

## REGIONAL NEWS

# Teanaway Community Forest thinning project underway

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TEANAWAY – Chain saws are roaring in the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) as Centralia's D&D Forestry tackles a 280-acre thinning project contracted by the Dept. of Natural Resources in Ellensburg. Project lead **Eric Winford**, a DNR forester said, "The project is estimated at \$19,500. Those dollars come out of the agency's Forest Health Fund, not the TCF general fund. Thinning should be finished by mid-October."

Winford said this is the first thinning of the TCF since October

2013 when the state purchased 50,272 acres in the Teanaway and established the state's first community forest model, billed as a tool to preserve and manage this precious natural resource and watershed.

To view the work completed thus far required a mile trek up the path in the neighborhood of Dickey Creek. Along the way was ample evidence of the thinning project in progress, part of the master plan to breathe health into the forest by way of addressing the obvious issue of overcrowding.

Winford said there is no plan to remove trees that are felled, but he

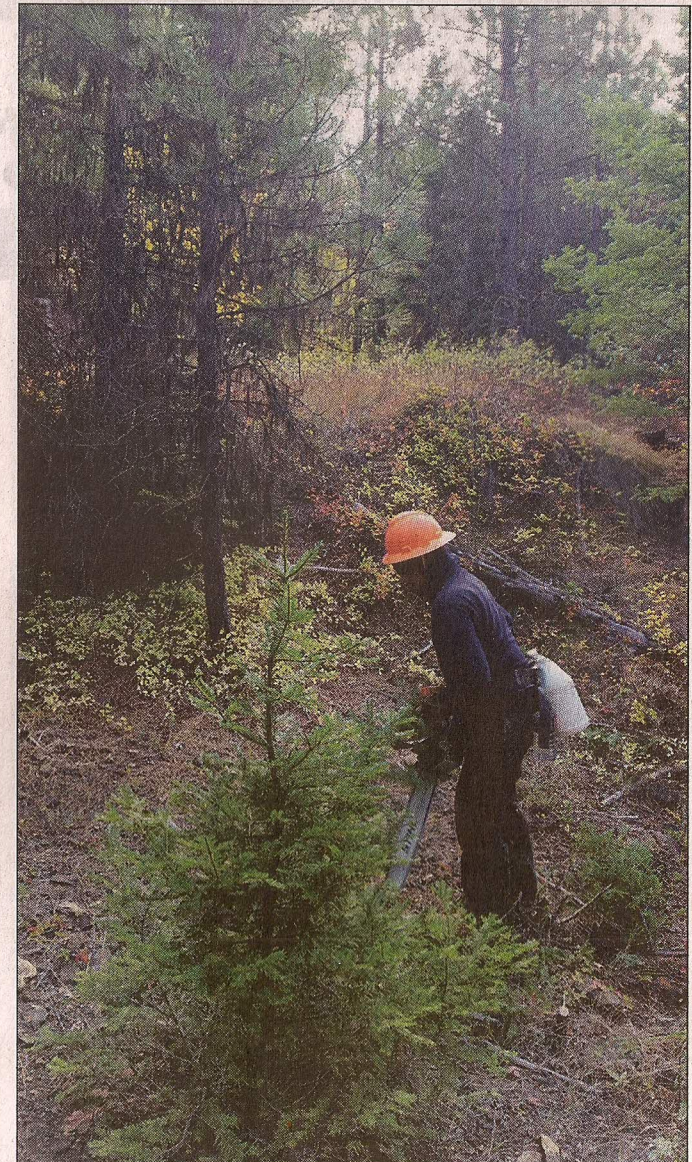
said there might one day be a use for some of them. "The Teanaway Community Forest Grazing Subcommittee is scheduled to start fencing in the spring, so some of these felled trees, the ones that are three to five inches in diameter, could be used for fence posts and rails."

Winford said thinning the TCF would become an annual event. "After we're done thinning in this cycle, we're also going to create fuel breaks up on Cle Elum Ridge and above Lick and Shirk Creeks. Those will be going in this fall or next spring."



DNR FORESTER ERIC WINFORD plots areas for thinning with GIS software, as you can see by the red dots on his screen. In the accompanying photo a D&D Forestry employee, one of several on the thinning project, tackles an area targeted for the agency's first thinning of the state's Teanaway Community Forest.

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



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