

Welcome Neighbors of Nason Ridge Community Forest

Meeting Topics:

Background on Community Forest and Management Planning

Community Forest Project Information/Updates

Recreation and Access Planning

Butcher Creek Access Planning/Gate Location

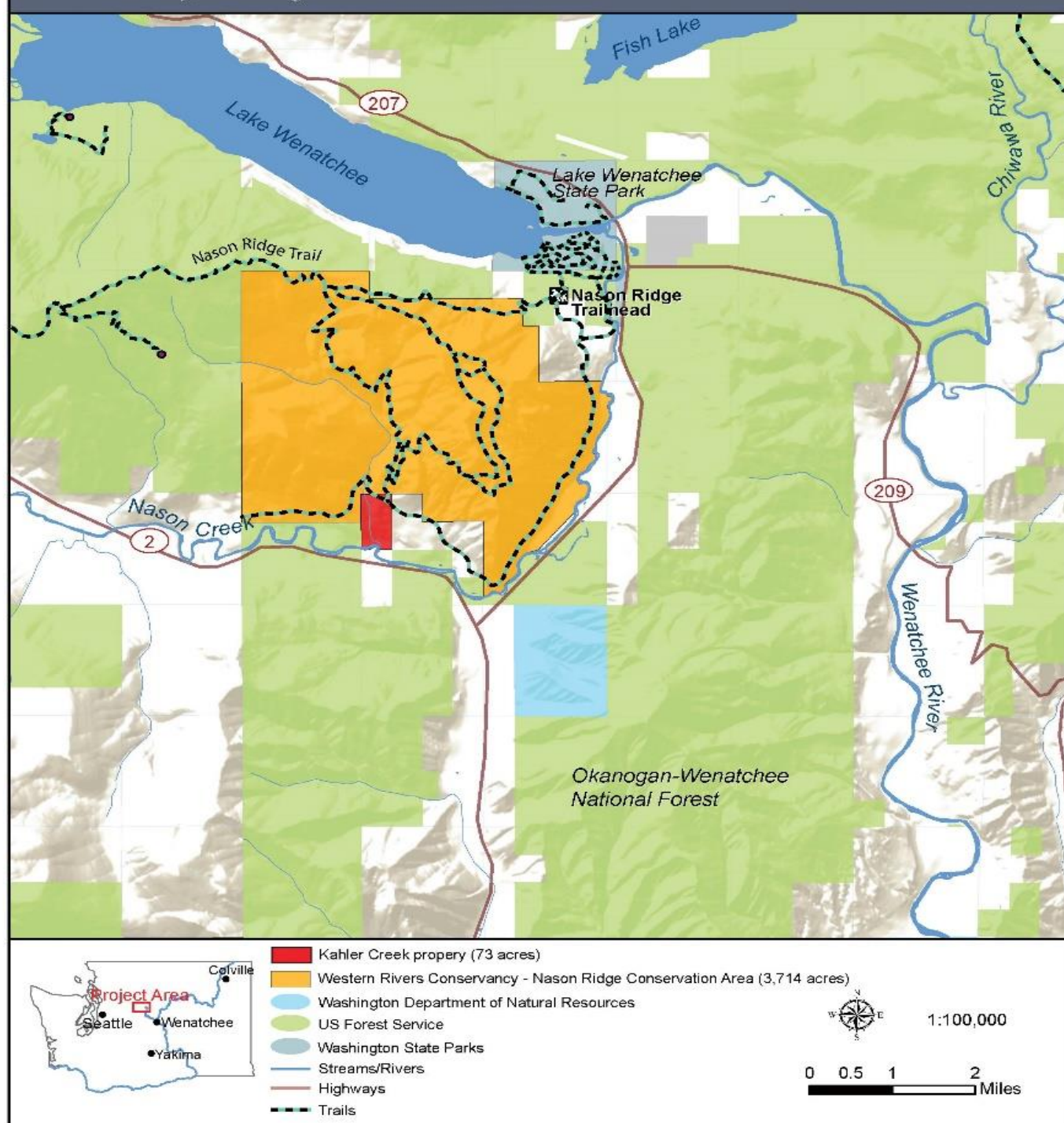
Potential Sno-Park

Monitoring Plan

Other?

Nason Ridge

- 3,714-acre tract of land highly valued by local community
- Identified as a priority in 2016 Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan
- History of year-round outdoor recreation access
- Significant Nason Creek salmon habitat frontage
- Adjacent to popular state park and private neighborhoods
- Challenging place to practice standard industrial forest management activities



SMELLS YUCKY
CLEAN UP YOUR MESS
PACK IT OUT
TAKE IT HOME
DO NOT LITTER

Out!

Following these guidelines will help protect you and the goats.
U.S. Forest Service
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Nason Ridge Trail closed ahead .5
miles at Weyerhaeuser property line

CLOSED TO PUBLIC ENTRY

Weyerhaeuser
~~Logview Fibre Company~~

7/28/17
DATE POSTED

Save Nason Ridge Campaign

- Local petition circulated, articles in local press
- Weyerhaeuser a willing seller and delays harvest
- Community fundraiser in 2018 to acquire Nason Ridge property and maintain public use for perpetuity
- \$1.3 million raised in 120 days
- Purchased by Western Rivers Conservancy in 2018 from Weyerhaeuser as an interim property holder



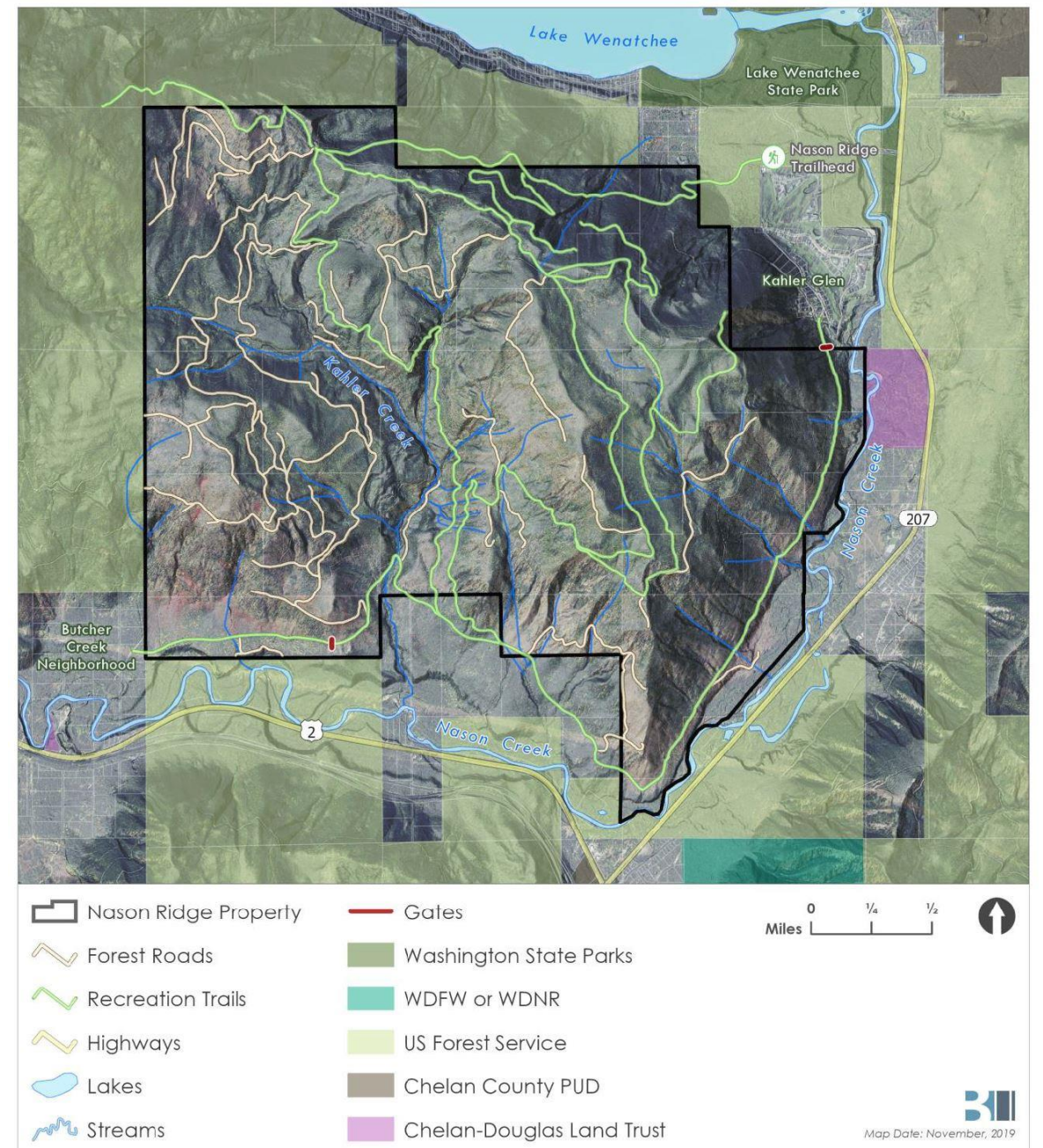
2019 Legislative Session

- Community Forest legislation drafted and advanced
- Nason Ridge legislative funding request fails
- Directive (proviso) to complete a Community Forest Management Plan by December 1, 2019
- Chelan County to work with RCO and Advisory Committee to develop a Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan



Nason Ridge Community Forest

- Community Forest Management Plan completed in late 2019 by Advisory Committee
- Restoration work began in 2020
- County became property owner in spring 2022 through joint effort with CDLT and WRC



Chelan County
November 25, 2019

Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan

Prepared by

Chelan County Natural Resources
BERK Consulting
Western Rivers Conservancy

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

Stewardship Committee

- Quarterly Meetings
- Focus Groups/Committees
- Stewardship Committee provides recommendations for management actions
- Assistance with community outreach

Suggested Stewardship Committee Participation

WA State Parks (Lake Wenatchee)

Kahler Glen Residents

Butcher Creek Residents

Stellerwood Residents

Lake Wenatchee and Plain Residents

Yakama Nation Fisheries

Lake Wenatchee Fire District

Nason View Landowners

Local Business Owners

Professional Forester

Forest Ecologist

Wildlife Biologist

Economic Impact/Financial Specialist

Summer Recreation Interests

Winter Recreation Interests

WA Department of Natural Resources

US Forest Service

Confederated Tribes of the Colville and Yakama Nation

Cascadia Conservation District

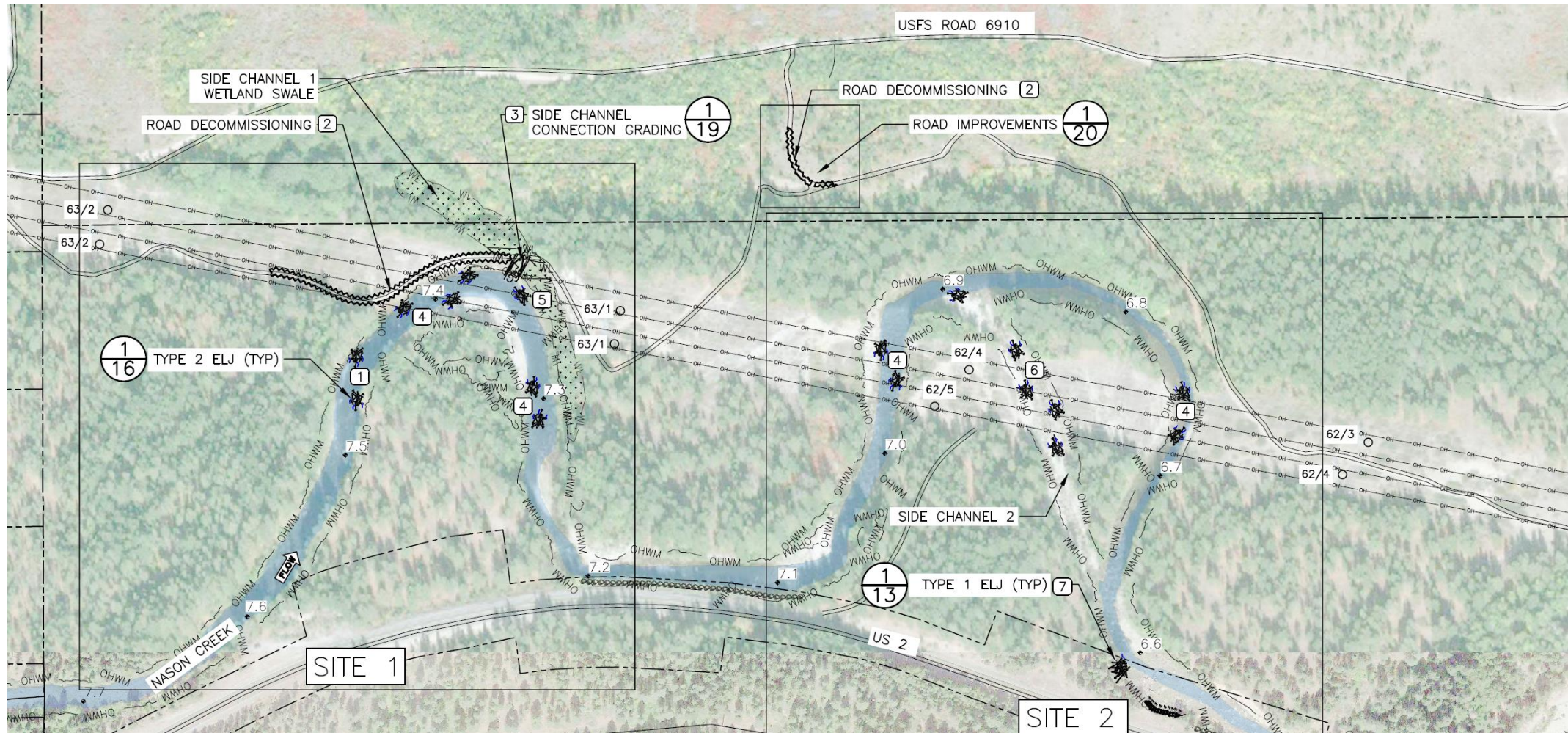
Chelan Douglas Land Trust

Chelan County

Western Rivers Conservancy

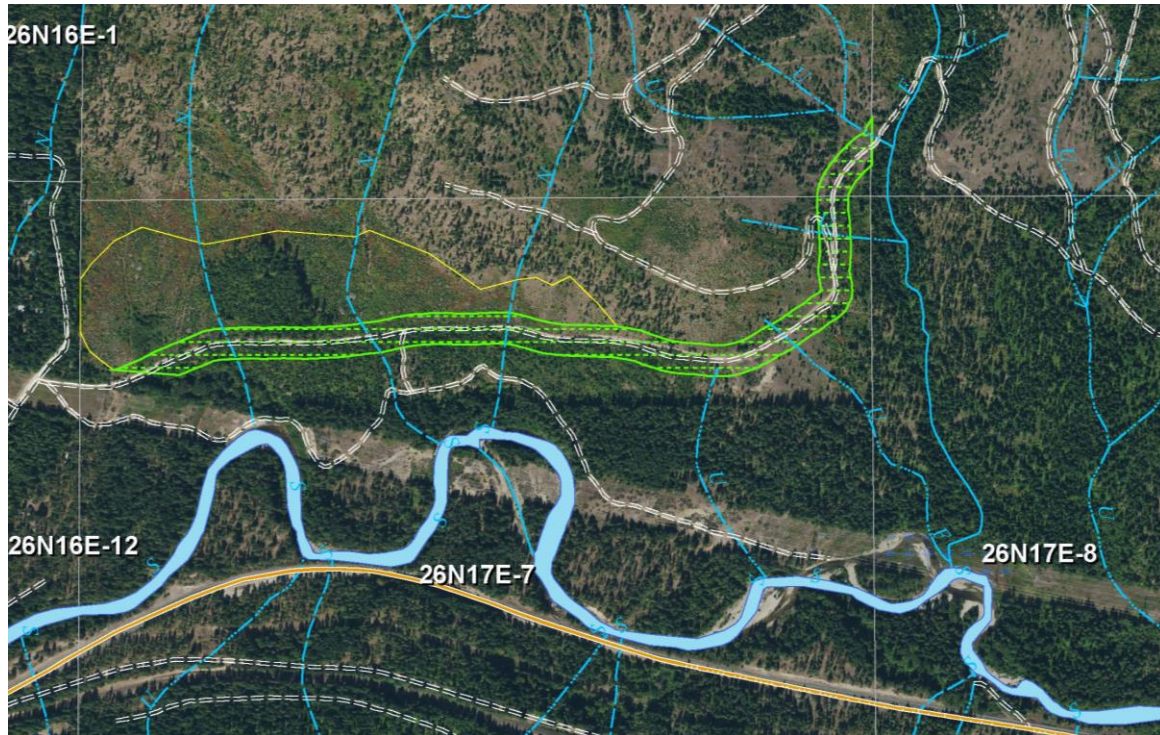
Nason Kahler Habitat Project

- ESA listed spring Chinook and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat improvement project
- Installation of ELJs (engineered logjams), floodplain restoration and road decommissioning
- Construction in Summer 2022 and 2023 with RCO Salmon Recovery Funding



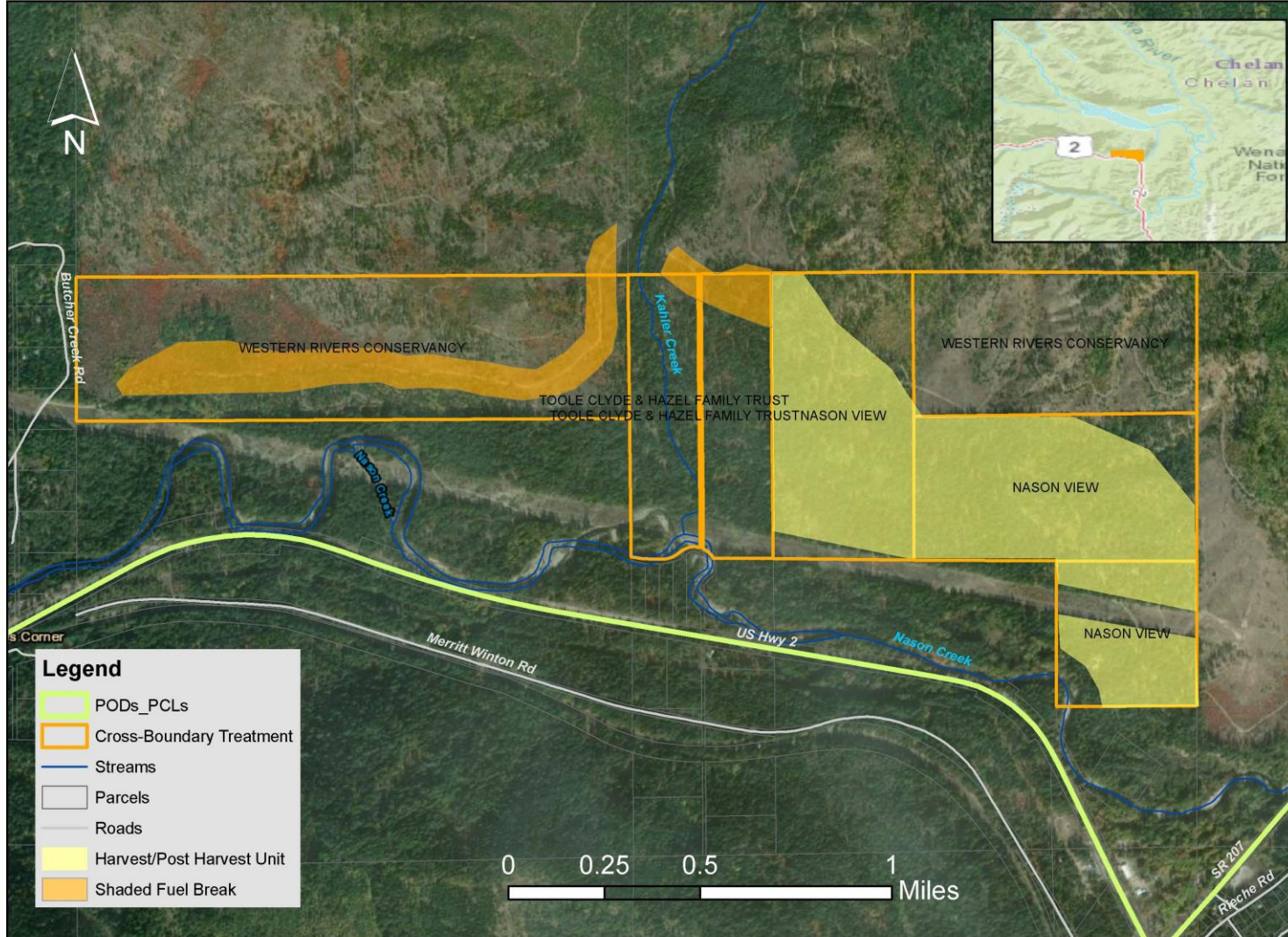
Forest Health/Fuels Reduction Work

- 62 acre Shaded Fuel Break/re-prod thinning along perimeter road on Butcher Creek side, funding through DNR
- Pile burning of relic Weyerhaeuser piles in Fall 2022
- Replanting of conifers in floodplain in Spring 2023
- Nason View forest health treatment on adjacent private land



Nasonview Forest Health Harvest

Nasonview Cross Boundary Treatment Area



- Private property accessed through Community Forest
- DNR Cost-share grant funding covering pre-and post harvest mastication
- Thinning for fuels reduction and retention of desirable species
- Harvest managed by American Forest Management
- Logging contractor is under obligation to restore haul route to same or better condition

Opportunities for Private Landowners

- DNR Cost-share
 - Stewardship Plans
 - Thinning/fuels reduction
- Cascadia/RCPP
- Chipping Programs
- Upcoming Nason watershed NEPA

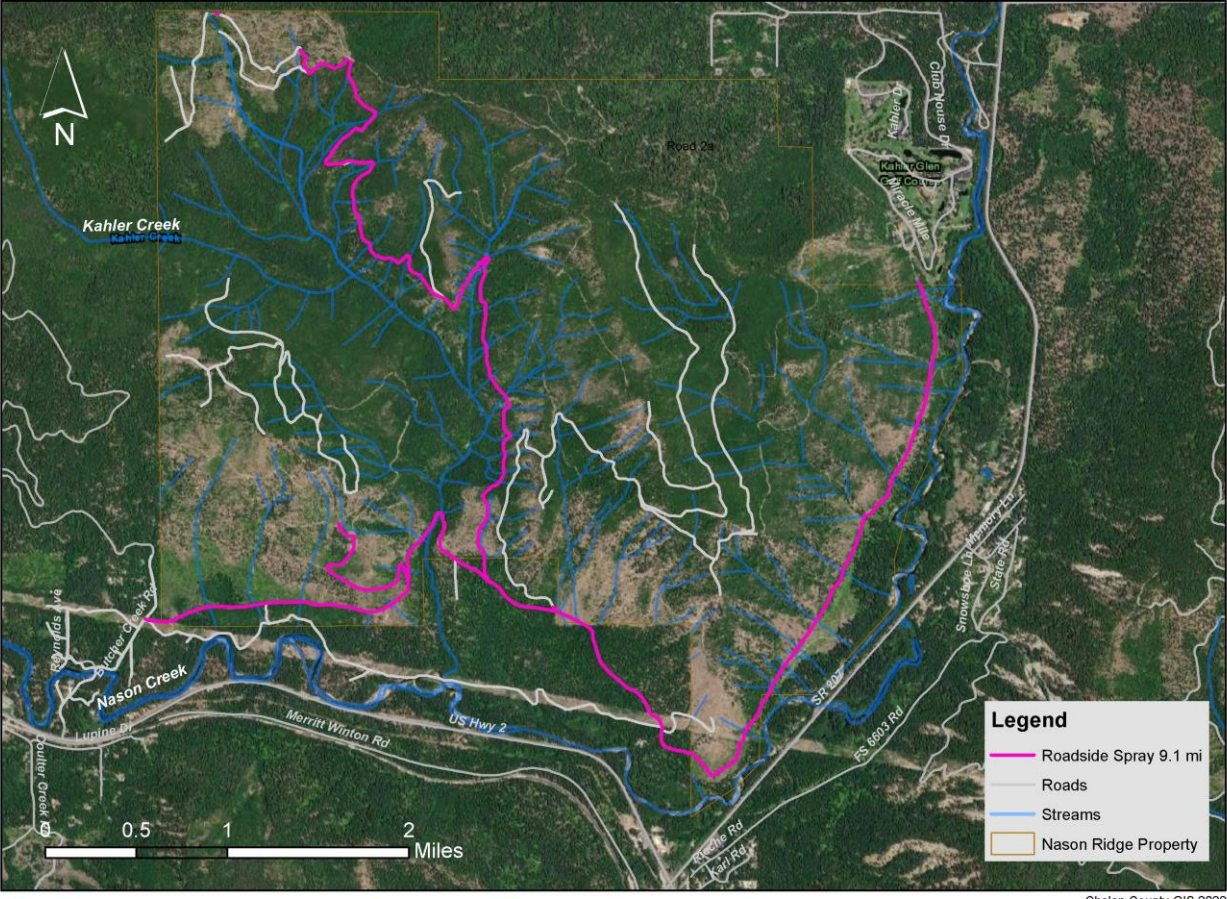
Invasive Species Management

- Diffuse knapweed spray along perimeter road, summit road, and decommissioned road segments at high risk
- Biocontrol planned for larger infestations
- 2022 and 2023 applications to treat bi-annual life cycle, funding through Department of Ecology

Nason Ridge Off-Road Knapweed Treatment Area



2022-23 Nason Ridge Diffuse Knapweed Treatment- Roadside Spray Map



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.

Desired Future Opportunities

- Fat-tire biking trails, separate from groomed ski trails.
- Bird watching/wildlife viewing areas/opportunities.
- Interpretive signage for educational opportunity.
- Guided walks.
- Ski-in/bike-in/hike-in hut system for summer and winter use (ex: Rendezvous Hut System in Methow).
- Strategically increase parking at access points.
- Trail connections with USFS/WSDOT lands.
- River trail.
- More single track trail for linkages and making loops.
- Range of options (steep direct route to overlook, shorter easier routes for families).

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.

Vision and Goals for Access and Recreation

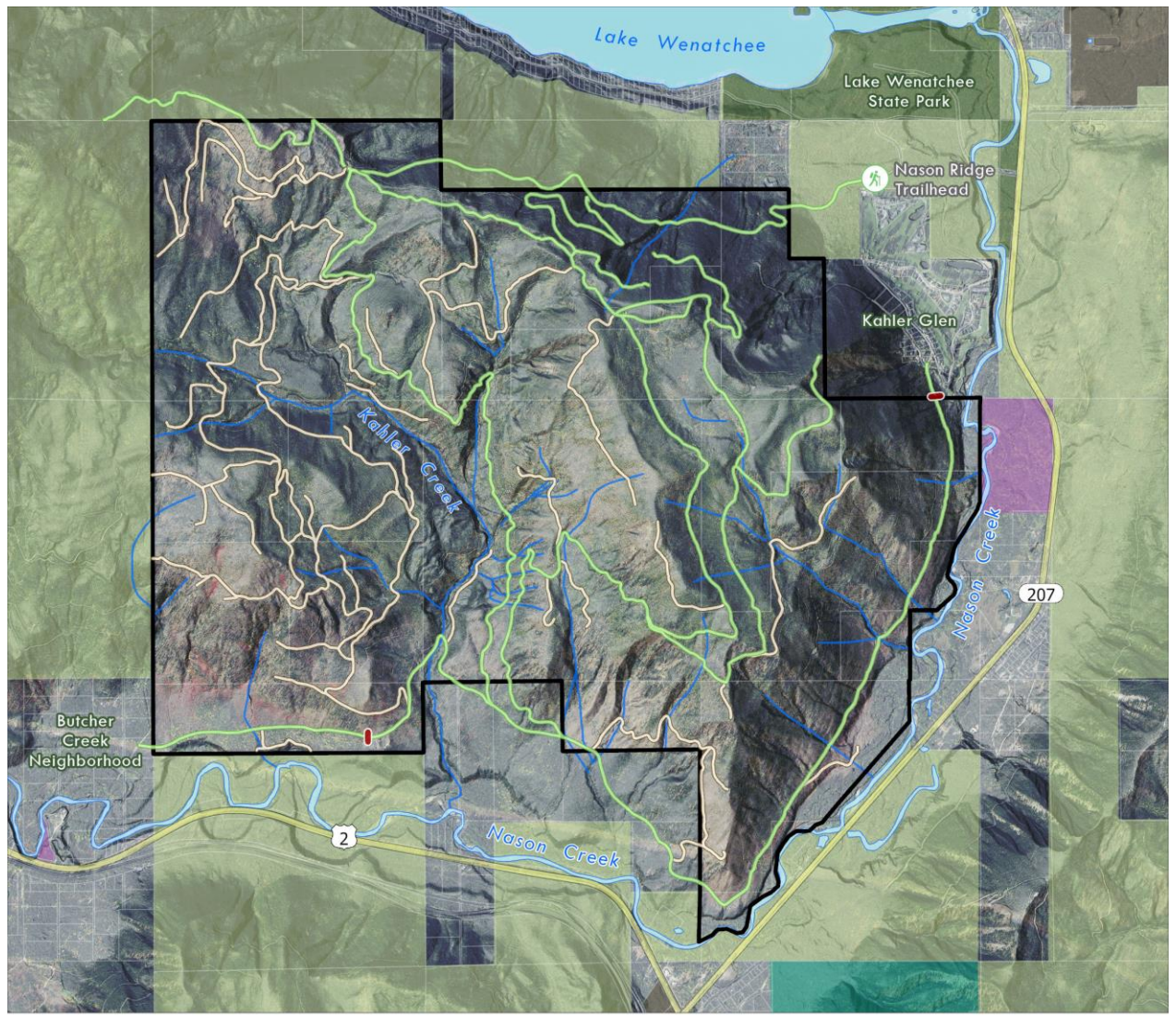
Vision (developed by Stewardship Group):

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.

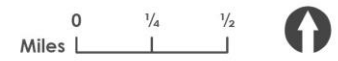
Management goal for Recreation and Access (from the Community Forest Management Plan):

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.

<p>Nason Ridge Trailhead (USFS)</p> <p>Landowner: USFS</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Level of Use/Facilities: Toilet improvement. Additional signage about Community Forest.</p> <p>Monitor use and consider expansion if use increases due to Community Forest. Plan ahead with USFS as process can take years.</p>
<p>Kahler Glen</p> <p>Landowner: Kahler Glen Community Association</p>	<p>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)</p>
<p>Butcher Creek Road/6910</p> <p>Landowner: USFS, Chelan County, Private</p>	<p>Priority for short-term access improvement</p> <p>Work with WSDOT on potential safety improvements</p> <p>Look into FLAP grant for Butcher Creek road improvement</p> <p>Determine new gate location and parking area near tree island/spur road</p> <p>Work with residents on signage</p> <p>Determine level of use desired</p> <p>Potential winter sno-park. Work with State Parks to determine feasibility of winter access point/plowing etc.</p> <p>Level of Use/Facilities: Toilet. Signage about Community Forest. Small parking area.</p>



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Nason Ridge Property | Gates |
| Forest Roads | Washington State Parks |
| Recreation Trails | WDFW or WDNR |
| Highways | US Forest Service |
| Lakes | Chelan County PUD |
| Streams | Chelan-Douglas Land Trust |



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



FS 6910

6910-112

Proposed Gate

6920-112

6920-112

Nason Creek

Nason Creek

U.S. Rte 2

Nason Cr

Merritt-Winton Rd

Merritt-Winton Rd

Google Earth

Floodplain Road Decommissioning



Up for Discussion

- What is the appropriate level of use and how do we monitor?
 - Trail counters
 - Sign-In sheet
 - Resident observations
- Gate location/access to USFS lands
- Potential Sno-Park
 - Feasibility of plowing for access
- Other??



COUNTY OF CHELAN

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