Nason Ridge Community Forest Recreation Planning

Access and Parking Meeting #1 Meeting Notes January 11th, 2023

 6-8pm Lake Wenatchee Rec Club

Participants:

Bill Deters (NCWAS), Ralph Leslie (Kahler Glen HOA), Shon Smith (BOCC), Chad Spies (local hunter), Rollie and Barbara Schmitten (inholders), Mary and Tim Gallagher (Kahler Glen, NCWAS), Sarah Smith (Butcher Creek), Joe Cannata (59er Diner, landowner), Elijah Walker (LWFR), David Walker (Butcher Creek, LWFR), David Millard (Kahler Glen Community Association), Deb Wadkins (StateParks, LWFR), Trevor Wylie (State Parks), Justin Donahue (Alpine Lakes High Camp), Bill and Nancy Miller (Kahler Glen), Eric Prestbo (Stellerwood), Scott Cervine (WSDOT), Susan Rosebrough (NPS RTCA), Mike Kaputa, Erin McKay (CCNRD)

* Introductions
* Review of Current Conditions, Priorities for Continuing Use, and Management Priorities from 2019 Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan
* Map review of existing access points
* Discussion of existing and potential access points Opportunities and Challenges

Access Point Opportunities and Challenges

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| Lake Wenatchee State ParkLandowner: WA State Parks | **Opportunities:** * Trail from State Park to Nason Ridge CF exists
* State Parks working with USFS on signage to better mark the route to Nason Ridge Trail and the CF
* Established snowshoe and xc ski trails in winter from State Park to CF and groomed system

**Challenges:*** Distance is a limitation for walking access
* Need a Discovery Pass to park at State Park
* Limited Parking

*Follow-Up: Not a priority for development of additional access. Work with State Parks on signage needs* |
| Nason Ridge Trailhead (USFS)Landowner: USFS | **Opportunities:** * Summer months the Forest Service Nason Ridge trailhead can provide access to the Community Forest via the Nason Ridge trail.
* A potential place for a large parking lot and facilities is at the Nason Ridge trailhead on USFS land.  This avoids visitors going into Kahler Glen proper and passes no homes and is close to the state park.  It would benefit Kahler Glen with more visitors to their businesses but not overtax their parking areas and resident access/comfort. The landscape there is flat enough for expansion.
* It could serve as another sno-park for Kahler Glen in the winter - the groomed trail goes through this spot. If additional winter parking were needed in the future.
* Represents opportunity to expand parking without creating new parking in Kahler Glen.
* May be better access point for hiking rather than mountain biking.

**Challenges:*** Problematic in winter to have more parking there because the groomed trail goes the parking area, also may be a problem with cars on the road.
* Already winter access in Kahler Glen and State Parks, additional snopark maybe not needed.
* Trail not maintained in winter, alder lays down so not great for walking access in winter.

*Follow-Up: Desirable short-term option for increasing access. Work with USFS on potential for trailhead expansion* |
| Kahler Glen Landowner: Kahler Glen Community Association | Water Tower Trail**Opportunities:** * Alternate route to access CF trails from Kahler Glen

**Challenges:** * Used by Kahler Glen residents in winter and summer
* No parking, **not a public access point**

Driving Range SnoPark**Opportunties:*** Currently a winter sno-park. Works well for accessing ridge through groomed golf course trails and water tower trail (signed for both XC trails and snowshoe trail in winter and also shows up on apps)
* Used to access water tower trail in winter

**Challenges:*** Not a summer access point
* Problems could exist in working out an agreement with Kahler Glen and with the new development proposed at Kahler. Conflict with golfers and recreational traffic during summer with any summer access point through Kahler Glen

Kahler Gate**Opportunities:*** Emergency fire egress for Kahler Glen, only exit for Kahler Glen if route 207 or Cedar Brae blocked
* Maintenance access for vehicles to CF
* Walking/biking access for Kahler Glen residents

**Challenges:*** In a neighborhood, no space for parking
* Not good option for parking for public CF access

*Follow-Up: Maintain current use of winter snopark, work with Kahler/State Parks on signage, do not develop summer access points through Kahler Glen (but work with residents on trail maintenance needs)* |
| Butcher Creek Road/6910Landowner: USFS, Chelan County, Private | Butcher Creek Road General ConsiderationsSummer and winter road maintenance of #6910:* Road continuity ownership remains unresolved
* Maintenance is not handled by any agency, local residents make emergency repairs.
* Road current conditions. The base is deteriorated and what remains breaks down easily.
* Winter plowing is handled by residents only currently.
* Winter conditions have the road often reduced to one lane with cars having to wait for each other in passing.
* Crosses a single lane FS bridge with structural damage
* 2-3 areas where increased use will add sedimentation to Nason Creek. Collapsed culverts and road edges at creek.
* Ongoing maintenance needs.
* Ensure we are maintaining a sense of a community within Butcher Creek “neighborhood”

Safety issues with increased traffic making tight turn off of Hwy 2:* DOT highway 2 improvements (from DOT) Remove passing lane, add turn lane, add departure lane, add signage.

*FLAP grant could be an option for funding road improvements on #6910*Property Line**Opportunities:*** SnoPark on Butcher Creek side could reduce issues with people parking in residential areas on Butcher Creek and provide winter access to that side.
* SnoPark could include winter plowing on Butcher Creek side.

**Challenges:** * Private landowners and BPA easements right at property line. Very open and would be hard to control go-arounds at gate

Open Area Beyond Tree Island**Opportunities:*** Creating a sno park or parking lot to access winter or summer hiking trails should be a way into the community forest property with an adequate buffer to the people who own the caboose land.
* Entry at the moved Butcher Creek gate could provide year-round access to the Forest. Discussions should be held with the State Park about this site potentially becoming a Snowpark location if grooming were extended to this new location.
* Parking access may be more attractive for mountain biking

**Challenges:** * There are sensitive ecological sites near this area. Some sort of mitigation for this area should be incorporated- maybe a few sturdy steel posts along this section with metal signs that read, Sensitive or Wildlife area, no motorized access?
* Road should be improved- replace culverts for spring run off?

Current Gate Location (flat area just beyond gate)**Opportunities:****Challenges:** * Bad place for a gate- no parking
* No interest in moving gate even further into CF

*Follow-Up: Priority for short-term access improvement**Work with WSDOT on potential safety improvements**Look into FLAP grant for Butcher Creek road improvement**Determine new gate location**Work with residents on signage**Determine level of use desired* |
| Coulter Creek RoadLandowner: WSDOT, Private, BNSF, Chelan Resources | **Opportunties:*** One mile up Coulter Creek road could be access point if future acquisition of timberlands into public ownership

**Challenges:*** Challenging to tie parking to land across the highway- not good access point for Nason Ridge CF

*Follow-Up: Identify Coulter Access during Coulter assessment subgroup meeting* |
| Nason Rest AreaLandowner: WSDOT | **Opportunities:** * Safer turn off of Hwy 2

**Challenges:** * Not enough room for trail or road to connect in ROW to Butcher Creek road

*Follow-Up: Not likely access point* |
| Cole’s CornerLandowner: Private, CPUD, USFS | **Opportunities:*** Long term objective to increase access off of Hwy 2 and integrate a pedestrian suspension bridge to ease pressure on other access points
* Commercial zoning at Coles Corner potentially more appropriate for business use of property and puts users near services, and supports economic development.

**Challenges:*** Increased use over a pedestrian bridge may have adverse impacts on fish/riparian
* Most points would entail USFS land to some degree, would be an involved process to get easement through lands other than Chelan County
* Complex in terms of permitting, design, cost

*Follow-Up: identify most likely options in terms of ownership and topography*  |
| Round Mountain TrailLandowner: USFS |  |
| 3 miles up Butcher Creek Road, old road spur leads into CFLandowner: USFS | **Opportunities:*** Could be additional access point or trailhead in future

**Challenges:** * Relatively small parking area outside of USFS gate
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Future discussion points:

* What level of use is desired for the Forest, and how will parking/access/marketing play into it?
* Trail connection for bikes to go up Nason Ridge trail and connect through water tower trail and out Kahler Gate
* Hwy 2 Corridor Assessment sponsored by Senator Hawkins
* Shuttles for access from Cole’s Corner