

# Welcome Nason Ridge Stewardship Committee

## Meeting Topics:

Community Forest Project Information/Updates

Recreation and Access Supplement

Butcher Creek Access Gate Location

Monitoring Plan

2024 Projects/Funding

# Community Forest Updates and Projects

- Logging project on Nasonview will start again in spring
- XC grooming and snowshoe trail season recap – warming hut a success
- Chelan County working with DNR on fuels reduction project along Stellerwood border
- May Birdfest tours (Gallaghers)
- April 25<sup>th</sup> UWPP Forest Health Community Outreach Event at Rec Club



# Plan Contents

- Planning Framework
  - Charter
  - Vision
  - Desired Conditions
- Recreation and Access Topics
  - Winter Trail System
  - Parking and Access
  - Hunting
  - Trails and Interpretation
  - Concessions
  - Coulter Block
  - Table of Recommendations
- Design Charrette
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management
- Non-consensus Issues
- Wildlife Recommendations Memo

Chelan County  
February 29, 2024

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## **Nason Ridge Community Forest Recreation and Access Plan**

### **Supplement to the 2019 Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan**

Prepared by

Chelan County Natural Resource Department  
Nason Ridge Stewardship Group

# Vision and Goals for Access and Recreation

## **Vision (developed by Stewardship Group):**

Augment existing Community Forest and cross-boundary recreation opportunities with intentional recreation improvements that showcase healthy forest ecosystems and allow for a variety of experiences. The Community Forest provides accessible nature-based enjoyment and educational opportunity aimed at benefiting local Chelan County residents.

## **Management goal for Recreation and Access (from the Community Forest Management Plan):**

The management goal for recreation is to work with community members, recreational interests, and neighboring landowners to address the recreation objectives in a manner that integrates with forest management and aquatic/ecosystem health.

# Decision-Making Process

*From the Nason Ridge Community Forest Recreation Planning Framework:*

- Subgroup committees will make recommendations to the Nason Ridge Stewardship Committee.
- Subgroup committee members will seek to make decisions by consensus, if consensus can't be reached by all, they will first seek to modify the proposals to reach consensus. If consensus can still not be reached, the subgroup committee would describe the different perspectives and present this to the Stewardship Committee.
- The Stewardship Committee will consider this input and will make final recommendations to the designated land manager/owner.
- The ultimate decision lies with the land manager. Any recommendations approved by the land manager will be incorporated into the plan.

# Gate Placement Options

- Don't change gate
- Place at property boundary
- Place at tree island where natural barriers and a wide area already exist
- Place at a location between tree island and old gate where spur would still be accessible
- Moving gate to far side of existing landing just past old gate location
- New gate was placed at current location in September 2023 after site visits by Stewardship Group members
- EASEMENT ISSUE



# Butcher Creek Access



- Gate installed prior to hunting season in fall 2023
- Stewardship Group members conducted field visit in June 2023 to determine gate location
- Cleared by USFS for placement in current location



# 6910-112 Butcher Creek Access/Gate





# Concerns with New Gate Placement

Concern: New Gate Location	Concern: Old Gate Location
Closer to private properties: increases in use may affect private property owners in terms of increased use and parking near private property	No parking at original gate location- steep sidehill and narrow road. Very small turn-around
Blocks access to spur road that accesses USFS 6920-112 (open system road) and powerline corridor/Nason Creek: many locals use this access point to drive to the river	Allows motorized access further into the Community Forest
Blocks winter snowmobile access to powerline corridor	Encourages use of spur road accessing 6920-112
Lack of communication with neighbors prior to installation of new gate	Concern about riparian/aquatic health of Nason Creek floodplain along 6920-112 and camping/trash by river
	Lack of communication with Stewardship Group about compromise proposal and survey to group



# Revised Proposal: 2 Gates





# New Gate Concerns and Responses

Concerns	How Proposal Addresses Concerns
Closer to private properties: increases in use may affect private property owners in terms of increased use and parking near private property	Summer trailhead at landing would bring peak use farther from residential neighborhood
Blocks access to spur road that accesses USFS 6920-112 and powerline corridor/Nason Creek: many locals use this access point to drive to the river	Seasonal access would allow vehicle access to Nason Creek and 6920-112 system road/powerline corridor
Blocks winter snowmobile access to powerline corridor	Would need to work out snowmobile access to ensure Community Forest goals are met
Lack of communication with neighbors prior to installation of new gate	Revision of gate/access plan incorporates neighborhood feedback and brings better representation into the Stewardship Group

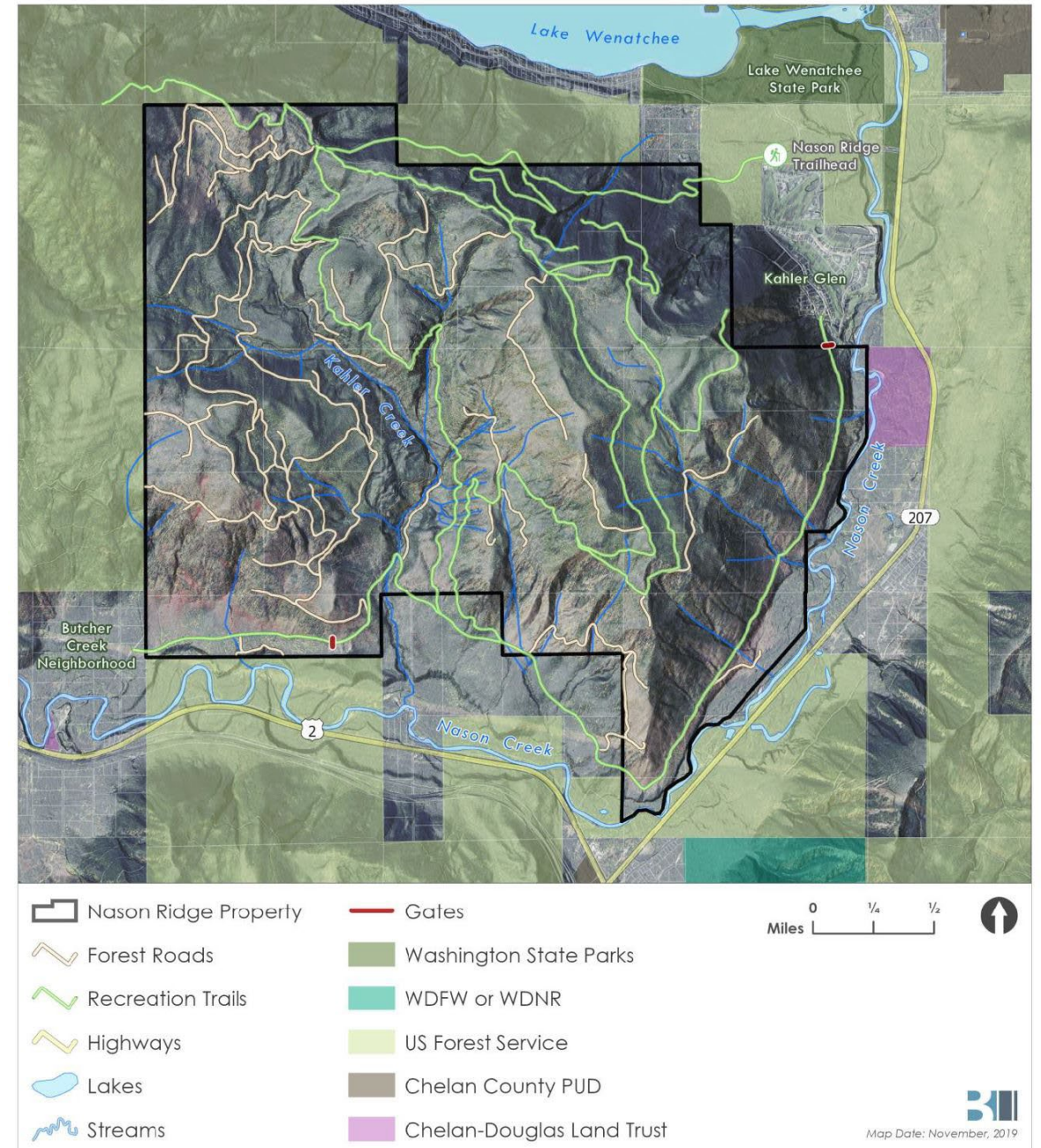
# Old Gate Concerns and Responses

Concerns	How Proposal Addresses Concerns
No parking at old gate location- steep sidehill and narrow road, very small turn-around	Both proposed gate locations have flat open areas for parking - the upper landing has sufficient area for trailer turnaround
Allows motorized access further into the Community Forest	The Management Plan outlines the goal of providing non-motorized recreation. Utilizing the road to access a non-motorized trailhead still accomplishes this goal
Encourages use of spur road accessing 6920-112, which is technically not a system road	County legal council suggests that because Weyco did not manage against this spur, and the County obtained the land as-is, the spur is a viable road regardless of how and when it was built
Concern about riparian/aquatic health of Nason Creek floodplain along 6920-112	6920-112 is an open USFS system road under the powerlines. Vehicle use is not likely to cause further damage if controlled with signage and maintenance. Chelan County is working with Ecology on a proposal to address road issues and install signage. <b>If USFS decides to close 6920-112 in the future, the spur could be gated</b>
Lack of communication with Stewardship Group about compromise proposal and survey to group	As the arbitrator, Chelan County conducted research and worked through the concerns that were heard to develop a compromise. The survey was to get input on compromise



# Monitoring/Next Steps

- What is the appropriate level of use and how do we monitor?
  - Traffic counters
  - Sign-In sheet
  - Resident observations
- Adaptive management options
  - Gates can be moved, locked, or opened
- Resolve issues around easement before implementing further improvements
- Work with USFS on long-term plan for 6920-112
- Potential Sno-Park
  - Feasibility of plowing for access





An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forest on a mountain slope. The river is surrounded by dense evergreen trees, and there are some fallen logs and rocky patches along its banks. In the background, more forested mountains are visible under a cloudy sky.

## Community Forest Management Goals

- Community Benefits
- Aquatic Restoration
- Road Management/Sediment Reduction
- Forest Health/Resiliency
- Invasive Species Management





- Recreation Opportunity
- Public Access
- Education

# Nason Ridge Recreation and Access Objectives

- Provide access to enjoy open space and recreation opportunity.
- Continue to increase opportunities for non-motorized recreation such as hiking, skiing, biking, and snowshoeing.
- Increase opportunity for both summer and winter recreation.
- Provide recreation and education opportunity for children and underserved communities.
- Provide quality hunting opportunities.

The management goal for recreation is to work with community members, recreational interests, and neighboring landowners to address the recreation objectives in a manner that integrates with forest management and aquatic/ecosystem health.

## Short-term Management Activities (1-10 Years)

- Implement a community planning effort to develop a Recreation Element of the Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan that defines pathways from existing conditions to desired future opportunities.
- Address parking and access issues at existing gates and trailheads. As two of the access points are near private residential properties (Kahler and Butcher Creek gates) sensitivity toward landowners and sustainability of access recommendations are paramount and will necessitate inclusion of these landowners in decision-making.
- Continue existing Winter Recreation Program trail grooming.



## Long-term Management Activities (11-20 Years)

- Identify funding for implementation and maintenance of desired improvements in recreation access and opportunity.
- Maintain partnerships with adjacent landowners to continue/improve recreation connections across the landscape.
- Assess and adaptively manage impacts of recreation on adjacent landowners and wildlife/aquatic resources.

<p><b>Nason Ridge Trailhead (USFS)</b></p> <p><b>Landowner: USFS</b></p>	<p><b>Desirable short-term option for increasing summer access. Work with USFS on potential for trailhead expansion. Expansion would require coordinated NEPA. Not a desired winter access point.</b></p> <p><b>Level of Use/Facilities: Toilet improvement. Additional signage about Community Forest.</b></p> <p><b>Monitor use and consider expansion if use increases due to Community Forest. Plan ahead with USFS as process can take years.</b></p>
<p><b>Kahler Glen</b></p> <p><b>Landowner: Kahler Glen Community Association</b></p>	<p><b>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)</b></p>
<p><b>Butcher Creek Road/6910</b></p> <p><b>Landowner: USFS, Chelan County, Private</b></p>	<p><b>Priority for short-term access improvement</b></p> <p><b>Work with WSDOT on potential safety improvements</b></p> <p><b>Look into FLAP grant for Butcher Creek road improvement</b></p> <p><b>Determine new gate location and parking area near tree island/spur road</b></p> <p><b>Work with residents on signage</b></p> <p><b>Determine level of use desired</b></p> <p><b>Potential winter sno-park. Work with State Parks to determine feasibility of winter access point/plowing etc.</b></p> <p><b>Level of Use/Facilities: Toilet. Signage about Community Forest. Small parking area.</b></p>





# COUNTY OF CHELAN

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