**Nason Ridge Community Forest Stewardship Group - Recreation Planning: Trails Part 1**

**May 16th 2023 Lake Wenatchee Rec Club 6-8pm**

Meeting Notes

Participants: Matt Morrison (WA State Parks), Trevor Wylie (WA State Parks), Terri Weiss (Fish Lake resident), Shon Smith (Chelan County), Eric Prestbo (Stellerwood), Tim and Mary Gallagher (Kahler Glen), Chad Spies (local hunter), Bill and Nancy Miller (Kahler Glen), Susan Rosebrough (NPS RTCA), Bill Gaines (WCSI), James Begley (WCSI), Erin McKay (Chelan County)

Introductions/Updates

* Community Forest Projects
	+ Knapweed spray was completed along perimeter road and decommissioned road segments on May 11. Third application, focus on Kahler side as Butcher Creek side is looking good after 2 years of application
	+ Tree planting occurred in floodplain of Nason Creek where Weyco clearcut. 1,000 ponderosa and 300 Douglas fir, 40ci size installed
	+ USFS lock was cut on Kahler gate. Chain has been replaced with metal pin and lock (harder to cut), and Kahler Association will reset gate to get correct angle. No motorized access sign will be placed on Kahler Glen property at beginning of road
	+ Road work will occur in June to improve drainage at corner near Rollie’s
* Design Charrette
	+ Design charrette date set for October 20th and 21st. Field visit on the 20th and design workshop on the 21st (Saturday). Volunteers needed to be part of design teams. Themes will be parking/trailheads, summer and winter trails, and interp/education. Designs can be used for grant funding proposals in the future.

Review of goals/objectives from Management Plan

* Desired conditions includes a variety of uses and experiences
* See Management Plan objectives at end of notes

Washington Conservation Science Institute Presentation on Wildlife Impacts and Classification Zones

* Review of impacts of recreation on wildlife
* Layers utilized for mapping of management zones
* Draft maps of various layers shown, will be finalized with overlays to assess recreation concepts
* Ways to mitigate impacts and thoughtfully design recreation for minimal impact
* Presentation available on website: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/nason-ridge-community-forest>

Break-out exercise to provide feedback on maps and trail ideas

* Mark special areas that you know of that aren’t covered under WCSI analysis
* Destinations (viewpoints, warming huts, birding sites etc.)
* Interpretation opportunities
* Trail connections, new trails, decommissioned roads into trails, connecting viewpoints etc.
* 2 groups drew on maps then shared with larger group
* Maps were pretty similar between the 2 groups
* Erin will compile map ideas onto one map, and WCSI will map ideas within context of wildlife use/sensitive areas

Wrap-up and next steps

* Next meeting date June 14th, in person at Lake Wenatchee Rec Club
* Field trip- meet on property before meeting to look at new gate location, Nason Ridge trail connections

From Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan:

### Desired Future Opportunities

* 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.