

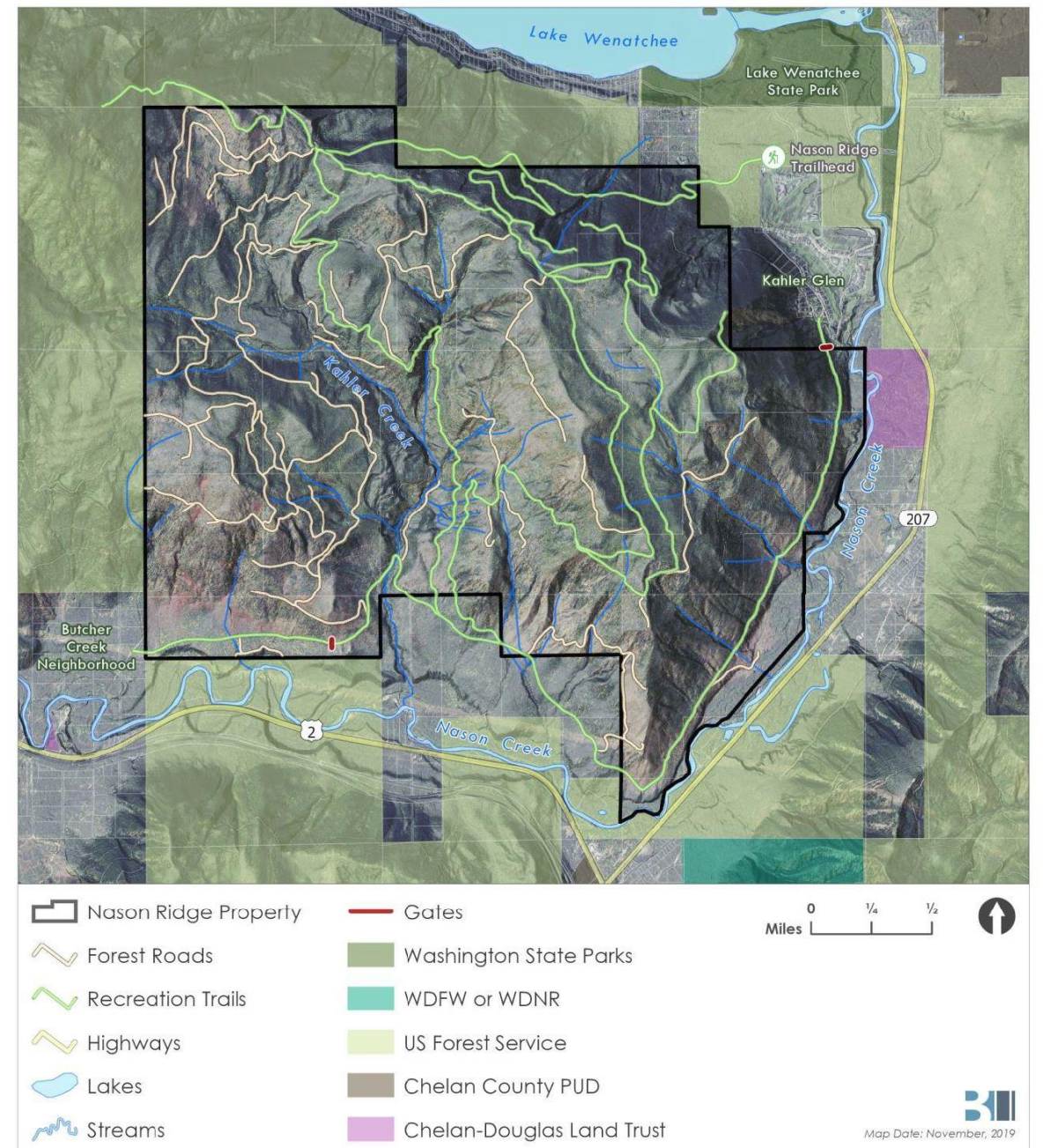
Nason Ridge Community Forest Stewardship Committee

Recreation and Access Planning Kick-off Meeting

November 2nd, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Background and Review of Community Forest Management Plan Recreation and Public Access Chapter
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Desired Opportunities
 - Short and Long term goals
- Planning Objectives
- Structure of Planning Process
- Brainstorm: Priority Recreation Topics
- Updates on Current Projects
- Next Meeting Date



Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan

Prepared by

Chelan County Natural Resources
BERK Consulting
Western Rivers Conservancy

Timeline

- 2018 - Save Nason Ridge campaign
- 2019 - Nason Ridge Advisory Committee develops Community Forest Management Plan
- 2020-2022 – Western Rivers, CDLT, and Chelan County work on grant funding for acquisition
- 2022 – Chelan County acquires the ~4,000 acre Community Forest

An aerial photograph of a lush green forested valley. A river winds through the center of the valley, surrounded by dense evergreen trees. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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.

Existing Uses

- Most recreation routes are road beds used as trails for hiking, biking, skiing, and equestrian; some motorcycle use.
- Extensive winter route groomed on existing road system for cross-country skiing.
- Nason Ridge trail is the only designated single track trail on the property and is part of the State Park designated winter snowshoe trail system.
- Parking is limited; the only significant parking is at Lake Wenatchee State Park and the USFS Nason Ridge Trailhead, which is accessed via a Kahler Glen Community Association road and has 6–8 parking spaces. The Kahler Glen driving range winter parking area and Lake Wenatchee State Park are designated Sno-Parks during winter months and require a Sno-park permit.
- Viewpoints/areas of interest include: Big Red, the 'avalanche overlook', expansive views from south side, landing above Nason Ridge Trail.

Priorities for Continuing Use

- Continue trends of existing use types.
- Improve access for children/educational opportunities.
- Improve existing access/parking.
- Implement signage for existing travel routes.
- Continue existing winter use structure (WA Parks Program, signage, etc.).

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)

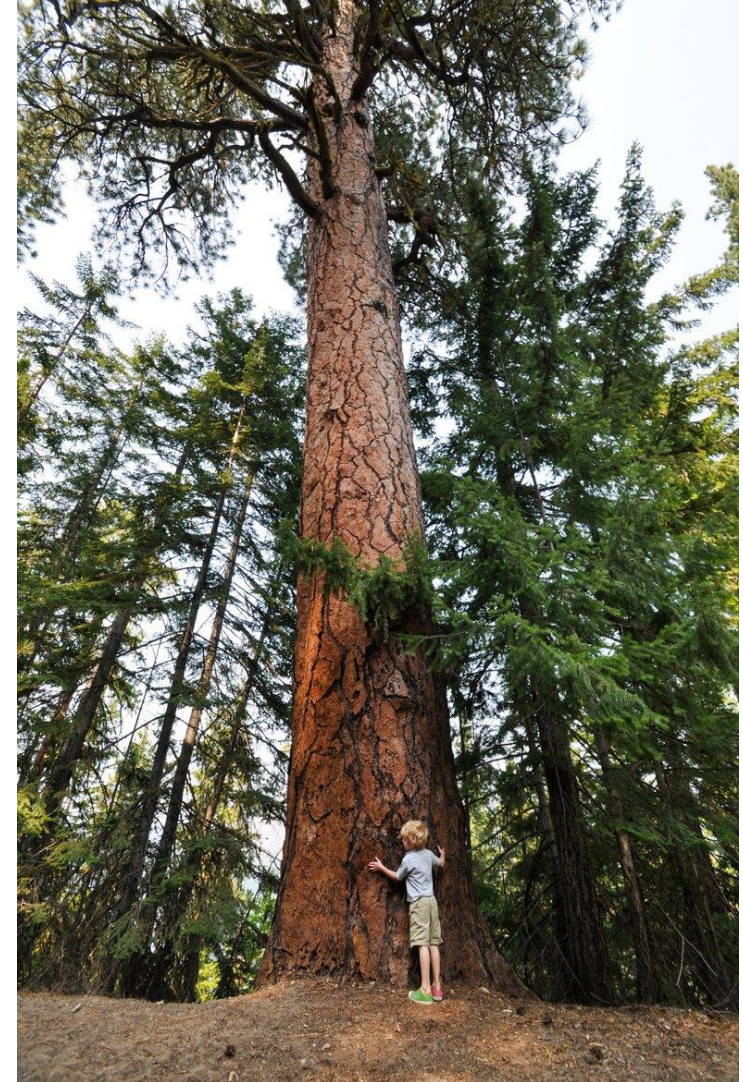
- Implement a community planning effort to develop a Recreation Element of the Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan that defines pathways from existing conditions to desired future opportunities.
- Address parking and access issues at existing gates and trailheads. As two of the access points 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.

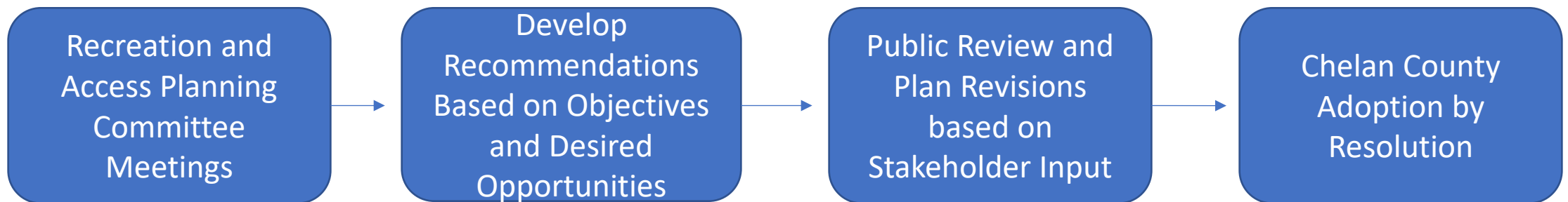
Expected Outcomes of Recreation and Access Planning

- Specific recommendations for recreation and access on the Community Forest, with implementation pathways identified
- Recreation assessment and Issues and Opportunities for Coulter Block
- A final plan adopted by Chelan County Commissioners, which can be used to leverage funding opportunities
- Recreation and Access recommendations that are in alignment with other management goals for the property



Planning & Decision Making

- Identify and reach out to recreation partners (adjacent landowners, local recreation advocacy groups, recreation interest groups, and state and federal agencies).
- Undertake a detailed planning effort for improved access and recreational opportunity as a Recreation Element supplement to this plan.
- Recreation objectives and desired future conditions should guide recreation management decisions.
- Notify the public of any plans/processes regarding active management operations which may influence recreational areas.



Meeting Preferences

- Please use chat to specify whether you prefer virtual or in-person and daytime or evening
- Meetings will likely occur once a month in 2023
- Subgroups may be formed to tackle specific issues
- Attendance at every meeting is not required for participation



Priority Recreation Topics

- Gates/Access
- Hunting
- Signage
- Trail Improvements and Development
 - Hiking
 - Biking
 - Ski/snowshoe
 - River Access
- E-Bikes
- Hut System
- Trail Connections with Adjacent Properties (summer and winter)
- Bird Watching/Wildlife Areas
- Coulter Block Recreation Opportunities
- Concessions
- Enforcement
- Other??

Project Updates

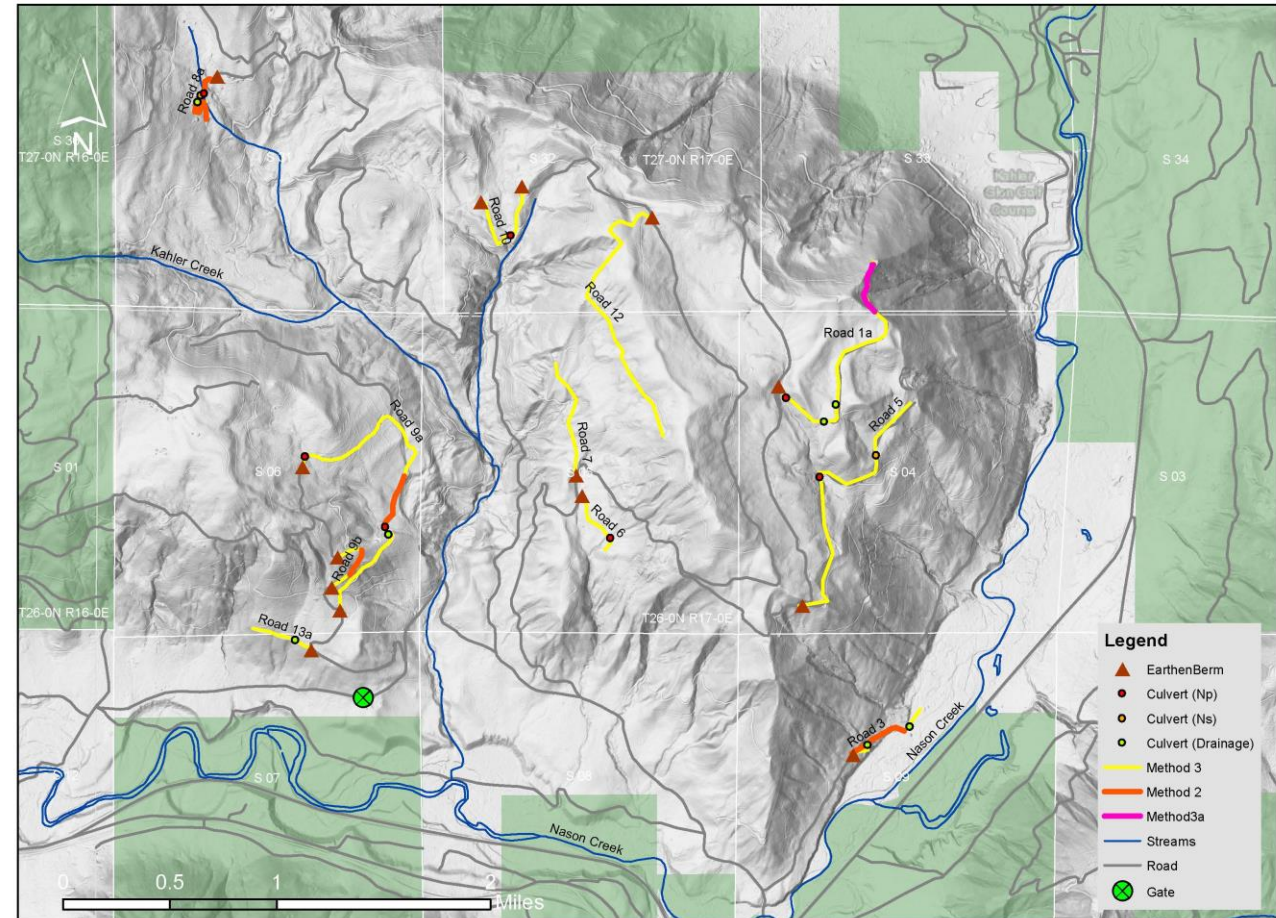
- Winter warming hut
- Audubon bird survey protocol
- Pile burning
- Continued cross-boundary forest health work
- Bridge on perimeter road

Road Decommissioning Work

- ~5 miles of road decommissioned, 13 culverts removed in 2020
- Salmon Recovery and CPUD funding



Kahler Block Road Abandonment



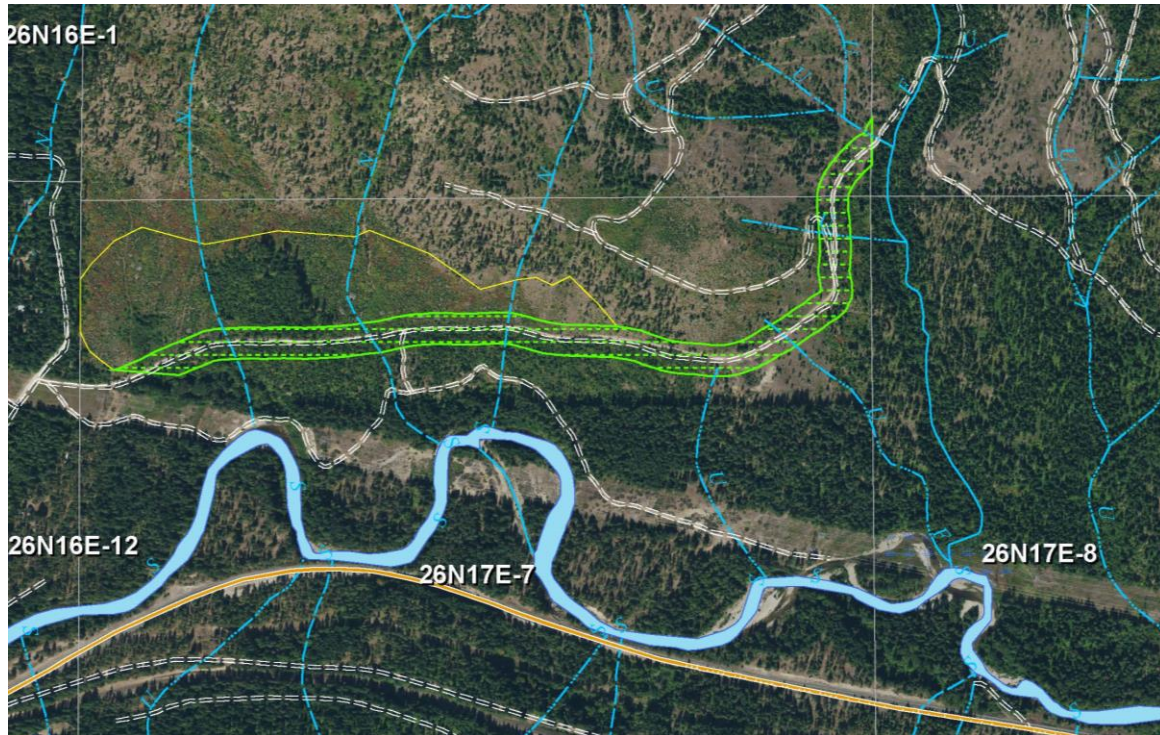
Perimeter Road Blowout

- High priority due to risk of road prism failure and sediment movement
- Funding from RCO Salmon Recovery and Ecology
- Improve groomed ski trail
- WA State Parks Winter Rec Program
- Design options under assessment
- Would resemble Kahler Cr. Bridge
- Construction in 2023



Forest Health/Fuels Reduction Work

- 62 acre Shaded Fuel Break/re-prod thinning along perimeter road on Butcher Creek side in progress, funding through DNR
- Pile burning of relic Weyco piles in Fall 2022
- Replanting of conifers in floodplain, funding through Dept. of Ecology
- Nason Landscape Evaluation/planning for priority treatment areas



Invasive Species Management

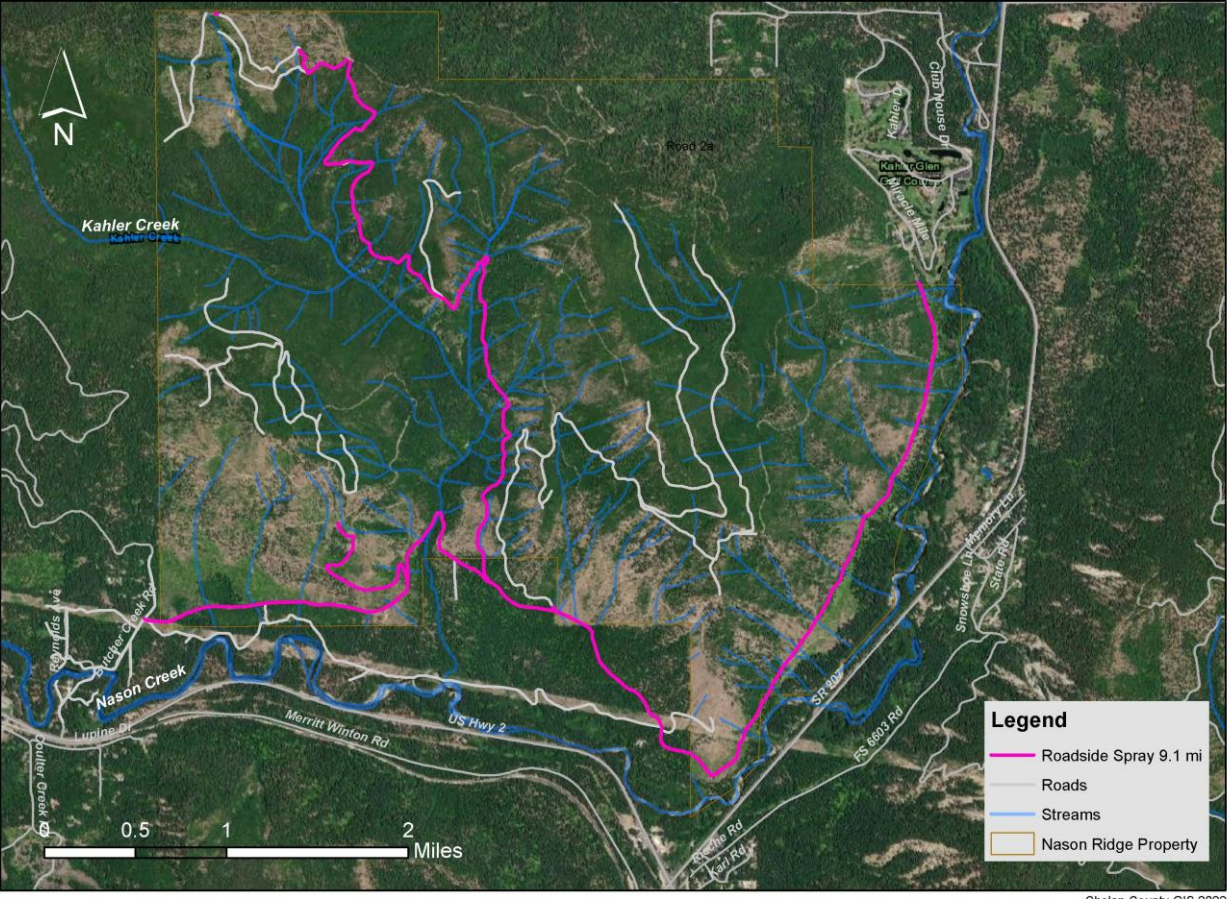
- Diffuse knapweed spray along perimeter road, summit road, and decommissioned road segments at high risk
- Biocontrol planned for larger infestations
- 2022 and 2023 applications to treat bi-annual life cycle, funding through Department of Ecology

Nason Ridge Off-Road Knapweed Treatment Area



Chelan County GIS 2022

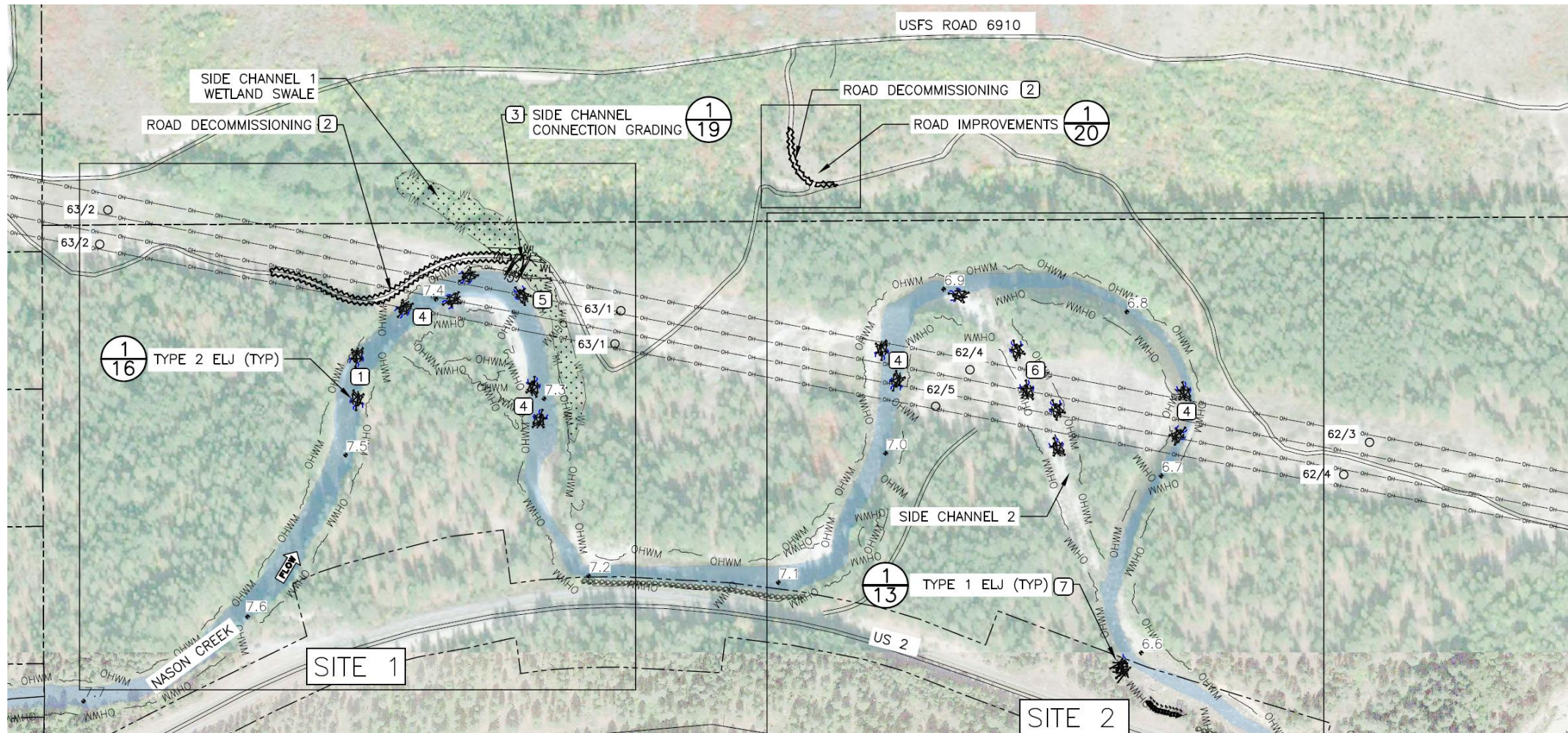
2022-23 Nason Ridge Diffuse Knapweed Treatment- Roadside Spray Map



Chelan County GIS 2022

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 planned Summer 2022 with RCO Salmon Recovery Funding



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
<u>Stellerwood</u> Residents
Lake Wenatchee and Plain Residents
Yakama Nation Fisheries
Lake Wenatchee Fire District
<u>Nason View</u> 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