



Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee Meeting Summary April 14, 2014

Advisory Committee Attendees:

Derek Sandison	Dale Bambrick	JJ Collins
Phil Rigdon	Deborah Essman	Mark Charlton
Gary Berndt	Gregg Bafundo	Martha Wyckoff-By Phone
Jason Ridlon	Jeri Downs	Steve Justham
Andrea Imler	Jim Halstrom	Urban Eberhart
Kitty Craig	Brian Crowley	

Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Reagan Dunn
Wayne Mohler
Doug Schindler

Agency and Consultant Staff:

Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental	Michael Livingston – WDFW
Eric Winford – DNR/WDFW	Rick Roeder – DNR
Cynthia Wilkerson – WDFW	

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Review of meeting agenda. (Lisa Dally Wilson)
- Committee members approved meeting notes from the March 30th Meeting.
- A call in option for Advisory Committee members will not regularly be available. An exception was made for this meeting because it was scheduled on a day that is not the regular meeting day.
- Detailed Introductions - Committee members introduced themselves and described why they are at the table, they gave a brief summary of their backgrounds and what they hope to achieve as Advisory Committee members.

2. Advisory Committee Business

- Binders and maps were distributed to Committee members.
- **Advisory Committee Charter:** Committee discussed the Charter and asked for clarification on particular elements. The group is comfortable working under the

charter as it stands. There was also a request for clarification about working relationships between DNR and WDFW and expectations. This will be established throughout the planning process, however involvement and contribution by each agency is expected to be equivalent.

- **Communication and Participation Agreement** was signed by all present committee members.
- **Alternates:** The Charter specifies there will be no alternates appointed with the exception of the three members mandated by the Legislature: the Yakama Nation, Department of Ecology and Kittitas County Board of Commissioners. Tom Tebb will be the alternate for Derek Sandison, Department of Ecology. Commissioner Paul Jewel will be the alternate for Commissioner Gary Berndt. Phil Rigdon will appoint an alternate for the Yakama Nation shortly.
- **Schedule:** The regular Advisory Committee meeting dates will be the second Thursday of every month. It is requested committee members reserve 12 to 8 p.m. within their schedule for the meetings. In the case where a second meeting is needed within the month, the second meeting will be on the fourth Thursday. For these meetings it is requested that committee members reserve 3:30 to 8 p.m. in their schedule.

3. Overview of goals for the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) as Defined by the Legislation

- The five goals for the Community Forest, as defined in the Legislation (2SSB 5367) were reviewed and discussed with the Advisory Committee. It was explained that the first four goals would be used to structure the recommendations for a Strategic Management Plan for the Forest. For each goal, it is hoped that the Advisory Committee would develop objectives and strategies to achieve the goal. The first four goals will be addressed by the Advisory Committee first, and the fifth goal regarding partnerships would be addressed second. It was pointed out that the fifth goal would be addressed throughout the entire process. *(Note: Added after meeting by agencies for clarification: the advisory committee and the public participation during the development of the management plan will accomplish the 5th goal.)*
- Urban Eberhart provided background as to how the goals for the TCF are tied to the Yakima Basin Integrated Planning effort. He pointed out that multiple uses of the forest are fine if the watershed and habitat protection goals established for the Teanaway as part of the legislation for the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) can be met. He suggested the Advisory Committee consider where different uses take place on the landscape such that the goals from the YBIP can be met. Determining baseline in the forest is important because TCF is a core element of the YBIP and there will need to be a measurement of increased health of the TCF watershed and fisheries. The protection of the Teanaway Community Forest was an essential element of the YBIP environmental benefits package. Future restoration of fish and

wildlife habitat and enhancement of watershed functions above current conditions will assist in balancing the water storage projects in the YBIP.

- There was discussion about the importance of achieving storage of 214,000 acre feet of new water at the upper Yakima basin reservoirs by 2025. If the 214,000 acre feet of water goal is not achieved, the legislation that created the TCF allows DNR's Board of Natural Resources to move the forest from community trust status into school trust status. It was clarified that it is not within the scope of the Advisory Committee to address the 214,000 AF of water goal. Several of the advisory committee members are working on water storage elements of the YBIP.
- Phil Rigdon discussed the watershed protection and habitat restoration aspects of the goals.
- Jim Halstrom suggested that goals #1 and #4 (protecting and enhancing water supply/watershed protection and fish and wildlife habitat conservation and restoration) were the priority and should be addressed first.

4. Advisory Committee Brainstorm-Subjects to address for each goal

- Overall Comments:
 - Several commented that they do not want to re-create the wheel. They want to be informed about best practices happening elsewhere that can be applied here and are also interested in hearing from DNR and DFW what specific elements of the management plan are most helpful for them to focus on.
 - The issue of economic sustainability of the resultant management plan was brought up several times and the committee is interested in understanding the extent to which funds can be assured to carry out the recommendations that they make.
 - Need a system to track data gaps and to provide a clearing house for data – WDFW and DNR are working on this.
- **Goal #1: Protect and enhance the water supply and protect the watershed.**
(addresses certain issues within goal #4 as well)
 - Flood plain connectivity to creek/river
 - Forest practices to enhance snowpack
 - Timber practices, including managing riparian areas and steep hillsides
 - Riparian enhancement on tributaries, no logging in riparian zone, timber management on hillsides
 - Riparian and floodplain enhancement practices on the mainstem (LWD (larger woody debris), other treatments to enhance habitat)
 - Identify strategies to work with county on shoreline and Critical Areas (CAs) (County currently doing CA and shoreline planning-2014)
 - Road density and condition and location- logging roads and user built roads

- Determine strategy to address the existence and use of these roads consistent with watershed and habitat goals
- Recreation uses: Address and understand all recreation uses and their consistency with watershed and habitat goals (campgrounds, motorized/non-motorized uses, hiking, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling/snow sports, target shooting (where and how much), horseback riding, skiing, mountain biking, voluntary areas open/closed, user built trails, trailheads, crime, safety, vandalism)
- Sedimentation issues
- Grazing practices and best practices for managing livestock to protect watershed function and habitat for fish and wildlife
- Current conditions: GIS/roads, LIDAR, water flow, water chemistry, etc.
- Establish baseline to be able to demonstrate progress
- The group then discussed what data should be tracked as part of baseline. Baseline information included:
 - Livestock use
 - Species (zoogeography)
 - GIS - Road location, use and conditions (for user built roads, logging roads, other)
 - LIDAR
 - Flow rates, hydrology
 - Water chemistry/ water quality
 - Culverts
 - Sedimentation problems
 - Forest health
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Age class
 - Soils
 - Game population (Elk and Deer)
 - Invasive weeds
 - Historical and cultural areas of significance
 - Forest inventory data (consider modeling this to provide indicator of economic potential)
 - Identify/quantify baseline recreation uses
 - Campgrounds, motorized/non-motorized uses, hiking, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling/snow sports, target shooting (where and how much), horseback riding, skiing, mountain biking, voluntary areas open/closed, user built trails, trailheads, crime, vandalism
- **Goal #4: Conserve and restore vital habitat for fish and wildlife** (see also Goal #1)

- Roads
 - Restoration of species (full suite) and restore balance among species and consider how balance among species leads to watershed health
 - Invasive species
 - Forest health
 - Large woody debris
 - Beavers
 - Passage for specific fish species – Spring Chinook, Steelhead, Coho, local trout and bull trout
 - Improve late season flows and pool habitat, (get fisheries management plan from Yakama Nation – Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP); and use to help determine objectives and strategies for Goal #4 for TCF)
- **Goal #2: Maintain working lands for forestry and domestic livestock goals while protecting key watershed functions and aquatic habitat.**
 - Explore Federal/State standard practices for grazing and forest practices and assess for application to the TCF
 - Economic considerations-self sustaining grazing, forestry?
 - Investment in animal management
 - Fire risks (consider Forest Service (FS) Restoration Strategy)
 - Insects and disease risk (consider FS Restoration Strategy)
 - Sustainable owl habitat (consider FS Restoration Strategy)
 - Who will pay for the fencing? Consider economic implications for grazing practices that will protect the watershed health
 - Develop regulatory plans and enforcement procedures for the land as part of the management plan. (Where will the money be coming from to fund the officers, etc.) Utilize DNR and WDFW and best practices to establish a sustainable and effective regulatory strategy and associated monitoring
 - Establish carrying capacity
 - Multiple sources of funding
 - Consider funding of maintenance activities
 - Consider combining resources (DNR, DFW, boy scouts, etc) for enforcement
 - **ECONOMICS:** A number of financing and economic issues were raised. These were “parked” for a future meeting that addresses the subject.
 - Reinvestment
 - Recreation and User fees
 - Does legislation enable self-funding, economic sustainability?

- **Goal #3: Maintain and where possible expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection, for activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, birding and snowmobiling, etc.**
 - One suggestion was made to maintain all existing trails with no changes in current use. Maintain the uses we have and protect the watershed.
 - Understand existing uses on all trails. Understand if and where uses may impact other goals.
 - Understand existing regulatory practices and boundaries.
 - Establish a balance in recreation uses and ensure safety for people. This would constitute a change as trails aren't really currently shared.
 - Understand the road system and the potential connectivity between sub-watersheds with the idea of potentially opening roads that have been closed, for example: consider opening Dickey Creek and 1st Creek roads.
 - Explore opening roads that have been closed and closing roads that have been open based on watershed health and fisheries needs and on recreation and transportation routes/road continuity.
 - Explore boundary issues and evaluate consistency with National Forest system trails.
 - Understand the differences between winter and summer recreation.
 - Understand impacts of trail use and trail building on fisheries and water resources.
 - Technological information- impacts of specific recreational uses. (For example, analysis/timing as related to wildlife needs, fish needs, etc.).
 - Identify where elk, deer, owl etc. are located at different times of the year and coordinate with trail and road use.
 - Look into incorporating seasonal uses to help regulate all needs of the Teanaway.
 - Understand how recreation could impact the timing of wildlife spawning, rearing, migrating, etc. Consider campgrounds and dispersed camping and recreation facilities within the need for watershed protection.
 - Develop an understanding of trail and road access points and management issues. Consider multi-jurisdictional trail access.
 - Establish a designated trail system in TCF.
 - Need an inventory of trails, trail management plan that includes education.

- Explore road to trail conversions.
 - Travel management plan
 - Economics and trail systems
- ACTION ITEM: DNR and WDFW will develop a map of the open and closed trails/roads and the surrounding Forest Service access points.

5. May 8th Field Trip and Meeting

- DNR and WDFW will bring in resources to facilitate discussion among committee members. These resources include DNR/WDFW staff and other experts with knowledge of issues that directly correspond with the goals of the TCF.
- May 8th, 2014 is the all-day (approximately 9-4pm) field trip for the committee members. Following the field trip will be a meeting.

6. Public Comments were received by six members of the public. These comments, along with written comments, are included in the public comment document.

Handouts

1. Agenda
2. Binders
3. Teanaway Map
4. One page handout titled “Teanaway Community Forest Strategic Management Plan” including definitions for goal, objective and strategy, and the five goals for the Teanaway Community Forest as specified in Senate Bill 2SSB 5367.