

Proposed Changes to the TCF Management Plan

From SEPA comments
and Advisory Committee feedback.

OVERVIEW OF COMMENTS

- Over 700 letters
 - Most focused on the Draft Management Plan
 - Comments within the letters could be grouped into 154 categories
 - Most comments were supportive of the plan
 - Some brought up future planning efforts (ie, Recreation Plan)
 - Some mentioned specific projects not part of the plan
 - A few brought up issues we needed to clarify or add.
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INTRODUCTION: P.10

The Community Forest and the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan

Comment: The introduction includes a reference to the importance of water for community growth, agriculture, and fish and wildlife. Water is critical for recreation and this should be referenced in this paragraph. Many recreational activities are dependent on adequate instream flows and many others take place along rivers where adequate instream flow is part of the overall experience. Water shortages directly impact these activities.

Proposed Changes

The Yakima River Basin is one of the most diverse and ecologically rich areas in Washington. Its water supports growing communities, a vital agricultural industry, **recreation**, and many fish and wildlife species. But water shortages are a chronic problem. Demand consistently outstrips the supply needed to irrigate crops, to meet the needs of a growing population, and to rebuild depleted fish stocks. That is why watershed protection through targeted land acquisition is a key element of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

Current Version

The Yakima River Basin is one of the most diverse and ecologically rich areas in Washington. Its water supports growing communities, a vital agricultural industry, and many fish and wildlife species. But water shortages are a chronic problem. Demand consistently outstrips the supply needed to irrigate crops, to meet the needs of a growing population, and to rebuild depleted fish stocks. That is why watershed protection through targeted land acquisition is a key element of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

INTRODUCTION: P.10

The Community Forest and the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan

Comment: Climate change and its impacts need to be mentioned. Identify strategies and tools that would allow the TCF to meet its goals in a changing future.

Proposed Changes

Past use – and, in some cases, misuse -- of the Teanaway landscape has created the need to restore and improve fish and wildlife habitat, floodplains, streamside vegetation, and recreational facilities. **In addition, climate change threatens these same resources.** Restoration of headwater streams in the Teanaway River system will provide important cold-water habitat for fish and help to support the recovery of steelhead, spring Chinook salmon, and bull trout. All of these activities will improve watershed health, **enhance the lands' ability to respond to climate change,** help contribute to recreational opportunities, and support the regional economy.

Current Version

Past use – and, in some cases, misuse -- of the Teanaway landscape has created the need to restore and improve fish and wildlife habitat, floodplains, streamside vegetation, and recreational facilities. Restoration of headwater streams in the Teanaway River system will provide important cold-water habitat for fish and help to support the recovery of steelhead, spring Chinook salmon, and bull trout. All of these activities will improve watershed health, contribute to recreational opportunities, and support the regional economy.

WORKING FORESTS: P. 28

Strategies: Increase the quality and quantity of habitat across the landscape.

Comment: The forestry plan should contain a scientifically based guide to restoring old forest habitat in all forest types within the community forest to guide longer term management.

Proposed Changes

- Long-term forest management practices should be developed, modeled to meet objectives, and used to guide decisions on harvest and other forest management operations.
- Leave appropriate levels of snags, downed woody debris, and large live trees that increase the quality of the habitat.
- **Maintain old trees and ecologically important forest structure by conserving old trees where they exist.**
- Develop harvest schedules based primarily on healthy forest habitat objectives, and secondarily, for a reliable source of wood products.

Current Version

- Long-term forest management practices should be developed, modeled to meet objectives, and used to guide decisions on harvest and other forest management operations.
- Leave appropriate levels of snags, downed woody debris, and large live trees that increase the quality of the habitat.
- Develop harvest schedules based primarily on healthy forest habitat objectives, and secondarily, for a reliable source of wood products.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT: P. 62

Fish and Wildlife Seasonal Concentration Areas Priority Actions

Comment: We support the action to identify and protect “wildlife concentration areas” by September-December 2016, but this information seems vitally important to have in hand for recreation planning which is on the same timeline. This should be resolved.

Proposed Changes

- Identify fish spawning areas, big game wintering concentration areas, and den and nest sites of threatened or endangered species by **December 2015**.

Current Version

- Identify fish spawning areas, big game wintering concentration areas, and den and nest sites of threatened or endangered species by September 2016.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT: P. 62

Upland Meadows

Priority Actions

Comment: Noxious weeds need to be controlled and funding needs to be provided for this.

Proposed Changes

- Survey upland meadows and assess their condition by February 2016.
- Identify critical areas for restoration and protection and activities that will achieve that condition by April 2016.
- Develop a list of activities to help control weeds by September 2015. Update this as needed.

Current Version

- Survey upland meadows and assess their condition by February 2016.
- Identify critical areas for restoration and protection and activities that will achieve that condition by April 2016.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: P. 66

Advisory Committee Input

Comment: Need to acknowledge and identify the variety of landowners we may work with in the future.

Proposed Changes

The Advisory Committee focused on finding ways to bring the community into ongoing land management, including partnerships, education, outreach, enforcement, and economics. To accomplish the goals of this plan, the committee recommended the agencies coordinate land management actions with adjacent landowners, **farmers, and forest owners** whenever possible. Also, the committee urged the agencies to continue building strategic-level partnerships with a wide range of entities, including those associated with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and beyond.

Current Version

The Advisory Committee focused on finding ways to bring the community into ongoing land management, including partnerships, education, outreach, enforcement, and economics. To accomplish the goals of this plan, the committee recommended the agencies coordinate land management actions with adjacent landowners whenever possible. Also, the committee urged the agencies to continue building strategic-level partnerships with a wide range of entities, including those associated with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and beyond.

INTRODUCTION: P.18

Watershed Protection

Advisory Committee Input

Comment: The word Brainstorming seems a bit light. We did have brainstorming sessions but our advice is hopefully more informed and delivered with more work than simple brainstorms.

Proposed Changes

The Advisory Committee **suggested** approaches to meet the Legislature's directive for water supply and watershed protection. The committee's dialogue provided the central ideas for the objectives, strategies, and tools. The committee agreed on the importance of a restored and properly functioning watershed.

Current Version

The Advisory Committee brainstormed approaches to meet the Legislature's directive for water supply and watershed protection. The committee's dialogue provided the central ideas for the objectives, strategies, and tools. The committee agreed on the importance of a restored and properly functioning watershed.

Changes to the SEPA Documents

P. 31

Comment: The County's current Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being updated and will be completed in 2017. There is no mention of this effort or Shorelines compliance in part III question 10b. The impacts of proposed "strategies and tools" in the Teanaway Plan could conflict with the amended goals, policies, and objectives that are developed and mandated by the State's Growth Management Act as outlined in RCW 36.70A. This concern is also not addressed in item 4a where it is requested to describe the regulatory/planning framework that may affect the proposal.

Proposed Changes

We are going to continue to work with our neighbors, including the U.S. Forest Service – Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest, The Nature Conservancy, private landowners, **Kittitas County**, and others to identify and resolve any as-yet unidentified inconsistencies between their approach and the approach laid out in this management plan. **Changes and updates to applicable Kittitas County Codes and Ordinances, including its Shoreline Master Program and Comprehensive Plan, will be evaluated to determine if any inconsistencies exist.**

Current Version

We are going to continue to work with our neighbors, including the U.S. Forest Service – Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest, The Nature Conservancy, private landowners, and others to identify and resolve any as-yet unidentified inconsistencies between their approach and the approach laid out in this management plan.