## Community Forest Advisory Group back to business

by Jim Fossett with Larry Leach and Doug McClelland

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CLE ELUM – After September's meeting of the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) Citizens Advisory Committee was cancelled due to the Jolly Mountain Wildfire, the 20 volunteers who staff the committee returned to the table for this month's meeting, held on Thursday, Oct. 12, at Third Street's Putnam Centennial Center.

Their main goal, as many already know, is to finish the outdoor recreation component of the grander Community Forest Management Plan, a chore assigned in October 2016 with the goal of finishing it in approximately two years.

Thursday's discussions lightly touched on motorized use, and at other junctures during the meeting Community Forest manager Larry Leach of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported on the impacts of the Jolly Mountain Wildfire.

#### **Motorized Use**

To facilitate the discussion about motorized use, meeting facilitator **Doug McClelland** tasked committee members to answer five

questions. After the meeting he talked about how the committee responded.

"In general most of them supported motorcycle use. They felt motorcycles on existing U.S. Forest Service multi-use trails was appropriate, meaning those in the area of the West Fork, Yellow Hill and Middle Fork, though they agreed the Middle Fork trail has issues with so many stream crossings.

"As for other motorcycle trails, they felt only if they were critical to a connection. There was minimal support for adding new trails and minimal support for the development of a Primary Management Objective (PMO) cross-country motorcycle trail area separated from other non-motorized users. However, there was conditional support for sharing a trail if a critical connection was at stake.

"Finally, to protect resources and improve access, there was conditional support for motorcycle use on a PMO non-motorized trail as a shared use – only if a critical connection was at stake.

"Keep in mind the purpose of the exercise was to help guide the committee before they start working

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SHOWN HERE: The results of a survey question posed by the Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Committee. The question - Why do you recreate in the Teanaway River Valley? was answered by 2,605 participants. Results were translated into this eye-catching info-graphic. Font size is used here to translate response percentages: The larger the font the more response.

Courtesy of Doug McClelland

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...on concepts in November so that they could get an idea - from what all they've learned over the past nine months - what trails might be appropriate for motorcycle use."

#### Leach reports on the wildfire

Leach said the Jolly Mountain Wildfire consumed approximately 9,000 acres of the 50,000acre Community Forest.

"The good news," he said, "is that much of that is still green, meaning many tree crowns are still intact because the fire primarily burned ground fuels. That's good for forest heath.

"We didn't lose a lot of timber. A lot of our resources survived, and there is one area, a total of 400 acres, where we could salvage about \$400,000 in timber. It would cost \$55,000 to replant it and we'd have to get that done pretty quickly. There may be another 200 to 300 acres more salvage out there."

Leach explained the \$400,000 would be distributed to DNR's Common School Construction Fund. The revenue from the other 200 to 300 acres in the «Community Forest would

stay in the Community Forest's account. Use of those funds would be up to DNR and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) with input from the TCF Citizens Advisory Committee.

In September, when Leach was first able to survev the damage, he said the Jolly Mountain Wildfire did create some challenges.

"We have to think about what it takes to make it safe out there again. We have to look at habitat impacts and road maintenance. There's a lot of work to do."

### Interesting footnote, but nothing surprising

Before Thursday's meeting started, WDFW Captain Bob Weaver and DNR's Officer Richard Rhea, both law enforcement agents charged to patrol the Community Forest, made some interesting comments.

"More so than in any other region we cover, visitors to the Community Forest aren't reading the (regulatory) signs."

They said a classic excuse is the one used by campers who reply, "We didn't see the sign. We got in late."

Both agents pointed out there's just too much ground to cover to make enforcement in the Community Forest work with the resources currently funded, and that typically they have to prioritize by patrolling the busiest spots in the forest, which include eampgrounds.

# Schmitt appointed to TCF advisory committee



ROSLYN'S DR. PAUL SCHMITT (left) shares a word with J.J. Collins at the Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on Oct. 12, Schmitt's first. Collins has been on the committee for several years. N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo - 2017

#### by Jim Fossett

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UPPER COUNTY Roslyn's Dr. Paul Schmitt has been appointed to fill the seat on the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) Citizens Advisory Committee vacated by Scott Gray, also of Roslyn.

Schmitt is a retired physician and avid mountain biker. He joined the committee at the Oct. 12 meeting inside Cle Elum's Putnam Centennial Center.

Schmitt said he frequently rides in the Teanaway area from his home. He said he was one of the first mountain bikers to ride Roslyn Ridge. He said he also enjoys hiking, backpacking, skiing and snowshoeing.

"I took the job because I think the work the commit-

tee is doing is very important. I have a deep interest in our community and in

the health of our comn nity as well. I'm looking f ward to serving."



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