

Upper Teanaway Subarea Planning Process



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NEWSLETTER

October 2009

Report from Open House and Public Meetings

Over 250 community members participated in the August 20th Open House and three subsequent public meetings held in September and early October.

The Upper Teanaway Subarea Plan public participation process formally began on August 20, 2009 when over 100 people gathered at the Swauk-Teanaway Grange to learn about the subarea planning process and to share ideas and concerns for the future of the subarea.

At three Public Meetings, community members had an opportunity to give additional oral comments. Those who commented spoke broadly about what they valued and wanted to maintain in the Upper Teanaway area.

A common public sentiment was that the Upper Teanaway is a uniquely beautiful place, rich in natural resources and scenic and recreational value. This valuable landscape should be protected from uncoordinated and sprawling development. Though historically used for commercial forestry, today a vibrant recreational community, including hikers, anglers, hunters, horseback riders, and snowmobilers, come to the Upper Teanaway to spend their free time. Members of several groups commented at the Public Meetings that recreational opportunities in the Upper Teanaway should be maintained and enhanced.

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What is the Subarea Plan?

A Subarea Plan is part of Kittitas County's Comprehensive Plan, the guiding policy document for future land use. The subarea plan recognizes the physical, historic, and location characteristics of a smaller area, which distinguish that area from other parts of the County. Special planning considerations are given to a subarea so that its unique characteristics can be incorporated into the planning process.

The Upper Teanaway

Creating a subarea plan for the Upper Teanaway drainage is an opportunity to build a general development blueprint that recognizes the distinctive features of the subarea. Future development will be required to comply with the subarea plan.



Subarea Planning Process

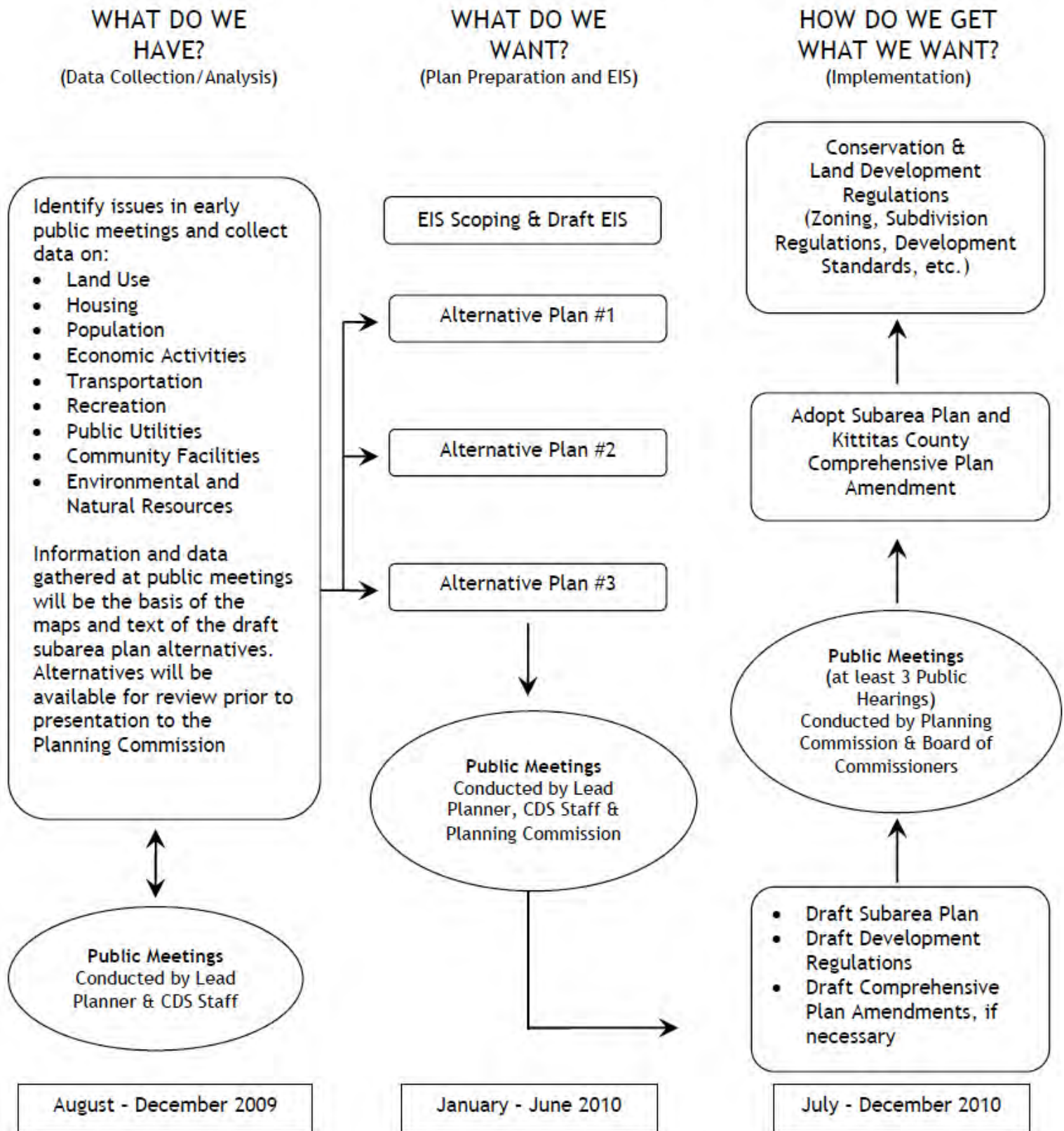
Like the Comprehensive Plan, the County is required to seek public comments and input during the creation of a Subarea Plan, and the final plan must be officially adopted by the Board of County Commissioners before it can be used. The County is in the beginning phases of planning for the Upper Teanaway. The County encourages all interested parties to join in the public process by attending meetings or reviewing the draft plan and commenting.

For more details on the planning process, please see the planning process flowchart on Page 2. ♦

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Upper Teanaway Subarea Planning Process
August 2009 thru December 2010



Another common theme at the Public Meetings was the importance of environmental protection. Specifically, community members identified sensitive elk calving areas and big game migratory paths, as well as streams containing steelhead, trout, and other salmon species. The Upper Teanaway drainage is home to a variety of small and large mammals, and several bird and fish species, some of which are federally listed as threatened or endangered species. All future development should be sensitive to wildlife habitats.

The Upper Teanaway drainage is home to human residents, as well, who reside in the area full time or part time. Some residents are farmers or have economic ties to the forestry industry and would like to see the natural resource-based economy continue. Some residents said that the Upper Teanaway is too remote to support residential development, and that commercial forestry should continue as the predominant use. Other participants expressed concern that rural levels of



Community members participate at the Open House on August 20, 2009 at the Swauk-Teanaway Grange.

service for fire and police, as well as insufficient water availability for both domestic use and fire suppression could make residential development unsafe in some areas.

Overall, the comments gathered at the Public Meetings and the Open House, as well as written comments, conveyed that a top priority of any future development is the preservation of natural areas and the rural character of the Upper Teanaway. Others spoke of “conservation villages,” clustered developments, nonresidential resorts, and mixed-use urban development. Future development should consider the availability of public service, the protection of wildlife habitats, and the preservation of recreational opportunities. ♦

GOAL OF THE UPPER TEANAWAY SUBAREA PLAN

Kittitas County’s goal for the Upper Teanaway Subarea Plan is to create a long-term strategy that identifies and protects important characteristics of the Upper Teanaway and identifies future land uses within the subarea planning boundaries that promote the following:

- Open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominating over the built environment;
- Traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in rural areas;
- Visual landscapes that are traditionally found in rural areas and communities;
- Compatibility with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; and
- Reduction in the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.

In achieving this goal, the planning process established by the County will consider a range of tools available under the Growth Management Act (both rural and urban) to meet the competing needs and interests in the area and the goal noted above. Planning tools the County may use include new or modified rural zones, limited areas of more intensive rural development (LAMIRDS), clustered rural development, overlays addressing opportunities for energy facilities, master planned resorts and fully contained communities.

Paraphrased from Kittitas County Resolution No: 2009-100

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

SWAUK-TEANAWAY GRANGE—1361 W. BALLARD HILL RD, CLE ELUM
6:00 PM

PUBLIC MEETING—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009

SWAUK-TEANAWAY GRANGE—1361 W. BALLARD HILL RD, CLE ELUM
6:00 PM

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

COUNTY WEBSITE:

Materials made available at public meetings will be posted on the County's website shortly after the meeting. At the website you can also sign-up for automatic email updates, view meeting schedules and draft plan sections, when available.

<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/teanaway.asp>

WRITTEN COMMENTS

If you are unable to attend the public meetings, or if you wish to add additional comments outside of the public meeting forum, you may submit written comments to the County at any time. Comments can be mailed to:

Anna Nelson, Lead Planner

Upper Teanaway Subarea Planning Process

Kittitas County Community Development Services

411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2

Ellensburg, Washington 98926

What about the Teanaway Solar Reserve?

The Teanaway Solar Reserve is proposed on a site within the Teanaway Subarea planning area.

However, review of the Solar Reserve is taking place through a separate public process unrelated to the Upper Teanaway Subarea Planning process.

Community members can participate in a separate public process for the proposed Teanaway Solar Reserve

To review application materials for the Conditional Use Permit and Proposed Development Agreement for the Teanaway Solar Reserve visit the County's Current Planning Website and look for "CU-09-00005 Teanaway Solar Reserve," or contact Dan Valoff, at (509) 962-7637.

Kittitas County Current Planning Website:

<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/current/> ♦



Kittitas County
Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926

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