

# Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan approved

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OLYMPIA – On Tuesday, June 2, the Teanaway Community Forest reached another milestone in its story when the Washington State Board of Natural Resources unanimously approved the high-level forest management plan authored over the period of a year by the state's appointed, 20-member Citizens Advisory Committee.

Said Kittitas County Commissioner **Gary Berndt**, "There is always a risk and a challenge in bringing diverse perspectives into a first of a kind process. Officials hailing from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) worked long hours and long days with the advisory committee to build a solid foundation for the future of the Teanaway that will add to the legacy of a great place."

**Matthew Randazzo**, senior

advisor to Commissioner of Public Lands **Peter Goldmark**, had this to say: "It's official. We're ecstatic. It's been a wonderful project. Everyone involved has exhibited patience and diplomacy. To have unanimous support from the board shows this has really been a successful effort, a huge achievement. We're grateful to the advisory committee and the general public for their input."

## Next Step: Fund the plan

Although the plan has garnered a green light, over the next 18 months the advisory committee must hammer out details for the plan's recreation section. More immediately the Dept. of Natural Resources must lobby lawmakers to fund the plan before the legislature adjourns for the summer.

Said **Rick Roeder**, speaking from Ellensburg for the Depart-

ment of Natural Resources, Southeast Region, "We requested \$1.9M from the state's operating budget. That would give us staffing, infrastructure support, and biologists and managers, for instance, on the ground. It would also help with day-to-day campground maintenance, noxious weed control, law enforcement, and costs associated with the development of the recreation plan.

"From the state's capital budget we requested \$350K for forest fire reduction projects, \$180K for campground improvements, and \$600K for improving fish habitat and roads."

At this stage of the process insiders say the House and Senate are still debating operating budget particulars and that there are no clear indications DNR's \$1.3M request would be fulfilled to the dollar.

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