Nason Ridge Stewardship Group

June 9, 2026

In Attendance (online)

Elle Robinson (CCNRD), Chad Spies, Christina Barrineau (CCNRD), Mic McLane (EMBA), Bill and Nancy Miller, Dave Millard, Tim and Mary Gallagher, Ryan Mcgrew (CDLT), Chris Butler (Yakama Tribes), Trevor Wylie (WA Parks), Mark Kihlstrom, Erin McKay (CCNRD), Mike Kaputa (CCNRD), Rolli Schmitten

Agenda

- Kahler/Nason Creek Restoration Projects, Christina Barrineau

  Riparian planting last fall on Nason Creek. Location of project is Kahler Creek, half mile reach downstream to confluence with Nason Creek. Extensive channel incision due to history of fires and logging. Low woody debris recruitment- wood doesn't always fall in a way to make contact with the streambed. Source of cold water to Nason Creek. Restoration will improve incision and streambed connectivity. Majority of this project is on CDLT, not County property. Design has 3 machine built and 9 hand build structures. Ran into permit issues so we will use low tech approach (not use machines). All woody debris will come from the site (CDLT will thin). Low tech structures will allow ground water to accumulate. Analog segments of Kahler Creek as a result of December storm which increases channel complexity. Design contains long structures (3) and short structures (9). Bid process completed, construction starts in late June pending ACOE approval. In water work window is July 10-August 7. Kahler Creek Low Tech Restoration Phase 2: above road crossing, less stream gradient.

  Mary: belted kingfisher at bridge over Kahler Creek

  Chad: happy to go check out the new project site in upper Kahler Creek

  Erin: thinning will help the forest stand and the creek

- Current Projects

  - Thinning, Erin McKay: The project is about 2/3 complete, will wrap up in the next week and a half. They will transition to next unit (93 acres) that extends out to warming hut, funding from NRCS. They will be working on that unit until mid-July. The project has generated a fair amount of slash. Prescribed fire in the future will make this area more resilient. A lot of western white pine, grand fir and lodgepole removed. Variable spacing of trees.

    Chad: the thinning looks really good.

    Tim: you can see the thinning project from Coles Corner.

    Elle: watch out for masticator (keep distance). South part of unit is safe.

    Erin and Trevor will head up to look at reroute together.

- Kahler Gate, Erin: been talking with Bill and Dave Millard about gate on Kahler Glen side, not a great location for a bike gate. Bill thinks we should relocate the gate to a better spot. The county is supportive (will provide a new gate). Dave says everyone is supportive on the Kahler Glen side. Site visit with Trevor, Dave, Bill, Elle to agree on an exact location. Not long to order a gate if they are in stock (can inquire about that now from Western Metal in Ellensburg).
- Bill: 16 foot gate would be fine. Elle will start group text to schedule site visit with Trevor, Chad, Bill, Dave.
- Herbicide, Elle- Woodland Resources scheduled to come June 17th to backpack spray areas delineated by group.

  Chad and Mary have been hand pulling knapweed and other weeks. Chad and Eric and others will be spraying weeds with vinegar/salt mixture to see if that works.
- Butcher Gate- New picnic table, Bike access a problem for some (can't get bike through turnstile), locks are an issue- should we switch to a combo lock?

  Chad: Some flexibility in the width of the bike gate. Dave will talk with his dad and see if he can figure out the problem and report back.

  Bill: can't see the combination on a lock. Erin: could have a long pin on the new gate.

  Erin: We would keep all the locks, just swap the County lock with a combo lock. Fire District would need updated combo in case of emergencies.

- Other Updates
  - Plain Community Park, Mike Kaputa: the County is in a due diligence period to acquire 20 acres on Beaver Valley Rd for a Community Park. Still working through agreements, Cultural Resources, and Phase 1 compliance. The project was brought to the County by the Plain Valley Ski association for ski trails. Planning Recreation Access grant application. Plan to purchase property for $1M in mid-July and enter into operation and maintenance agreement with Ski trail Assoc who will take on operations and maintenance of Park.
  - Road Maintenance, Erin: Perimeter road needs to be maintained. Trevor and Erin will go out and assess needs. Could potentially use wildfire defense funds for ingress/egress.
  - WSDOT Brushing, Elle- potential for residents to clear trees obstructing view of Highway 2. We would work with WSDOT to organize that (work would need to be completed by residents).

    Rolli, Mic, Trevor interested in helping out. Elle will contact WSDOT and nearest landowner. Will bring up the issue of signage with WSDOT again.
  - NFF CPP Grant, Elle- submitted a grant application to create signs for the NRCF with the Yakama Nation. Signage would communicate the history and significance of the NRCF to indigenous tribes.

Rollie: Cinnamon bear with blond cub. Turkey population continues to grow. 19 birdhouses.

Mary: Went out with Paul from Evergreen Mt Bike Alliance

Mic: USFS will drop off excavator this fall, will need to rebench from bottom to warming hut.

Trevor: horse concessionaires will take care of down trees on the trails. WA Parks will defer to USFS on trail issues on the Nason Ridge trail except for winter recreation issues. Trevor is working to get a grader this year for ski trail grooming. Plan is to close up the warming hut for the summer.