

Central Cascades Community Forest Leadership Group

8.1.19

- **Opening with Reflections:**
 - We need to flesh out the 'must haves' to help define our vision
 - Community conversations re: how would people feel if this land fell off the tax roll
 - Response: the amount of acreage lost is so small that it shouldn't be a concern
 - We as a group should work to identify the exact \$\$\$ amount, and come up with a plan to manage the land that returns that lost revenue
 - Possibility for CWU grad students to conduct such studies – Brian is exploring
 - Board of County Commissioners does support the project - this comes at a great time as we're redefining outdoor rec economy in Kittitas “critical time for Kittitas County and its recreation planning”
 - The Public Lands Advisory Committee is also supportive
 - However, there's still little understanding that TNC will eventually need to divest the lands. People think it's already permanently protected
 - TNC and Greenway met with Rep. Kim Schrier since the last meeting - how did that go?
 - Shirer was invited to tour lands on Cle Elum Ridge to learn about the Mountains to Sound National Heritage Area designation, Land Water Conservation Fund and its role in transitioning TNC land, Towns to Teanaway, etc
 - Mostly an overview, but very positive, starting to establish connections
 - The community forest also needs to be about forest health, protecting the headwaters has exponential benefits
 - When synthesizing all the notes from the previous meeting, there was broad agreement on goals and values for the land.
- **Timeline development**
 - *See benchmark timeline photos .pdf*
 - Discussion began to focus on:
 - How to we stage the Public Process/Community Outreach and Engagement piece with Unveiling the community forest effort?
 - To what degree do we provide the community with a framework, vs asking the public to shape it?
 - Concern that not providing a framework is ineffective
 - Concern that providing a framework is alienating, top-down management
 - Ultimately moved the Governance Model and Forest Objectives to the 2020 scope of work, leaving it in the hands of broader community work.
 - Added Baseline Objectives, and Goals, to 2019 work
- **What groups or individuals are missing from this effort? Defining "Community"**
 - Big question: why are we doing this?
 - Answer: because there's a potential for something "very bad" to happen to these forests (fire, development, overuse, etc)

- o Community forest needs to benefit people who have always relied on those lands
 - Kittitas
 - Local voters?
- Recruitment
 - o Who do we need that isn't currently represented? *See Excel Spreadsheet*
 - Dr. Jim Huckabay (Gary) - outdoor writer, retired doctor, longtime community member
 - PLAC (Laura) - public lands
 - KPRD (Brian) - recreation, local rec infrastructure and economy needs
 - Legislators (Laura) - Alex Ybarra?
 - Agencies (KCT) - WDFW especially
 - Yakama Nation - involved already, but may need alternates appointed
 - Field and Stream Clubs (Nicky)- upper and lower county
 - Fire Districts! (KCT)
 - CWU (Laura)
 - School District or Board (lots of takers) - new superintendent
 - KR D (Nicky) - stream recharge project may be fed by community forest lands
 - Ellensburg Downtown Association (Brian)
 - Timber Industry (Darcy) - provide economic info for our planning/assessment processes
 - Realtors Association (Laura)
 - Search and Rescue (Laura)
 - Grange Association (Gary)
 - Hopesource (Brian)
 - Kittitas County Conservation District (KCT)
 - Suncadia (KCT)
 - SFCE (Nicky)
 - Pineloch Sun/Sky Meadows (Gary)
 - Cle Elum Downtown Association (Jay)
 - Audubon (Gary)
 - o Need to track these outreach touches, for reference further down the process, and plan to document them in future meetings
 - o Listed committee members to try and recruit in time for next 1-2 meetings
- **Chasing Money& Support**
 - o National Parks Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program grant - application submitted to get facilitation grant to steer group organization, outreach, etc- Letters of support from City of Roslyn and City of Cle Elum we provided. Thank you!
 - Grant would be awarded Nov 1, so assistance would kick in for the 2020 Rollout process
 - o WA State Community Forest Legislation
 - Tours happening in Nason Ridge and Chewelah (sp?) Sept 23 and 24
 - Could request visits from those other community forest leaderships, and parties behind the legislation
 - o Forest Legacy Application
 - USFS program for protecting forests from conversion to 'other uses', via direct purchase or permanent conservation easements on private land

- DNR has applied for funds through this, which would be used to acquire the TNC lands in Cabin Creek, with the stipulation that \$.75 on the dollar of timber revenue go to the county
 - Could be \$7mil, would be able to acquire large chunk of the 28k acres this way- Cabin Creek
 - Could acquire about 5800 acres in Cabin Creek through this process - checkerboarded with Teanaway Community Forest
 - So DNR would own/manage the lands, tax revenue loss is covered
 - The County has the option to mandate that some of that \$.75 goes back to management of the Central Cascade Community Forest management
 - How do we tell the story of the community forest if it is partially owned by DNR, partially by some other organization?
 - This may make DNR the most logical owner/manager, saves the steering committee from having to fund management staff +
 - Potentially enhances story as “Kittitas County Tree Farm” subscribes to community values.
 - Addresses ongoing management financial questions on Cle Elum Ridge and Taneum areas of Community Forest lands.
 - Can't expect any results on this until early 2021
- **Scheduling**
 - o How frequently should we meet?
 - 12-4pm, once per month
 - Last week of the month (start with August), Tues or Weds
 - TUESDAY, AUGUST 27
- Future tasks:
 - o Identify large adjacent landowners for notification
 - o Flesh out the 'must haves'