

Community Forest open house billed a good start

by Jim Fossett

jim@nkctribune.com

TEANAWAY – On Thursday, June 26, citizens converged at the Swauk-Teanaway Grange on Cle Elum's Ballard Hill Road for the first of three Teanaway Community Forest open houses hosted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

State Representative **Judy Warnick** joined Kittitas County commissioners **Gary Berndt** and **Paul Jewell** in the crowd of about 50 attendees.

"This is a good thing," Warnick said, voicing approval for the way both agencies appear to be engaging the public with the development of a forest management plan proposal the 20-member citizens advisory committee is

charged to deliver by June 2015.

Public comments collected and posted on the Community Forest's website have included calls for multi-use (repeatedly for dirt bikes, ORVs and ATVs), an updated definition of what the state considers an illegal trail, a broad distribution of e-mail addresses belonging to advisory committee members, a code of conduct with regard to grazing leases, curtailment of widening any flood plain near a residence, maps highlighting damage by the Spruce budworm, a harmonic integration of the U.S. Forest Service's transportation plan, a survey of the number of people accessing the forest today, consideration of community forest impacts on private landowners, an evaluation of funding requirements falling out of the proposed management plan, special attention to enforcement requirements, outreach programs aimed to educate the general public, a conflict resolution

process, and campgrounds to be left as they are rather than compartmenting them into "city-proper" sites.

For an unedited, complete list of public comments Google Teanaway Community Forest and CLICK on any number of links on the site labeled "Public Comments."

What's Next

In the briefing that kicked off the open house, agency officials indicated July is designated as the month for the citizens advisory committee to square away that section of the proposed management plan devoted to recreation. The committee's July meeting is slated for Thursday, July 10, 1-7:00p.m. at the Swauk-Teanaway Grange.

August is targeted for that section of the proposed plan devoted to community partnerships, and in September the committee tackles an up-to-date review of progress made, to include an examination of objectives and strategies.

No meetings have been



DIGNITARIES ATTENDING the community forest open house on June 26 included (L-R) Rep. Judy Warnick and Kittitas County commissioners Gary Berndt and Paul Jewell.

N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo - 2014

scheduled at this writing beyond the one for July 10.

Don't Wait

Agency officials encourage input from the public and written comments at any time via the website mentioned earlier in this story. Once again, to get

there, Google Teanaway Community Forest.

Roslyn Burn Ban in effective

ROSLYN – Fire Chief **Skye Osiadacz** announced Roslyn implemented and would enforce a burn ban effective Thursday, June 26 at midnight.

The burn ban is in effect based on the following criteria: Low moisture content of 1,000-hour fuels, weather conditions and patterns, topography and fuel types within the affected areas.

Here's Your Opportunity to
**Own Original
PAINTINGS
of Roslyn**