Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
June 24, 2015
Easy Street Fire Hall, Wenatchee WA

<u>"Steering Committee" Attendees</u>: Mat Lyons (Evergreen Mtn Bike);, David Holland (WA Dept. of Ecology); Rollie Schmitten (Nason View Partnership, Lake Wenatchee); Shaun Seaman (Leavenworth Winter Sports Club); Jerry Duffy (Nason View Partnership); Lee Carlson (Yakama Nation); Keith Goehner* (Chelan County Commission); Steve Raymond (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Bill Miller (Kahler Glen); Tom Ernsberger (WA State Parks); Rick Halsteadt (WA State Parks); Larry Leach (WA Dept. of Natural Resources); Wes Worden (Weyerhaeuser); Jordan McDevitt (private developer).
<u>Other invitees</u>:   Dan Acton (Leavenworth Real Estate); Amanda Barg (WDFW); Terry Twitchell*(Peshastin/Blewett); Scott Lynn (US Forest Service); Don Youkey (US Forest Service); Jeff Rivera (US Forest Service); Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation); Bill Towey (Colville Tribes); James Schroeder (The Nature Conservancy); George Wilson (Lake Wenatchee Info); Ross Frank (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Annie Schmidt (Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition); Andrew Holm* (Tierra Learning Center); Nancy Smith (Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce); Dick Smithson* (Peshastin/Blewett).
Attended "Sounding Board" meeting 1/8/15

<u>Other attendees</u>: Mike Kaputa* (Chelan County Natural Resources Department), Ericka Hegeman (Chelan County Natural Resources Department), Mickey Fleming* (Chelan Douglas Land Trust), Bob Bugert (Chelan Douglas Land Trust), Pete Hill* (The Trust for Public Land), Sandra Tassel (Representing The Trust for Public Land.), Jennifer Hadersberger (CCNRD). Mike Kane, Mitch,

Background:
Chelan County, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have been leading the creation of a vision for the Upper Wenatchee River watershed. The project is known as the Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP). The project conveners officially started work on UWCLP in December 2014, but substantial effort over the course of several years was involved in developing the concept and securing funding to execute it.

The specific objectives of the project are:
- Identify the values associated with the Upper Wenatchee watershed landscapes;
- Create community awareness of those values;
- Map lands that exemplify the values; and

- Develop an action plan outlining voluntary actions to help ensure that these lands and the values attached to them serve our communities for generations to come.

Representatives of all stakeholder interests have been invited to be members of the Steering Committee that is advising the project conveners. The Steering Committee first met in January 2015 and provided input on the goals of UWCLP.

In March and April, three public input meetings were held; one in each of the three subareas that are the focus of UWCLP. They are:
- Nason Ridge/Lake Wenatchee
- Peshastin/Blewett Pass
- Chumstick Valley/Leavenworth

Summaries of the initial Steering Committee meeting and the community meetings can be found on the Chelan County website:
http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/uwclp-minutes?parent=planning

In addition to the three public meetings, citizens were able to weigh in on their priority values via an online survey. The survey was promoted at the public meetings, by the County and the Chelan Douglas Land Trust.

Notes of June 24, 2015 Steering Committee Meeting #2
On June 24, 2015 the second meeting of the Steering Committee was held at the Easy Street Fire Hall. Email invitations were sent to everyone who was contacted in advance of the January meeting, plus several people who expressed an interest at one of the community meetings in joining the Steering Committee. Members of the convening organizations called many of the invitees also to ensure good attendance.

Goals of the Meeting

The primary purposes of the June 24th meeting were to review the list of priority values that was developed from citizen input and the draft maps that show how community priorities align with the geography of the Upper Wenatchee watershed, and the data sets gathered through the Technical Advisory Committee to map criteria for each value

The maps are based on:
- Input received at the public meetings,
- Recommendations from the Steering Committee,
- Feedback from one-on-one interviews and
- Results of the survey

All of the input was compiled in May. That synthesized information about local values became the basis for GIS mapping done by The Trust for Public Land. Local experts on the Technical Advisory Team assisted with the mapping by providing data and advising the mapping team on priority locations.

Feedback from the Steering Committee will inform the creation of the final maps, guide additional outreach and suggest other research that may still be necessary for the final plan to be an accurate reflection of local priorities.

Overview of the Meeting

➤ <u>Welcome</u> by County Commissioner Keith Goehner
➤ <u>Introductions</u> of all attendees
➤ <u>Overview of the UWCLP goals and timeline</u> by Sandra Tassel, representing The Trust for Public Land, and Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department.
➤ <u>Findings from community meetings and survey</u> by Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust
➤ <u>Discussion of priority values</u> involving all attendees
➤ <u>Explanation of draft maps of community values</u> presented by Mitchel Hannon, The Trust for Public Land
➤ <u>Discussion of the draft maps</u> involving all attendees giving feedback recorded by the facilitator for each map
➤ <u>Next steps</u> by Mike Kaputa and Mickey Fleming

PowerPoint presentation is available at the County website link, above.

Key Meeting Observations and Outcomes

Commitment to ensuring that the final plan reflects broad community values

▪ Commissioner Goehner opened the meeting by emphasizing the County's focus on ensuring that the UWCLP is based on the entire "spectrum" of people and opinions in the planning area. He specifically mentioned residents, visitors, business and people who work the land as being part of that spectrum.
▪ There was clear consensus about everyone's desire to recognize and address all important local values connected to land uses through the planning process. The extensive outreach in advance of the community meetings, the public survey, the one-on-one interviews and future conversations in the subareas are all essential techniques aimed at inviting and obtaining input from all members of the community.
▪ The Steering Committee membership is one of the methods by which the project conveners are seeking that full range of input.
▪ Effective implementation of the plan will depend on local support.

Five priority values that are the basis of the GIS mapping

- Preserve (and Restore) Healthy Forests/Wildfire Stewardship
- Protect (and Restore) Water Resources
- Protect Wildlife Habitat
- Retain and/or Expand Recreation Opportunities
- Maintain and/or Increase Working Lands
- These five priority values reflect input provided by citizens of the Upper Wenatchee Watershed in the various forums. There is not a perfect alignment between the consolidated results from the public meetings and the data derived from the survey. This seeming discrepancy actually arose because of the words the meeting facilitator used to describe participants' comments were slightly different than the phrases in the survey.

   - Attendees of the Steering Committee meeting specifically discussed the difference in language related to the goal of retaining private property. Variations of this topic were raised in the community meetings. The facilitator combined mentions of commercial forestry, agriculture, commercial uses, development and housing as a community value of retaining private land. When consolidated into one value ("Working Lands") it ranked in the top five. Conversely, in the survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of those values individually among 12 possible choices; so separated, land available for development to ranked low on the scale.

- The Working Lands map addresses most of the local values regarding private land in that it covers acreage for forestry, orchards and other agriculture.
- Mapping land that is important for the high priority community values will benefit developers by showing areas that are not identified as especially sensitive that would present significant barriers to a development proposal.

A number of community concerns and suggestions will be addressed in the action steps element of the plan

- Although the goals of the UWCLP is to identify specific lands that serve community values, in each of the opportunities for public input, citizens commented on land uses or management issues. Examples include: need for forest thinning; desire for permanent trail dedications; interest in either motorized or non-motorized recreation; and improved oversight of malfunctioning septic systems.
- GIS mapping can only identify natural resources, geographies or properties that are important for meeting local objectives. The highest priority lands will be those that meet multiple priority values.

- There will be opportunities to address the non-mapable input during the creation of the action steps that will guide the implementation of the plan, for example, development opportunities that could complement rather than jeopardize other values such as wildlife and healthy forests.

Primary Steering Committee Feedback on Draft Maps

Priority sites for increasing or retaining recreation opportunities will be provided by user groups
- An online tool for "drawing" sites on the digital map is available. Links will be provided to user groups.

Reviewers need to be able to see how priority values look across the entire landscape, not just on private land
- Due to internet problems, it was not possible to see all the data layers used to create the maps the Steering Committee was studying
- A link to an online site will be distributed that will allow interested individuals to examine all of the data layers

Better information is needed about the source and content of the "criteria" used in the mapping
- At the next meeting printed versions of the list of data layers, their source and a description will be provided to the Steering Committee

The weighting of each criterion has to be reviewed by the Steering Committee
- The maps show priority lands that best meet the criteria established by technical experts engaged in the GIS work. They assigned relative levels of importance to each criterion. If one criterion was rated as being very important it eclipsed all other criteria. The Committee needs to assess these ratings and see how changing them will influence the final map.
- Steering Committee Meeting #3 will provide an interactive opportunity for the Steering Committee to modify weights of the criteria for individual goals, and to weigh the goals relative to each other.

Specific input on each map was recorded and has been provided to the GIS mapping team
- Individual committee members have invaluable knowledge about specific community values such as forestry, fire stewardship, agriculture and water resources. They studied all of the maps and had very useful feedback that will be incorporated into the next version of the maps.

Next Steps

- The Trust for Public Land's GIS department will do additional work with the local technical advisors, and incorporate the Steering Committee's suggestions, to develop revised maps prior to the next Steering Committee meeting.
- The County and the Land Trust will be scheduling opportunities to connect and engage area citizens in each subarea, as part of developing the final plan.
- Community associations and other regular group meetings may be a good venue for securing additional input. Also discussed were surveys of Chamber of Commerce members. Steering Committee members are asked to send suggestions to Mike and Mickey.
- The **next Steering Committee meeting will be on September 15, 2015**. The agenda for that meeting will include review of the next version of the map, discussion of weighting of criteria and among the values, and action steps.