

# Delayed 18 months, Teanaway recreation planning cycle is launched

by Jim Fossett

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**TEANAWAY** – In April 2015 lawmakers and state agency leaders with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) approved the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan, but because of a lack of funding

one of the most important sections was intentionally left out. That would be the component laying out high-level guidelines forest managers need to regulate outdoor recreation in the forest's 50,241 acres, a place where – for decades and through the four seasons every year – locals, frequenters and vacationers have flocked for outdoor fun and relaxation.

That all changed on Tuesday, Oct. 25, when agency leaders convened a public kickoff meeting at Cle Elum's Putnam Centennial Center aimed to trigger what insiders are saying will be the two-year process needed to produce the recreation component of the forest's grander management plan.

Where did the funding for the effort come from?

Said DNR's **Rick Roeder**, the agency's assis-

tant division manager based in Ellensburg in charge of agriculture, water and the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF), "It was a matter of re-prioritizing our operational budget. We were instructed to use Discover Pass dollars for this. Although that will leave us with other projects unfunded, we feel the shift was necessary to move the recreation plan forward. Recreation guidelines in the Teanaway Community Forest are critical to the success of the overall plan and the mandates we face to restore the forest and the watershed."

## New player

DNR tasked its statewide recreation program leader, **Glenn Glover**, to facilitate the TCF recreation planning cycle. Glover's endgame is to appoint someone from his

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# RECREATION...

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...ten-person office in Olympia, DNR's Conservation, Recreation and Trans-actions Division, to shepherd the TCF Citizens Advisory Committee through the next two years in hopes of surfacing in December 2018 with a high-level recreation plan.

Glover's team has several large-scale recreation plans under their belts, including the Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan, the Naneum Ridge to Columbia Recreation and Access Plan, and the Ahtanum State Forest Recreation Plan.

Said Glover, "We have a general structure we use as we approach recreation or landscape-level planning but it's not a cookie cutter approach.

"We recognize that the TCF is unique, just like other areas where we have helped to develop plans, and we will be guided by that and adapt accordingly.

"For other recreation plans what we have produced is a high-level document identifying the types of recreation to occur and where the land is most suitable for that recreation based upon a review of geology, biology, management and social issues. Those areas are captured in the final objectives, strategies and priorities of the plan.

"So this effort is not

recreation plan in hand, we will be well-positioned to go after grants from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office in the next cycle."

Two years seems an awfully long time, especially when one considers the recreation component of the TCF Management Plan already has been delayed for almost two years. Is there anyway around that?

"These kinds of plans take time because we need to be well informed beforehand.

Although the process could move more quickly we want to take enough time to ensure that we hear from all who value the TCF."

Glover said that doesn't mean all recreation-oriented work in the TCF would come to a grinding halt.

"There are projects that need to be done. For example campground extension and renovation is the target for a grant we're submitting this cycle.

"With respect to work on trails right away – signage and construction, for example – we'll wait until we have more clarity and direction from what we learn in the planning cycle. Some projects may materialize more quickly but it's also possible that some may have to be put on hold until the plan is complete."

Oct. 25 kickoff meeting

would continue through the winter at the agency level.

"That work will likely revolve around getting ready for spring's rounds of meetings, so we'll be producing and reviewing maps and looking at what's suitable for recreation."

Winford re-emphasized that over the next two years the recreation planning process would involve the TCF Advisory Committee, stakeholder groups, including organized outdoor recreation clubs, and the general public, which includes people with ties to the Teanaway, be they residents living in the Teanaway River Valley or neighboring communities, frequenters and veteran vacationers who call the Teanaway their best kept secret.

## Stay in touch with the process

Interested parties are encouraged to attend the regular meetings of the TCF Citizens Advisory Committee as spectators, and they are encouraged to provide input to any of the members of that group at any time.

TCF managers, the several TCF committees and the volunteer groups that have sprung up have a notable presence on the web.

To stay tuned simply GOOGLE Teanaway Community Forest for access to meeting schedules, open-

## About Glover

Glenn Glover has been with DNR in his current position for about a month, though he has worked for the agency for a year. He came to DNR after five years as the lead for Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. Why did he move to DNR? "I wanted to take the experience and success that I had in serving and providing recreation to one user group, which was mountain bikers of Washington, and turn that into an opportunity to support a broader range of recreation users, whether that be hiking, motorcycling, horseback riding, four-wheel driving, trail running, climbing, mountain biking, fishing, boating, ATV use – or a new emerging recreation."



THE TWO-YEAR PLANNING cycle for the high-level plan aimed to regulate outdoor recreation in the 50,241-acre Teanaway Community Forest kicked off in Cle Elum on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at Third Street's Putnam Centennial Center. A large crowd was in attendance to learn more about the plan.

N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo - 2016

time for DNR to update its web-based postings.

## Membership Roster

NOAA fish biologist Dale Bambrick, Kittitas County Commissioner Paul Jewell, Upper County resident J.J. Collins, the Wilderness Society's Kitty Craig, local landowner Andrew Cro-

Imler, Kittitas County resident John Little, Washington State Snowmobile Association member Wayne Mohler, Mike Reimer representing off-road interest groups, Back Country Horsemen of Washington's Jason Ridlon and Kathy

Young, Yakama Nation Dept. of Natural Resources authorities Phil Rigdon and Tom Ring, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's Doug Schindler, Washington Dept. of Ecology's Tom Tebb, and Teanaway landowner Martha Wyckoff.

First ballot returns



"So this effort is not simply a trail planning process. It is more comprehensive than that and at this point I wouldn't imagine that we'll come away with a detailed trails plan."

Glover said he feels confident the funding needed through the next two years won't go away and that dollars to implement the plan after December 2018 would become available.

"We are committed to supporting the operations and maintenance of recreation in the TCF, and our track record for getting grants for development and maintenance is excellent.

"As we speak we're submitting some 43 different grants aimed to support recreation around the state for the next two years.

"Once we have the TCF

### **Oct. 25 kickoff meeting**

TCF Citizens Advisory facilitator **Eric Winford**, a DNR forester working out of Ellensburg, said Tuesday's kickoff meeting was geared for public input.

"After Glover and others delivered brief presentations the meat of the event was the four or five stations set up at the Centennial Center to encourage discussions with outdoor recreationists: where they recreate, types of recreation they prefer, questions and concerns. We intend to move into another series of public meetings in the spring."

Winford said at this early stage meetings of the TCF Advisory Committee and forums involving the general public have not yet been scheduled for 2017, though he mentioned work on the recreation plan

munity Forest for access to meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, blogs, newsletters, progress reports, and upcoming volunteer projects.

### **TCF Citizens Advisory Committee**

The oversight group for recreation planning in the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) is the TCF Citizens Advisory Group, an entity serving the forest since those early days following the land purchase. Surprisingly, many of the original members are still on the committee. Here's the group's membership roster listed on one of DNR's many web-based outreach sites late last month. Word of caution: Unannounced, the membership roster does change from time to time for various reasons, and it takes

cietys Kitty Craig, local landowner Andrew Cromarty, Teanaway River Valley farmer Jeri Downs, Yakima Integrated Plan board member Urban Eberhart, Kittitas County Field and Stream Club's Deborah Essman, Roslyn resident and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance member Scott Gray, The Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Teanaway board member James Halstrom, Washington Trails Association's Andrea



Re-Elect Chief Justice

**BARBARA MADSEN**