

DNR battles sediments harming Teanaway waterways

by Jim Fossett

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TEANAWAY – Since 2013 when Washington purchased the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) the landscape has been changing in places where the fabric of this pristine watershed naturally camouflages the projects its caretakers have been directed to tackle – but on Thursday, Sept. 8, before the TCF Citizens Advisory Committee, Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) State Lands Assistant Manager **Larry Leach** shed light on what will become 152 tons of progress by year's end.

Leach is one of several experts working to fulfill legislative mandates at the core of the TCF management plan approved last year. "Last year we started work on eroding roads delivering sediments to the forest's waterways."

Leach said two projects recently completed illustrate his agency's strategy.

"At Lick Creek we removed two fish passage barriers and opened up six-tenths of a mile of fish habitat. We also abandoned

3,400 feet of the T6100 Road, which runs parallel to Lick Creek, and another 6,400 feet on T6120 Road. Then, on the ridgetop further away from the water, we built a new stretch for the T6100 Road.

"The second project involved the T5000 Road in the Middle Fork Teanaway where we removed two fish passage barriers. That opened up a mile of fish habitat in one area and a mile and a third in another. In addition, we abandoned 850 feet of T5000 Road, relocated it and built a new bridge."

Summarizing improvements the two projects made possible, Leach returned to the topic of sediment reduction.

"We inventoried all the roads last year and with the data we collected we employed a road sediment erosion model to get a handle on their impact. The impact is that they are putting an estimated 243 tons of sediment a year into the forest's waterways.

"Last year with road improvements similar to the two I just described, we mit-

igated 30 tons of sediment per year. So far this year we have mitigated 79 tons per year and we have scheduled work to mitigate another 50 tons per year. By the end of 2016 we will have mitigated 152 tons per year."

Leach explained that abandoning and relocating roads running too close to waterways represents just one tactic the agency employs to help reduce sediment delivery.

"We're also installing culverts and improving ditches," he said.

As Leach explained, the goal of the TCF management plan is to restore the watershed.

"That translates to im-

proved water quantity and quality and improved fish habitat – but to get there we have to work on all aspects of forest management, which include the Yakama Nation's stream restoration initiative, thinning the forest, and implementing Fish and Wildlife's habitat restoration plan."

Road improvements, he said, do serve another purpose. "They provide access for firefighters, forest managers and outdoor recreationists.

Overall, relocating or abandoning stretches of road isn't meant to decrease access. It simply changes routes in a way that allows for a healthier watershed."

Former Snoqualmie Pass Utility Manager pleads 'not guilty' to all charges

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ELLENSBURG – At his arraignment inside Kittitas County Superior Court on Monday, Sept. 12, **Terrance Michael Lenihan** pleaded not guilty to 14

justice served."

Since the summons to appear in Superior Court Monday was served to Lenihan, members of the board overseeing the utility district have opted not to make comment.