**Nason Ridge Community Forest Stewardship Committee Recreation Planning**

**March 8, 2023 Quarterly Meeting**

**Meeting Notes**

**Participants**

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| --- | --- |
| Name | Affiliation |
| Erin McKay | Chelan County Natural Resource Department |
| Mike Kaputa | Chelan County Natural Resource Department |
| Chad Spies | Local hunter |
| Shon Smith | County Commissioner  |
| Mat Lyons | TREAD |
| Bill Gaines | Washington Conservation Science Institute  |
| Bill Miller | Kahler Glen resident  |
| Brandon Rogers | Yakama Nation Fisheries |
| Sean Simmons | Local Landowner, hunter, recreator |
| Rebecca Ryan | Wenatchee River Institute  |
| Mary Gallagher | Kahler Glen resident |
| Tim Gallagher | Kahler Glen resident |
| Scott Cervin | Washington Department of Transportation |
| Barbara Rice | National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program |
| Susan Rosebrough | National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program |
| Jim Passage | Fire Adapted Communities |
| Deb Wadkins | Washington State Parks |
| Trevor Wylie | Lake Wenatchee State Parks |
| Mason Schuur | USFS |
| Tianna Luke | Wilderness Society |
| Christie Saugen | Plain Valley Ski Trails |
| Ray Aspiri | Lake Wenatchee Resident |
| David Walker | Butcher Creek resident |
| Terri Weiss | Plain Valley |

**Review of Previous Meetings**:

Review and highlights (priorities) of the last three months of work through the in-person subgroup meetings. All the documents for the project can be found on the [County’s website](https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/nason-ridge-community-forest) and are linked here (control+hover to activate links). The Powerpoint for the meeting is also available on the site.

* [Stewardship Committee Charter](https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/natural-resources/documents/Recreation%20Committee%20Framework%20Final.docx)
	+ Provides an overview of roles of the stewardship committee, an overview of the planning and decision process, and a list of current members.
* [December Meeting Notes](https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/natural-resources/documents/NasonRidgeXC_trails_meeting_notes_12_12_22.pdf): XC Ski Trails including grooming, priority uses, and winter hut concession system.
* [January Meeting Notes](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.co.chelan.wa.us%2Ffiles%2Fnatural-resources%2Fdocuments%2F1_11_23_MeetingNotes_w_AccessTable.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK): Potential Access and Trailhead Locations in the short and long term.
* [February Meeting Notes](https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/natural-resources/documents/Access%20Point%20Priorities.docx): Vision, Desired Outcomes, and Priority Access Opportunities
	+ At this meeting, we developed a [vision, desired conditions, and updated the recreation objectives.](https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/natural-resources/documents/Vision_DesiredConditions_NasonRidge_Draft%202_16_23.docx)

**Upcoming Community Forest Projects**

Summary of upcoming forest projects.

* Spring Tree planting
* Road work at corner near Nasonview
* Invasive Species Management
* Carbon Financing/Reforestation
* May Audubon Society and Birdfest Outings – May 5 and May 6
* May Community Forest Coalition visit
* Biochar feasibility for Community Forest treatments
* DNR Forest Health treatment proposal
* Nason/Kahler Habitat Improvement Project Year 2
* Perimeter Road Bridge not happening this year

**Planning Approach**

Upcoming planning approach to define the trails and access areas:

* Utilize vision and desired condition to help guide development
* Develop zones to help define appropriate uses.
* Washington Conservation Institute will identify high value ecological values. These areas will be mapped to help inform the recreation planning and decision process. This information can also help assess the trade-offs for the various recreation alternatives. In May, this information and maps will be shared with the planning group.

**Concessions, Special Uses, and Fees Discussion**

Winter hut use concept and draft guidance on special uses and fees.

* Concessions
	+ Winter hut use
	+ Guidance/restrictions will be developed with Stewardship Committee
* DRAFT Guidance for Special Uses
	+ Provide benefits to the community
	+ Support local non-profits
	+ Not aimed at drawing large numbers of people from out of area
	+ Guided events, races, cultural celebrations
	+ Should be evaluated whether they fit with vision and goals
* Fees
	+ Use fees not a priority for the County at this time, may be re-assessed in the future
	+ Other agencies have fees and passes required at some of the access points (i.e. Discover Pass, Northwest Forest Pass, SnoPark pass)
* Discussion:
	+ What is a special use – i.e. number of people, commercial use? Does the county have guidance for this in other places?
		- This comes up with County Public works if there is a special use of road (i.e. bicycle event or parade that is requiring closure or different use).
		- Mason shared that they USFS has guidance on special use permits and can share this information.
		- Erin will do some more research on this topic.

**Round Table**

* At the last meeting, we provided a lot of good input regarding making sure we are putting the community first in the community forest.
* What’s relationship with fish projects on Nason Creek FS land? Its outside CF land but we seem involved.
	+ This is being shared because it may be of interest and affect the neighbors. This work is being done in partnership with a number of entities.
* Mary shared that there are many outings and data collection for birds through Cornell University e-bird program, everyone is welcome to participate. Most of the birds will be coming in May and June.

**Parking Lot for Topics to Discuss in the Future**

* Maintenance and Operation – the County may want to have a discussion about this and the needs, a use fee to cover this may be helpful in the future