

Agenda

Checkerboard Partnership

January 23rd, 2023 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

[Zoom](#)

Session Objectives:

1. **Cle Elum Ridge Update**
 - **MOU – DNR, Kittitas County, TNC, & KCT**
 - **RFP – Scoping for a Community Forest Private Stewardship Fund**
 - **Updates on grant applications**
2. **Teaway Comm. Forest January 18th Meeting Update**
3. **Funding Update**
4. **Taneum & Cabin Creek Update**

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator
10:00	Welcome! <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introductions & Welcome	Mitch
	Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none">● MOU between DNR, WDFW, Kittitas County, TNC, & KCT – Next Steps● RFP for development of a private stewardship fund discussion● Discussion regarding future outreach efforts in 2024	Mitch, Darcy, Jane, Larry
	Teaway Community Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 10-year Anniversary Update	Nicky & Vince
	Funding Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Overview of Funding Available - Phase 1● Update on Fundraising Efforts● Future Funding Opportunities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Forest Legacy Forest Legacy – Large Landscapes○ RCO Community Forest Grant Application, 2024	Mitch & Jane
	Checkerboard Lands Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Taneum & Cabin Creek Lands Updates	Darcy & Jane
	Other Items of Interest	Everyone
12:00	Adjourn	

Attendees: Mitch Long, Laura Osiadacz, Catherine Waterston, Tonya Morrey, Nicky Pasi, Gary Berndt, Darcy Batura, Larry Stauffer, Nancy Lillquist, Jane Kiker, Anthony DiMeglio

Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest:

- MOU
 - MOU group meeting tomorrow after the YBIP lands sub-committee meeting to outline plan to address items
 - More to report at next meeting
 - Commissioner Cory Wright will be representing Kittitas County
 - Laura trying to not overcommit herself, too many conflicts
 - Cory will also be rep on Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee
- TCF Advisory Committee meeting
 - Larry Leech, Mike Livingston, and Cory Wright introduced potential to combine Cle Elum Ridge (CER) with TCF
 - Larry gave overview and history on CPPC
 - Talked a bit about TCF budget
 - Advocated for \$2.8M last session, did not get full request
 - Got closer to O&M needs thru other avenues
 - CER is more approachable from funding perspective
 - Mike Livingston
 - Hesitant at best at first, overtime he has recognized importance of CER (community, habitat, etc) and now fully supportive
 - Cory
 - Overviewed County concerns that are in MOU
 - One advisory member concerned about O&M needs and adding more land
 - Larry described stewardship fund development RFP
 - Dale Bambrick, showed full support to find solution
 - Wayne Mohler, voiced winter moto concerned
 - Overall: successful first briefing (no decision at this time)
- Stewardship fund RFP
 - Went out a couple weeks ago, shared with wide network
 - Close date is next Friday
 - Hope to have someone selected by March
 - Addressing concerns around ongoing stewardship in TCF for expansion with CER. Adding funds to existing management plan
 - Written closely with Larry and Mike
 - ~3 month project, \$15K budget
 - Fund could be used for match for grants
 - Explores how it would be managed, will work with agency partners to identify fund amount
 - Gotten three 'nibbles' so far, extra outreach is appreciated
- Future Outreach efforts in 2024
 - Outreach & communication sub-committee have preliminary conversations around messaging for community about what we are up to
 - Talking points for CPPC members
 - Ways to get the word/news out
 - Starting off with history and what has been accomplished to date
 - LWCF and Taneum – perhaps a press release
 - Cabin Creek?

- RCO Community Forest grant for next phase?
 - This will need Letters of Support
 - Event or tours this summer?
 - Lots of things to talk about on ridge (i.e. water storage, forest restoration, rx fire, etc.)
 - Want to make sure we address accessibility concerns
 - Engage w community to gather what benefits they'd like to receive
 - Look at what's underserved in the present TCF
 - Conversation that happens with TCF AC
 - Bikes & Brus
 - June 22nd
 - Looking to do shuttles again
 - Bikes & Brus being rebranded (potentially Bikes, Hikes, Broncs & Brus)
 - Expanding user groups
 - Please let us know if you'd like to join the outreach sub-committee!
 - In the next couple of months, we are working on revamping the group's 'elevator pitch'
 - What will be accomplished in MOU by Bikes & Brus event?
 - Will have better idea after initial meeting tomorrow
 - What events are there tabling opportunities at?
 - Farmers markets, Suncadia
 - Tabling hasn't been the best (minus the Roslyn Log Show and last year's Bikes & Brus)
 - Another round of visits to city council meetings
 - Suggested doing an event at senior center for discussion
 - Pair with \$7 breakfast
 - Key stakeholders (maybe game cam talk)

Towns to Teanaway

- Trail network that was publicly developed between the communities, over the ridge, and to the TCF
- Built about 12 miles of trail in the last 5 years
- T2T implementation group approached DNR about making transition of trail network easy as possible
 - DNR requested cultural resource assessments be done
- T2T is not a non-profit, fiscal sponsor used to be KPRD1, now KittCo Public Works
- Latest understanding, county would prefer not to fund CRA until DNR owns the land due to stickiness of giving out public funds for private lands (CER current status)
- Pauses T2T work other than maintenance
- Area proposed for CRA is on Phase 1
- T2T will probably be absorbed into West Fork Trail plan
- Perhaps T2T focuses on access easements over building new trail for now
- Laura will need to check in with Mark Cook at the county and get back to Nicky on what the hold up is
- Difficult to know when the transfer would it happen, depends on how long due diligence takes place (not in our control) might be less than a couple years, might be more. 2 years would be fast

- Chamber putting out RFP for recreation infrastructure plan
 - Selecting a contractor to put together a county wide plan for capital assets
 - Maybe the T2T is a piece of this plan
 - Kick off starting early spring and completed by summer time

Funding Update

- CD got about \$10K thru interest – over \$177K in our account
 - Option to put a portion back in to another CD (\$175)
 - No objections to this
- Fundraising is ongoing
 - Campaign?
 - Donate page on website
 - Experimental forest?
 - Can't be restricted for anything other an acquisition because we won't be the landowner
- Forest Legacy
 - Finding out results in next month
- RCO Community Forest
 - RFP releasing Feb 14
 - Please let us know if you are interested in helping complete the proposal and getting letters of support
 - TNC is putting together a team to lean in on app, coordinating internally and externally
 - Hired contract grant writer, Ashely Knapp, who did the Large Landscape Forest Legacy proposal

Checkerboard Lands Update

- Taneum
 - No new updates
 - Look at November notes for the last updates
 - Waiting for FS to go thru due diligence process
 - Hopefully transferring in March or April
 - Waiting for congress to approve 2024 budget first
- Cabin Creek
 - Funding is in place thru Forest Legacy program
 - Waiting for DNR to go thru due diligence process (essentially waiting in line)
 - Less clear on this timeline

Misc Updates

- Let Tonya know if you have suggestions for website updates
- Northwest Community Forest Coalition Forum around May 6 & 7
 - In Enterprise, OR (Wallowa)
 - Will be interesting conversation about funding
 - Contact Darcy for more info (darcy.batura@tnc.org)
- Laura shared the info graphic below
 - Feb 2 deadline to submit comment for Northwest Forest Plan
 - Laura requested ideas for groups she could present about the plan to
- Tonya checking in w Mandy on calendar hold

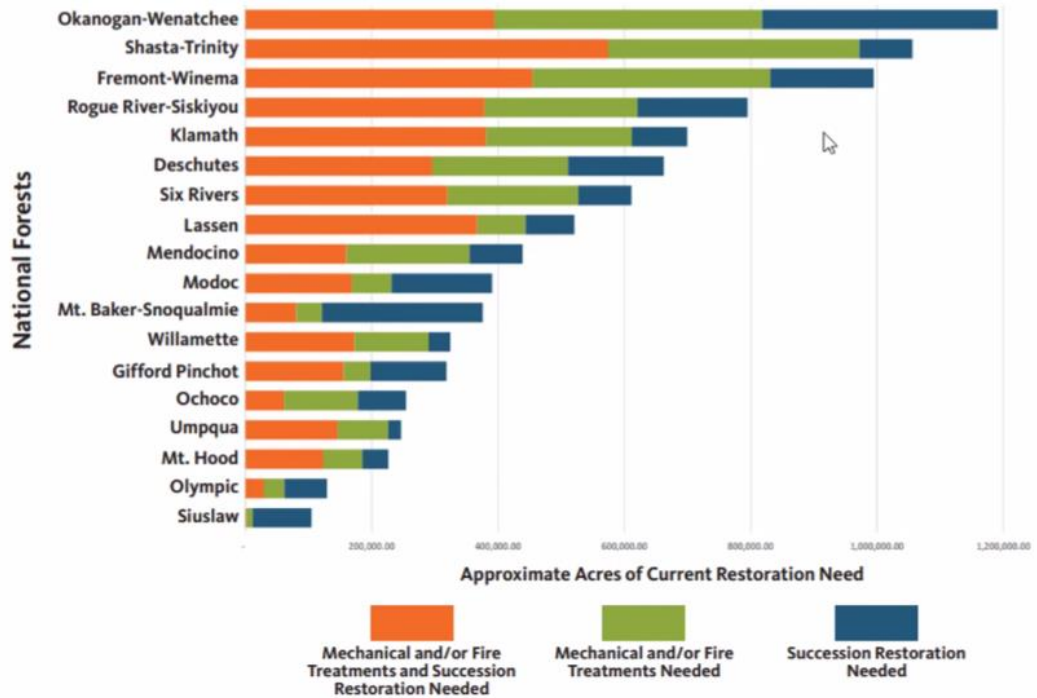


Figure 5-1—Total acres of restoration need by national forest.¹²⁵ All land designations including congressionally reserved areas, late-successional reserves, riparian reserves, matrix, and lands outside the NWFP area. Forests that depend on frequent fire have more restoration need.