

Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan

Committee Meeting Summaries

March and April, 2015

Background:

Chelan County, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) launched the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP) in January 2015 with a “Kick off Meeting” of a steering committee comprising leaders of area stakeholder interests. The steering committee provided essential input that was used to initiate work on the plan. Information about UWCLP can be found at: <http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/uwclp-minutes?parent=planning>

Three public meetings are part of the planning process. Each was held in one of the three “sub-areas” within the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. The subareas were identified because they are most affected by the checkboard matrix of private and public lands that are a central focus of the UWCLP vision. The meetings were held in the following locations:

- *Peshastin/Blewett/Mission Subarea*, Dryden Fire Hall, March 31, 2015
- *Chumstick Valley*, Leavenworth Fire Station, April 2, 2015
- *Nason/Coulter*, Lake Wenatchee Rec Center, April 11, 2015

In the weeks prior to the meetings, Chelan County sent written invitations to approximately 6700 landowners within the three subareas. It was a testimonial to local interest and to this outreach these prior communications that all three meetings had impressive attendance.

- Dryden, approximately 30 attendees.
- Leavenworth, approximately 40 attendees.
- Lake Wenatchee, approximately 80 attendees.

(Figures do not include project conveners)

Some of the attendees were associated with one of the agencies or NGO's with interests in the Upper Wenatchee basin, but the majority were landowners, business owners, or both. For most attendees this was their first introduction to the planning project's purposes and anticipated activities and outcomes.

Overview of the meetings

Representatives of Project Conveners: The following people participated in one or more of the subarea meetings

Commissioner Keith Goehner, Chelan County

Mike Kaputa, Director Chelan County Natural Resources Department

Mike Kane, Chelan County Natural Resources Department

Pete Cruikshank, Chelan County, Natural Resources Department

James Schroeder, Eastern Washington Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy

Peter Hill, Eastern Washington Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land

Sandra Tassel, Facilitator, Look at the Land Inc, on behalf of The Trust for Public Land
Bob Bugert, Executive Director, Chelan Douglas Land Trust
Mickey Fleming, Director of Land Conservation, Chelan Douglas Land Trust
Hanne Beener, Chelan Douglas Land Trust
Sharon Lunz, Chelan Douglas Land Trust
David Morgan, Chelan Douglas Land Trust

Meeting Agenda: All three meetings had roughly the same agenda, presented virtually identical materials, and collected input from participants in facilitated discussions with small groups of attendees. The content can generally be summarized as follows:

Introductions and welcome

Sandra Tassel, thanked participants for coming to learn about the plan and to help guide it. She introduced the conveners and individual representatives in the room.

County Commissioner Keith Goehner welcomed attendees, expressed appreciation for their participation and emphasized the importance of land to the communities in the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. His brief comments focused on the value of bringing people together with the goal of creating a cohesive vision for the landscape. He emphasized that the county is not contemplating new regulations. Instead, the project will identify voluntary activities and proactive actions it can take.

Mike Kaputa described the land and water management issues and opportunities that inspired the project conveners to initiate the project, in particular the “checkerboard” arrangement of public and private forest lands in the Upper Wenatchee basin. He mentioned the connection between the area’s economy and natural resources, the likelihood that Weyerhaeuser may sell off up to 38,000 acres of the checkerboard in the Wenatchee Watershed , and the conveners’ interest in being ready if that happens. Mike showed a couple of PowerPoint slides depicting maps from the Stemilt/Squilchuk Community Vision to demonstrate that the current project is essentially the third in a series of planning process in Chelan County. In addition, he showed how GIS can identify priority lands that meet community needs, and form the core of action steps. Previous planning processes have yielded documents which were supported by all stakeholders, which have been used to guide government and nonprofit activities, and to raise funds to implement the plans.

Project scope and process

Sandra Tassel provided an overview of the project, using several PowerPoint slides.

- Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan **description and scope:**
 - Public vision development, mapping and implementation (like other 2 plans)
 - Cashmere to Stevens Pass
 - 3 subareas: Nason/Coulter, Blewett/Peshastin and Chumstick (showed on the map)
 - As in other examples, broad citizen engagement and input is key
 - Investigation into local goals/values for whole planning area

- Together, identify priority places and properties using GIS mapping

➤ **Process** -- 16 mos. from start to finish

Gather insight from stakeholders about local land-related values

- The results of the community meetings are essential to the success of the project

Translate those values into “goals and criteria”

- Mapable information, used to create GIS model

- Model identifies specific places that are key for retaining values

- Steering Committee will review, test model

Create maps and prioritization

- Steering Committee will review

Developing action plan

- Tool box of methods to achieve goals and address threats

- Could include voluntary conservation

- Take advantage of opportunities

- Voluntary land management recommendations

Final report and maps

- Tool for community action

- Review by committee

Mickey Fleming described some specific objectives of the project, and clarified the timeline in Chelan County.

Small group facilitated discussions

Participants met in groups of up to 10, each with a facilitator/ recorder. They were asked to answer questions aimed at discovering:

The land and water resources considered most important to the participants, and why. They were encouraged to cite specific places within the Upper Wenatchee watershed to help clarify what they value most in the local landscape.

What actions participants recommended in order to achieve their goals for the area’s land and water resources in the future. Responses to this question will help shape the implementation of the plan.

Attendees had the opportunity to respond in writing individually, and to engage in dialogue with other members of their group. This activity was the core of each of the meetings. In Dryden and Leavenworth there was sufficient time for discussion following the small group portion of the agenda. In Lake Wenatchee, the large number of attendees required that all available time was dedicated to answering the questions and recording the answers by the small group facilitators.

The attached is a summary of participants' written responses and the notes taken by the group facilitators. The input from the public meetings mostly fit into one of the themes described below.

Values that emerged from small group discussions

Although there is a variety of subthemes and nuances, some clear values surfaced. They are listed below

- **Healthy forests** that are a renewable and sustainable resource which can be part of the county's future economy. There is widespread interest in keeping/reinvigorating a forest products industry. Others who cited healthy forests as an important value noted they reduce risk of flooding or other damage to valuable local waters. The checkerboard arrangement of private and public tracts of forest is viewed as an obstacle to this goal, as are the current, prevailing timber management practices. This value is closely linked to the next one.
- **Wildfire stewardship** through informed and careful management of local forests so that they are more resistant to catastrophic fires. Residents generally want to see active management, functional partnerships, improved forestry practices and resumed timber harvests to reduce fire risk. Due to the challenges of coordinating stewardship practices, the checkerboard was perceived to be problematic for achieving local goals for fire-resilient forests. There is support for actions to create a pattern of land ownership that is conducive to *consistent management of forests*, together with cooperative stewardship among private and public owners.
- **Clean water in sufficient quantity to serve all local needs** including agriculture/irrigation, municipal, domestic and the requirements of plants and animals. Meeting participants described their concerns about all aspects of area hydrology from high country snowpack, to intact forests that slow runoff, to improved enforcement of stream buffer requirements, to protection of ground and surface waters. There is fairly widespread worry about failing septic systems and other sources of contamination of private wells. Thorough analysis of the aquifer and recharge zones will be an important aspect of determining which lands may be public priorities.
- **Protected and/or restored habitat for fish and wildlife** with a focus on mule deer, sport fish and the endangered fish species. Many participants observed that healthy forests benefit many species. Specific recommendations include preservation of *corridors for wildlife's* seasonal movements, conserving riparian zones and ensuring that remaining high quality habitat is conserved.
- **Access to a variety of outdoor recreation resources** which are used throughout the year by residents and visitors for both motorized and non-motorized activities. There is widespread recognition that the local economy currently depends to a large degree on *outdoor, recreation-based tourism*. While much of the recreation utilizes the large amount of *public land, trails and roads*, some significant recreation assets are located on Weyerhaeuser property and other private land. (For example, the Nason Ridge cross-country ski trails are on land leased from Weyerhaeuser.) Development of certain private parcels within the checkerboard could potentially impact access to public land

that is highly valued for recreation. There is substantial interest in creating trails at lower elevations that would connect with existing networks.

- **Land available for private ownership** for future residential development or commercial uses in a county with over 80% of the land in public ownership. At each meeting participants expressed concern about tax base, the amount of public land and lack of properties suitable for business uses not connected to tourism. There seems to be fairly broad support for using land exchanges to consolidate private land and public land in arrangements that make both more useful.

➤ **Other issues frequently raised in the public meetings**

- **Balancing needs of different interests** for example motorized and non-motorized users, second home owners and residents, tourism-related businesses and other industries.
- Importance of having **capacity to steward public lands**, whether existing or created in the future. Although this topic did not conform to the questions asked at the meetings, it was raised often and loudly. Issues range from litter, to trespass, to damage caused by off-road-vehicles, to lack of enforcement of existing rules.
- **Management of public and private land**, in particular logging practices. Every meeting had at least several property owners who were deeply concerned about clear cuts on adjoining private land that they felt endangered their homes and physical safety. Similarly, a high level of angst was voiced about the condition of public land adjoining private property, in particular US Forest Service. These fears were usually regarding hazardous “fuel loads” in fire prone areas.

Survey

Participants had an opportunity to complete a one page survey identifying which of the values previously identified are the most important to them. The survey is also available to the public; it is online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UpperWenatcheeSurvey>. Everyone was encouraged to access the survey via the county website, and distribute a link to anyone who might want to provide their input.

Opportunities for further engagement

At each of the meetings, representatives of the convening organizations offered to field questions in the future and welcomed the involvement of interested individuals on the Steering Committee or Technical Advisory Team for the project.

Meeting summaries

In the closing moments of the meetings, attendees were assured that summaries like this one would be posted on the county’s website.

Value	Explanation, additional information	Ranking
Increase recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Access to trails a big concern, especially at lower elevations. -Places popular for recreation, including parcels owned by Weyerhaeuser and others that are currently open to (or just used by) the public. - Trail connectivity, versus just up and back travel, a real network - Rivers and streams - Cashmere needs outdoor recreation to draw visitors - Future access on private lands, or adjacent public sections. - Places for passive (quiet) recreation, conservation: Mission Creek, Brender Canyon, Eagle Creek , ponds at end of Anderson Canyon,\ Specific places: Derby Canyon, Peshastin: Quiet trails, not much wheeled traffic, Ingalls Camp, Devil’s Gulch and Tronson Ridge 	1
Access to public lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private lands control access to public sections - Provide wide range of recreation, mentions of hiking, water access, four season use, vehicular use - Access to public lands, including roads (owned by everyone). - Development of private land could block recreational use of land beyond - Enjoyed by everyone. Includes hike, camp, ORV, snow machines. (That’s why we live here.) - Cornerstone of tourism economy - USFS have or secure easements that run with the land that could prevent future owners from cutting off access 	1
Wildlife habitat/ecological protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to protect land, trees, wildlife, fish and water for our future - Nature’s bounty to provide for wildlife (includes forests for non-economic purposes) - Wildlife migration corridors and important habitat - Wildlife habitat. (Requires better oversight/management by public agencies) - Cross private and public land, including Weyerhaeuser tracts. - Wildlife has seasonally changeable needs. Protect lands for winter range, summer forage, breeding areas - Watercourses important for recreation, beauty, ecological health - Development is encroaching on important habitat Specific place: Camas Creek for Elk habitat, important biological area, unique plants, good hiking, geology, birding 	2
Wildfire stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weyerhaeuser lands and other properties likely to be developed in the “interface”, make problem worse - Roads bring people further into forests, increase fire danger. But roads can also act as fire breaks. - If developed [checkbox] for houses it will affect ability to control fires and increase firefighting costs. - Rural development “drains county, state and federal resources” bc fires are bigger and more expensive losses Specific places: Mission Creek at risk bc of logging, slash 	3

	Eagle Creek: Protection and improved forest practices important for reducing area fire risk	
Water quality and quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For fish, irrigation, livestock, etc. - Water supply is shrinking, new development could over-tap - New water storage could help flows - opportunities for aquifer recharge - Water quantity and quality for all uses a concern - Need for assessment of current legal uses that affect water - forest cover contributes to water supply, retention - Riparian areas - High Lakes <p>Specific places: Mission Creek, Peshastin Creek for fishing and contribution to local water quality, Derby Canyon and Peshastin area: North and East slopes' forest cover important for water supplies</p>	3
Restore endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - epicenter of salmon, steelhead and bull trout...iconic species of the PNW. - Drying streams destroys habitat for all fish - Floodplain - Naturally functioning watershed - Fisheries, and species recovery 	4
Reduce flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forested slopes reduce flood risk, clear cuts increase risk - Floodplains are a bad place to build houses. Costs everyone - forests important for flood prevention (slowing runoff) <p>Mission Creek: Flood control, especially risk for Cashmere with extreme weather, run off, etc.</p>	5
Economic opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism is big business, like it or not. - Commercial mineral resources create community development along with small and large business growth - Allowable cuts/timber sales impact economy. Disappearance of wood products industry in area - Commerce and our work depend on lands 	5
Protect private property (ex Maxfield Canyon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WeyCo lands surround or adjoin private properties, activities put property and lives at risk - Support private landowners doing sustainable forestry (Larsen Canyon) - Roads used by logging trucks go through/by homes. Roads often are not of quality or width to make them safe for trucks and normal use. 	6

Quotes:

Land use affects water quality, in rivers, streams, lakes and wells (particularly forestry practices)

The qualities we value and have invested in to create and protect are dependent on how neighbors manage their land, including DNR, Weyerhaeuser and USFS

As assets become rare elsewhere they make our area more attractive and important for our livelihoods

Need to consider how future land uses will impact past public and private expenditures. Don't want to harm return on investments already made by programs to protect values.

The land and its uses drive our weekday jobs and our weekend recreation

Public health is affected by private land uses.

Nothing survives without water. Needed for fish, irrigation, livestock, etc. Supply is diminishing and possibly being over tapped.

Need to manage land for sustainability. The way timber harvest is done today can minimize impact on future economy.

This is our local landscape. It is important for us to have a say in management. Want it to be sustainable.

“Parking lot”, issues and interests outside of UWCLP purposes

Differing opinions about appropriate uses of public land

- Overarching: USFS land management is part of systemic issue, there needs to be much better coordination
- Maintenance of logging roads important for fire control, erosion control, access
- It [public land in the watershed] is gorgeous but over-used in certain areas. Level of use makes it impossible to restore those lands
- Motorized users of public lands are trashing Derby Canyon. Going even where signs say not to, causing erosion.
- USFS has to maintain lands and enforce rules or close roads
- No one group should be controlling land for recreation and closing off to others

Concerns about restrictions on uses of land and water

- Sport fishing, objection to closed waters. Fish hatcheries should produce adequate fish. Low fish populations harming fishing business, enjoyment

Issues related to threats to water quality and quantity

- Mission Creek: Water quality concerns from timber harvest and fire
- Water quantity issues and damage to fish habitat are partly a result of irrigation waste

Angst about private companies' forestry practices

- Excess timber harvest increases flood risk. Cashmere is particularly vulnerable bc Mission Creek drainage is denuded, but other communities are also at risk.
- Danger [to adjoining properties] from logging including slides, water quality damage, fire risks from slash.
- How are logging companies helping pay for their damage to county roads?

Public desire to reduce wildfire risk, interest in government interventions

- Unhealthy forests lead to wildfires, risk of catastrophic fires. Salvage sales inadequate.
- Issues with second homes, upkeep, fire awareness, community engagement in issues like wildfire

General input for UWCLP

- Need to do “water typing” on all streams, with on-the-ground review, to ensure that timber operations are providing appropriate buffers as required by law (from Sandy) As part of planning process, create an interactive map for online users so that people can put comments related to values in specific areas of the watershed
- Want to have local control over future of critical lands
- What lands are “protected” by zoning or other current regulations so that public doesn't have to buy to conserve?
- Opportunity to create much more logical, manageable land ownership pattern

Responses from small groups

Dryden

March 31, 2015

- Need a strong, clear county land use plan with specific use identified for specific areas to avoid clashing, overlapping, competing uses.
- Have to have a land management budget if more land is made public

Miscellaneous

Stewardship, responsible use, how to fund land management? Issue about trash

Value	Explanation/because	Ranking
Wildfire stewardship	<p>Manage resources in a way that minimizes the risk of major forest fires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cut diseased trees - well managed forests (owned by timber industry) don't burn - "resilient forests" - healthy forests are also fire resistant - changing, drying climate increasing danger - cluster development would reduce risk, keeps new construction out of the woods - need better post-harvest clean up 	1
Timber production/ "Healthy Forests"	<p>Grow sufficient quantities of timber to restore/sustain local forest products economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep forests working, retain roads - Including private timber - Avoid over-logging by private owners, run off danger - Support thriving communities - revived wood products industry - restoration and recovery of forests - improve USFS management, increase timber sales - trades/exchanges needed to make land management more effective and expand commercial opportunities - re-forest logged areas, responsible harvest, don't trash the land - connected to reducing fire hazards 	2
Wildlife habitat/ecological protection	<p>Steward (and restore) lands to sustain wildlife populations generally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife observation/watching - Wetlands, water, forage - Wildlife migration corridors, priority for protection - intact ecosystems (animals, birds, plants) includes humans - concern about abuse of public land - manage forests for fish and wildlife habitat - thinning, burns help wildlife, ex elk herd in the Icicle Creek drainage <p>Specific places: beaver ponds up Eagle Creek Mule deer migration corridor, Entiat Ridge Tumwater Mountain, Botanical Reserve (created by T. Roosevelt) - Restore upper ridges of Eagle Creek, Van Creek and Clark Canyon</p>	2
Access to existing public lands	<p>Maintain (or expand) opportunities for the public to access public lands for spectrum of four seasons of outdoor recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "wilderness" experience - National Forest, the big backyard - Way of life, important for health - hiking, backpacking, wilderness beauty (motorized use issue) - Mountain biking - important for local economy - trails - forest as place to recreate - checkerboard is an issue - need to develop parking areas - user conflicts, motorized and non-motorized - USFS roads, should be maintained, kept open <p>Places – Eagle Creek, Freund Canyon, close to Leavenworth, Sauer Mtn, Tumwater Mtn, Spromberg Canyon, Chiwaukum</p>	2

<p>Improved/new recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Make more land available for recreation (examples include: fishing, hunting, picnicking, bird watching, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently can access most WeyCo lands, need to maintain - accessible day trails - xc skiing (and snowshoe) in natural area, without conflicts with snowmobiles - beautiful hiking - ways to travel, all modes, through natural landscapes (vs on the road) - bicycling - lower elevation opportunities, early and late season, close to Leavenworth - Need more campsites, existing ones always full - non-motorized recreation (prevent motorized encroachment on wilderness areas) - Places for ORV's - Wenatchee Foothills example for separate access for various types of recreation, places to take kids - Specific places: Eagle Creek, Derby Canyon, Freund Canyon, Lake Ethel trail/Coulter Area, Mountain Home, Blewett Pass, Ranger Road, Tumwater Mtn, Icicle Canyon and Ridge, Anderson Canyon, all WeyCo land in Chumstick block - Nason Ridge XC ski trails, secure the future, potentially expand, build a hut system, on current WeyCo land, use in other seasons for hiking, mtn biking - Access to water bodies, including streams, rivers and lakes 	<p>2</p>
<p>Water quality and quantity</p>	<p>Ensure sufficient clean water supplies to meet needs of agriculture, communities and individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preserve the watershed, hydrology (Chumstick water quality is "tenuous") - dry area, going to run out of water - aquifer recharge zones need to be protected - sources of municipal supplies, protected ? - Increase water storage (reservoirs) for benefit of people and fish and wildlife - Preserve water resources and assure safety of private wells - surface and ground water supplies - streams, especially small tributaries, vulnerable to silting up from runoff from logging, roads - forest/river/snowpack nexus - irrigation (check where intakes are located) - prevent erosion - protect riparian zones, floodplains 	<p>3</p>
<p>Restore endangered species</p>	<p>Focus management on meeting the needs of threatened species, mostly fish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ecological diversity - cold, clean water - salmon recovery - prevent erosion by revegetating post-timber and post-fire - water quality and quantity protection benefit fish - use regulations to enforce buffer requirements <p>Specific places: Chiwawa Creek, Icicle Creek, - restore, improve Eagle Creek</p>	<p>4</p>

Developable acreage/private land	Ensure land availability for local resident and second home construction - Private land ownership, increase acreage available - Need additional residential land - Can't ignore growth, expect development - Rural culture depends on private lands - Combine snowmobile trails and new development - Develop public land to increase job opportunities - use land exchanges to get land out of public ownership - Don't add to amount of public land	4
Viewshed, open space, scenery	Protect area's scenic landscapes, natural beauty - Gateway to the valley - Scenery is economic attractor - Less pavement, more dirt, grass, trees - Clean air	4
Orchards, vineyards and other farms	Recognize the importance of the agricultural sector in the local economy - ag lands	5
Other: - Historic - Stewardship	- Ensure that protected lands are cared for - Restore damaged areas, erosion	

Quotes:

Forest, open space, ag lands, private property are all important because these lands are the core of a rural community and economy. Rural culture generated from the grassroots residents is key to a vibrant community.

Our quality of life is tied to area's ecological diversity

Fresh water is a major and critically important resource that is much more fragile than we treat it.

Without the healthy forest all the rest suffers

Without clean water there is no good life

Action/Implementation	Explanation	Priority (based on mentions)
Protect/maintain public access <u>across</u> private land to public lands	- Avoid closure of trails and roads due to future development - Acquire access easements before land is sold again - Require dedication of trail ROW when land is developed - Activities mentioned include hiking, skiing, mountain biking - WeyCo has allowed users to cross their	1

	<p>lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on existing trails - Fund maintenance of trails, improvements such as trailheads - Specific places: Coulter area (access to Lake Egler) 	
Protect/maintain/expand public access for recreation <u>on</u> private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WeyCo leases land adjoining Lake Wenatchee State Park - Within checkerboard, public has generally been able to use private land - Specific parcels are particularly important for recreation <p>Specific: connect mountain bike trail from Tumwater Mtn to Plain through Wey Co sections 15 +23, top of Spromberg Canyon</p>	1
Pursue all possible methods for reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve forest management by public agencies and private landowners. Ex: prescribed burns, funding for fuel reduction, thinning, weed control - Expand Chumstick coalition model (needs funding) - Money for private actions - Use firefighting \$ to pay for improving forest health, “resilience” - fire breaks (keep USFS roads open) - Better logging practices (clean up slash) 	2
Rebuild local wood products industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain forests suitable for sustainable harvests - Create sawmill or other outlet for “biomass” - Support active management of USFS lands, including cuts - create a “community forest”, long-term vs immediate financial gain, process logs locally - Value-added products 	2
Protect water quality and quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stop logging on slide-prone slopes - Ground truth water-typing to make better use of existing buffer requirements for cuts - Identify and conserve ground water recharge lands - Conserve land to minimize future wells - Repair failing septic systems - Development guidelines to protect water quality - Construct water storage/reservoirs, lobby for and secure state funding 	3
Consolidate private and public land (through exchanges, purchases)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involve USFS, BLM, State Parks, DFW, DNR - Essential for improved land management - Make forestry more efficient/possible - Don’t increase % of public land, make sure it is the right land 	4

<p>Acquire key private parcels (or secure conservation restrictions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Necessary for habitat, protecting wildlife corridors - Overlap with protecting water quality and quantity, some land should not be developed, recharge zones - Wetlands, riparian areas - Forestlands, reduce logging, create “community forest” - community control, “keep options open” 	<p>4</p>
<p>Retain private land for development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need areas for future growth - Housing construction important for locals and second homes - Tax base concerns - Antipathy toward additional public land - Site for mill, or other commercial activities (encourage business besides tourism) - Identify land not appropriate for conservation and make available for development -Encourage infill development, affordable housing in existing developed areas 	<p>5</p>

“Parking lot”, issues and interests outside of UWCLP purposes

Differing opinions about appropriate uses of public land

- prevent motorized encroachment on Icicle Ridge
- keep roads open
- close roads not needed for recreation
- respect for multi-use tradition for all user groups, create separate access areas

Concerns about restrictions on uses of land and water

- ensure planning does not lead to zoning or regulations, defend private property rights
- consider and mitigate negative impacts of ESA on private lands
- “balanced approach” to land uses in the county, don’t exclude anyone

Issues related to threats to water quality, especially in individual, domestic wells

- funding and management of development to protect clean water, including funding to repair failing septic systems
- County leadership on septic, cover costs of testing, educate public about incentives
- help private landowners repair failing septic systems that impact everyone’s water

Angst about Weyerhaeuser’s forestry practices

- enforce existing forest protection regulations
- map and make available GIS data on timber sales
- encourage WeyCo to modify practices
- expose the post-cut conditions on WeyCo lands

Public desire to reduce wildfire risk, interest in government interventions

- Comprehensive assessment of fuel loads in tributary drainages esp. south side of Eagle Creek drainage, Merry Canyon
- Lobby for additional funding for USFS, more staff, active leadership
- fireproof around homes, require private property owners to thin

General input for UWCLP

- develop a clear, consistent process for moving forward w goals of the plan, including an “elevator” version of the vision
- create partnerships to involve the right people
- determine who has responsibility for what, create guidelines or regulations

Miscellaneous

- educate homeowners to leave riparian habitats intact along their sections of creeks

Value	Explanation/because	Ranking
Improved/secured/new recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain recreational access on timberlands (Ex Coulter block) - Retain cross country skiing lease/trails - ATV's, hunting access in Nason Creek - Trails Nason Ridge, mountain biking - Above Kahler Glen - Plain Valley - Scottish Highlands Camp (leased land) - Lake Julius trail - Increase biking options on road and trails, make a true network - Snowmobiling is an existing use, needs to be maintained (in Coulter Creek) - Create hut skiing (ala the Rendezvous in the Methow) <p>Specific places: Nason Ridge, Coulter Creek trail and access (locked), Pole Ridge, protected corridor/trail from Stevens Pass to Leavenworth (Mountains-to-Sound Greenway model, used working forest easements)</p>	1
Water quality and quantity, storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wild, natural, clean -Ensure there is sufficient water before additional development - Manage forests to prevent runoff - Source water protection, springs - Steep slopes should not be cut or developed to avoid slides which damage waterways - Healthy forests are good for water (and air and animals) - uplands have to be protected - Nason Creek - Lakes and rivers - for fishery - humans, habitat and economy need clean water <p>Specific: Coulter Creek wetlands, Kahler Creek needs restoration, Lake Wenatchee (for water, views and recreation), White River, Little Wenatchee River, Nason Creek</p>	1
Wildlife habitat/ecological protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investment in fisheries should be protected by limiting upstream road-building and forestry (Nason/Coulter) - checkerboard land ownership is antithetical to good habitat management - black bear populations OK - mule deer populations in decline - healthy forests supply habitat - Wildlife habitat should be preserved - hunting is important to communities - streams - fish and animals - rivers are habitat (separate from endangered species) - landscape is changing (warming, drying)Makes higher elevation lands especially important for conservation <p>Specific places: Round Mountain, Chiwawa Pines (<i>not sure if these were rec or wildlife</i>)</p>	2
Timber production/ "Healthy Forests"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage forests for continued harvest - Active management = fire resilient (currently a tinderbox) - Distinct from tree farms - All WeyCo land for forestry 	3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Also a recreation asset - Restore logged lands - timber products, jobs - human health - replant logged areas to rebuild forest base for future - forest health shouldn't be excuse for heavy logging - Community forest, opportunity for job training, work 	
Access to existing public lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and improve current public lands access - Fishing, skiing, hunting, hiking, mtn biking - Improve, expand water access for non-motorized craft in lake Wenatchee - Hiking trails - XC skiing - Mountain Biking - Harvesting wild products - Specific places: Butcher Creek, Dirtyface, Agnes, non motorized access from Coulter Creek area to Scottish Lakes High Camp 	4
Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close unneeded roads in the forest - Halt clear cuts - Sustainability - Manage existing public lands better 	4
Wildfire stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forests have to be managed for fire - Important that strategies are consistent across ownerships - Resilient forests - Public safety, protect properties - Fire as a tool for healthy forests - Climate change, drying, is going to increase risk - Beneficial for water quality and wildlife - Allow woodcutters 	5
Viewshed, open space, scenery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - designated scenic byway, important to protect viewshed - maintain natural views (logging and fire impact, in addition to development) - Nason Ridge and Nason Creek - sightlines - ordinance possible? Larger lot zoning? - Pole Ridge, Dirty Face (<i>not sure if these are view issues</i>) 	5
Access to water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fishing, kayaking, sailing - Maintain fishing opportunities - Lake Wenatchee, kayak and raft - specific places: Little Wenatchee, Chiwawa River, River Road, Hwy 2, Plain Bridge - Chumstick, Nason Creek for flyfishing 	5
Developable acreage/private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important to retain existing private acreage - Landowners/companies depend entirely on their land - mining - loss of tax revenue - large % of public lands - purchase of lands = more expenses, responsibilities for county - rural lands, local industry = family friendly place to live and work - avoid dense development (anti-"Suncadia") - county revisit land classification (?), cluster zoning, open space 	6

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - geologic “block fault” Nason Ridge, - need for affordable housing - options for more commercial along highway near Coulter? 	
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest products, biomass, firewood - Need to have infrastructure for timber industry - Retain mill site for future - public private partnership, conservation and industry, a real model - Gateway quality of road from Stevens Pass is as valuable as additional industrial/commercial development 	6
Restore endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restore fish habitat - Salmon recovery 	7
Orchards, vineyards and other farms	Farming resources	

Quotes:

- We need to better maintain what we have because once it’s gone we can never turn back
- Forest health is everything because everything else – recreation, business – depends on it
- If existing private lands are sold for development it will impact forest, wildlife, water quality and fire protections
- Ensure that commercial activities preserve the pristine water and scenic beauty
- Let’s look at natural features together with the ownership and economic issues so we’ll know how to go forward
- Clean water is like gold

Action/Implementation	Explanation	Priority
Acquire and manage key private parcels ,or secure conservation restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Focus on slide prone lands, public safety - Acquire WeyCo land, or secure long term lease - public ownership of Nason Ridge trail system - local control of lands that affect the people who live here - Preserve and restore Chiwawa fish habitat - Specific: Nason Creek land behind Kahler Glen, to the top Nason Ridge trailhead Kahler Glen ski/bike trailhead Coulter Creek - Partnership, state parks, wildlife, tribes, land trust - Logging done at a sustainable level - Minimize construction in areas important for water quality and ecosystems - Public private partnership to buy all WeyCo land - Make a Stewardship Forest - Southern WeyCo parcel for water quality reasons - Investigate ways to maintain tax base, even if land is conserved (TNC model) 	1
Identify areas for commercial activity that won’t negatively impact other values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Logging, extraction other economic activities should take place on lands where long-term forest and water health won’t be affected -Identify best uses for private lands in checkerboard - Create a plan for checkboard that brings most value to public - Manage for long term use 	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map landslide risks, use as a guide - Identify important watershed lands - Plan future developments around preservation and dedicated public use - Identify uses and needs for activities including recreation, timber, housing, streams - Map wildlife migration corridors - Determine who all “players” are and their plans for lands - Set real goals 	
Protect/maintain public access <u>across</u> private land to public lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain current opportunities for hiking, skiing, back packing, etc - Incorporate USFS “travel plan” - Map Rights of Way and connections to USFS, comprehensive analysis - Secure access to any trails on public land so that future development won’t block - Permanent easements w WeyCo that run with the land 	3
Protect/maintain/expand public access for recreation <u>on</u> private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Preserve access to existing trails -Prevent development in Nason Creek - County/local management of access - Create a network of public access trails - Secure permanent access to Nason Ridge Trail 	3
Protect fish and wildlife habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wild and Scenic Rivers - Incorporate habitat needs into future land use (and land acquisition) decisions - Prioritize intact ecosystems - Preserve riparian areas - Deals to eliminate clear cuts 	3
Pursue all possible methods for reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make forests fire-tolerant by thinning - Firewise education - partner with USFS on “fuels treatment” - Work with Firewise Communities - Forest management for fire stewardship - Proactive steps - Commitment to clean up slash 	4
Consolidate private and public land (through exchanges, purchases)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining and controlling land for recreation requires minimizing checkerboard - Create large parcels of land in a natural state - Resolve checkerboard ownership on Nason Ridge - 3,700 acres, Nason Ridge, one public entity, prevent sell-off of parcels 	4
Rebuild local wood products industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide saleable timber for wood products and jobs - Use working forest conservation easements vs “preservation” - Create community forest, maintain w local values in mind 	5
Protect water quality and quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watersheds - Manage forest lands to reduce runoff - Plan based on water resource assets - Analyze hydrology, ID critical lands - Introduce beaver to area - Wild and Scenic designation for White River and Little Wenatchee 	5

Retain private land for development		6
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“Parking lot”, issues and interests outside of UWCLP purposes

Differing opinions about appropriate uses of public land

- Find a balance with motorized and non-motorized use
- ATV's are a tradition
- Recreational access by ORV is economical and has commercial purposes
- Minimum impact activities essential for resource protection
- Allow biking on trails
- XC trail grooming
- Limit motorized/wheeled interference with wildlife
- Close and rehabilitate old logging roads that aren't part of trail system, can't maintain
- Segregate XC skiing and snowmobiling (and other seasonal activities) so both can enjoy
- Target practice, public danger
- Set aside area for “hard core” ATV use, rocks, steep hills, narrow trails

Concerns about restrictions (pro and con) on uses of land and water

- Don't let county become a dictatorship
- Need planning, local control vs federal and state
- Planning and restoration aimed at maintaining healthy forest

Angst about Weyerhaeuser's forestry practices

- Logging on Nason Ridge is damaging the property, slides, erosion
- Slash piles increase fire risk, supposed to be cleaned up
- Replanting as required?
- Following plan filed w DNR?
- Public safety should always be first priority, minimize landslide risk
- Nason Creek/Lake Wenatchee cannot sustain heavy duty activities i.e. clear cutting
- Logging has led to road washouts, trail closures, flooding

Public desire to reduce wildfire risk, interest in government interventions

- Educate private property owners, especially second home owners
- “Reduce fire threat”
- Promote Firewise Communities
- Require landowners to participate to make effective
- Create fire breaks
- Conduct controlled burns
- Simplify permits
- Press USFS to create buffers around communities

General input for UWCLP

- Find ways to improve forest management on private and public lands (multiple mentions)
- Select areas for specific activities (even if uses overlap)
- Develop plan that prioritizes protection of important lands, identified as needed for local priorities

- Action plan to lead to early success during implementation
- Engage the public, as is happening -
- Important to engage all stakeholders
- Work together as a community to preserve recreational access and use for all

Miscellaneous

- Improve road shoulders for biking
- Maintenance of trails for skiing, biking, hiking (Better/more maintenance came up a lot)
- Reduce road erosion
- Support wolf and grizzly reintroduction
- Public education, reduce “misuse”
- Cost of housing, locals and employees