



## July 2023 Newsletter

Hi Teaway Community Forest Advisory Committee Members,  
Happy Summer! We trust you all are doing well and enjoying your summers so far. In this newsletter we will provide some quarterly updates we'd normally provide at our July quarterly meeting to keep you in the loop while you're (hopefully) out enjoying this great weather.

**Check out the Teaway Community Forest FB Page managed by Goal 5!**

[Teaway Community Forest | Facebook](#)



## Goal 1: Water Supply & Watershed Protection

Mid-Columbia Fisheries (MCF), Yakama Nation and WDFW prepared a proposal for restoration work between River Mile (RM) 5.2 and 8 in the West Fork Teanaway River. The grant program is the America the Beautiful Challenge, hosted through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Yakama Nation is the sponsor of the grant, which was submitted July 19.

The request, for \$3.5 million, would support implementation of restoration along 2.8 miles of stream. Our primary approach to addressing the stream and floodplain impairments in the reach is to raise the channel bed relative to adjacent floodplains and remove anthropogenic floodplain impediments. The material contained within many artificial floodplain features such as roads, railroad grades, and dikes is predominantly alluvium. Our approach will be to ag-grade the channel with this alluvium while restoring a matrix of large wood to the river. This approach will: 1) slow water and re-engage floodplain surfaces more frequently, 2) form and restore riverine wetlands, 3) provide associated flood flow retention, 4) provide water quality improvement, and 5) create new floodplain channels over time.

Rebecca Wassell, Mid-Columbia Fisheries, 509-281-1311



West Fork at Teanaway Camp



## Goal 2: Working Lands

### Grazing

The limited public works contract, “Teaway Fence Tip-Up and Repair 2023”, has been completed, with all six plus miles of North Fork laydown fence tipped up and repaired in time for grazing season. Additionally, numerous repairs were conducted on permanent fence in need of it most. We have also had help from the Mid-Columbia Fisheries crew, who are currently working on permanent fence repairs around Jack Creek.

The new North Fork lessee, Kyler Beard, has been working closely in the Teaway with his approximately 300 cattle since they started grazing the Teaway mid-June. Kyler thus far has been fast in his response in removing cattle from private landowner areas and riparian areas alike. So far, the vegetation monitoring is looking very promising. Utilization of vegetation, bank alteration, and woody forage use are low almost everywhere. The plan remains to have Kyler’s cattle out of the TCF by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Fudacz, the West Fork lessee, has had some cattle make their way over to select North Fork private properties and riparian areas. Gary and his range rider have been quick to respond to concerns of land owners and DNR staff alike. Agency staff are planning to tie in with Gary at the end of the season to discuss what can be done for greater success next season, including possible new fencing infrastructure in high-pressure areas.

The virtual fencing equipment did not arrive on time for proper deployment this grazing season. The plan is to fit all North Fork cattle with GPS collars next year. The West Fork and First Creek grazing lessees will have the option to utilize the technology but will not be required, as it is not written into their lease.



## Goal 2: Working Lands

### Forestry

Agency staff, including DNR Foresters and WDFW biologists, have continued forest operations planning in the identified priority area for forestry (Northeastern section of TCF).

Much of the work in this area stems around protecting the best remaining habitat for wildlife like the Northern Spotted Owl, which prefer this moist mixed conifer forest. Fuel breaks along roads that would help firefighters have been prioritized. Fire crews will work on these fuel break areas as they have time throughout the season. Additionally, a significant amount of ground in need of pre-commercial thinning has been identified. The Teanaway Forester will be laying out pre-commercial thinning units throughout the summer and putting together a contract over the winter, with work expected to be completed by contractors in the summer of 2024.





## Goal 3: Recreation



Road and campsite rocking at Indian Camp proper

This spring and summer has been very busy for recreation projects in the TCF!

We were able to rock the loops and campsite parking in Indian Camp proper with some of our allotted Backlog Maintenance funding. Also, at the Indian Camp Expansion, an ADA horse mounting ramp is currently being installed with help from WCC and should be ready for use shortly.

All three camping areas received fire prevention work including removing combustible material from around fire rings and pruning low hanging branches on trees, in addition to general annual/ongoing maintenance.

As of July 14, 2023, no wood burning campfires are allowed in the Teanaway Community Forest. Propane powered campfires are currently permissible.



## Goal 3: Recreation



WCC assisting us in grading the pad for the horse ramp



Setting the first couple courses of block for the ramp

We're very appreciative of the support we received from our Region Engineer, Nick Jones, who adapted a horse ramp design to be constructed with landscaping block. We also wouldn't have been able to complete the project without our local WCC crew! The crew has been so helpful on this project and is necessary for us to keep our recreation sites open and maintained across the region.



Nearly complete horse mounting ramp. Will be open for use soon!



## **Goal 3: Recreation**

### **West Fork Trails Plan Update**

The trail layout phase is underway. Each group participating in the implementation of the trail plan is working on trail layout for the trails they have been assigned to work on. There is a check-in meeting for the coalition on July 26th to discuss layout progress and to start working on work orders under the groups' Master Agreements so work can begin when the trail development grant begins this fall.

The next phase is 'user group approval' where each group has to review and approve of the proposed work for all the other groups involved in implementation, followed by agency approval and construction map making. Then we wait for fall!

### **DNR Law Enforcement Update from Officer Blume**

Overall things have been relatively quiet in Teanaway Community Forest this year throughout spring and summer.

Few notable issues which have occurred this spring/summer include malicious mischief issues resulting in damage to DNR property (i.e., gate at Butte Road and fire pit in Teanaway campground). Illegal motorized use continues to occur each spring behind closed gates as shed hunters converge on the TCF in search of elk sheds. Additional complaints have been received for illegal motorized use on roads not gated but posted closed in areas off North Fork and Middle Fork roads. Recommendations to DNR staff have been forwarded requesting permanent gates be installed at these access points.

Common violations occurring in our campgrounds include dogs off leash, Discover Pass, ORV's in campsites, trash not collected or left at sites and campers overstaying in sites beyond seven days.

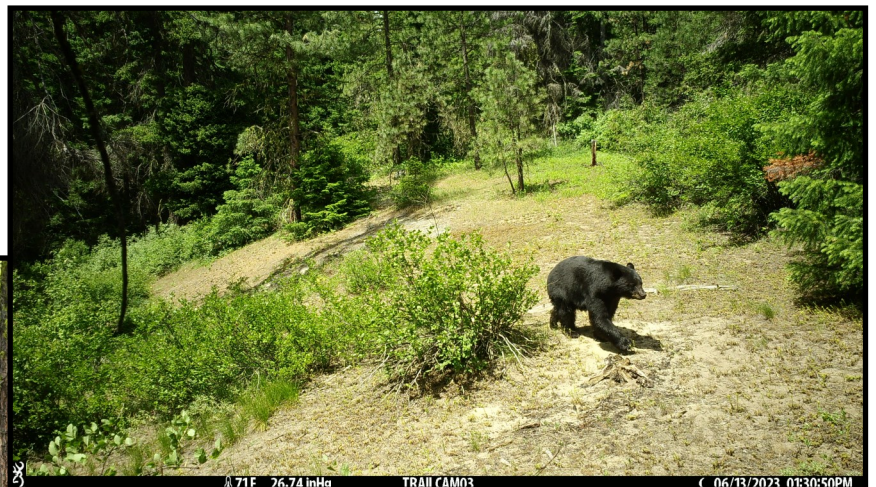
Illegal ORV use behind our gates is occasionally occurring mainly adjacent to Nature Conservancy lands along Roslyn Ridge. (WDFW has enforcement contract for Nature Conservancy land). I continue to utilize trail cameras and patrols to monitor illegal activities adjacent to TCF lands and coordinate information with WDFW enforcement officers to assist with patrols.

Majority of my contacts are positive and result in educating the public on our rules in the Teanaway Community Forest and gaining compliance through education and when necessary written enforcement.

## Goal 4: Fish & Wildlife Habitat

### Wildlife Camera Update

WDFW has continued to place wildlife cameras around the forest with placing cameras up Indian Creek and Teanaway Butte in early May. We will be checking those in early fall to see what spring and summer wildlife movement yielded. We are also partnering with TNC to further cover the Cle Elum ridge with wildlife cameras. We placed 4 cameras in early March and checked them in early July. On those cameras were Mule Deer, Elk, Black Bear and at least one Bobcat. A sampling of those photos is available below. WDFW is further partnering with TNC on additional areas of the Cle Elum Ridge later this summer to understand wildlife movement along the Cle Elum Ridge.





## Goal 5: Community Partnerships

### Teanaway Interpretive Events

The first two interpretive events of this season were well attended and received—extra thanks to our event leaders!



Left: Scott Downes and Deborah Essman teach participants to identify several birds by their song or call during the birding event above Indian Creek.



Right: Karl Lillquist, a CWU geography professor, explains how Cheese Rock may have gotten this cheesy to the Geology Hike participants.

The next event, a Forest Health Walk with DNR Forester Operations District Manager Jason Emsley, is Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9AM where we'll learn about the work that's happening to make the TCF a healthy, fire-resilient forest, and share this link with those who may be interested.

For our final interpretive event this season, on August 19<sup>th</sup> Tom Ring will lead a Hydrogeology Walk at Dickey Creek, giving folks the opportunity to learn about the rivers in the Teanaway—how they've shaped the landscape, why we can see bedrock in most of them, and what's being done to reshape them now. Follow the [Teanaway Community Forest Facebook page](#) to stay up to date on these events!

## Goal 5: Community Partnerships

### Education

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Teanaway Community Forest hosted our first Salmon Release Day field trip! G5 supported Mid-Columbia Fisheries, Swiftwater Learning Center, and the Thorp and Easton Schools in utilizing the TCF as a staging ground for educational opportunities. After ~60 students released their salmon at Teanaway Junction, they bussed up to Twentynine Pines where Mid-Columbia Fisheries staff and volunteers, with the help of Swiftwater Learning Center students, led 4th-6th grade students from Thorp and Easton in habitat evaluations.

Students were able to see firsthand how restoration projects have shaped the environment in the TCF, and they were able to make their own assessments about these habitats' suitability for salmon. See photos at right.

Following the spring field trip--and a pilot trip last fall--this September the Thorp Schools Career Technical Education (CTE): Agriculture program will have their second natural resource careers field trip in the TCF. This year's focus will be on how different goals of the TCF Management Plan intersect in agency staff's work (e.g. watershed and wildlife habitat).

Last year, Friends of the Teanaway generously donated funds for a bus for the field trip. This year, the school would appreciate similar support—if you or an organization you're part of would be interested in funding a bus for September, please let Vince ([vince.pruis@mtsgreenway.org](mailto:vince.pruis@mtsgreenway.org)) know!



Above: Students split into groups at each site to evaluate the habitat by observing shade, water temperature and quality, and the macroinvertebrates in the water.



Above: Students gather at Twentynine Pines to receive instructions for the day.



## Goal 5: Community Partnerships

### Volunteer Events

In late May, G5 worked with agency staff and the Mountains to Sound Greenway to host two work parties for a “Spring Sweep” event. Volunteers at the Teanaway Campground picked up trash and emptied fire pits while another group removed derelict barbed wire between Middle and Indian Creek.



Left: The group at Teanaway Campground collected nearly a truck-load of material from the camping area and fire pits.  
Below: The “Barbed Wire Wranglers” pose in front of the wire, and posts, they pulled.

For information on trails-focused volunteer events, please refer to the West Fork Trails Coalition.

Keep an eye out on the Teanaway Community Forest Facebook Page for work party announcements.





## Goal 5: Community Partnerships

### Photo Contest is open!



2018 "Teaway at Play" Submission by Anne Fonken

The Teaway Community Forest 2023 Photo Contest is open through August 15<sup>th</sup>. While Advisory Committee members aren't eligible to win, we'd love your support in spreading the submission link through your networks!

The six categories are 1) Teaway at Play, 2) Flora and Fauna, 3) Landscapes, 4) Volunteerism, 5) Best Selfie, and 6) Youth Photography. Learn more, and tell people to submit, here:

<https://woobox.com/v6t6xc>

### Teaway Community Forest is 10!

This fall will be the ten-year anniversary of the Teaway Community Forest! Stay tune for more information about how to celebrate the first decade of the TCF.

Check out the link below to watch a short video about the Teaway and Cle Elum Ridge!

<https://f.io/21w5xRc4>

