

Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Planning: Desired Conditions Document

Desired Conditions for Zone 1:

Natural Resources: Natural and ecological processes may be controlled to protect human life and infrastructure. Forests away from roadways provide sufficient diversity of age and understory for wildlife health. Agricultural water supply is protected and the basin's stream and wetland system is largely intact just off roadways. Impacts and modifications of the landscape are found at irrigation/reclamation district sites, designated recreations sites and along designated roads.

Visitor Experience: Visitors have improved access to short trips and close to home opportunities via limited networks of green dot roads that are clearly marked. Regulations are clearly articulated along roadways and at designated sites for various activities so visitors know how to help care for shared resources and what to expect from other visitors. The presence of other visitors and law enforcement is expected near main roadways during peak season. Opportunities for resource education are available at strategic areas throughout this zone and by working with partner organizations.

Activities: This zone includes day and overnight use, with camping in small rustic campgrounds and dispersed primitive camping spots. Appropriate visitor activities include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, backcountry skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing. Appropriate motorized activities on green dot roads and other seasonally designated routes subject to seasonal wildlife closures include vehicle driving (on green dot roads only), motorcycles and ATVs (on designated routes), and snowmobiles outside of winter non-motorized area. Target shooting may occur in Zone 1, but is not appropriate in high-use areas.

Facilities: Facilities appropriate in this zone are limited to rustic well-maintained trails, directional and interpretive signs, sanitation facilities, small trailhead parking lots, graded gravel roads and established campsites in high use areas. Facilities primarily center along the Upper Stemilt Loop Road. Established campsites are basic and do not have running water or showers. Some facilities are accessible for visitors with disabilities and these areas are clearly marked. One parking lot and trail can accommodate a small number of horse trailers. Sections 16 and 22 (WDFW) have restrictions on recreational development to prioritize for conservation of critical wildlife habitat under Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund requirements.

Desired Conditions for Zone 2:

Natural Resources: Natural and ecological processes may be controlled to protect human life and infrastructure. Sensitive hydrological areas, wildlife, and forest health are protected and largely undisturbed just off roadways. Impacts and modifications of the landscape are found at designated recreations sites, irrigation and reclamation district infrastructure, communities, and along designated roads.

Visitor Experiences: Visitors have increased access to more recreational opportunities through creation of designated trail linkages to adjacent partner trails and areas; designated trail linkages are compatible

with seasonal wildlife usage. Use is concentrated near communities, parks, and developments. Recreation expansion on private lands in Zone 2 leads to higher concentrations of use in these areas and on adjacent public lands. Areas of Section 19 and 30 are set aside for wildlife habitat conservation. Opportunities for resource education are available at strategic areas throughout this zone and by working with partner organizations. Efforts to strategically combine recreation resources with wildfire protection actions are incorporated in planning.

Activities: This zone includes day use, with camping available at Squilchuck State Park. Appropriate visitor activities include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, cross country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and fat tire biking. ATV and snowmobile use are appropriate in this zone only on a designated and legal route for Forest Ridge residents, subject to seasonal wildlife closures, in order to access the Green Dot road system in the summer or groomed snowmobile trails in the winter.

Facilities: Facilities in this zone are limited to rustic day use parking areas to accommodate high use trailheads and strategically placed sanitation facilities for popular reservoirs. Other appropriate facilities in this zone include primitive trails and signs to clarify routes and uses allowed in higher use areas. Recreational facilities on Squilchuck State Park and Mission Ridge property will be developed according to individual recreation planning processes.

Desired Conditions for Zone 3:

Natural Resources: Natural and ecological processes predominate. Water resources and wildlife are protected and largely undisturbed. The landscape is generally undeveloped, with the exception of green dot roads. Areas of Zone 3 have been previously logged. There is potential for growth in recreational use from Department of Natural Resource lands to the south and east.

Visitor Experiences: Visitors have opportunities to be immersed in a primitive and undeveloped setting, for solitude, self-reliance and self-discovery, connection with nature and low encounters with others year round, away from the green dot road system. Highest use occurs on green dot road system and groomed snowmobile trail system, while opportunities for primitive non-motorized recreation exist year round in other areas of zone 3. Slightly higher encounters with other visitors may occur in a natural setting along Upper Wheeler reservoir. Some roads/trails may be seasonally closed to protect wildlife habitat. Opportunities for resource education are available at strategic areas throughout this zone and by working with partner organizations.

Activities: This zone includes day and overnight use, with dispersed primitive camping. Appropriate visitor activities include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling outside of the winter non-motorized use area, cross country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and ATV/motorcycle/vehicle use on green dot roads.

Facilities: Facilities in this zone are minimal overall. Appropriate facilities are limited to sustainably built green dot roads, minimal signage, and recreational huts along travels routes on Nanuem Ridge.