

**Preliminary Recreation Concepts
Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan
June, 2017**

Below are the preliminary recreation concepts compiled through recreation committee meetings and from previous planning documents. All concepts would need to be approved by the Stemilt Partnership and land manager or owner of the property.

Zone 1

Zone 1 should remain primitive with organized rustic facilities designed to improve natural resources and enhance visitor experiences.

Zone 1- Summer

Roads:

- Green dot roads:
 - Provide public access on well-maintained green-dot roads
 - Grade and maintain Stemilt Loop Road which will serve as the primary access to this zone.
 - Consider converting Lily Lake connector to a green dot road. This road is part of the primary loop used by recreation users, but is not officially a green dot road.
 - Consider converting Upper Wheeler/Orr Creek connector to a green dot road.
- Non-green dot roads:
 - Conduct a detailed road analysis that evaluates the potential for trail conversion for non-motorized trails, grade, fuel hazard plan, water quality impacts of sediment load into the water system, easements and irrigation districts' travel route needs, and desired routes for motorcycle/ATV users.
 - Create barriers (gates, natural barriers, bollard, boulders, fencing, signing) on other non-green dot roads to keep them closed to illegal motorized use.
- Create signs at strategic access points, trailheads, campgrounds, gates, and barriers that describe the green dot road system and allowed uses.
- Coordinate with the irrigation districts and community on road needs and potential closures.

Camping

Small campgrounds:

Consider developing small campgrounds in the high use areas including Steffen's meadow (Section 28), Lily Lake (Section 22), and Clear Lake (Section 23). The campgrounds would contain the following components:

- Buffer zone to protect shorelines and meadows (i.e. 150' buffer zone)
- Delineate campsites with defined camping area, a fire pit, sign, and one to two parking spots. Already impacted areas would be used to delineate campsites.
- Restroom (i.e. composting toilet), no running water or showers would be included.

- Interpretive and regulatory signs sharing information on rules, expected behaviors, natural and cultural resource information.
- Trash container
- Designate a day-use area with parking spots and a trail to the water.
- Restore shoreline and meadows impacted by recreation use.
- Coordination and approval by the irrigation districts is needed on potential proposals/changes to areas near the reservoirs.

Dispersed camping:

- Inventory all existing dispersed sites and monitor continued use and impacts to evaluate any needed changes. Based on the inventory, some sites could be closed and other sites would be formalized including delineating the camping area, fire ring, and signage.

Other Access Points and Day Use Areas

Upper Wheeler Reservoir – Parking Lot (Section 29)

- Define parking spots for vehicles (not RVs)
- Create sanitation facility (seasonal?)
- Interpretive and regulatory signs sharing information on rules, expected behaviors, natural and cultural resource information.

Upper Wheeler Road – Parking Lot (Section 10)

- Define/delineate parking spots for vehicles (not RVs)
- Create sanitation facility (seasonal?)
- Interpretive and regulatory signs sharing information on rules, expected behaviors, natural and cultural resource information.

Dispersed day-use sites

- Similar to the dispersed camping, outlined above, inventory all existing dispersed sites and monitor continued use and impacts to evaluate any needed changes.

Trails

- Create a north-south trail per the Naneum Ridge Plan. This may mostly be in zones 2 and 3.
- Create loop trails and other small trails near the proposed day-use and campsites. Look to first re-purpose the existing road corridors. Roads are known to be used as trails throughout the area; Section 22 near Lily Lake is one example.
- Create multi-use non-motorized trails in the west and northwest corner of Section 17.
- Create non-motorized trail connections to Squilchuck State Park (Section 17, 19, 20).
- Create equestrian parking facilities at Lily Lake

Target Shooting

- Potentially create a target shooting area near old quarry (Section 27). This site contains steep sides and steep back hill for bullet containment.

Education and Enforcement:

- Promote a more active education and enforcement presence.

Zone 1- Winter

Sno-Park

- Evaluate the feasibility of creating a sno-park in Section 16. Plow the beginning/steep section of the Upper Wheeler Road to provide easier access for non-motorized snow sports (snowshoe, backcountry ski, cross-country ski).
- Maintain two snowmobile parking lots in this zone. Existing locations are in Sections 22 and 23.

Trails:

- Maintain existing snowmobile trail system (Sections 22, 23, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34).
- Designate a non-motorized area per the Naneum plan, bordered by the groomed snowmobile trail system to the east.
- Create non-motorized Nordic ski trail connections outside of the orchard in Section 17. This would need a reasonable graded route and connections to Section 19. The trail would be groomed.

Zone 2

Use in Zone 2 is concentrated around Squilchuck State Park and Mission Ridge expansion area, and is primarily non-motorized.

Zone 2- Summer

Trails

- Non-motorized multi-use trails linking Mission Ridge expansion area with Squilchuck State Park (this could be part of the north-south trail referenced in the Naneum Plan).
- Create loop trails and other small trails near the proposed day-use and campsites. Look to first re-purpose the existing road corridors.
- Consider strategic fuel breaks and wildfire/fuels reduction planning with trail development.
- Noyd Road Easement designated motorized vehicle access route for Forest Ridge residents to access green dot road system.

Trailheads and Signage

- Signage/restrooms/garbage collection trailhead at Mission Ridge main parking area, for hikers going into Stemilt and to Lake Clara.
- Educational signage for fire precaution and seasonal closures at Squilchuck State Park and nearby trails.
- Signage for clarification of trail use types.

Camping

- Additional signage and campsites at Squilchuck State Park to alleviate private property issues (people camping on private property).

Wildlife Reserve Area

- Set aside ¼ section of 19 for a 'wildlife reserve' area.

Zone 2 - Winter

Trails

- Snowshoe/backcountry ski trail from Squilchuck State Park to Mission Ridge/Section 30 non-motorized winter use area.
- Groomed cross country ski trails in Section 19, with connection to Section 17.
- Noyd Road Easement designated motorized vehicle access route for Forest Ridge residents to access groomed snowmobile trails.

Zone 3

This zone should mostly be left as a backcountry/wilderness area, with use concentrated on green dot roads.

Zone 3 – Summer

Roads

- Green-dot roads:
 - Maintain sustainably built green-dot road system.
 - Allow ATV and motorcycle use on green-dot roads.
- Non-green dot roads:
 - Conduct a detailed road analysis that evaluates the potential for trail conversion for non-motorized trails, grade, fuel hazard plan, water quality impacts of sediment load into the water system, and easements and irrigation districts' travel route needs.
 - Create barriers (gates, natural barriers, bollard, boulders, fencing, signing) on other non-green dot roads to keep them closed to illegal motorized use.
- Create signs at strategic access points, gates, and barriers that describe the green dot road system and allowed uses.
- Coordinate with the irrigation districts and the community on road needs and potential closures.

Trails

- Create a north-south trail per the Naneum Ridge Plan. This may mostly be in zones 2 and 3.
- Create loop trails and other small trails near the site currently used for camping just below section #33. Look to first re-purpose the existing road corridors.
- Explore potential for higher elevation non-motorized trails, potentially off of the Naneum Ridge Road access points.

- Develop designated non-motorized multi-use trails (out and back or loop trails) using existing primitive roads in the eastern part of zone 3/Upper Stemilt Basin (Sections 27, 28, 33, 34).
- Open road system to Naneum Ridge road to ATVs and motorcycles. Enable a big motorized loop on green dot road system.

Zone 3 – Winter

- Create a warming hut along the Naneum Ridge on groomed snowmobile trail system with a permanent CXT bathroom. This could be part of a series of warming huts along the ridge.
- Maintain "wilderness feel" of area between the backside of Mission Ridge and Naneum Ridge (west of groomed snowmobile trails) by leaving the area primitive and used by non-motorized users (this concept applies for both summer and winter).
- Closure to motorized vehicles in Section 30 to maintain quality backcountry skiing opportunity.