  
Mike Callahan

**Meeting Purpose:** Finalize concepts for summer recreation trails and facilities. Prioritize recreation concepts. Work on recreation strategies and tactics for managing camping, events, trail experience, guide services, commercial recreation, and environmental education. Discuss plans for the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Welcome:** Introductions. Capital Budget Update: TCF received \$1.4M – road maintenance, fish passage, recreation improvements, grazing, and forest health.

### Summer Recreation Concept Development:

- Scenic Driving
  - Actual location is TBD. Low level details will be discussed during implementation.
- 4305 Road
  - The West Fork flood plain opens up wide as you go downstream near the USFS/TCF boundary, into the TCF and down to the confluence with the Middle Fork. Looking at easement, there is no narrow spot to put a trail across the river without impacting the flood plain.
  - The USFS is working on sustainable recreation – maintaining what they have, not constructing anything new at this time.
  - Guiding principle must be to protect and enhance the watershed and this route is not compatible with that.
  - The county's improvements to the roads in the Teanaway would be a safer evacuation route rather than pushing people down into the West Fork valley where fire would push. The Sheriff's Office is great at deciding evacuations.
- The whole Teanaway is expert only (motorcycles) and has some sort of gatekeeper on each trail. Adding connections that are easy/moderate may lead users to think it's an easy system when it is very technical. It could lead to users of inadequate skill trying to ride on expert trails.

#### TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST RECREATION PLAN

Washington State Department of Natural Resources | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

[Teanaway@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Teanaway@dnr.wa.gov) | [www.dnr.wa.gov/Teanaway](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Teanaway)

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- Middle Fork Trail is not useable until the trail is cleared, then motorcycles are allowed in and things change. There aren't many places you can get away from a road, and this is a good example of a place that gets away.
- Liar's Prairie connection
  - Trail would be a trail to nowhere at the USFS boundary since they currently do not have the capacity to develop new trail. Depending on the skill level of trails from the TCF to the USFS, you might be setting up the user to fail on a trail they are not qualified for.
- Jack Ridge Trail & Indian Creek Trail
  - USFS is not in a place right now to take on any new trail projects. Options could potentially be viable 10+ years down the line.
  - Indian Creek is a road almost all on DNR, a quick trail could connect to USFS rd. Jack is mostly on USFS.

## **Prioritize Recreation Concepts:** Map/dot exercise

**Public Comment:** Several comments were sent in ahead of time and shared with the committee.

- Lana Thomas Cruse – County Resident. The committee is being exclusive and not as inclusive as they preach, by not allowing motorized.
- Craig Mabie – Parks & Rec District. Towns to Teanaway meeting last week had a great turnout. Alternative maps are out on the Towns to Teanaway Facebook page.
- Jeff Nelson – West Fork Landowner. Concerned about sno-park parking on the West Fork and security measures for the property owners.
- Chris Martin – Roslyn Resident. Roslyn doesn't allow ATVs on their streets. Motorized users are trespassing and not following rules on his property. Congestion for non-motorized trailheads is huge as there are not nearly as many motorized users. The committee should ask the USFS to not allow motorized on their trails. Keep the motorized south of I-90. The TCF should be a non-motorized community and make more trails for those users. Middle Fork Trail should be non-motorized. Winterized concepts are great. Would be nice to link non-motorized corridor into TCF from Roslyn.
- Chuck Johnson – Teanaway Resident. Teanaway Valley Unit parking lot/traffic comment in handout. Since the lot is going in, agencies need to be proactive in signing trails and private property. We need to direct people instead of having them disperse everywhere and get onto private property. Traffic on the county road is fast and heavier than it used to be – traffic laws must be enforced.
- Nicky Pasi – Goal 5 group decided on June 23 for the Teanaway Work Day. More information to come.

## **Develop Recreation Strategies & Tactics:**

### Camping

- There needs to be a presence in the campgrounds, whether it's hosts or hosts/E&E combo, but hosts need services.
- Group camping should be able to reserve a group camp.
- First come, first served is great because so many other places require reservations really far out and it leaves room for procrastinators.
- Campgrounds should have a covered picnic shelter.

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- USFS had concessionaires who were solely in it for money and showed up late and left early; USFS is now doing it on their own because it didn't work out.
- There isn't a lot of signage out there. You could get better compliance with good signage at each site. Signs should be intuitive and clear.
- Kittitas County as a whole is very popular. Group camps should be able to get reservations. Requiring reservations will force people to move out and disperse camp where it's not sustainable and also spill over onto private land.
- There needs to be a solution for garbage (dumpsters).
- Need to plan for more campground sites now. Give agency a number to shoot for in the future.
- Gate campgrounds when they're full.

## Backcountry Camping

- Designated backcountry camping sites along trails in moderate/low density trail zones – single and group sites.
- Pull out areas with signs where people can park and must hike into a designated site.
- Work with Law Enforcement to come up with a map of dispersed walk-in camping areas away from private and away from the river. Backcountry rangers are needed for enforcement.
- Encouraging backcountry camping in this 50,000 acres isn't that important. You don't get real backcountry experience in the TCF. It's available at the forest service already.
- Rock formations should be no camping zones.

## Huts

- Assuming warming hut is for winter, the usage is more of a safety shelter. You could stay overnight if you had to for emergency/safety. Install in winter and stock with wood and then remove for summer.
- Some organizations are great at the hut business – more of the non-motorized users than motorized. It could be used 4-season "glamping."
- Hut on the ridge between Roslyn and Teanaway would be used by motorized and non-motorized users. Something that can be removed in the summer. In several areas they're run by volunteers – consider partnering with Towns to Teanaway to run it.

## Events

- If you welcome large events, you'll end up with many and overrun the forest.
- Event use shouldn't overwhelm normal use. Consider size limits and limit the number of events per given weekend/month.
- Prefer nature-based events over others – they do education and make money for the forest.

## Guide Services/Commercial Rec

- A good educational thing is a positive – geology, forest health, etc. hikes/talks. The forest should make some money on it.
- No commercialization or vendors.

**April 12 Community Meeting Logistics:** 6:00pm meet & greet. Meeting 6:30-8:30pm. TCF Recreation Plan presentation, overview of the last year's work, listening stations for strategies.