

# DNR Plans Timber Salvage on Trust Land

## Saturday

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Larry Leach gave an update to the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee on the current timber salvage situation due to the Jolly Mountain Fire during Thursday's quarterly meeting.

The Department of Natural Resources determined that salvage harvests were not economically viable on the community forest land, but parts of the trust land will be salvageable. Leach said the early appraisal projects about \$400,000 in profit from the sale, but said he doesn't know exactly what the final number will be.

"We were able to meet our habitat needs and we had good access to a large chunk of heavily damaged timber, which made it economical," Leach said.

The Jolly Mountain Fire burned 36,817 acres in the Teanaway, Lake Cle Elum and Salmon la Sac area in Upper Kittitas County in August and September 2017.

Determining factors that drove DNR decisions on what to salvage included burn severity, how much ground was accessible by road, snag retention and habitat. Leach also ran through economic factors that determine whether certain spots are viable to salvage.

"I want to re-stress to everyone that the fact that we're not salvaging on the community forest is probably a good thing," Leach said. "It means the forest wasn't damaged as badly to create that need for salvage."

During the meeting, Leach

explained some of the economic factors that reduce the viability of salvaging in some areas. He showed how the costs of trucking fuel, transportation to the nearest mill and logging costs all contribute to the decisions.

"You can see, the money is disappearing quickly," Leach said. "If we're not in the black on this, it isn't worth our effort."

Leach said one way to defray these costs is to target areas where they can get the most bang for their buck by not leaving a lot of timber behind, but also have to keep in mind keeping habitat for spotted owls, wolves and other wildlife considerations.

"When we're leaving the snags we want for the habitat goals, we got upside down on our financials," Leach said.

### **NEXT STEPS**

DNR will be releasing an environmental study within the next month which will give people an opportunity to provide comment on the timber sale proposal.

Once the comment period is over, adjustments will be made and the proposal will go to the Board of DNR to review and approve. Once it's approved, the wood will be advertised and sold.