**Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan**

**1/31/2017 Meeting Notes**

**Participants**

 -Susan Rosebrough, NPS

- Jennifer Stein, NPS (phone)

 -Erin McKay, CCNRD

 -John Lehmkuhl, Stemilt/KMO

 -Mickey Fleming, CDLT

 -Brian Patnode, WA State Parks

 -Pete Lopushinsky, WDFW

 -Jerry Gutzwiler, Stemilt Partnership Steering Committee

 -Herb Troxel, Stemilt Partnership Steering Committee

 -James W. Wiggs, Stemilt Irrigation

 -Ben Alworth, Stemilt/KMO

 -John and Marty Erickson, Apple Country Snowmobile Club

 -Mike Kaputa, CCNRD

 -Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner

Mike welcomed the group to the meeting and reviewed the planning background and agenda for the meeting.

**Planning process and structure:**

Susan reviewed the draft planning process structure. The group decided to modify the structure to change the collaborative management group to the Stemilt Partnership group. The decision process would now look like this.

Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan

Land Manager

Approval

Stemilt-Partnership Group

Recommend by consensus

Recreation committee

Recommend by consensus; If consensus can’t be reached present all sides

Other ideas to include in the planning process:

* Start in the context of the Stemilt vision and the three pillars (wildlife, recreation, and water)
* Certain things need to be protected
* Need to answer the question of which agencies will adopt the plan or provide a letter of support
* Need to engage the broader community
* There are certain protections/limitations due to grants that were used to acquire County land (Community Forest Grant, WWRP, USFWS)
* Important to remember that the land acquisitions would not be possible without the Stemilt Partnership

**Desired Product**

* Like to see more specifics (i.e. trail corridors, trailheads, parking)
* Recreation Concept Idea
	+ Upper Wheeler reservoir is designated as a fly-fishing only area and there is a need for better parking and facilities for this user group
* Need road analysis, this could result in recommendations for:
	+ abandonment/decommission
	+ Signs, education, rules
	+ Conversion to trails
* Address safety, garbage, quality of experiences
* Sustainability and maintenance
* Trail network; connectivity with other trail systems
* Use existing infrastructure to the extent possible
* Consider ongoing maintenance/enforcement
* Identify water sources that are used for irrigation and drinking water and those need to be protected (federal law that states water used for irrigation needs to be potable), look at a DOE report for starting point
* Identify areas upstream of irrigation infrastructure that are important for recharging reservoirs and/or groundwater, that need to be protected
* Pole Flats – proposal to open gates in the summer (Naneum plan); concern about wood cutting in this area, it is pristine and concern about opening the road and additional damage that could occur

**Vision**

* Add wildlife and water into the vision statement to ensure the three pillars are included

**Key Issues and Opportunities:**

A draft list of key issues and opportunities was presented; the following feedback was suggested by the group to include:

* Lack of enforcement
* Most of the use of motorized roads on non-green dot roads is intentional
* Need backcountry enforcement (RCO has a grant for this)
* Intentional and unintentional use of private lands
* Concern about new recreation users and conflicts with traditional uses. Traditional users are used to quiet, peaceful opportunities to see wildlife. The goal should be to honor traditional uses to the greatest extent possible.
* More users can help with enforcement

Erin described the existing conditions in the study area. To help focus the planning, the study area was delineated into three zones. The group suggested changing zone 1 and 3 to bring zone 3 closer to the Upper Basin Loop road. A fourth zone was also suggested to include the Beehive area (county parcels 1 and 7). For zone 2, there was some discussion about modifying this to include the upper wheeler road and other high use areas into its own zone.

**Information needs:**

* Wildlife assessment – more information on elk
* Could do site specific elk study per recreation proposal vs. one for the entire study area
* Need information on topo, critical areas, wildlife patterns, cultural resources- and a way to overlay these inputs to find suitable areas
* Reach out to the Tribes to inform them on the process.

**Next Steps**

* Reach out to the Outdoor Alliance and see how they want to be involved (their next meeting is March 29th, Erin will attend)
* Next Meeting – March 16/17 or 20/21 – TBD
	+ Recreation Committee
	+ Stemilt Partnership
* Compile all known information about the study area
* Modify the decision process, vision, issues/opportunities per our discussions today
* Pete/WDFW to follow-up with USFWS to understand if the restrictions on 16 and 22 would ban only future motorized use or existing use and structures.
* Compile and review all grant restrictions and consider this within allowable use