

REGIONAL NEWS

State agencies celebrate draft management plan completion

by Jim Fossett | jim@nkctribune.com

TEANAWAY – The Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), on Thursday, April 9, joined with members of the Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Committee to host an open house at the Swauk-Teanaway Grange.

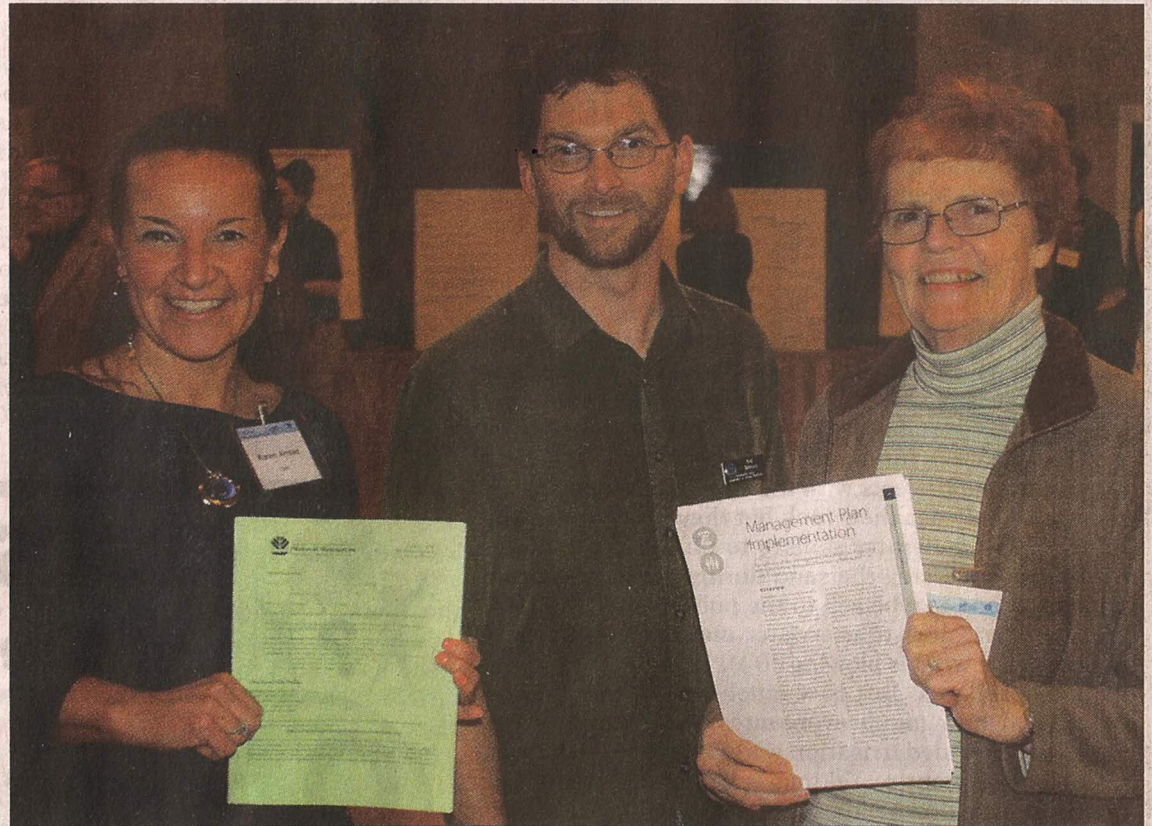
The event celebrated the culmination of a yearlong effort to create a draft management plan and SEPA for the community forest, and it offered an opportunity for the public to file comments on the two documents.

Teanaway River Valley resident and a member of the advisory committee **Jerri Downs** commented, “It’s good to see a final product that will guide the use of the Teanaway in years to come.”

Jim Halstrom, also a committee member, had this to say: “Given the level of conflict we started with I’m delighted with the consensus for a final draft, not that there aren’t some lingering challenges.”

What stakeholders should know, as Downs pointed out, is that though the 74-page draft management plan will be finalized after the comment period on the draft expires and in June sent to state legislators as scheduled, the recreation component of the plan still has life, meaning it will remain in draft form.

Said Downs, “The advisory committee will continue to meet for the next 18 months to refine that part of the plan.”



A MAJOR MILESTONE. After a year of work the state’s first ever community forest has a draft management plan and SEPA ready for public review and comment. State agency officials joined members of the Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Group and the general public to celebrate the occasion in an open house at the Swauk-Teanaway Grange held on Thursday, April 9. Pictured (L-R) at the event are Karen Arnold, Eric Winford and Jerri Downs.

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plan would likely mirror the *framework* of on April 21.”

