

*NOTE: The following is a compiled list of public comments concerning the Teanaway Community Forest, received at the Advisory Committee meeting at the Teanaway Grange and from the online survey tool.*

**Teanaway Community Forest – public comments given as letters,  
12/11/2014 – 1/7/2015**

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Re what we are looking for as to experience really are open trails to packgoats but also not lumped in with the heavy hooved horses/equestrians/mules. In Mt. Baker area there are a few trails that allow llamas and packgoats to be on during the winter but are closed to other packstock. We also wish to be able to volunteer in Teanaway on trails, carrying supplies, etc. The trails that we have used since I have been in packgoats (21 years now), are “horse/equestrian” trails – we realize that horses certainly have been grandfathered into the trail system and so signage is made for them but we have found that many horse folks believe if the trail or campground says “horses” it means horses only and no goats. Signage changing or addition to show “packstock/riding stock” would be great. The main difference between packgoats and horsepacking/equestrian is that the horses are ridden and we walk with our packgoats. We like this as we can go many more places that other stock don’t like to go – up steep hills, down steep canyons, over blow downs, etc. and all this without leaving impacts. One of the volunteer gravel pack ins we did a year ago there were just people and packgoats – no horses – and the forest service folks told us it was so nice to re build a stock trail and not have it already begin to crumble under the horses hooves on the way out. I am currently a member on the WA DNR Recreational Trails Policy Committee as a packgoat enthusiast – it is nice to be able to work with all the other trail users and to help educate them about packgoats. Being able to be in on a ground floor area like Teanaway could help create specific trail policies for packgoats. I have a packet that I put together for our committee and would love to send that to you. What address shall I use, and do you want me to send enough for how many folks? Thanks again. Look forward to helping out.  
Donna, Evergreen Packgoat Club

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REVIEW OF TCF GRAZING PLAN

December 16, 2014

1. Fencing

We would recommend minimal use of wire fencing, if any, in the TCF. What we have seen over the last 50 years is fences being built and not maintained.

It's always easier to get dollars to construct the fences, with partners, etc., but they become difficult to maintain. Notably, dollars are usually not available for maintenance and the fences are left to become an eye sore and/or hazard, with wires and posts left for eternity. Damage to wire fencing can be mainly attributed to snow accumulation with some animal damage, wildlife, cattle, etc. If enclosures are needed, with all other options considered, pole fencing would be the better option.

2. Cows Grazing the Uplands

A.) The two lessees in the TCF share the same range riders.

B.) Fudacz Brothers are the West Fork lessees.

C.) The riders drive our cattle to the uplands of our range area but from about the end of August

to round up time it has become more difficult for the riders to keep them up there. In discussing the problem with the riders, we can only attribute this to the following: a.) Increased recreation use by horse people, b.) ORV use since our leased area is mainly between the Middle Fork Road and the West Fork River, c.) Predators; cougars/wolves.

### 3. Grazing fees (revenue-neutral)

We don't know how this can be accomplished. This would be cost prohibitive to most if not all lessees. In our case, we pasture 4.5 months and feed hay for at least 7 months. Our operation is small and the overhead is killing us now. This and increased regulations would probably put us out of business.

### 4. Item 2 under AC input

It states grazing is managed for a, b, c. We see no bullet statements regarding forage improvement, such as drilling, disking, irrigation or use of prescribed fire in the existing pastures and other areas within the TCF. We think these options should be included and considered in the plan.

I was lead irrigator for American Forest Land Co. when we were irrigating five separate pastures located in the North Fork and at the West Fork-North Fork junction. Pipe, pumps, fittings, and all other necessary items went with the purchase as we've been told. With all or near all the equipment available, irrigation of these pastures to enhance forage should be an option. The only item that is needed is a 4-wheeler to move the irrigation lines at the Westfork-Northfork junction pastures.

It is our hope that after this process and plan is completed, that not too much is asked of the lessee. That is a big issue for us. If everything else fails, we are very concerned that much of the problem solving will fall on the lessee and this will doom our operation.

What is "CRM". Is this a proposed team? What do you visualize this "Team" doing?

We were around when everyone in the valley had cattle and put them on this land either legally or illegally. At that time, there were an abundance of wildlife; big game in particular. They seemed to function well together with both cattle and big game thriving. Now that there are only two lessees in the valley, management of wildlife habitat along with grazing should not be much of a problem, particularly with big game numbers declining to some of its lowest levels. We have witnessed these declines, either through poor management, winter kill and now wolf and cougar predation. The Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is going to have to work to even get herds to moderate management levels.

### 5. Performance Measures (Criteria)

Our existing lease says the following: 1) maintain at least 3" stubble height on sod forming grasses when livestock are removed, 2) remove no more than 50% of the current available bunch grass or jointed grass species and 3) remove no more than 30% of the current year's growth for shrub or woody material. We question why the criteria in this plan has been upgraded.

We can all theorize and characterize what needs to be accomplished through this plan, but common sense will lead to the best results.

Gary Fudacz  
Fudacz Brothers Lessee

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Sharon Almborg

Comments and questions from Sharon Almberg one of the range riders employed by Sam Kayser and Fudacz Brothers to manage the grazing of their herds on the TCF leased land. I want to remind the TCF committee and agencies that the Ranchers paying the grazing fees have managed grazing by hiring riders for twenty years to check on the cattle and to move them up father into the hills. The riders are on the job seven days a week riding cattle. They work from anywhere from 4 to 9 hours in one day.

These comments pertain to AC Input on the Draft of Goal 2b Grazing.

- 1A. Ranchers have hired riders to keep the cattle moving.
- B. TCF has been grazed for over a 100 years. Where is the damage?
- C. Range riders have been moving cattle up for several years. Up any higher would be on USFS land.
- d. What is your definition of sensitive areas? Does higher land not have sensitive areas?
  - 3. Regarding multi-species grazing—Goats and sheep are known to eat grass down farther than cattle.

These comments pertain to Strategies on Goal 2b Grazing:

- A. The fencing cattle out in the area have already been over extended.
  - b.1 Cattle are already restricted from streams that have been restored.
- C. Cattle have already been restricted from places. Cattle eat the weeds—look at your fenced in areas and compare them to grazed areas.
- D. ii. Cattle only cross or water in the lowest part of creeks and rivers. (Unless harassed and driven across higher parts of the creek and river.
- E. and F. Only the rancher can answer this question

I have a question for you: If TCF’s goal is for maintaining working lands for forestry and domestic livestock grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat. How can sheep and goats be suggested? Who would control these animals?

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Comments from Bill Johnson, range rider for Sam Kayser in TCF

- A. The cattle already graze all available areas. They are grazing animals and move to new grass: much like the American Bison that occupies the Great Plains. Cattle will tend to “top” a grazing area and move on, leaving the better part of the plant intact; they also top the weeds which typically means the flower or seed pod. “No seed, no new weeds.”
- B. 25 years ago over a thousand cattle grazed the TCF. Kayser has reduced the cattle numbers in order to maintain a healthy range.
- C. We already move cattle to higher elevations. When they come down into the valley, we move them back up to the higher grazing areas. When the temperatures start to climb in July and August, the cattle seek to acquire cooler air in the higher elevations.
- D. I believe that fencing cattle out was used as a first option in the Teanaway, when cattle come down into the valley; we organize drives that take them back up into the upland grazing areas. Cattle play a huge role in dealing with weeds before they go to seed, the fenced areas are now out of the natural elimination process and noxious weeds are taking

over in the “protected” areas. I am not sure how one might “lure” cattle away from water and grass, we move them when an area is starting to show wear.

- E. Something that might be of interest, cattle take the same trail to water every time, unless chased. Cattle are creatures of habit; they take the easiest path to and from water, typically the same trail day in and day out. Cattle prefer to walk on a hardened surface when crossing water, mud appears to be uncomfortable for crossing as it allows the animal to sink, very unsettling to cattle (livestock in general).
- F. Cattle in open range are like wildlife. They behave like any other grazing creature of the wild in that they move around to new grass and water and distance themselves from predators.
- G. Cattle have been doing a good job of keeping the weeds down and unable to seed until the decision was made to fence off large areas of the lower meadows. Now, cattle control the weeds that are in the “grazing corridor” but can’t get to the weeds growing (and seeding) out of control in the “control areas” behind the fence.
- H. 3. Consider Multi-species Goats and sheep will crop grass to the dirt, cattle will typically take the top of the plant and move on. I believe that goats and sheep (as mentioned as an alternate grazing experiment) will be quite destructive. Cattle, if grazed in controlled numbers are beneficial to the ecosystem, they cultivate, fertilize the ground and through the process of grazing, make for a healthy grass plant, the richest dirt and healthiest real-estate was found in the migratory pattern of the great American bison.

#### 4. Ranchers are supported in the TCF

Our grazing is already quite organized. We spend days in the woods looking for new grass and water. We relocate the cattle to new grass and grazing every day. We graze cattle as you would mow your lawn, Try to keep rotation even and often. I think you will find that the rancher is the best at management. We keep the herd moving to better grass, always moving means better \$ at the scale.

4 c. Brand Teanaway Beef There is no way of maintaining the origin of the beef once they are in a feedlot and mixed with other cattle from different ranches.

4f. Reduce the breeding pairs to balance available habitat.

Grazing Fees Government is not operated at a loss! Grazing keeps firefighting costs down by decreasing fuels in the TCF for a possible forest fire. Government is already oppressive and tends to make worse with additional laws. Cattle grazing and is a part of the Ecosystem. They do not destroy creeks, meadows, wet lands. We hear people complaining that the cattle stand in the river and damage the salmon gravel. Fishermen wade right up the middle of the river, swimmers, and the people who build dams are constantly damaging the salmon gravel. Cattle cross perpendicular to the stream, Swimmers stop the flow with hand built dams and small fish can no longer make it upstream due to the dams. Cattle are the very least of the problem the Teanaway is facing.

Perhaps the group attempting to invent a better mouse trap should discuss the range with those of us who spend every day moving cattle in this range, the speculation would then be factual and all guessing would be terminated. We have been managing (successfully) the Teanaway lease for 20+ years and thus far, with better conditions returning each year. Managing must be accomplished through actual experience, guess work; trial and error are counter productive.

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I was not able to attend the meetings, but I would like to submit comments on the management approach to the Teanaway Community Forest. I have a home in the area and use the area.

I am supportive of a mixed use forest that provides appropriate protection and solitude for people and non-humans that need both.

Forest management should emphasize hiking and low impact activities and offer protected habitat for species; such habitat is very rare in today's day and age. Moreover, use should protect against erosion which creates risk of slides and also causes siltation in streams undesirable for fish and watershed health.

I recognize that some believe that motorized vehicles should be a part of the "outdoor" experience. However, if these uses are allowed, they should be confined to small areas of the forest which do not affect important habitat for wildlife that need a lack of disturbance. A small footprint, which is well chosen in placement away from areas frequented by key species in the forest and away from erosion prone areas, can offer a winter and summer wonderland for those that enjoy motorized sport.

To the extent that dirt bikes are allowed and trails are developed, the footprint for these should either be the same as motorized vehicles or should be relatively small and designed to ensure that we are not compromising key habitat for species that many enjoy watching or hunting.

Thanks for your work and careful consideration of how to manage a crown jewel of Washington in terms of a community forest.

Valerie Lee, Teanaway, Cle Elum and Seattle.

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Hi – I attended the open house at the Swauk Grange on 12/11, and I'm pleased to have a chance to make comments.

I've been an avid birdwatcher for over 25 years, and I'm quite involved with the birding community in the state. I founded the Cle Elum Christmas Bird Count in 2005, and almost the entire Community Forest is within the Count Circle, so it is of great interest to me. I also lead field trips for Seattle Audubon and the Washington Ornithological Society, and have led trips in the past up the Teanaway valley.

I am extremely grateful that the state has acquired this land, rather than risking it being over-logged and sold off piecemeal for development.

The Teanaway Community Forest is great habitat for birds, and I would hope that the state will focus management efforts on maintaining and improving that habitat. This can be done even if logging and grazing will continue in the forest.

Birds of special interest to birdwatchers include, of course, the Spotted Owl. But there are many other species of interest, for the relatively narrow band of Ponderosa Pine on the east slope of the Cascades comprises a distinct habitat zone that certain specific species either prefer or require. Birders go to the Teanaway specifically to see these species, especially due to its close proximity to the Seattle area. Besides the Spotted Owl, we look for Flammulated and Northern Saw-whet Owls, Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsuckers, White-headed, American Three-toed, and Black-backed Woodpeckers, American Dipper, Pygmy Nuthatch, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, and Common Redpoll, among others. In summer, Black Swifts, Common Nighthawk and Common Poorwill, and many species of flycatcher, vireo, and warbler are of great interest to us. Some of these inhabit the denser forest areas, while others are attracted to stream sides and openings.

Birdwatchers would certainly like more access to the forest. Under private ownership, access was limited to birding from the road in most places, as much of the forest is behind fences. Most of the logging roads are gated, and some of them were signed No Trespassing. Much of the Community Forest lands are hidden behind private lands that border the roads. It would be great if there are access points that allow legal travel across those private lands to the public forests. Very importantly, with the land now in public ownership, one key issue will be knowing where it is permissible to go into the forest and where it is not. Signage will be essential.

Access is very much a two-edged sword, however. If more roads are opened, that means more traffic and disruption inside previously closed-off areas. This is likely to have a negative impact on wildlife, including for birds. A very important point that I want to make is that noise is a serious form of pollution. Motor vehicles, especially dirt bikes, ORVs, and snow mobiles, are extremely noisy. Studies have shown specific deleterious effects on birds from traffic noise, which can make the birds' communications difficult. Also, while I've referred to "birdwatchers", that term is misleading. I call myself a "birder" to emphasize what is true of most of us: We use our ears more than our eyes when we are out birding, listening for songs, and more often for almost inaudible contact calls between birds, or the tapping of woodpeckers, etc. Learning how to identify birds "by ear" is a major part of our hobby, and is essential when conducting surveys. Traffic noise makes this extremely difficult.

A second factor of great concern, if more areas are opened up, is that dirt bikes and ORVs will venture off-road. This WILL happen regardless of signage and enforcement, and it is extremely destructive to habitats. The damage caused by those "vehicles" in the Wenas Creek area, on land recently acquired by the state from a private timber company, has been horrendous. That area was one of the prime birding destinations in the state; now some birdwatchers are unwilling to venture there because of the noise and destruction from ORVs. I hope you can avoid that issue in the Teanaway.

I'd encourage walk-in-only access on those gated roads, and would love it if some trails could be constructed. Birders tend to be pretty good about staying out of closed areas, so we will feel much more comfortable if parking is available and signage clearly indicates that access is permitted. Maps would also be extremely useful.

I'm sure you will hear from many voices in the nearby communities, but I'd like you to always remember that all of the citizens of the state are community members who have interest in this area. The vast majority of the membership of the Washington Ornithological Society live in King County, but we go birding all around the state. As I said before, the Teanaway is of particular interest to Seattle-area birders because it is an excellent example of the Eastside ecosystem that can be reached in a day's trip or with a simple overnight visit. And we DO come over. My field trips to the area always fill up fast. And for the 2014 Cle Elum Christmas Bird Count, which we held last Monday, I had 23 total participants, and at least 18 were from Western Washington. We stayed in at least a dozen motel rooms (in at least five different motels) in Cle Elum, and filled Beau's Pizza and Pasta, the Sunset Café, and the El Caporal restaurant. That's an indication of both the economic impact that birders have beyond their home counties, and the degree to which birdwatchers from west of the mountains consider the Teanaway to be a local, well-known, and well-loved area.

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Chris Martin  
Box 761  
Roslyn, WA 98941  
15 December 2014  
Washington State DNR ATTN: Rick Roeder 713 Bowers Road Ellensburg, WA 98926  
RE: Teanaway Community Forest  
Dear Mr. Roeder:

I am writing regarding the Teanaway Community Forest and DNR's plans for that property. I attended the recent community open house but felt it was impossible to be heard in that environment given the overwhelming number of motorized advocates who monopolized much of the conversation – particularly at the recreation table.

What struck me about the meeting was the sense that the motorized crowd was galvanized by out of area interests many of whom had never even been in the Teanaway – it is as if the Teanaway is the current Waterloo of the manufacturer led effort to expand motorized access. One gentleman who was particularly vocal had never been in the area before. With names like “Stumpjumper Motorcycle Club” it is clear that staying on trails is not their strong point – after all there are not stumps in the middle of any designed trails I have seen.

I am writing to express my belief that motorized access should be prohibited in the Community Forest. Motorized activity is detrimental to the forest ecosystem and allowing new access to the Teanaway would compromise fragile game corridors and riparian areas. Allowing dirt based motorized activity in the Teanaway is tantamount to saying that none of your other objectives really matter. Motorized activity cannot co-exist with improving habitat for all species. Anyone who has been up the Taneum can see what happens when an area is motorized.

In addition motorized activity is detrimental to the human economy. Anywhere in the country that is a motor haven has lower property values and lower standards of living than non-motorized areas. This is largely because motorized activity is very expensive compared to non-motorized activity and thus leaves little disposable income. A family of four equipped for motorsports probably spent \$50,000 while the same family can have great cross country skis or bikes for \$2,000. The motorized activity drives away non-motorized uses leaving only those with no money left to spend in the area. So, we're left with exhaust, beer cans, and destroyed landscapes while Leavenworth, Snoqualmie Pass, and the Methow get the economic benefits of the boom in non-motorized activity.

Given that the Teanaway has not traditionally been open to motor uses I see no reason to expand it and fear that doing so will degrade the valley and surrounding areas. There are plenty of trails south of I-90 for motorized access. There are very limited areas for biking and hiking near Cle Elum and Roslyn that are free from motorized uses.

Finally, snowmobile access in the Teanaway should be limited to four stroke machines.  
Sincerely,  
Chris Martin



December 11, 2014

Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee,

My name is Lori Taylor. I hold a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, am 23 years into a successful career in my field, am happily married, own a home, pay taxes, vote, believe that I'm an upstanding citizen in my community and I ride offroad motorcycles. I ride the wheels off them and have been doing so since 1973. I refuse to be painted with the same brush as the "bad apples" found in each and every group of people out there who share a common interest. Hopefully, you will refrain from doing so with me and the majority of responsible dirt bike riders who are interested in developing the Teanaway Community Forest to be inclusive of sustainable dirt bike trails.

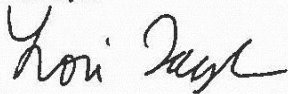
In the 1960's my dad began riding offroad motorcycles. He quickly developed a great love for riding in the Teanaway and other trail systems in the Cascade Mountains. When my sister and I began riding, we looked forward to every opportunity to get out on the trails, but especially to family camping and riding trips in the Cascades. My love of motorcycles and the mountains were solidified at an early age.

An integral part of my up-bringing was that trails don't build or maintain themselves. Dad regularly had us out in the woods building and maintaining trails, making an investment in our sport, our public lands and our future through volunteer labor. Trail riding and maintenance are the activities that have become a core definition of my life as an adult. Every year I spend 15 or more days doing volunteer trail maintenance. This includes at least two day days packing a chainsaw clearing trail on USFS trails in the Teanaway. I'm not unique. Responsible dirt bike riders are everywhere. Many of us willingly volunteer our time, tools, vacation, etc. making sure that trails are environmentally sustainable, safe and fun for all to enjoy. We want the opportunity to develop, ride and participate in the maintenance of a quality, multiple-use trail system in the TCF. If given that opportunity, I think you'll find us to be valuable partners.

Since I began riding, the population of Washington State has doubled from approximately 3.5 million to 7 million people while the number of offroad motorcycles being ridden has increased at an even greater rate. Motorized trail access has not kept pace with that growth. Instead, for a variety of reasons, we lose more and more trail miles as the years pass. How can that possibly make sense? The TCF is an opportunity to restore a little balance to this backwards trend. The soil quality and terrain within the TCF appear to be well suited for motorcycle use. The shared boundary with the Wenatchee National Forest makes the TCF especially valuable in creating continuous, routes linking Corral Creek to West Fork Teanaway, Yellow Hill, Middle Fork Teanaway and Jungle Creek Trails as well as local campgrounds. There is great potential here for all trail users. Offroad motorcycle riders are particularly eager to be included in the future of this new public resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lori Taylor



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Cassandra Strickland  
3350 Hungry Junction Road  
Ellensburg, WA  
December 10, 2014

Teaway Advisory Committee  
Teaway Community Forest  
Cle Elum, WA

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to you today in lieu of attending the public commentary portion of the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. I was unable to attend in person, unfortunately.

First, I want to thank the committee for the hard work and long hours they have put into this endeavor. As a person who benefits from your efforts, I am grateful for all that you have done, and will continue to do in the future. I am especially looking forward to having signed trails, a regulatory presence, and an improvement to the Teaway Campground area.

Second, I wanted to let you know how I feel about recreation opportunities in this part of Washington. I am a person who not only lives locally, but I also hike with my family, and ride horses in the Teaway on a weekly basis (1-3x week), and cross-country ski in the winter. The Teaway is my favorite area of Washington because of the beauty, relative remoteness, and quiet ambience. Lack of off-road vehicle presence is a large factor in this. This is because the Teaway is the last remaining area we have that is not over-run with dirt bikes and atvs. Here is a brief summary of the larger regional picture (see Figure 1):

- **I-90 Corridor, south of the interstate, west from Ellensburg to Easton, and south to Manastash Lake and the Little Naches watershed (accessed from Buck Meadows camp or off of highway 410).** The entire forest area south of I-90 is so thick with dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles that I do not feel safe hiking the trails with my children, much less riding horses. Almost every trail south of the interstate is open to the o.r.v. community, and is heavily used by them. (When dirt bike comes tearing around forested trails, and you have young children, you learn quickly that the trails in that vicinity are unsafe for hiker and hooper alike.) Almost every trail outside the national forest wilderness boundary is thick with the sound, noise and congestion of heavy 2-cycle use. In addition, these campgrounds tend to be dirty and loud, as the large groups of dirt-bike riders, jeep and atv riders seem to be out for a party, and not out to enjoy nature.
- **North of I-90, from Ellensburg, north to Leavenworth, and west to Easton. Blewett Pass, along Highway 97, is almost completely open to dirt bike use, and many of the roads see heavy snowmobile use in the winter, also. Salmon La Sac area trails, up near Lake Cle Elum, are also open to dirt-bikes and in the winter snowmobiles. The snowmobile use is especially heavy in the Lake Cle Elum region; I have given up completely trying to cross-country ski on any of those trails. The hills north of Ellensburg have numerous logging roads that double as trails, and are open to o.r.v. use, also. There are few formal 'trails' in these hills, and rather the roads are used to access it. This means hikers, orv, mountain bikes and horses all share these 'trails', also.**

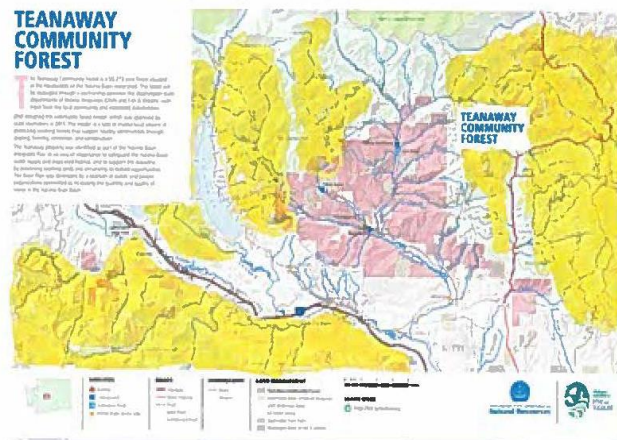


Figure 1. Annotated map of the Teaway Community Forest and surrounding area. (source: [www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/OtherLandTransactions/Pages/amp\\_taway.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/OtherLandTransactions/Pages/amp_taway.aspx)). The areas I have marked in yellow represent areas currently open to orv traffic on trails, in the adjacent areas. The actual areas open are much larger than shown here, extending north towards Leavenworth, East towards Vantage, and south towards Chinook Pass.

**What does this mean for me?** This means that the Teanaway is my haven for recreation, and communing with nature. The trails are lovely, with soft sand footing, perfect for a hiker and horse. The air is calm and quiet, and smells of pine trees, not engine fuel. Other than driving far up into national forest wilderness boundaries, this is the only area we can recreate without the danger of dirt bikes and atvs on the trails. Considering the multiple sheer drop-offs on some of the trails in this area, this is especially important. (Bible rock, Cheese Rock, Ridge Trail). (See Figure 2). Yes, there are a few dirt-bike accessible trails in the Middle and Upper Teanaway, but they see relatively little use (compared with the area south of I-90), and the West Fork area where I mainly hike and ride, is off-limits to motorized vehicles. In the winter, this area is a quiet, beautiful place to ski relatively flat trails, without snowmobile noise or packed treads.

**I am proposing that you, the Teanaway Advisory Committee, please consider recommending that this area be left the way it is.** Leave the existing trails that are open to dirt bikes as they are, and leave the existing areas that are off-limits to o.r.v. to remain off-limits.

**The hikers, mountain bikers, and horse riders all get along well together in this forest, and we would like you to leave us this section, as is.** Historically, this is the precedent for this area, also. When the forestry company owned the acreage, they allowed hikers, horse riders and mountain bikers on the land, but restricted motor vehicles of any kind. This plea comes from my viewpoint as a hiker and rider, but also professionally, since I am a geologist. The soft sand trails of the West fork area are easily eroded, and I predict, if opened to orv use, that within one year of moderate-to-heavy orv riding, these trails would need serious and expensive maintenance. (See Figure 2).

Sincerely,

Cassandra Strickland  
cordilleranranch@gmail.com



**Figure 2. Photographs illustrating typical trail conditions in the lower Teanaway.**

**Left- Riding the sandy trail up behind Cheese Rock, which shortly branches left or right, following the cliff. The drop-off to the east is sheer, and steep. Once hiking here with my family a dirt bike rider, on this trail illegally, roared up the trail behind us, and passed without slowing, and scared us all. Having a contact number at trailheads to call the DNR officers would be a good addition to signage, in case of future altercations.**

**Right – Riding the trail under Bible rock. Note the sandiness and narrowness of the trail, which is typical of many in this area. I would not want to meet a dirt-bike on this trail, as a hiker, horse rider, or mountain biker!**

## **Teanaway Community Forest – public comments given at the Advisory Committee meeting, 12/11/2014**

- a) Justin VanderPol – From Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. Handed out a USFS Trails map that shows allowed recreational usage. He pointed out the general lack of non-motorized forest service trails in a 25 mile and 50 mile border from the TCF. He has concerns about the damage caused by motorized use and its negative impacts on the trails for other user groups.
- b) Jack Jenson – handed out a letter that he wrote to Peter Goldmark. He is a farmer in the Teanaway. He has concerns about increased sediment runoff from ORV use.
- c) Sharon Jenson – Handed out a letter she had written to the AC along with links to videos of people using ORV's in the Teanaway. She is a property owner in the Teanaway. She would like to see no ORV use in the Teanaway due to the damage caused from ORV's.
- d) Derek Young – Owner of a fly-fishing guide. Believes that enforcement is important for all user groups and would like to see access for fly-fishing.
- e) Tim Garin – with Trout Unlimited. Does not recommend ORV use expansion from what is current; only maintain if they don't impact riparian areas. No recreation activity should compromise fish habitat.
- f) Charles Radawick – would like to see a trail system for ORV use. If an area is not provided then people will make their own trails. Many of the users are youth; if you give them a place to go they won't need to make their own trails.
- g) Craig Mabie – with Ski Buddies Outventures. He is supportive of mixed use for low impact activities – including winter season activities like snowshoeing and cross country skiing.
- h) Laura Gorman – with the equestrian community. The horse community doesn't really have an organized group that can make it to the meetings for their thoughts to be shared. They are here and they do care about what happens in the forest.
- i) Bob Seelye – Represents retired for multiuse recreation folks in Kittitas County. People in this area don't have a lot of recreational opportunities. The trails are better now than in the 70's due to volunteer user groups maintaining them.
- j) Dan Huff – with the Yakima Valley Dust Dodgers. Supports multi-use. Volunteer efforts have helped improved the trails over the years. Information from the aquatics group says that sediment due to ORV use is minimal.
- k) Neil Stamp – from Bothell. Believes that motorized and non-motorized users can share the trails. Asks that the decision makers use science to determine trail use.
- l) Richard Ro – President of Sky Riders is pro ORV use and is highly involved with volunteer trail work. His group is very active in volunteer work on the trails. There are already systems in place to work with agencies to do trail work and open up and manage trails for all groups.
- m) Donna Joncas - with the equestrian group. The trails are a mess from ORV use and has concerns about safety on multi-use trails.
- n) Lauren Shuck – Lives in Cle Elum. Has concerns with safety and the number of users; consider user group combinations when planning. Part of the experience is view-shed and dust can be a problem.

- o) Sean Clarke – with Coulee Riders. People who use this area are passionate about the area and promote stewardship. ORV users are big stewards. Families want to use these trails together.
- p) Lori Taylor – with NW motorcycle association, this is a large group of ORV users that help maintain the trails. There are good and bad apples in every group. If ORV use is closed families will be impacted.
- q) Joetta Weidenbach – with equestrian group. Handed out a note from Cassandra Strickland. Has concerns about ORV use and horses. Requests to maintain current use of ORV trails and not add extra ORV trails.
- r) Dave Shannon – small forest owner in the area. Believes all users should get to use the area.

**Teanaway Community Forest, public comments given to the online survey tool**

**12/10/14-1/7/2015**

**Total Comments - 103**

**Protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed – 0 comments**

- **Conserve and restore vital habitat for fish, including steelhead, spring chinook, and bull trout, and wildlife, including deer, elk, large predators, and spotted owls – 1 comment**

<b>12/13/2014</b>	I'm interested in wholeness, and the forest needs protection, both to reach a restored condition of wholeness and then to keep it that way. Wildlife species need vast swaths of connected lands to flourish, and their ability to flourish without persecution and suffering is vitally important to me. Motorized vehicles cause suffering and stress on wildlife and ruin my nature experience as well. They need to be kept to a minimum. Healthy wild lands for healthy wild life are my highest priorities. Human enjoyment of these lands is then possible without effort. No hunting except for those species that serve as food for humans who need it (no recreational killing, whether by bullet, arrow, snare, or trap!!!).
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- **Maintain working lands for forestry and domestic livestock grazing while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat – 2 comments**

<b>01/05/2015</b>	One thing that comes to my mind is access for the cattle and wildlife across Lick Creek. As it is now, the "Lick Creek Crossing is a ford down a dirt embankment. This has been used for many years by all users, which includes hunters, cows, elk, horseback riders, snowmobiles and a few hardy bicyclists. This route is also used by the wolves, I have seen wolf tracks in the mud at this crossing many times. Lick Creek Crossing is an important crossing that links the lower Middle Fork and Lower West Fork area with the rest of the Teanaway Forest. In spite of the fact that Lick Creek dries up by late September, it is also an important source of water for all life for most of the summer. DNR probably is not going to like the way the bank is worn down at this crossing. I hope they build a bridge or put in one of those huge culverts that wildlife and livestock can use .
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01/05/2015	<p>One point that I would like to see considered is that most of the true trails in Teanaway are elk trails or cattle trails . I do not think it would be prudent to close these trails, as the animals will just create more trails. The other so called trails are old logging roads. The logging roads have a problem with erosion. I have seen just in the past year that because they have not maintained them that they are becoming very eroded. Part of this erosion has been caused by wheeled vehicles using them during wet weather . The worst of these erosions is probably what is called the "burn road" that was created when the Lick Creek Burn occurred around 2006. It is in dire need of some water bars and ditching.</p>
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➤ **Maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, birding and snowmobiling – 97 comments**

12/11/2014	<p>Please do not allow access to motorized vehicles on the Teanaway Forest. I feel that currently there are enough roads and trails for ATV &amp; dirt bike riders to use and we need to protect this area from that type of use. It's difficult enough for other forest entities to manage the ATV/bike users who utilize those areas, it would be nice if this forest were managed in a way that allowed for a greater level of restoration and typical MV use in forested areas is not cohesive with that model. Thank you for your time.</p>
12/12/2014	<p>Make sure ORV and ATV use is included.</p>
12/12/2014	<p>As a Washington Native and lifelong outdoors enthusiast, I support the access to ALL public lands by various modes of transportation. As I age, I find the ever increasing need to rely on ORV's to get me out and about in a safe and enjoyable manner. Restricting my access to allow only the young &amp; unencumbered people who have youthful bodies &amp; abilities just wouldn't seem right.</p>
12/12/2014	<p>As a person that had Polio, the ONLY way I can explore the outdoors is by motorcycle. With that in mind I sure hope the forest is open to multi-use. I really like that country.</p>
12/12/2014	<p>Dear Sirs, I just wanted to add my support for ORV use in the new Teanaway Forest. To have a dedicated place to ride is a win/win for all involved. It keeps riders in a dedicated area that can be managed for this purpose, and keeps people from riding in areas not well suited/intended for this use. Sincerely, Eric Montenegro</p>

<p><b>12/12/2014</b></p>	<p>It is only fair to allow non-motorized and motorized ORV use. Excluding one or the other would be discriminatory. The two groups should have equal power and input. Excluding the motorized group would prove this was not considered in a fair and equitable fashion. It would be only fair to have the same number for and against have final say. Sharing the are 50/50 would make sense. No individual group agenda should have outweigh the other. In other words. If only one person who advocates acceptable ORV use is allowed voice in a panel of much greater numbers, then the outcome could be unfair and possibly illegal. I am for and equitable split and respect both sides.</p>
<p><b>12/13/2014</b></p>	<p>The issue of recreation in the TCF is a big one and many people are passionate about their views. Part of the reason behind this passion is that there is such a large demand for recreation on public lands. In Washington State people spend about 3.4 billion dollars on recreation and they want a place to recreate. The recreationalist include; OHV motorcycles, horses, mountain bikes, hiking, hunting, fishing etc. I don't believe in excluding the use of the public forest to any of the above users. I am an avid hiker, trail runner and single track motorcycle rider. I grew up with horses I ride mountain bikes. These users can use the same trails without conflict it is done worldwide every day. I also recognize that I don't necessarily want to ride my dirt bike on a mountain bike trail, it wont flow right. There are also times I want to run or hike where there aren't motorcycles there are places for that in the Teanaway. Generally hikers want to go to high elevations and wilderness areas, which are in abundance in the area. For the most part people don't like to hike in lowland working forests. These make better dirt bike trails. That isn't to say that there isn't some good hiking in the TCF. I recommend the committee work with people that know the forest to help plan where each user can have the best recreational experience. There is room for everyone. I also urge the committee to see the true motives behind anyone that thinks their form of recreation should be the sole user of this great opportunity for public recreation. Lastly if members of the committees biases prevent them from fairly giving the opportunity for all users to recreate in the community forest the DNR should reevaluate the validity of the Teanaway Community Forest Committee and consider giving this matter to educated trained professionals that are currently employed by the DNR.</p>
<p><b>12/13/2014</b></p>	<p>It is important that all potential users are considered in planning, including Off Highway Vehicles. This area has a long history of providing recreation opportunities for OHV enthusiasts and shutting them out will most likely have the unintended consequences of increasing illegal OHV travel in the Teanaway and elsewhere. Let's be all-inclusive and make it a true community forest.</p>
<p><b>12/13/2014</b></p>	<p>I think that if we could open up more land to two and four wheel off road vehicles the state would be better off. Actually if this state allowed licensed quads on the federal road system they could see a large increase in sales, and tax and license revenues. Just a thought.</p>



<p><b>12/13/2014</b></p>	<p>When my kids (4) were all small we camped and rode the coal piles, ridge roads year after year supporting local businesses. These are the fondest of memories for my family and thousands of others I'm sure. We would all love to be able to get our next generation up there for recreational oppertunities with our orv.....Please, here our voice, its been such a long time. We felt.....cheated. It is such a wonderful area for families. Thanks much Rick Harpster</p>
<p><b>12/13/2014</b></p>	<p>I recently became aware of the fact that only 1 of a 20 person advisory board is representing the OHV community, in regards to the Teanaway Community Forest. Therefore, I'm writing to encourage the DNR to change this and to ensure that a fair representation of the OHV community is present on this board, as it currently is not. Moreover, I urge the decision makers to adhere to the goal of "preserving working forest lands and increasing recreational opportunities". If the DNR is dedicated to achieving this goal, the voice of the OHV community must be heard and our needs addressed. Thank you.</p>
<p><b>12/15/2014</b></p>	<p>Please make sure the plan allows for OHV access. Thank you!</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>With legal off road riding areas becoming almost non-existent in Western Washington, causing riders like me [@79 years+] and much younger riders with families to travel to the desert SW where we can ride almost without limit, Washington state would lose a tremendous amount of tourism revenue if the Teenaway Community Forest will not include use by off road motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Responsible riders would respect the land and help rid irresponsible users from abusing riding privileges. If it is to be called a Community Forest, then let's include everyone, not just hikers, campers or fishermen, Please consider all parties and the economical benefit that greater diversity of forest users could bring to the state coffers. Rodger J. Bille Winlock, WA and Yuma, AZ</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>It would be great if the trails were available for my son and myself to ride our dirtbikes on. Great family fun to be had in this area!</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>Please let ALL recreationists have a place to enjoy in the TCF. Motorized use (4x4, ATV, UTV, Dirtbike) should have access. ORV use in managed recreation areas can be just as environmentally suitable as any other forms of recreation.</p>

<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>I ride mountain bikes, motorcycles, and snowmobiles in the Teanaway valley and have been doing so for many years. I have a house in Roslyn and go there with my friends and family for this type of recreation. If any of these are not allowed on the trails over there it will ruin my experience as a homeowner in the Upper Kittitas Valley. Specifically for motorcycling there are few options for us anymore. I have a street legal dirt bike that is fun on single track trails and the Teanaway is the best area and easiest access for Roslyn and Ronald residents and visitors. The Taneum valley is good too, but it is a long way to travel to (actually difficult on one tank of gas). Please keep the Teanaway trails open to dirt bikes, mountain bikes, and snowmobiles!</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>I hope you guys keep ORV use in mind. That place started ORV and I hope you bring it back!</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>I have driven my 1952 willys on the Teanaway trails since 1988. I have cleaned garbage, built drainage ditches for many years. Not all gas powered out door enthusiast are bad!</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>The Teanaway area is such a great family oriented ORV area and we love to spend our money in the community.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>I grew up camping and Riding in the Teanaway Valley and it has always been a destination for my family and friends during the summer. Riding Motorcycles in the Teanaway has been a key building block for our family and allows the growth of the tight-knit community of Offroad Motorcycle families.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>Please support responsible OHV use in the TCF.</p>

<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>"Community" implies that everyone is included. ORVs bring volunteer hours and money to the local economy and are not the terrible environmental impact that the other user groups claim. There is a way to include EVERYBODY in the Teanaway Community Forest. We deserve to be here too!</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>I have a cabin in the Lake Cle Elum area and winter and summer opportunities for fun the Teanaway is one of the main reasons we come. Dual Sport motorcycles in the summer and snowmobiles in the winter, our family and friends love it. Such a wonderful area to explore both motorized and non motorized. Please know there are many good people who currently use this forest for motorized enjoyment who also support the hiking trails. There is room for all of us in this mountain playground. Please keep or add to the opportunities for motorcycle and snowmobile enjoyment of this area. Thanks! Brian Sabey 206-430-0984</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>It is important to keep all motorized recreational uses in this area for our families and community.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>I am an avid outdoors man that loves to participate in all types of recreational activities. One of those activities that seems to be at the greatest risk currently is off road motorcycling. Areas that allow for this type of recreation are quickly shrinking and as they do more and more motorcyclists are forced to go to the same riding spot, thus putting more strain on those trail systems. Off road motorcycling is also extremely important to my family. I have grown up going riding since I was a kid and have continued to do so and pass on this activity to my kids. Motorcycling allows families time to get involved in outdoor activities while also creating an immense bond that I haven't experienced with any other type of recreation. There is just something about the thrill of riding a motorcycle that helps to convince kids to put down their electronics and spend the day out in the woods. It would mean a lot to my self and a whole lot of other people that enjoy motorcycling to be able to enjoy access to a new location that would be properly maintained and capable of staying around for a long time. Thank you for all of your effort and consideration!!!</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>The Teanaway trail system is where I grew up amongst friends and family. The weekends we spend in the mountains have created a love, appreciation and respect for the unique and beautiful wilderness we have access to in our state. I look forward to sharing these places with my children and instilling the same love and respect for the Cascades in them.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>Please consider the needs of the off road motorcycle community in the community forest that is envisioned. So few off road riding area remain in this area for people to recreate responsibly. Thank you, John Schuller</p>

<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>ORV recreation is essential to my family. We spend many weekends in the TCF bonding while riding motorcycles and camping. We take great pride in keeping a clean camp site and respecting the wilderness. Please keep the TCF available for my children and generations to come.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>I would like the opportunity it to both enjoy motorized and non motorized activities in the forest. There are fewer and fewer areas to ride motorcycles in the state of Washington so opening an area would be very beneficial to other riding areas in the state by decreasing the concentrated number of riders in the current areas.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>Please allow OHV recreational opportunities in the Teanaway Community Forest. Thanks.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>Please do not take away this valuable ORV resource! My family has recreated there for decades! There is plenty of public land to provide more than adequate recreation opportunities for all forms of recreation. ORV recreation has been responsibly enjoyed by many thousands of people in this area for a long long time, and there is not a single reason to exclude existing ORV recreation opportunity there.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>I am curious about what mechanisms you will have in place to be sure the ORV folks do not abuse their riding privileges.</p>
<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>The Teanaway Community Forest should be open to as many user groups as is possible for people to enjoy the great outdoors (hikers, campers, hunters, fisherman, motorcycles, etc.).</p>

<p><b>12/16/2014</b></p>	<p>please include motorized fun in your plans for the area</p>
<p><b>12/17/2014</b></p>	<p>Please continue or expand the vehicle trails.</p>
<p><b>12/17/2014</b></p>	<p>There are many off road enthusiasts and we need more places to ride. A variety of areas are nice. I personally ride off road, dual sport and street bike. Please take all of our needs and wants into consideration.</p>
<p><b>12/17/2014</b></p>	<p>I fell that excluding OHV's from Teanaway while allowing other mixed users eg. Horses, hikers is very short sighted, as the OHV community financially supports employment in motorcycle shops statewide, money spent on fuel provides gas tax revenue, money spent in towns like Cle Elum for food &amp; lodging support the local community.</p>
<p><b>12/17/2014</b></p>	<p>The TCF is the right place for ORV use. The gentle terrain that covers much of the forest lends to easier trail lay out. I recomend linking the campgrounds with some family friendly loops. I recomend longer trails paralleling the north fork road towards miller bear. Longer trail options are good because they create better dispersion for motorized which is very important. The forest service trails are also very important they are technically difficult and prized trails to certain users. They contain good loop connections and will help greatly with motorized dispersion. I would like to see single track trails designed for low impact and low speeds for safety. There is several clubs ready to hit the ground running given the opportunity to create more trail mileage. Working with user groups for design will help make better trails than those built behind a desk. I don't disagree with adding some none motorized mileage as well. I want to see the TCF as a place where everyone can enjoy public lands.</p>
<p><b>12/17/2014</b></p>	<p>People on the TCF committee have been unfairly biased against ORV use in the TCF. ORV users deserve the use of the TCF as much as any other tax paying citizen. More so if you look at the small amount of trail miles available to moto. The TCF committee needs to be fair and work with the user groups to provide trail miles that work for everyone.</p>

<p><b>12/17/2014</b></p>	<p>I am a 20-year member of the Washington Trails Association and the Mountaineers as well as as a long-time member of the Evergreen Mountain Bike Association. The Teanaway is one of the beat multi-use areas in the state for hiking, climbing, mountain biking, backcountry skiing, and ORV/snowmmachine/motorycycling use. Having been an active user of that region and patron of the communities that serve this area, I strongly urge that the state recognize the particular utility this region has for some many uses and the historical precedence that has been set to this point. The local communities that serve this area depend on all the outdoor enthusiast constituencies to sustain the local economy, and eliminating or severely restricting access for even one constituency would be damaging. Thank you. Dan Brady 1009 Kenoyer Drive Bellingham, WA 98229</p>
<p><b>12/17/2014</b></p>	<p>Any thoughts making public forest unavailable to the public is tragic.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Hi all--thanks for the oppotunity to address you at the last meeting. I only had 2 minutes and had a couple of points I missed so am emailing to you: 1) impact of use should be a multiplier of damage/miles of use--for instance, a hiker goes 5-10 miles and causes minimal environmental damage, a horse rider goes 10-15 miles and causes moderate damage, bicycle goes 15-25 miles and causes moderate damage, a motorcycle goes 20-60 miles and causes severe damage. 2) one of your drafts suggests letting motorcycles into the forest and re-assessing damage in a year--totally not necessary! You did that experiment last year, even though you denied access. The trails are filled with damage from motorized vehicles that occurred in the last year. 3) I'd like to offer any interested Advisory Committee Member a horse ride into the forest (on a totally safe horse, or bring your own) to see some of the damage we witnessed last year, or perhaps a hike for the hardier or a vehicle visit with short walking side trips for those with less time or vigor. There is nothing like seeing it in person. Thanks for listening--Sharon Jenson (landowner, user, long term lover of the Teanaway)</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Hello my name is Jacob conner I am 12 an years old and a sixth grader at east ridge elementary in Woodinville. our family has been riding motorcycles since my grand pa was a kid. We have owned multiple properties in Cle elum on the teanaway river. We ride our dirt bikes teanaway trails and our family has been riding those trails for 50 years. We go there about every other weekend and have introduced lots of other families to this special riding area.this is a family sport and when I heard it might be shut down to motorcycles i was extremely disappointed so was my family and our friends that also ride. I really think you should reconsider this because it a family sport and we are losing areas not gaining them. Some dirt bike riders give us a bad reputation by doing wreckless things but that is a very little amount. Thank you for taking my letter into account.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Please continue to allow motorized recreation in this area. It is a great resource.</p>

<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Washington recreationalists deserve less gates more access! Especially ORV and single track riders!</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>To many on the committee are single mindedly focused on personal agendas. They don't even know the Teanaway forest and what it has to offer all users. If they can't be more opened minded in this community forest they should be replaced with people who want to be corporative with all users and help develop a plan that everyone opportunities to enjoy the TCF.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Front country working forests are better suited for off road motorcycle riding. Although there are a few areas I would recommend hiking trails the best use of recreation should be single track for motorcycles mtn bikes and horses. Creating trail systems that link campgrounds and national forest will generate good dispersion that will be key in making sustainable ORV use.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Many friends and I have been enjoying and supporting ORV activities in Teanaway for many years and do not want to see it closed. There is always an answer to keeping good things going and this is one that requires that determination and commitment.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>I like using the Teanaway for hiking, mountain biking, dirt biking and snowmobiling.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>I am an avid outdoorsmen, who also enjoys riding motorcycles on trails with my family. There are times I hike in Teanaway. There are many areas limited to only hiking so I have many options to choose from. However, when we look to enjoy the trails on our motorcycles our options are limited. Teanaway is not one of the only options for trail riding, it's arguably the most enjoyable. Losing this location for trail riding would leave me with no options for enjoying the trails with my children.</p>

<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Please leave the trails in the Teanaway Valley open to dirt bikes and mountain bikes. These are some of my favorite places to go for vacation.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep mountain bike and dirt bike trails open in this community forest. This area has been a great place to enjoy the outdoors and ride a bike and it would be a shame to close it off to a large percentage of the users. Please don't kick us "two wheeled freaks" off the public land! Thanks, -Iain</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>My family rides motorized dirt bikes in the Teanaway. We love experiencing the woods and off-road motorcycling as a family. Please keep access open to these trails for us off-road motorcycling families. -Paul Guillien 6019 205th Ave East Bonney Lake, WA 98391 (253) 370-8789</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep trails open to trail bikes.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep the trails in the Teanaway open to dirt bikes! Many of us riders like to hike and enjoy the forest just like other users but you must preserve the areas for riding as well!</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>I like to ride dirt bikes and I would prefer that no additional limitations are put on the sport. I would prefer if no additional public lands were closed to dirt bikes. I feel that there is already to little space available for the sport and that fact has made ORV areas more dangerous and increased the negative effects on the land by concentrating the usage. I thank you for your consideration. Best regards, Andrew Sadler 4463 Morgan St Seattle WA, 98118</p>



<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>Please, please keep the Teanaway Community Forrest also open to offroad motorcycles! Many of us families like to hike, and bike, and use the outdoor areas and trails - but we also like to ride motorcycles. Sincerely, Kimmo Lassila 206-399-1132 Mercer Island, WA</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>This is a wonderful place to ride motorcycles and many of us really appreciate it. Living in the Seattle area one can easily rider over 190 during the summer - even midweek- and enjoy a couple of hours of trails in this beautiful area, stop off for dinner in Cle Elum and then head back over the hill.</p>
<p><b>12/18/2014</b></p>	<p>This area is great to explore on 2 wheels! Dual Sport motorcycle or Mountain bike. By far the most enjoyable is on a Street Legal dirt bike. I encourage all on the committee to further involve member of community who ride dirt bikes in the area. I have 2-3 family up per month to enjoy the great outdoors on 2 wheels and if it ever closes to that, these families will not be coming up. Same thing in the winter with snowmobiling. This is such a special place we have hear and we all want to protect it so our kids can enjoy it in the same way we did.</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>I love riding teanaway and think of the area as a asset to the riding community.</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep this area open for recreation. Thank you!</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>Love this area, its beautiful and the trails are wonderful. Hope to see this area continue to be a great place that me and my fellow OHV users can continue to visit!</p>

<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>Strong preference to maintain the existing, single track, off road trails for motorcycles. This is a fantastic area for this activity and very few other areas available with similar opportunities and terrain. Impacts to the forest are low and user traffic is light. I have not experienced any user user conflicts in my trips there.</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>Please consider maintaining and expanding opportunities for OHV Recreation in the Teanaway Community Forest</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>Hello Community Forest Committee - - I am in favor of keeping the trails in the Teanaway open to dirt bikes. Thank you.</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>The stated goals of preserving working forests include 'enhancing recreational opportunities'. As a responsible motorized off-road vehicle operator I expect such uses to be continued in Teanaway. I have ridden my motorcycle in Teanaway. I am also a walker and horseback rider. I have never seen any problems between these uses: all of them enable citizens to appreciate our great land. Please keep this forest open to motorized off-road users.</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>This area has a huge potential for outdoor recreation for mixed use. There are only a few motorized trails in the area, most are not connecting trails, so a street license is required. I have done some trail riding in this vicinity and it is a great area. This would also give trail riding more options than the Taneum, Manasstash, Little Naches drainage areas on the south side of I-90, which are mostly over used. Having a larger area will help spread out the many users and will encourage the sport of off road motorcycling.</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>I believe through thoughtful planning and responsible use by all user groups the TCF can accommodate non-motorized and motorized recreation while minimizing impact to the watershed. Any recreation plan can only be successful with early buy-in and compromise from all user groups working side by side. Early collaboration will also build camaraderie between user groups that will help to ensure successful plan implementation and avoid future recreational use conflicts. Please continue to equally engage all groups and look to other regional or national forest plans as models in managing multiple user groups within one watershed area. There's room for all uses within this 50,000 acre tract and a great opportunity for habitat restoration funded by motorized and non-motorized users. Continued forest harvesting within the area should be prioritized to the most fire-prone/dense fire-fuel areas to reduce the long-term fire danger within the area.</p>

<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep these trails open for motorcycling!</p>
<p><b>12/19/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep these trails open for motorcycling!</p>
<p><b>12/20/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep trails in the Teanaway open to dirt bikes and mountain bikes. It's good family fun!</p>
<p><b>12/20/2014</b></p>	<p>I have been an outdoorsman all my life and I love the great out doors. Our abilities to enjoy them are becoming less and less all the time. I believe we can co-exist and preserve are great out doors at the same time we are able to utilize out trail systems. I have paid my ORV tags and I see less and less benefit in doing so. I have decide over the last several years to go over to Idaho where they actually welcome trail use and they have the ability to form coalition user groups to help manage the trail systems. All users benefit from this. I agree with preserving our natural forest areas but I think we can do so responsibly as we are able to be in the outdoors to benefit from them. We again are constantly subtracting from what is mostly a family activity. On another note: every time we close an area it forces more riders to other areas. These areas are becoming more crowded all the time and are becoming dangerous. We need to keep the Teanaway area open and look at ways that we can be more responsible and actually work together in benefiting our environment as we are able to experience the great outdoors of Wa. state. Their can be a positive outcome on this for all concerned. We need to Welcome the riders not shut them out. Thank you for you time.</p>
<p><b>12/20/2014</b></p>	<p>I am concerned about the recent talk about allowing motorized recreation into the Teanaway Community Forest. My greatest fear is the fire danger. The Teanaway is particularly dangerous for fire. The forest is by nature, an open pine forest with grass as the under story. It has been recently logged so all of the fire resistant old growth pines are gone. In their place is dry slash, weeds, grass, brush and young trees. The forest is also experiencing an epidemic of the spruce bud worm which has left standing dead or dying trees. The climate is hot and dry in the summer with an almost constant wind that comes over Cle Elum Ridge. If a fire got started in this area it could take off very fast. There is only one road that can be used to exit the valleys. This makes it even more dangerous for the people using the forest and the people who live there. The primary goal of the community forest designation was to enhance the watershed of the Teanaway. A fire would destroy the entire watershed for many years. Motorcycles running through the forest and dry grass is a recipe for fire. It is very hard to control and govern the use of them because they have such a speedy way of retreating. Their track record for everyone following the rules is not very good in other areas where they are allowed. It will only take one rouge rider to set the forest ablaze, so I think that allowing that risk when we have so much to lose is foolish.</p>

<p><b>12/20/2014</b></p>	<p>Motorized recreational vehicles in the Teanaway? Are any members of the Advisory Board aware of how a watershed works? How moisture runs down needles, leaves, trunks and roots to channel rain and melting snow through the ground to recharge watersheds? Are you aware that 25% of our forests have been lost in the last 30 years and that 8% of what wasn't totally lost has been degraded? A quarter of the forest lost in the last 10,000 years has been destroyed in the last 30 years. Human activities have disturbed 49,421,000 acres of pristine forest EVERY DAY for the past 13 years. Forest loss and degradation has a direct link to loss of biodiversity, climate, water and air.. Are you thinking of allowing the Teanaway Forest to be disturbed for human pleasure and entertainment? The soil of Upper Kittitas County tends to be heavy on the clay side. When top soil is packed down, on places like trails, the rain water slides along rather than penetrate eroding those trails. I say NO Motorized Recreational Vehicles. The price is too dear.</p>
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<p><b>12/20/2014</b></p>	<p>I would like to keep the Teanaway forest for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. I have seen the results of using off-road vehicles in the LT Murray wildlife preserve and it doesn't seem like a wildlife preserve anymore. The noise pollution, the gas fumes, the danger of fire from sparks, and the fact that the trails become very V-shaped which makes it nearly impossible for hikers bicyclists and horseback riders to use the trails. Please consider keeping the Teanaway forest open to that uses that it is had in the past: hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. If, off-road vehicles are allowed on the trails, it makes him almost unusable for the other groups and destroys the natural feel of the area. It would also be a detriment to the Elks, as part of that area is it having area.</p>
<p><b>12/21/2014</b></p>	<p>Off road vehicles in the previously protected areas will destroy vegetation and compact soil, thus interfering with the goal of watershed enhancement; as well as causing noise and fume pollution adversely affecting the outdoor experience for nonmotorized hikers and horseback riders in the area. Please be very thoughtful as you consider these tradeoffs.</p>
<p><b>12/21/2014</b></p>	<p>They started allowing ATVs in Joe Watt Canyon and the roadways are down to the cobble in a lot of areas due to the users driving very fast over the gravel roads. I have had to get off the roadways often if I ride in the summer as there are blind corners the motorcycles and ATVs speed around even though there is limited visibility. First time they allowed ATVS in the Joe Watt Canyon I found toilet paper everywhere from the ATV riders as well. In all my years riding in the Teanaway and Joe Watt Canyon I have not seen this problem with the hikers, hunters, bicyclists or horseback people I can not imagine having motor vehicles on the dirt pathways in the Teanaway . They create deep potholes and v shaped ruts in the roads that are hard to negotiate and lead to the erosion of the roads further I believe also. Who will maintain the pathways and roads if they are allowed in to the area? Who will control their speed so they will not destroy the vegetation and dirt pathways? Just go look at the damage to Joe Watt Canyon in the</p>

	<p>short amount of time ATVS have been using the area it looks terrible and is not being maintained well in my opinion by the rangers.</p>
<p><b>12/21/2014</b></p>	<p>Thank you for protecting the forest, it's beautiful and we worth protecting. I do support limited motorized recreation and mountain biking on established roads and trails, with stiff penalties for destruction caused by either going off established routes. I'm an avid motorcyclist, but also passionate about Leave No Trace ethics. While there are certainly a few motorized-vehicle enthusiasts, there is a large community of ethical motorcyclists and mountain bikers in Washington who share the same ethic of preservation. Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide input into this process. Sincerely, Andrew Cull</p>
<p><b>12/21/2014</b></p>	<p>I am trying to think of an area where one is safe from guns (during hunting season) and motor vehicles that one could recreate in peace. Could we please have this wonderful area as a first? Thank You.</p>
<p><b>12/21/2014</b></p>	<p>I do not feel motorized vehicles should be allowed here. There are other places for them to ride. lets keep this for horses an d people. Thank you</p>
<p><b>12/22/2014</b></p>	<p>Thank you Advisory Committee for your thoughtful efforts in developing appropriate plans for the Forest. Recently I rode horseback on an area south of Indian Camp, south of the Middle Fork. This was a well used animal path. On going down to the river I noticed the vegetation flattened by wide tire tracks straddling the path. On the return trip I saw 2 inch saplings bent over and broken in the path of this vehicle. This was a large and powerful vehicle of some sort, perhaps an ATV, Jeep or similar. I am quite certain that controlling destructive ORV use will beyond the control of DNR and/or WDFW resulting in permanent damage. Please do not allow the use of any motor vehicles within such a fragile environment. Local Teanaway Resident</p>
<p><b>12/22/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep the trails open to motorcyclists. We ride in the area often and love what it has to offer.</p>

<p><b>12/23/2014</b></p>	<p>Multi-use trails are important to the local communities and to the NW lifestyle. There are many residents for whom mountain biking and/or dual sport moto are a primary draw to living in the area.</p>
<p><b>12/27/2014</b></p>	<p>My family has enjoyed camping, hiking, horseback riding, and our real love ORV trail riding for three generations. The Cle Elum and Teanaway area has been one of our favorite places to ride. The ORV community has been suffering cut backs and closures that affect our way of life and our liberties for many years. We work hard toward stewardship of the land we dearly love and go out of our way to coexist with other land users. Being denied the use of land that my tax dollars helped purchase and will continue to maintain is just not right. Please allow us the same privilege of using our land as other groups will receive Sincerely Dr. Gale Campbell Ephrata WA</p>
<p><b>12/28/2014</b></p>	<p>In the public meetings there has been much debate on what recreation should be allowed in the TCF. Some have said they would like a silent TCF devoid of any noise. Others don't want motorized vehicles of any kind. I would like to remind these people about the Wilderness ACT of 1964 that prohibits mechanized use in 109.5 million acres in our country, and 4.5 million acres in Washington state alone. The people wanting a silent forest free of mechanized use should make themselves familiar with wilderness areas they will probably fit their needs better than the Teanaway Valley. The TCF is going to remain a working forest, there will be mechanized use on it that has been established. It is not the place for a wilderness even if a few on the committee think it should be. The public has need for and deserves a place to recreate that allows for all forms of recreation including motorized uses.</p>
<p><b>12/30/2014</b></p>	<p>Please keep this area open to all, including dirt bikers and mountain bikers. We all need this area for our recreations! Thank you!</p>
<p><b>12/30/2014</b></p>	<p>Off-road vehicles and wildlife are not mutually exclusive. Deer and elk are abundant in other areas that have motorcycle trails such as the Taneum area, Naches, and Gifford-Pinchot. Also, the green dot areas of the Wenas are full of deer and elk which seem to be wholly unconcerned every time I have happened upon them on my dirtbike.</p>
<p><b>12/31/2014</b></p>	<p>Please allow and provide for responsible "Wheeled All-terrain Vehicle" travel &amp; tourism for WA aging and mobility challenged recreating citizens and tourists. Last federal censuses revealed over 490 thousand registered ADA mobility challenged citizens in Washington State. And the Department of Justice mandated in 2010 for "other power driven mobility devices" to be allowed on public land trails.</p>

01/01/2015	As a taxpayer in the Yakima Valley, I am excited about the prospect of a Community Forest that will be available for use and recreation by ALL stakeholders. Being a member of the off-road riding community, I will be contacting my state representative and senator to make sure that they hear our voice, and it is adequately represented in the planning phase.
01/03/2015	As an avid, responsible, respectful, and appreciative member of the motorcycling community I have enjoyed riding in the Teanaway area for many years. I would certainly appreciate the opportunity to continue to enjoy the multi-interest platform of trail use, and would encourage the board to consider continuing to allow motorized use for responsible and respectful users. I appreciate any feedback to the motorized-user community to allow a better balance of use, and look forward to understanding if there is anything I (personally) or we (as a community of motorized users) can do differently or better to continue to use our trail system. Thank you kindly for your consideration.
01/03/2015	I am concerned about the impact of hunting, and off road vehicle use here. I personally have seen the wolf pups near Cheese Rock, in the West fork area, and the fact that the alpha female was killed during hunting season, concerns me greatly. Already there are conflicts with hunters and the wolf pack, obviously. To let the ORV community have even more access would just mean more of them penetrating even further into the forest for hunting (and poaching!). Also, they are already eroding away the trails where the dirt bikes go illegally in the lower Teanaway, and I'm tired of it. I'd like to see more regulatory presence, maybe some trail cameras, to catch these people.
01/04/2015	It is easy for the motorized crew to recommend "multi use" because of what happens when they are allowed into recreational areas. They cause so much trail and land damage, noise, exhaust, decreased wildlife sightings and scary encounters with other users that every one else leaves to search for a more serene place to enjoy nature. It becomes de facto single use in the favor of ORV's. I would also question the DNR about how they plan to repair damage caused by vehicles? I have never seen any evidence of that in the past. I assume this is due to lack of resources, but worth considering in deciding what to allow. Thanks for your service.
01/05/2015	Please consider allowing motorized access in this beautiful area to continue, I have enjoyed this area for 30+ years and have seen our OHV riding areas shrinking annually in this state, how much protected land is enough? The process to restrict lands must become fair to all vested parties, Thank you. T. Benson
01/05/2015	TO: DNR and WDFW Directors - I am a local life-long motorcycle rider with off-road racing experience. After personally witnessing the abject disregard current generation dirt bike riders have shown for this property while private, I cannot imagine how the Forest will accommodate public ORV use without permanent scarring and a failed DNR / WDFW program. Today's bikers buy high performance bikers capable of high speeds and ground ripping damage. These bikes are best suited to dedicated tracks or open areas, where riders can best challenge themselves and fully utilize their bikes. The Teanaway is no place for this. The Teanaway is a fragile environment, best suited to more conservation and preservation oriented pursuits. Bill Smiley
01/05/2015	One of my concerns that I have not seen being addressed is over use. With all this interest in Teanaway it would be very easy to love it to death, as some of our other recreation areas have experienced. Since it is a confined area, one way of limiting use to a sustaining level would be to have parking lots that would hold a certain number of cars on a first come first serve basis. And then control the parking alongside roadways. It is how the national parks limit usage.

**01/06/2015**

Please preserve the current usage without ORV access. As a local hiker and horse rider (and occasional mountain bike rider), the Teanaway is one of the only locations that we don't frequently run into ORVs. This has long made the Teanaway our safest choice for getting outdoors which we do weekly as the weather allows. I am also a biologist and would love to see the preservation of the ecosystem and health of this wonderful forest maintained. ORVs have been shown to be destructive to wildlife habitats and waterways due to pollution and they physically break down river banks etc. Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter. I am hopeful that quality ecological impact studies will be done and the result will determine the final outcome. Best Wishes.

- **Support a strong community partnership in which the Yakama Nation, residents, business owners, local governments, conservation groups and others provide advice about ongoing land management. – 0 Comments**