

Community Forest Advisory Group back to business

by **Jim Fossett**
with **Larry Leach** and
Doug McClelland

jim@nkctribune.com

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

See TEANAWAY..., page A5

[illegible]

Courtesy of Doug McClelland

N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo - 2017