

Teanaway Community Forest area may get a little bigger

by **Jim Fossett**

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OLYMPIA – If the state Board of Natural Resources has its way, the 50,000-acre Teanaway Community Forest will enlarge by 5,160 acres – but it's only going to happen with a green light from Olympia.

Tuesday, Nov. 4, as part of a biennial ritual, the Board asked legislators to consider the proposal, which includes another 2,550 acres to be divided between the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area east of Seattle

& Washington State Parks.

The Conservation Area would get state-owned trust forest and Parks would get the Lake Spokane Campground.

Said Commissioner of Public Lands **Peter Goldmark**, "The trust land transfer program helps counties and other public agencies secure treasured land for parks, recreation or wildlife habitat that they may not have been able to afford otherwise, while helping to build more public schools in Washington state."

The largest transfer pro-

posed in the package would add 5,160 acres in Kittitas County to the recently created Teanaway Community Forest, managed by the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

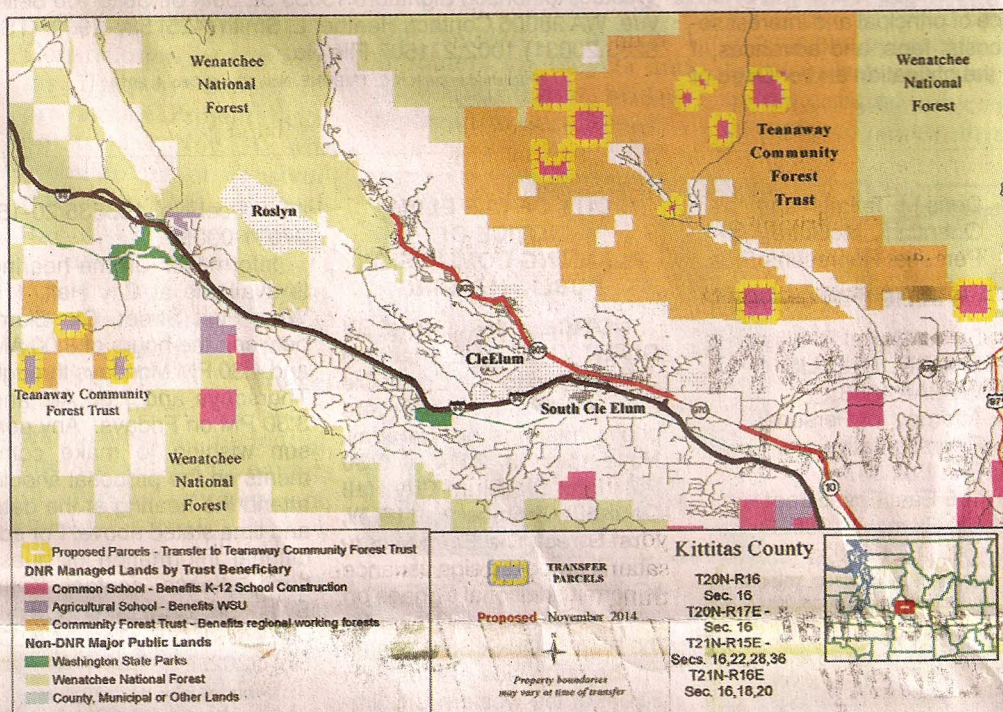
The Biennial Ritual

Rick Roeder, one of DNR's mentors of the Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Committee, explains how the 5,160-acre addition to the Community Forest works.

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Department of Natural Resources 2015-2017 Trust Land Transfer Project TEANAWAY



MAP WITH KEY SHOWING the 5,160 acres that, with the legislature's approval, would be added to the Teanaway Community Forest. Note the checkerboard sections of land already inside the community forest. Those are known as "inholdings," land inside the boundary of a national park or forest, state park, or similarly publicly-owned, protected area owned by another entity.

Map courtesy of Dept. of Natural Resources

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His explanation serves as a foundation for readers who want to understand the agency's land trust transfer model in this instance.

"Basically, the 5,160-acres have been identified as land which, for one reason or another, we are unable to harvest to the level that ensures a strong revenue stream for the construction of schools.

"With support from the legislature we can transfer that land to, in this case, an established community forest. How does the transfer process evolve?

"We get an appraisal for

the value of the land to be transferred, ask legislators to pay the school construction fund for the value of the timber on that land – and – pay the Department of Natural Resources for the appraised value of the land. Our agency would use those dollars to purchase timberland better suited to support the state's school construction fund.

"That's the general idea, meaning we do have several different kinds of trust land and for each category the transfer model is unique."

If it Flies

If the two land transfers are approved by legislators,

agency officials estimate they would ultimately add as much as \$30.5 million to public school construction projects over the next two years and protect another 8,690 acres from development (the 5,160 acres plus the 2,550 acres).

Asked if the acquisition would change the process or the meat of the management plan members of the Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Committee are working on at this writing, Roeder said, "Not at all. The management plan is a high level document that would more than adequately apply to the newly acquired land."