

Reimer fills vacancy on Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Committee

by Jim Fossett

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TEANAWAY – Wednesday, July 2, officials representing the two state agencies overseeing the Teanaway Community Forest appointed Sumner's **Mike Reimer** to fill the seat on the Citizens Advisory Committee recently vacated by Ronald's **Steve Justham**.

At a work session held in June at Swauk-Teanaway Grange, **Lisa Dally Wilson**, a facilitator hired by the state to help the committee author a forest management plan proposal due in Olympia by June 2015, announced Justham resigned "due to health reasons."

Although Reimer hails from Sumner, he owns vacation property in the Teanaway where he said he spends a lot of time.

Before their search began, state officials indicated, among other things, they wanted an applicant with the passion for ORV's that Justham seemed to possess.

"We think he will be a great fit to represent both family and ORV interests in the Teanaway," said **Byron Stuck**, president of the Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance.

Citizens Advisory Committee meetings, though scheduled just once a month, are grueling and time consuming, sometimes lasting as long as eight hours.

If you consider that Reimer, a father of two boys and an owner of Sumner's Western Wood Preserving Company, will have



SUMNER'S MIKE REIMER has been named to fill the vacancy created when Ronald's Steve Justham resigned from the Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Committee in June. Courtesy photo submitted

to commute to the meetings and avail himself for other committee-related work you might ask: Why would he volunteer?

"I'm willing to make the commitment. I'm very interested in what happens with the forest. I attended a couple of committee meetings before the vacancy appeared.

"I'm also an active ORV'er, actually more of a dirt biker, I would say.

"As the crow flies my vacation property is three or four miles from the border of the Teanaway Community Forest and I have been riding that area for the last five to ten years, right from my back door.

"What would I like to see accomplished?

"I think we can create a responsible trail system

that doesn't impact water or wildlife or the forest. Other state forests have done so, even some in Washington.

"I do believe the state's focus is primarily centered around environmental issues, not so much on recreation, so it could be an uphill climb, but I'm optimistic."

Today, Thursday, July 10, Reimer attends his first Citizens Advisory Committee meeting at Swauk-Teanaway Grange, scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. At this writing the agenda also calls for a field trip. Details of the trip were not available at press time.

Note that the public is invited to observe committee meetings.

Ecology h slipping a

OLYMPIA – Washington State Dept. of Ecology officials believe the millions of gallons of water annually trickling down your home drains could be re-used.

With that in mind, Ecology is developing guidelines for local governments so they have an approved, standardized approach to reclaim water.

"Water is our most precious natural resource and is declining in many parts of our state," said Ecology Director Maia Bellon. "If we can be more efficient, it will help us balance com-