Nason Ridge Stewardship Group Meeting

November 18th 2026 5-7pm; In Person at Lake Wenatchee Fire

Meeting Notes

Introductions and Meeting Agenda

Elle Robinson (Chelan County), Erin McKay (Chelan County), Eric Prestbo (Stellerwood), Jim Clark (Plain, EMBA), Sue McCausland (Butcher Creek), Ryan McGrew (CDLT), Mimi Brunjes (Butcher Creek), Shon Smith (Chelan County), Trevor Wylie (State Parks), Chad Spies, Dan Whalen, Mary and Tim Gallagher (Kahler), Bill and Nancy Miller (Kahler), Bill Barclay (Coulter)

Project Updates

Fuels Reduction:

- 227 acre fuel break project completed on ridgetop this summer
- Funded through Community Wildfire Defense Grant, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and NRCS
- Aggressive willow response, we will plan to spot spray willow in the spring then follow up with prescribed fire in 2-3 years
- We will look to start harvesting small-diameter timber soon, especially if we can establish a small diameter mill in the near term

Road Maintenance:

- Title II agreement still being processed in grants and agreements, we do not have the agreement in place yet but are hoping for spring implementation of maintenance work
- County is working with road committee of Butcher Creek residents to prioritize work (Mark Kihlstrom, Dennis Broughton, John Meriwether, Dave Millard, Sarah Smith)
- Chelan County is contributing $1,500 to plow fund again this year, asked for residents to remove sign at beginning of road that says ‘no public access’

Gates:

- New Kahler gate with bike maze built by volunteers!
- Bill added that the gate is working great to allow bikes but not motorcycles and works really well with swing weigh
- Bill has removed cottonwood sprouts from road within ½ mile of gate

Kahler Creek Restoration:

- 12 instream structures built to aggrade stream channel and access floodplain
- Potential spring tour to look at structures

WSDOT Safety updates:

- Met with WSDOT about safety improvements
- Brush clearing at intersection with 6910 and Hwy 2 is our only option at this point, we started the permit process with WSDOT to clear in the ROW but want to make sure we have buy-in from the neighbors

Volunteers:

- Knapweed nearly eliminated from trail that comes up from the Nason Ridge trail to the ridgetop, Chad has pulled and spot-sprayed, Eric will hit rosettes this spring
- Mary has worked on Kahler Creek area
- State Parks has picked up trash bags of knapweed to dispose
- We will want to hit the same areas next year to manage the 2-year life cycle
- Bird surveys: the Gallaghers and Sarah Smith have identified 104 species to date on the forest! Keeping track through e-bird
- Interest in collecting all species lists, not just birds

Sign Project:

- County will be developing signs for entrance points over the winter
- Volunteers offered to help built kiosk for Butcher Creek side
- Warming hut provides a good wall for a timeline, could a timeline be developed to show the history over time?
- Improved signage at property boundary on Nason Ridge Trail
- Sign suggestions:
    - One sign with basic history of land and origin of the community forest
    - One sign with rules/etiquette, expectations for enjoying the community forest
    - Put 'USFS trail number' on rules sign to clarify motorized use, or only put that one on the Kahler entrance side
    - Overall, the existing sign is good and simple!
    - Add 'No Fires'
    - Trail junction signs
    - Ask people to sign in and give justification
- Map:
    - Differentiate Nason Ridge Trail motorized/non-motorized
    - Groomed trails
    - Hiking trails
    - QR code so people can pull map up on their phone
    - Formalize names for trails/roads
    - Grid outline or waypoints so people can identify locations during emergencies, could use e-bird hotspots
    - Emergency contact info
    - You are here