

COMMUNITY

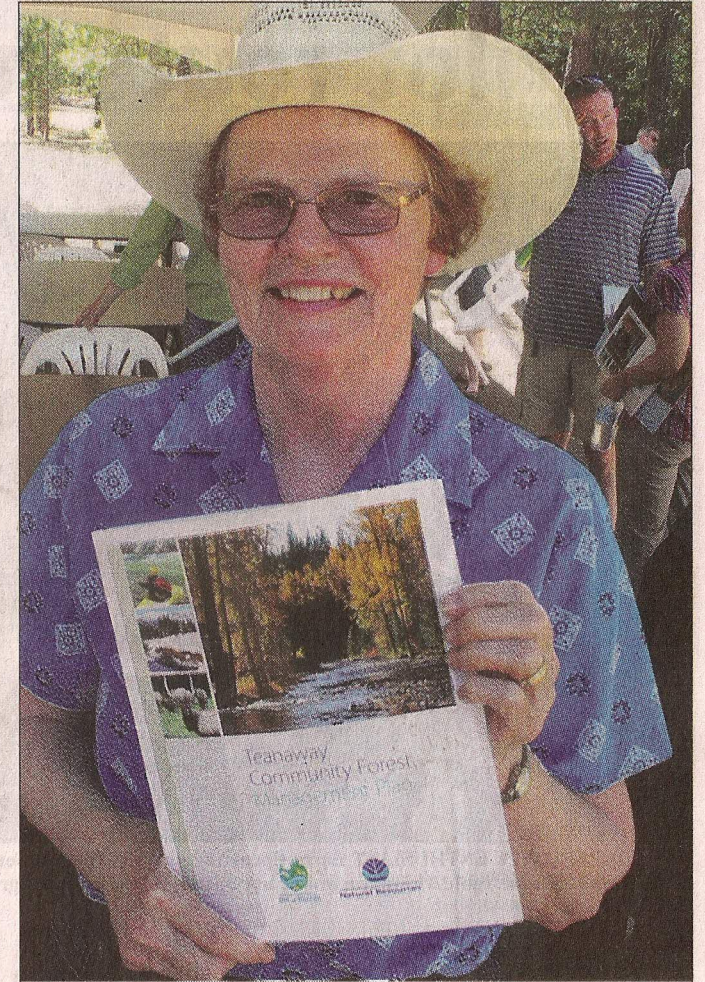
Teaway Community Forest Management Plan dedicated



MEMBERS OF THE Teaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory Committee present for the Thursday, June 25 dedication of the forest management plan with Commissioner of Public Lands

Peter Goldmark (seated front left) and WDFW Director Jim Unsworth (seated front right).

N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo - 2015



JERI DOWNS Teaway resident and member of the Teaway Community Forest Citizen's Advisory Committee with her signed copy of the management plan on June 25. Said Downs, "I'm just glad to see the Teaway preserved, not developed."

N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo - 2015

by **Jim Fossett**

jim@nkctribune.com

TEANAWAY – Agency leaders hailing from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington State Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) officially dedicated the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan with a signing on Thursday, June 25.

The document was one year-plus in the making and still has 18 months to go, but more on that in a minute. At the ceremony, held at the Teanaway

Campground, members of the Teanaway Community Forest Citizen's Advisory Committee and other stakeholders heard from DNR's Commissioner of Public Lands **Peter Goldmark** and WDFW Director **Jim Unsworth**.

Said Goldmark, "This was a huge effort from many partners and a lesson that people working together toward a common goal can truly accomplish miracles."

Unsworth, just recently hired to his post, admitted with a note of humor he

didn't have much of an opportunity to get involved.

"I wasn't here for the majority of the time spent on the plan, but I do understand a lot of special people came together to bring it together."

Goldmark and Unsworth handed each member of the advisory committee a signed copy of the plan and took that moment to offer their personal thanks.

Staffers from the two agencies were also acknowledged, including **Rick Roeder**, **Mike Livingston**,

Eric Winford, and **Matthew Randazzo** along with Forterra's government affairs director **Leda Chahieh** without whom, Goldmark said, the purchase of the land that now comprises the state's first community forest would not have been possible.

Kittitas County **Gary Berndt** pointed out the next challenge is to finish the recreation section of the plan in the next 18 months. That section was intentionally left unfinished to give the public process and various stake-

holders involved more time to hammer out the details.

Said Berndt, "As we transition from planning to operations our challenge is to finish that section because it will tell us how we're going to welcome people to the Teanaway Community Forest without sacrificing our commitment to protect it. We all must respect and care for this land for it will become our legacy."

After the ceremony Goldmark's assistant, Matthew Randazzo, com-

mented on funding of the plan, which at press time Tuesday was still in the hands of state lawmakers.

"At this point we're speculating the legislature is leaning toward earmarking \$282,000 out of the state operating fund for law enforcement. We'd requested \$1.9M.

"We also requested \$1.13M from the capital fund. Depending on what we get we have several forest health projects focused on fuel reduction we consider top priority. At this point we're obviously hoping to get the larger portion of what we requested."

N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo - 2015

TEANAWAY