

# Fencing in Teanaway Community Forest to start next spring

by Jim Fossett

jim@nkctribune.com

ELLENSBURG – Members of the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) Grazing Subcommittee met at the Armory in Ellensburg Friday, Sept. 23, and before they adjourned the decision was made to begin with a \$150K fencing project at pre-selected, prioritized sites – in hopes of completing a total of ten miles or more next year.

Although funding hasn't been finalized, members seemed to be confident that an Ecology grant in the offing is the most promising.

Officials associated with the project estimate cost per mile of fence is about \$15K, not including costs per mile per year needed to maintain the fences. Still, Kittitas County Commissioner **Paul Jewell** said he believes the estimates are high. "I think we can get twice or three times the number of miles out of \$150K," he said.

Areas targeted along with the estimated number of miles of fencing for each area include, in order of priority:

- Henry Field at the mouth of Indian Creek (2 miles).
- Dickey Creek (1 mile).
- Rye Patch at the mouth of Jack Creek (2 miles).
- Between Shirk and Indian Creek (2 miles).
- Bussoli Field (3 miles).

Other areas targeted for fencing should funding avail itself, in order of priority:

- Indian Creek above the county road (2 miles).
- Jack Creek (3 miles).
- The upper North Fork (2 miles).
- Middle Creek in the North Fork (1 mile).
- Carlson Creek in the lower West Fork (3 miles).
- Confluence of the West and Middle Fork (2 miles).
- Mid West Fork (3 miles).
- Confluence of the North Fork and Teanaway (3 miles).
- Jack Creek (3 miles).
- At the upper West Fork River (1 mile).
- Midway on the Middle Fork River (1 mile).

## Fencing strategy

Subcommittee members have said fencing teams would use adaptive management practices when confronted with options. For instance, there are the options to use lay-down fencing and gateways where outdoor recreationists trek, and where possible there is the option to allow a feature of the landscape to function as a required barrier.

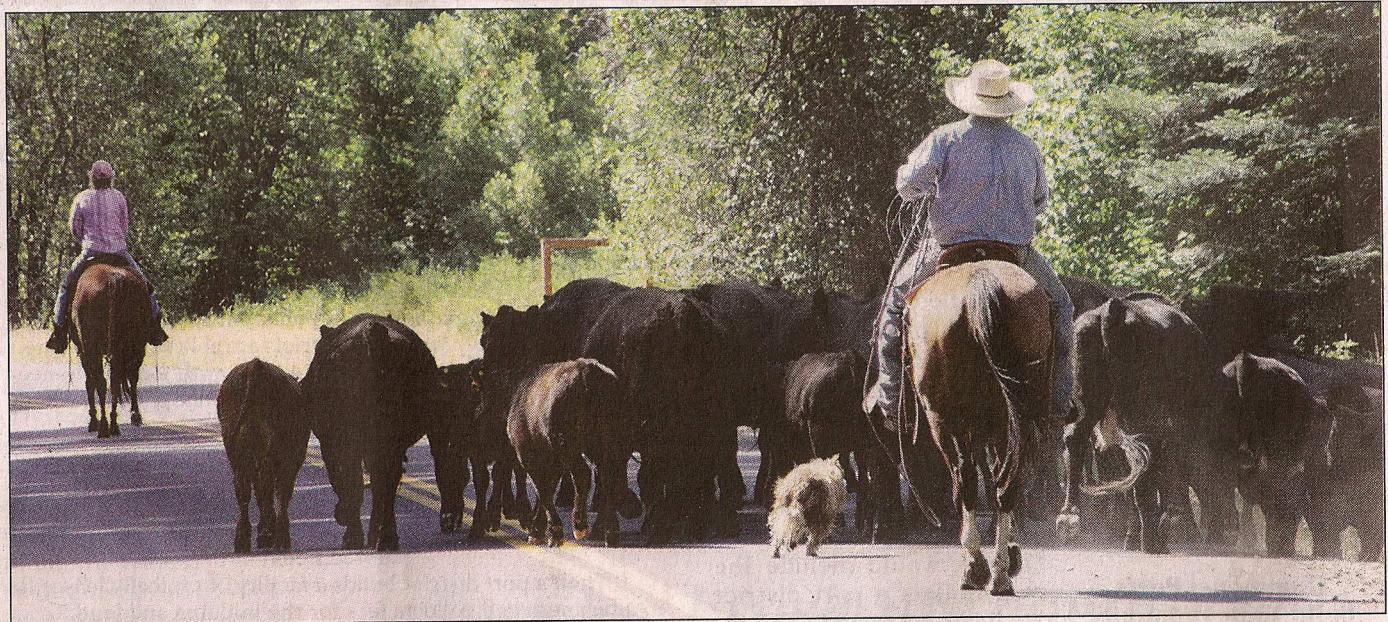
Wrote subcommittee chair and DNR liaison **Erik Winford**, "When siting and designing fence lines we have to consider recreation, driver safety and maintenance issues.

"We have the option to take small trees from our thinning projects and use

them to build fences.

"We can create gaps in fence lines to allow livestock to cross rivers but we need to [design fence lines in a way] that encourages cattle to access waterways away from the three forks of the Teanaway. We also need to protect the geomorphic floodplain and the channel migration zone."

Forest managers say a companion strategy piggy-backing the fencing project calls for a subcommittee team to reconvene in 2021 and use the metrics recently created to evaluate effectiveness of the project and to adjust accordingly.



A GRAZING SUBCOMMITTEE announced a fencing project sited for the Teanaway Community Forest would commence next spring, part of a grander management plan for the Forest mandated by the legislature in hopes of restoring the Teanaway River Valley's precious watershed. N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo - 2016

## Just catching up?

For readers just catching up, the Grazing Subcommittee got its marching orders earlier this year to fashion a Grazing Management Plan, one of the last two components of the approved Teanaway Community Forest Management.

When the Teanaway Community Forest Citizens Advisory group gave the green light to the Grazing Management Plan presented them earlier this month, the subcommittee set about the chore to implement the plan with the fencing project discussed in this story.

"Follow Your Nose To Thorp" ... at the 6th Annual

## THORP COMMUNITY DAY Sept 30 & Oct 1, 2016

### GRAND PARADE

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1

Grand Marshals:

Roger & Janie McCune



### BIG KICK-OFF EVENT

Friday, Sept. 30 • Doors open 6:00 p.m.

**MOST EVENTS  
held at  
Thorp Fire  
Station**

**Saturday,  
Oct. 1st**

- Community Breakfast
- Grand Parade
- Vendor Market
- Carnival Games
- Historical Displays
- Face Painting
- The Balloon Man
- Food Vendors
- Entertainment