

Chelan County
February 29, 2024

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



Acknowledgements

National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Washington Conservation Science Institute

Contents

Introduction	1
Introduction	2
Purpose	3
1 Planning Framework	7
Guiding Documents	9
2 Recreation and Access Topics	22
Winter Recreation: Grooming and Huts	25
Parking and Access	27
Hunting	36
Trails	39
Concessions and Special Uses	43
Coulter Block Assessment	44
Summary of Recommendations- Short and Long Term	48
3 Design Charrette	53
Purpose and Process	55
Charrette Outcomes	62
4 Monitoring and Adaptive Management	71
Monitoring and Indicators	73
Thresholds	74
Adaptive Management Actions	75
Short-term Management Activities for Monitoring/Adaptive Management	77
Long-term Management Activities for Monitoring/Adaptive Management	77

Appendix A: Non-consensus Issues	79
Purpose	81
Survey	83
Appendix B: Wildlife Recommendations	87

Introduction

Introduction	2
Purpose	3

Introduction

In the spirit of the Community Forest model, this plan is a result of many hours of dedication from local stakeholders and community members to help guide the management of the Nason Ridge Community Forest. Using the 2019 Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan for guidance, Chelan County facilitated the development of this Supplement in order to meet the original objectives identified in the Recreation Chapter. This Recreation and Access Supplement describes the process, outcomes, and proposed monitoring and adaptive management of the community planning effort to date. This Supplement will be reviewed and updated as needed, with the goal of continuing to strike the proper balance between all aspects of management of the Nason Ridge Community Forest. Many thanks to the Stewardship Group and partners for their continued work and engagement.

Photo of Nason Creek along the southeastern edge of the Community Forest.



TaraFirma Designs, 2019.

Purpose

The 2019 Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan identified the need to conduct in-depth recreation and access planning to further flush out the management objectives and priorities for this aspect of the Community Forest. In the Recreation Chapter of the 2019 Management Plan the following objectives were included as Short-Term Management Priorities:

- 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.

Following the acquisition of the Nason Ridge Community Forest by Chelan County in April 2022 establishing long-term ownership, Chelan County and the Nason Ridge Stewardship Group took the cue from the management objectives above. Over a one-year period from late 2022 through 2023, the Nason Ridge Stewardship Group, with assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (NPS RTCA) Program undertook this effort, producing the Recreation and Access Supplement to the 2019 Management Plan. The process included defining the vision and desired conditions for recreation and access on Nason Ridge, focusing on the priority topics that were identified in the 2019 planning effort, and developing draft concepts for the ideas generated through the planning process. The following Supplement is a compilation of guiding documents and meeting outcomes that together define the priorities and detailed management objectives around recreation and access on Nason Ridge Community Forest. Monitoring and adaptive management measures are also included and should be frequently reviewed to ensure management goals continue to be met.

Increasing recreation opportunity was an original objective expressed by the Advisory Committee in 2019, but increased use requires strategic planning to prevent unwanted impacts on the forest, fish and wildlife resources, and adjacent landowners. More detailed planning and community outreach regarding these desired future opportunities will continue to occur following completion of the overall Community Forest Management Plan and this Recreation

Introduction

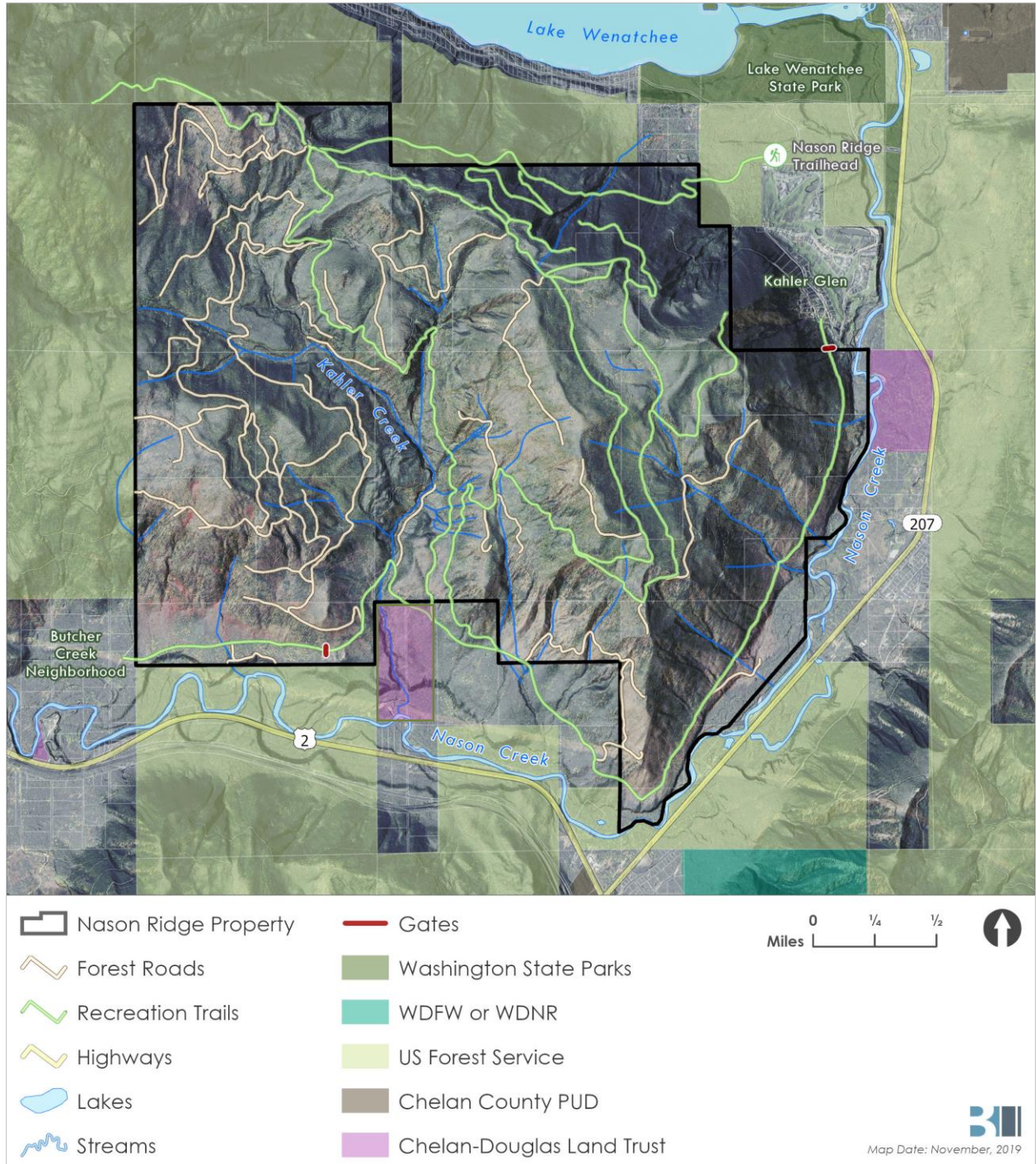
and Access Supplement. The following long-term management activities for Recreation and Access were identified in the 2019 Management Plan. These priorities highlight the importance of continuing to work closely with adjacent landowners and partners and monitoring impacts of recreation.

- 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.

These long-term management objectives broadly identify the need to work creatively to fund priority recreation and access projects, including development, maintenance, monitoring, and adaptive management measures. These aspects all need to be incorporated into planning and budgeting for implementation of the ideas and concepts included in this plan. The Stewardship Group will continue to play a vital role in helping to plan and monitor recreation and access projects on the Community Forest.

When considering current and future recreational uses, it is important to remember the Nason Ridge vicinity was historically used by the Yakama, Chinook, and Wenatchi tribes, who are now represented by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. These tribes hunted, fished, and lived seasonally on the land, depending on the salmon returning from the Pacific each year for sustenance. While tribal fishing no longer occurs in this area, cultural resources still exist and the area still holds importance in the collective tribal values. Any proposed ground disturbing activities for recreational development will be presented in writing to the Yakama Nation and Colville Tribes for review and input on possible impacts to cultural resources. The Community Forest will prioritize preservation of sacred and culturally important sites, and will rely on input from Tribal Archeologists to ensure protection of these resources.

Nason Ridge Property, Roads, and Adjacent Ownership



Chelan County, 2019; BERK, 2019.

1

Planning Framework

Guiding Documents 9

Guiding Documents

To initiate the Recreation and Access planning effort, a series of guiding documents were developed to ensure the results of the planning process stayed in line with the management goals and objectives outlined in the 2019 Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan.

The first step in undertaking the focused planning process involved the creation of a planning framework to clarify roles, expectations, and workflow for the effort. The entire Nason Ridge Stewardship Group was kept up-to-date during the process through quarterly virtual meetings and email/website updates, but the focused meeting format allowed members to attend specific meetings of interest or expertise without a commitment to attend all meetings. The following framework was created in collaboration with the Stewardship Committee and helped to organize the planning process.

Nason Ridge Community Forest Recreation Planning Framework

Recreation Planning Goal: Work with community members, recreational interests, and neighboring landowners to address recreation objectives outlined in the Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan in a manner that integrates with forest management and aquatic/ecosystem health goals.

Lead Agency

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the lead agency coordinating the recreation planning process.

Technical Assistance: The National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program is providing technical assistance to Chelan County and its partners. In addition, Washington Conservation Science Institute will provide ecological guidance on recreation development recommendations.

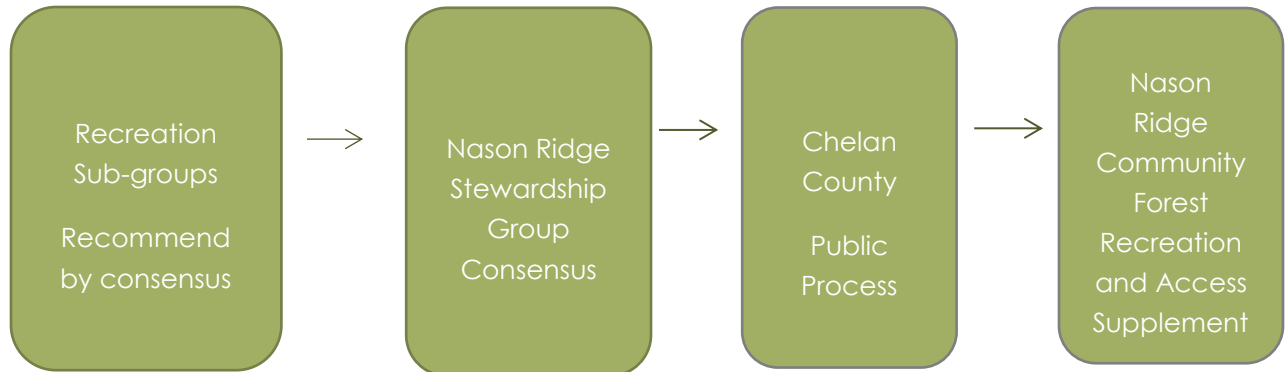
Recreation Committee Role: The recreation committee is a subset of the Nason Ridge Stewardship Group, and will help guide and advise Chelan County and neighboring land managers on the development of the Recreation Element of the Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan. The role of the recreation committee is to represent the community and its varied interest groups during the planning process. The recreation committee members will have the opportunity to participate in and provide input throughout the planning process prior to a broader public review.

The recreation committee's responsibilities are:

- Attend subgroup meetings relevant to areas of interest/expertise. Meetings will be held approximately monthly, for 2 hours. The purpose of these meetings will be for stakeholders to participate in discussions and brainstorming sessions designed to incorporate feedback into planning recommendations. These meetings will be held in person in a facilitated, collaborative setting.
- Attend quarterly Stewardship Committee meetings in which updates will be provided for the whole group, with opportunity to comment on subgroup recommendations. Quarterly meetings will be held virtually to encourage full attendance by Stewardship Committee.
- Participate in other planning-related events such as community outreach efforts and charrettes or workshops designed to further develop recreation concepts.
- Provide support, expertise, and direction on all elements of the planning process and share ideas and concerns early and often. Committee members will seek to work collaboratively with other members to reach consensus.
- Serve as a liaison to participants' respective agency, nonprofit group, recreation user group, partnership team, or company. As a liaison, the committee member will bring input into the process from their larger constituency group as well as share the results of the recreation planning process with their recreation user group, partnership group, agency leadership, or company leadership.

Decision-making Process:

- Subgroup committees will make recommendations to the Nason Ridge Stewardship Group.
- 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 Group.
- The Stewardship Group 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.



Consensus:

All members must support a decision for it to carry. A decision reached by consensus can sometimes represent a wide a range of support. When useful, a simple rating system will be used to help committee members individually and collectively evaluate where they stand in their consensus-based decisions.

1. Support (Consensus)
2. I can live with the decision and accept it, even though it may not be exactly what I want. (Consensus)
3. Cannot support (No Consensus)

If consensus can't be reached by the Stewardship Group, subgroups may be tasked with revising recommendations to incorporate concerns expressed by Stewardship Group. If revised recommendations still can't get consensus, recommendation will not be included in plan. However, a plan appendix will document all options and explain rational for recommendations without consensus. The plan may be modified in the future if issues around recommendations included in this appendix can be resolved. The land manager will have discretion to re-address recommendations at future Stewardship Group meetings. Stewardship Group members are responsible for expressing non-consensus to land manager on specific topics

Committee Membership

The Stewardship Group membership is listed below. The group will strive to include one (or two) representative(s) from each of the recreation user groups who either use the area or have the potential to use the area. Members are encouraged to actively participate in the process (see role and responsibilities above). Meetings will be set by topic, and participants in specific topic meetings will make up a Subgroup. It is not expected that all Stewardship Group members join

all Subgroup meetings, but that those with interests and knowledge of specific topics join those Subgroup meetings. All Stewardship Group members are encouraged to attend Quarterly Meetings, to maintain awareness of work completed by Subgroups.

Active Membership

Organization	Representative
Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue	David Walker, Deb Wadkins
Kahler Glen Association	Ralph Leslie, Dave Millard
Kahler Glen residents	Tim and Mary Gallagher, Bill and Nancy Miller, Dennis and Anne Gilbert
Stellerwood residents	Eric Prestbo
Lake Wenatchee Info	Rob Shurtleff, George Wilson
Nasonview landowner	Rollie Schmitten
Butcher Creek residents	John Meriwether, Sarah Smith, Amber Zimmerman, David Walker, Dave Millard
Lake Wenatchee Residents	Ray Aspiri
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Mickey Flemming, Jennifer Hadersberger
Yakama Nation	Brandon Rogers, Lottie Sam
Alpine Lakes High Camp	Justin Donahue
Basecamp Cascadia	Katie Strahl
Chelan County Natural Resource Department	Erin McKay, Mike Kaputa
Wenatchee River Institute	Rebecca Ryan
Forest Health and Wildlife Specialist	Bill Gaines
59er Diner	Joe Cannata
Washington State Parks	Trevor Wylie, Deb Wadkins
Cascadia Conservation District	Patrick Haggerty, Amanda Newell

Trust for Public Land	Ann Welz
Priest Rapid Tributary Committee	Justin Yeager
Chelan County Commissioner	Shon Smith
Wenatchee Valley TREAD	Matt Lyons
Plain Valley Ski Trails	Rob Whitten, Christie Saugen
Leavenworth Winter Sports Club/Evergreen	James Munly
Nason Area Hunters	Chad Spies, Sean Simmons, John Christianson
Audubon Society	Bill Deters
United States Forest Service	Erica Taeker, TJ Broom, Mason Schuur
WSDOT	Scott Cervine, Kate Toffelson

Potential Membership

Other community members are welcome to join the Nason Ridge Stewardship Group at any time. Chelan County seeks to create an open and transparent planning process and will grant new memberships when feasible. New members will need to be able to review relevant information regarding the progress made in the planning process so they can engage effectively.

Observer Guidelines. Anyone from the public is welcome to observe the recreation committee meetings. Any observer wanting to make comments can let Chelan County know ahead of time and they will be incorporated into the agenda for the meeting. Observers interested in joining the committee can work with Chelan County as described above.

Public Input/Outreach. In addition to the recreation committee members, Chelan County and its partners will reach out to the other interested and potentially affected community members and funders at key times in the planning process to share information and gather input. Outreach methods may include e-newsletter articles, press releases, open houses, and surveys. A webpage will be maintained and updated with meeting information, notes and presentations, and documents.

Recreation and Access Planning Meeting Schedule

Meetings were held monthly throughout the planning process from December 2022 through October 2023 (with the exception of September 2023). The meeting schedule was developed at the beginning of the process to allow Stewardship Members to prioritize attendance at meetings they felt were the most relevant to their interests and expertise. The meeting schedule was followed with minimal changes. The outline of meeting dates and topics is shown below.

Nason Ridge Community Forest Recreation Planning Timeline

Topic	Meeting Type	Date
XC Ski Trail: Grooming and Huts	Subgroup In-Person	December 12th, 2022
Access, Parking, Gates Part 1	Subgroup In-Person	January 11th, 2023
Access, Parking, Gates Part 2	Subgroup In-Person	February 15th, 2023
Subgroup work review; Leases and Economic Impact	Zoom quarterly	March 8th
Hunting	Subgroup In-Person	April 12th, 2023
Trails Part 1	Subgroup In-Person	May 16th, 2023
Trails Part 2	Subgroup In-Person	June 14th, 2023
Subgroup work review; Coulter Block Assessment	Zoom quarterly	July 19th, 2023
Coulter Block Assessment	Subgroup In-Person	August 16th, 2023
Design Charrette	Workshop In-person	October 20-21, 2023

Vision and Desired Conditions for Recreation and Access

In order to maintain alignment with the original planning document and ensure a communally agreed upon planning direction, the Stewardship Group spent time defining a vision for recreation and access that tied directly in with the management goal and objectives from the Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan. During this process, the management objectives were also refined to add clarity to the original wording. The vision provides a clear direction for recreation and access to provide local benefits without intentionally drawing large

numbers of visitors to the forest. The visioning exercise was an important step in the process, as the group was able to articulate the desire to manage recreation and access on the Community Forest to primarily benefit local Chelan County residents rather than making it a statewide attraction with high visitation levels. The overall management goal for recreation and access was pulled directly from the 2019 plan and reflects the importance of considering all management aspects of the Community Forest.

As part of this guiding document development, the Stewardship Group also took time to outline desired conditions for recreation and access on the Community Forest. These desired conditions illustrate a vision for a variety of recreation opportunity, as well as a balanced approach to other Community Forest management objectives. The desired conditions outline highlights the desire for self-driven recreation opportunity that is accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. These desired conditions match the original objectives for recreation and access.

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.

Management Objectives (from the Community Forest Management Plan, with 2023 updates)

- Provide access to enjoy open space and recreation opportunity.
- Continue to augment and improve opportunities for non-motorized recreation such as hiking, skiing, biking, and snowshoeing.
- Enhance opportunity for both summer and winter recreation.
- Provide recreation and education opportunity for children and underserved communities (i.e. mobility impaired, low income, diverse communities)

- Provide quality hunting opportunities.
- Monitor use and implement management actions to ensure sustainable levels of use and impacts.

Nason Ridge Desired Conditions

A Desired Conditions matrix was developed by the Stewardship Group to hone in on specific opportunities and experiences that could then be used to develop recreation and access ideas. The Desired Conditions document contains information on desired levels of use, facilities, opportunities, and specific activities, as well as ways to integrate natural resource management into recreation and access management.

Desired Conditions		
	Summer	Winter
Natural Resources	<p>Sensitive ecological areas will be protected from development and overuse impacts. These areas include riparian areas, wetlands, critical wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Forest management activities will be ongoing to maintain forest health and resiliency and generate revenue for land management. These activities may temporarily impact recreational opportunity, but every effort will be made to restore recreation opportunity following forest management activity.</p> <p>The management goal of reducing road density will be balanced by forest management needs and recreational connectivity provided by existing roads. If new roads are created for forest health/harvest, reduce road impacts following management.</p> <p>Some impacts and modifications to the forest will occur in recreation trail corridors and designated access sites. The majority of the forest and its ecological functions will be preserved and enhanced.</p> <p>Restoration of natural resources will be prioritized following management activities and on the property in general.</p> <p>Efforts are made to increase awareness/education of forest health in the surrounding communities.</p>	

Activities	<p>Hiking/walking/running</p> <p>Viewpoints</p> <p>Biking</p> <p>Birding/wildlife viewing</p> <p>Hunting</p> <p>Education (school outings, youth education)</p> <p>Interpretation (signage, kiosk, naturalists)</p> <p>Equestrian</p> <p>E-bikes. Have to decide on management and sign well. Design and build for the desired use. May be appropriate in some areas.</p> <p>Possible overnight huts</p> <p>Possible commercial activities (guided activities, permitted events)</p>	<p>XC Skiing</p> <p>Snowshoeing</p> <p>Warming Huts</p> <p>Possible overnight huts (concession)</p> <p>Possible commercial activities (guided activities, permitted events)</p>
Visitor Experience	<p>Self-reliant experience, little enforcement</p> <p>Different options for different experiences/management types (classification management zones will be developed for trail development)</p> <p>Visitors have opportunities to</p>	<p>Self-reliant experience, little enforcement</p>

	<p>experience nature through a healthy forest and intact ecosystem.</p> <p>'Community Forest feel', through signage/education at access points</p>	
<p>Facilities and Services</p>	<p>Facilities may include well-designed access points for parking that direct and limit use, trails designed for desired uses, toilets at main access points, signage about the community forest at access points, wayfinding trail signs, and interpretive signs.</p> <p>Infrastructure and design features will be used to manage uses (i.e. gates, fences/openings, wide or narrow trails)</p>	<p>Facilities may include sno park access points, toilets at the sno parks, signage at the access points, trail signs using QR codes, and warming huts.</p>

Range of Management Objectives from Community Forest Management Plan

As a reminder of the overall context of the Community Forest and how recreation and public access fit within the range of management objectives, the Stewardship Group reviewed all of the Management Objectives from the 2019 Plan. All of the management objectives hold equal weighting in terms of management priorities, therefore all objectives must be considered when implementing priorities under any of the following topics.

Forest Management

- Active forest management to improve and maintain forest health.
- Active forest management to generate income and funding for continued stewardship.

Planning Framework

- Implement silvicultural practices that promote structural diversity, enhance water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and improve resilience to climate change.
- Proactive fuels management to create defensible space and reduce potential for catastrophic fire.
- Continue noxious weed management.
- Serve as a model for future community forests by providing educational opportunities for community members, researchers, and policy makers.

Restoration & Conservation

- Protect fish and wildlife species, including ESA listed salmonids.
- Protect/restore aquatic resources and water quality.
- Protect natural resources through thoughtful planning and management.
- Provide a good example of land stewardship for younger generations.

Revenue & Economic Development

- Provide an economic driver for the local community by drawing business for tourism, local recreation, and forest management.
- Provide local jobs.
- Provide revenue from forest management that can be put back into the working forest.

Open Space

- Maintain quality open space in public ownership for perpetuity.
- Provide opportunity for education of natural history and land management; living classroom for all education levels.

Land Classifications for Recreation Planning/Development in Nason Ridge Community Forest

Nason Ridge Community Forest provides multiple benefits to the citizens of Chelan County, one of which is access to outdoor recreation in a natural setting. However, these recreational opportunities must be balanced with ecological sustainability and forest management objectives. A land classification system was used to differentiate areas, or 'zones', where different levels of recreation opportunity development may be appropriate. The land classification system is based on the Washington State Parks land classification system established under WAC 352-16-020. The Nason Ridge classification system primarily utilizes habitat values including unique plant communities, wildlife corridors, security and distance from roads and motorized trails, and opportunities for restoration. The classification system is used in tandem with the desired conditions established for the Community Forest to help locate appropriate areas for the range of desired opportunities. The system also ensures that areas of high habitat value are protected against recreational impacts that may impede ecological functioning. These classifications do not apply during the winter season, as wildlife are either

generally not present or are less impacted by human recreation at this time.

The land classifications used for Nason Ridge Community Forest are as follows:

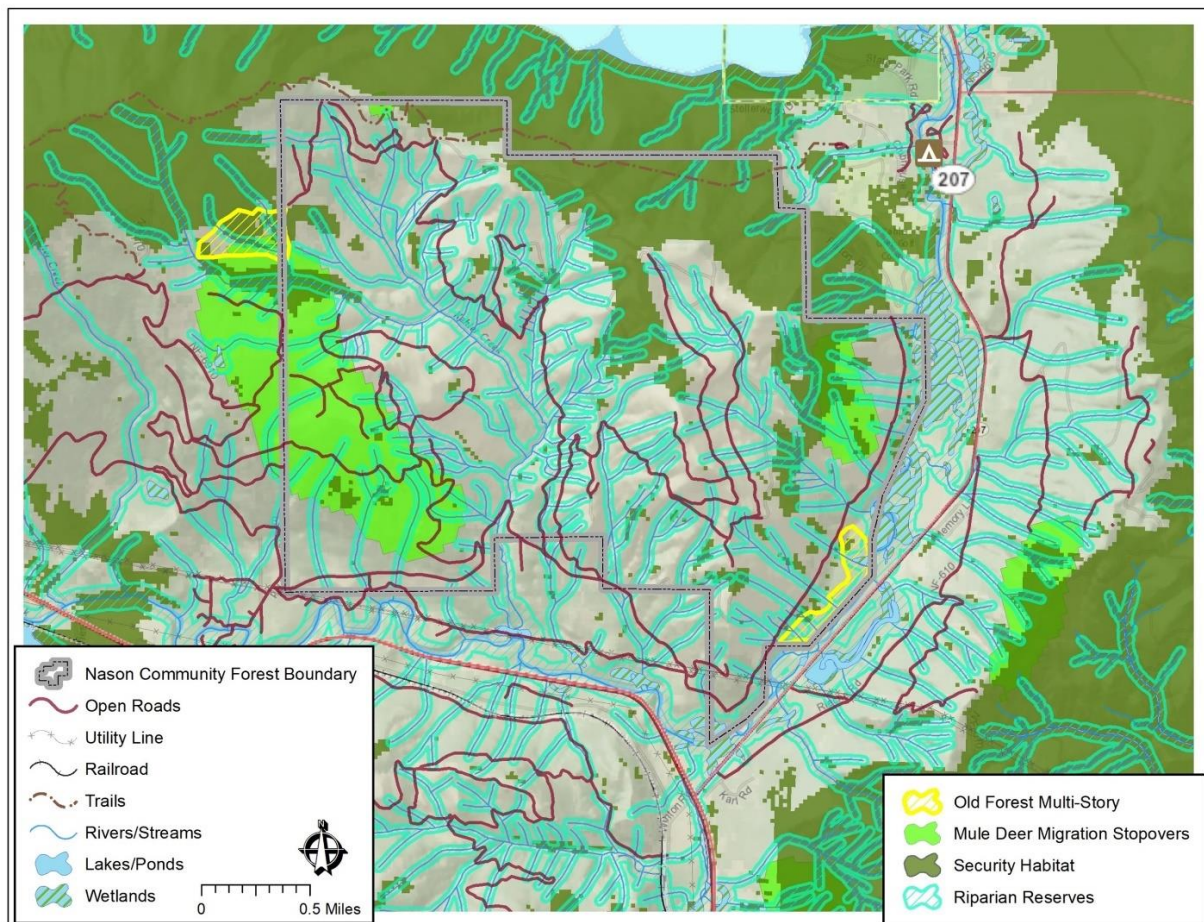
- (1) *Resource Recreation Areas* are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use. Other management actions such as forest health and timber management may also occur in these areas, periodically impacting recreation opportunity. Trailheads, developed trails, and facilities should be located within this classification area. Active linear recreation travel and group educational/cultural outings are appropriate in this classification area.
- (2) *Natural Areas* are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses. Recreation in these classification zones is focused on observing flora and fauna rather than active, linear travel. Trail development should be minimal and should serve primarily to reduce impacts on plants/wildlife while still providing access for passive recreation. Restoration and protection of ecological communities/processes is the main priority but these areas can still provide a type of immersive recreation.
- (3) *Natural Forest Areas* are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
 - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
 - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
 - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.

Data/information sources utilized in determining initial land classifications includes the following:

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitats and Species GIS layers
- Weyerhaeuser/USFS/Chelan County roads GIS layers
- National Wetland Inventory Mapping
- DNR Landscape Evaluation Nason Watershed
- Existing Road Layers
- Erosion potential
- Archeological

The map below was developed by Washington Conservation Science Institute to show how land classifications can be identified on the Nason Ridge Community Forest. Areas of high habitat

value include deer migration corridors, security habitat (habitat located a certain distance from road and trails which contain areas where wildfire will experience less disturbance), riparian areas, and special forest types. The green shading on the map below (dark green and light green) represent 'Natural Areas' as described above, where the focus should be on protecting and observing ecological processes. The yellow polygons represent 'Natural Forest Areas' as described above, and contain old-growth or unique forest structure that should be protected from impacts of recreation development. This map was used as a baseline to evaluate recreation and access recommendations in the context of the land classification system. The process for developing this map and evaluating recreation and access recommendations is included in Appendix B: Wildlife Recommendation at the end of this report.



Washington Conservation Science Institute, 2023

2

Recreation and Access Topics

Winter Recreation: Grooming and Huts 25
Parking and Access 27
Hunting 36
Trails 39
Concessions and Special Uses 43
Coulter Block Assessment 44
Summary of Recommendations: Short and Long Term 48

Recreation and Access Topics

The Recreation and Access topics covered in this plan were pulled directly from the management objectives and opportunities/challenges identified in the 2019 Management Plan. Each topic had at least one full in-person meeting dedicated to discussing issues and opportunities around the topic, and meeting notes were posted on the Chelan County website following each meeting. The descriptions in this section are largely taken directly from the meeting notes, with outcomes and recommendations for each topic summarized based on the input received following meetings and quarterly updates. Various Stewardship Group members participated in the range of meetings, with some topics of more interest to different members of the group. For example, the hunting topic drew a sector of the community that is directly involved in hunting on the property, while the winter grooming topic was of interest to a different sector. The quarterly meetings served as a means to update all community group members on planning progress without having to attend all in-person meetings.

These topics generally cover the range of recreation and access related areas of interest on the property, but additional topics may arise in the future and can be added to this Supplement through future updates. The topics are covered in the order that the meetings were scheduled, and are not listed in order of importance.



Source: Lake Wenatchee State Park, 2019.

Winter Recreation: Grooming and Huts

Introduction:

- Winter Recreation: Grooming and Huts was the first recreation planning subgroup meeting, with the intention of having an open forum to discuss current status and priorities for short and long term management as well as potential future opportunities to explore regarding XC trail grooming, use, and trail connectivity.
- Meeting goal was to expand on short and long term management objectives. Discussion topics are documented and tied to the Management Plan short and long term objectives for inclusion in planning documents.

Background:

- State Parks Winter Recreation Program runs sno-parks and grooming out of Lake Wenatchee State Park and Kahler Glen. State Parks grooms ~17 km in State Park and ~18km on Nason Ridge/Kahler Glen. Kahler Glen Association contributes financially for grooming on golf course. State Parks has groomed on Nason Ridge for ~30 years, through various agreements with different landowners. Chelan County and State Parks currently have a 5-year agreement for grooming on the property.
- State Parks is a signatory on the MOU for Shared Stewardship on the Nason Ridge property, and helps maintain road system that is used for grooming XC trails.
- Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan includes the continuation of the current grooming structure as a management objective. The plan states support for continuing overall trends of use on the property (non-motorized, with the exception of the Nason Ridge Trail). The Plan also mentions a hut system as desired future opportunity, but does not go into detail about what type of hut system.

Warming huts on the groomed trail system on the Nason Ridge property.

- State Parks purchased a mobile warming hut in 2022 with the intention of putting it high up on the ridge along the groomed trail. The hut did not make it onto the ridge due to early snow. It is currently located at Beaver Overlook. Has wood stove.
- Sub-group expressed support for placing the hut on Nason Ridge next year, and potentially adding additional warming huts along the groomed system (*short term management objective*).
- Intention of warming huts is day-use. A concession-run system should be considered, which could enable overnight use (*long term management objective*).
- Warming huts could increase the amount of use on the ridge trail, and be beneficial for youth outings. More use is desirable, to bring more funding to the program.

Grooming frequency.

Recreation and Access Topics

- Nason Ridge is currently groomed on weekends. Increasing grooming frequency could improve conditions and make the system more accessible to more people.
 - Increased grooming frequency would require increased State Parks Winter Rec funding. Other options for increased grooming could come from grants, increased parking pass sales, or partnerships with other organizations.
 - If use increases due to warming huts, outreach, and partnerships, case may be made to State Parks for increased funding.
 - Increase outreach, partnerships, and accessibility of groomed ski trails to increase use and create potential for increased funding which could then be used to increase grooming frequency (*short term management objective*).
 - More parking would be needed if use increased. Current parking lot at Kahler Glen driving range could be extended, through USFS coordination. Additional sno-park should be considered on western side of the property (will be discussed at Access and Parking meetings). State Parks would be interested in investing in additional sno-park (*short to long term management objective*).

Create partnerships with Valley Ski Teams

- Increase accessibility of groomed trail system on property to local Ski Teams (Plain Valley Ski Trails youth Nordic teams)
 - Form partnerships between Chelan County, State Parks, PVST, Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, etc. to explore grant programs to cover sno-park fees for ski teams. Grant opportunities could include: State No Child Left Inside, Our Valley Our Future, Regional Impact Grants, donation programs for season pass holders, fundraisers (*short-term management objective*).

Winter Trail System Assessment

- Assess options for added loops on ridge (*short-term management objective*)
- Assess options for connecting a winter trail from Kahler Glen to Nason Ridge Trail above steep section. This could have added benefit of being a fire break/escape route for south shore residents (*short term management objective*)
- Assess options for making climb to ridge less steep (*long-term management objective*)

Trail System Connections and Opportunities for Higher Elevation Groomed Trails

- Evaluate opportunities to connect trail systems (ex: Plain Valley Trails with Lake Wenatchee State Park and Nason Ridge Trails). Work with USFS early to develop these ideas (*long term management objective*).
- Explore opportunities for higher elevation groomed ski trail systems in upper Wenatchee area to ensure continued recreation opportunity into the future as climate change affects low-elevation snowpack. Work with USFS early on these ideas (*long term management objective*).

Recreation and Access Topics

- Evaluate Coulter Block for potential groomed trail system and connections to Nason Ridge Trail system. Consider this when evaluating locations for future sno park (*short term management objective*).

Fat Tire Biking

- Not a priority at this time, but may consider in the future if there is demand.

Winter Recreation and Grooming Recommendations

- Implement warming hut on Nason Ridge Groomed trail system maintained by State Parks
- Consider winter hut system operated by concessionaire
- Increase grooming frequency; dependent on more State Parks Winter Program grooming funding
- Consider additional sno-park on west side of property by working with Butcher Creek neighbors on potential 6910-112 sno-park location
- Increase accessibility of trails to local ski teams by partnering with Plain Valley Ski Team and Leavenworth Winter Sports Club
- Assess improvements to existing ski trail system on Community Forest
- Explore opportunities for connecting to higher elevation trails to adapt to climate change

Parking and Access

The initial step for assessing parking and access options for the Community Forest was to create a comprehensive table with all known/possible access points, and with the help of local input, populate the table with the know opportunities and challenges associated with each potential access point.

Access Point Opportunities and Challenges

<p>Lake Wenatchee State Park</p> <p>Landowner: WA State Parks</p>	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail from State Park to Nason Ridge CF exists • State Parks working with USFS on signage to better mark the route to Nason Ridge Trail and the CF • Established snowshoe and xc ski trails in winter from State Park to CF and groomed system <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance is a limitation for walking access • Need a Discovery Pass to park at State Park • Limited Parking <p><i>Follow-Up: Not a priority for development of additional access. Work with State Parks on signage needs</i></p>
<p>Nason Ridge Trailhead (USFS)</p> <p>Landowner: USFS</p>	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer months the Forest Service Nason Ridge trailhead can provide access to the Community Forest via the Nason Ridge trail. • A potential place for a large parking lot and facilities is at the Nason Ridge trailhead on USFS land. This avoids visitors going into Kahler Glen proper and passes no homes and is close to the state park. It would benefit Kahler Glen with more visitors to their businesses but not overtax their parking areas and resident access/comfort. The landscape there is flat enough for expansion. • It could serve as another sno-park for Kahler Glen in the winter - the groomed trail goes through this spot. If additional winter parking were needed in the future. • Represents opportunity to expand parking without creating new parking in Kahler Glen. • May be better access point for hiking rather than mountain biking. <p>Challenges:</p>

Recreation and Access Topics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problematic in winter to have more parking there because the groomed trail goes the parking area, also may be a problem with cars on the road. • Already winter access in Kahler Glen and State Parks, additional snopark maybe not needed. • Trail not maintained in winter, alder lays down so not great for walking access in winter. <p><i>Follow-Up: Desirable short-term option for increasing access. Work with USFS on potential for trailhead expansion</i></p>
<p>Kahler Glen</p> <p>Landowner: Kahler Glen Community Association</p>	<p><u>Water Tower Trail</u></p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate route to access CF trails from Kahler Glen <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used by Kahler Glen residents in winter and summer • No parking, not a public access point <p><u>Driving Range SnoPark</u></p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently a winter sno-park. Works well for accessing ridge through groomed golf course trails and water tower trail (signed for both XC trails and snowshoe trail in winter and also shows up on apps) • Used to access water tower trail in winter <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a summer access point • Problems could exist in working out an agreement with Kahler Glen and with the new development proposed at Kahler. Conflict with golfers and recreational traffic during summer with any summer access point through Kahler Glen <p><u>Kahler Gate</u></p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency fire egress for Kahler Glen, only exit for Kahler Glen if route 207 or Cedar Brae blocked

Recreation and Access Topics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance access for vehicles to CF • Walking/biking access for Kahler Glen residents <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a neighborhood, no space for parking • Not good option for parking for public CF access <p><i>Follow-Up: 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)</i></p>
<p>Butcher Creek Road/6910</p> <p>Landowner: USFS, Chelan County, Private</p>	<p><u>Butcher Creek Road General Considerations</u></p> <p>Summer and winter road maintenance of #6910:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road continuity ownership remains unresolved • Maintenance is not handled by any agency, local residents make emergency repairs. • Road current conditions. The base is deteriorated and what remains breaks down easily. • Winter plowing is handled by residents only currently. • Winter conditions have the road often reduced to one lane with cars having to wait for each other in passing. • Crosses a single lane FS bridge with structural damage • 2-3 areas where increased use will add sedimentation to Nason Creek. Collapsed culverts and road edges at creek. • Ongoing maintenance needs. • Ensure we are maintaining a sense of a community within Butcher Creek "neighborhood" <p>Safety issues with increased traffic making tight turn off of Hwy 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOT highway 2 improvements (from DOT) Remove passing lane, add turn lane, add departure lane, add signage. <p><i>FLAP grant could be an option for funding road improvements on #6910</i></p>

	<p><u>Property Line</u></p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SnoPark on Butcher Creek side could reduce issues with people parking in residential areas on Butcher Creek and provide winter access to that side.• SnoPark could include winter plowing on Butcher Creek side. <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private landowners and BPA easements right at property line. Very open and would be hard to control go-arounds at gate <p><u>Open Area Beyond Tree Island</u></p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating a sno park or parking lot to access winter or summer hiking trails should be a way into the community forest property with an adequate buffer to the people who own the caboose land.• Entry at the moved Butcher Creek gate could provide year-round access to the Forest. Discussions should be held with the State Park about this site potentially becoming a Snowpark location if grooming were extended to this new location.• Parking access may be more attractive for mountain biking <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are sensitive ecological sites near this area. Some sort of mitigation for this area should be incorporated- maybe a few sturdy steel posts along this section with metal signs that read, Sensitive or Wildlife area, no motorized access?• Road should be improved- replace culverts for spring run off? <p><u>Current Gate Location (flat area just beyond gate)</u></p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bad place for a gate- no parking• No interest in moving gate even further into CF <p><i>Follow-Up: Priority for short-term access improvement</i></p>
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Recreation and Access Topics

	<p><i>Work with WSDOT on potential safety improvements</i></p> <p><i>Look into FLAP grant for Butcher Creek road improvement</i></p> <p><i>Determine new gate location</i></p> <p><i>Work with residents on signage</i></p> <p><i>Determine level of use desired</i></p>
<p>Coulter Creek Road</p> <p>Landowner: WSDOT, Private, BNSF, Chelan Resources</p>	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One mile up Coulter Creek road could be access point if future acquisition of timberlands into public ownership <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging to tie parking to land across the highway- not good access point for Nason Ridge CF <p><i>Follow-Up: Identify Coulter Access during Coulter assessment subgroup meeting</i></p>
<p>Nason Rest Area</p> <p>Landowner: WSDOT</p>	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer turn off of Hwy 2 <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough room for trail or road to connect in ROW to Butcher Creek road <p><i>Follow-Up: Not likely access point</i></p>
<p>Cole's Corner</p> <p>Landowner: Private, CPUD,</p>	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term objective to increase access off of Hwy 2 and integrate a pedestrian suspension bridge to ease pressure on other access points

Recreation and Access Topics

<p>USFS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial zoning at Coles Corner potentially more appropriate for business use of property and puts users near services, and supports economic development. <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased use over a pedestrian bridge may have adverse impacts on fish/riparian Most points would entail USFS land to some degree, would be an involved process to get easement through lands other than Chelan County Complex in terms of permitting, design, cost <p><i>Follow-Up: identify most likely options in terms of ownership and topography</i></p>
<p>Round Mountain Trail</p> <p>Landowner: USFS</p>	
<p>3 miles up Butcher Creek Road, old road spur leads into CF</p> <p>Landowner: USFS</p>	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be additional access point or trailhead in future <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively small parking area outside of USFS gate

This table led the group to think more about what the desired level of use of the Community Forest really was, and how that would affect recommendations around access and parking. Time was then devoted to refining the vision for the Community Forest and a communal agreement that the desire was not to draw large amounts of people from outside the area to recreation on the property, but rather to provide recreation access and opportunity to local Chelan County residents and keep the burden of impact on neighbors of the Community Forest minimal. This in turn led to discussions of phasing access development to provide adaptive management options as needed. A monitoring plan to assess thresholds and need for adaptive management is a necessary component of an adaptive management approach, and is included in this Supplement.

Following review of the Issues and Opportunities in the Access table above, the table was refined to show the priorities around each potential access point. The table below shows the final recommendations for the access sites discussed in the previous meeting.

Parking and Access Recommendations

Access Point	Priorities
<p>Lake Wenatchee State Park</p> <p>Landowner: WA State Parks</p>	<p><i>Not a priority for development of additional access. Work with State Parks on signage needs</i></p>
<p>Nason Ridge Trailhead (USFS)</p> <p>Landowner: USFS</p>	<p><i>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.</i></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><i>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)</i></p>
<p>Butcher Creek Road/6910</p> <p>Landowner: USFS, Chelan County, Private</p>	<p><i>Priority for short-term access improvement</i></p> <p><i>Work with WSDOT on potential safety improvements</i></p> <p><i>Look into FLAP grant for Butcher Creek road improvement</i></p> <p><i>Determine new gate location and parking area near tree island/spur road</i></p> <p><i>Work with residents on signage</i></p> <p><i>Determine level of use desired</i></p>

Recreation and Access Topics

	<p><i>Potential winter sno-park. Work with State Parks to determine feasibility of winter access point/plowing etc.</i></p> <p>Level of Use/Facilities: Toilet. Signage about Community Forest. Small parking area.</p>
<p>Coulter Creek Road</p> <p>Landowner: WSDOT, Private, BNSF, Chelan Resources</p>	<p><i>Not a priority for accessing Nason Ridge Community Forest</i></p> <p><i>Consider for potential Coulter Block Access during Coulter assessment subgroup meeting</i></p>
<p>Nason Rest Area</p> <p>Landowner: WSDOT</p>	<p><i>Not likely access point</i></p>
<p>Cole's Corner</p> <p>Landowner: Private, CPUD, USFS</p>	<p><i>Evaluate as long-term objective to increase access off of Hwy 2 and integrate a pedestrian suspension bridge to ease pressure on other access points</i></p> <p><i>Identify most likely bridge location and parking options in terms of ownership and topography</i></p> <p>Level of Use/Facilities: designed for higher levels of use than can be supported by short-term access priority sites (Butcher Creek road and Nason Ridge TH)</p>
<p>Round Mountain Trail</p> <p>Landowner: USFS</p>	<p><i>Not a priority access point, but potential to work with USFS on making this a shared access point.</i></p>
<p>3 miles up Butcher Creek Road, old road spur leads into CF</p>	<p><i>Not priority for access. Works for current low levels of use. Re-assess if trail priorities point to that area.</i></p>

Landowner: USFS	
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Hunting

Quality hunting opportunity is one of the objectives for Recreation and Access expressed in the 2019 Community Forest Management Plan. For this topic, the group reviewed policies of past landowners, including Weyerhaeuser and Western Rivers Conservancy, as well as hunting policies on adjacent lands. This was a priority topic to complete prior to the hunting season of 2023, in order to have an agreed-upon policy in place for the upcoming hunting season.

Review of past hunting policy on Nason Ridge Property, hunting policies on adjacent lands, user experiences on the property

- Weyerhaeuser policy (written permission through permit system, paid agreement with WDFW for enforcement)
- Western Rivers Conservancy policy (written permission through permit system with limited # of permits issued)
- Chinook Forest Partners (plans to close lands to hunting access in Coulter Block)
- CDLT and Nasonview- hunting permission is at landowner's discretion

Review of WDFW regulations, hunting season timeframes

- Reviewed GMU 245 boundaries, hunting seasons for grouse, deer, elk, bear, cougar, and bobcat

Group discussion of recommended County policy:

- Permit system: Group does not see the need to continue a permit system. The feeling is that WDFW rules and regulations are adequate for management on the Community Forest, and that there is no need to overcomplicate a system that works. Recommendation is to proceed with hunting with no written permit system above and beyond WDFW rules and regulations.
- Limitations on use: Group does not see the need to limit hunter numbers. From hunter observations, use has been declining over the years, likely due to the habitat becoming less desirable for deer as brush fills in. Hunters expressed that if they see many other hunters, they will go somewhere else anyway. The last few

Recreation and Access Topics

years, the number of permits issued by WRC was well under half of the permits available, so the cap wasn't being reached. This could be re-evaluated in the future if there is an issue with crowding.

- Species: No desire to limit species that can be hunted or seasons in which they can be hunted.
- Type of weapon: No need to limit or restrict weapons at this time. WDFW does not recommend putting specific guidelines on type of barrel that is allowed, because of difficulty distinguishing/enforcing this type of rule. If safety becomes an issue in the future with increased recreation, limitations to primitive weapons may be considered.
- Accessible hunting: No interest in allowing motorized use for disabled hunters. However, access points should be accessible, so disabled hunters with the ability to travel non-motorized on road surfaces could still utilize the property.
- Baiting: Consensus that baiting should not be utilized on the property for ethical reasons. This would likely be voluntary and expressed through signage.
- Target Shooting: Consensus that target shooting is not appropriate on property
- Enforcement: If possible, have Sheriffs patrols and WDFW emphasis patrols for the first couple years of ownership to show there is a presence. The main issue occurring now is poaching outside of season. County will work with WDFW to help address poaching issues, and will get a good contact number that can be posted on signage so visitors can alert WDFW to poaching if they see it on the property.
- Signage: Signage is the priority for managing hunting in the near-term. Signage specific to hunting to be placed at main entrance points. Signage will include a self-register for hunters to help track hunting use. Include a contact number for reporting poaching and a website or email where more info can be obtained. Include wording on baiting and target shooting.
- No Hunting areas: Road buffers will not be used as No Hunting Areas. Rather, the USFS policy will be adopted. Policy is as follows:
 - In or within 150 yards (450 feet) of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area;
 - Across or on roads or bodies of water, or where people or property are exposed to injury or damage
- Land Closure: Follow Chelan County policy for closing lands during extreme fire danger.
- WDFW Private Lands Access System: No interest in entering into agreement with WDFW to help manage hunting on the property.

Hunting Recommendations

- Do not limit hunting with a permit system
- No Resolution needed at this time
- Develop trailhead signage to be in place prior to hunting season

- Reach out to WDFW for advice/assistance on poaching issues
- Request for occasional patrols by Chelan County Sheriff in first couple years of ownership
- The following sign was developed and installed at primary hunting access points on the Community Forest in fall 2023 to convey the hunting rules developed by the Stewardship

ATTENTION HUNTERS

Hunting is allowed on Nason Ridge Community Forest (Chelan County) and Nason View lands. Please contact Chelan -Douglas Land Trust for permission to hunt Land Trust Lands

All Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife hunting rules and regulations must be observed.

The area will be periodically patrolled.

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY:

- Non-motorized access only
- Sign in and out using the attached sheet
- Harvest must be reported
- No shooting within 200 yards (600 ft) of a building or developed recreation site
- No shooting across roads or trails
- No baiting
- No target shooting

If you observe poaching, please call

1-877-933-9847

Trails

Trail Development

The topic of Trails was covered over two monthly planning meetings. The first meeting was aimed at garnering input from the Stewardship Group on known sensitive areas and initial thoughts on trail development opportunities. Washington Conservation Science Institute also presented on their initial land evaluation in terms of wildlife use and land classification suggestions. The group added input to these classifications based on personal observations and experience.

The second meeting provided opportunity for WCSI to evaluate initial trails concepts and provide feedback based on potential impacts on wildlife and ecologically sensitive areas. The group then refined and expanded upon the concepts from the first meeting, developing a trails concept map that incorporates both the WCSI sensitive areas and the trail development/maintenance concepts from the group.

Meeting 1 Outline

Review of goals/objectives from Management Plan

- Desired conditions from 2019 Management Plan include 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>

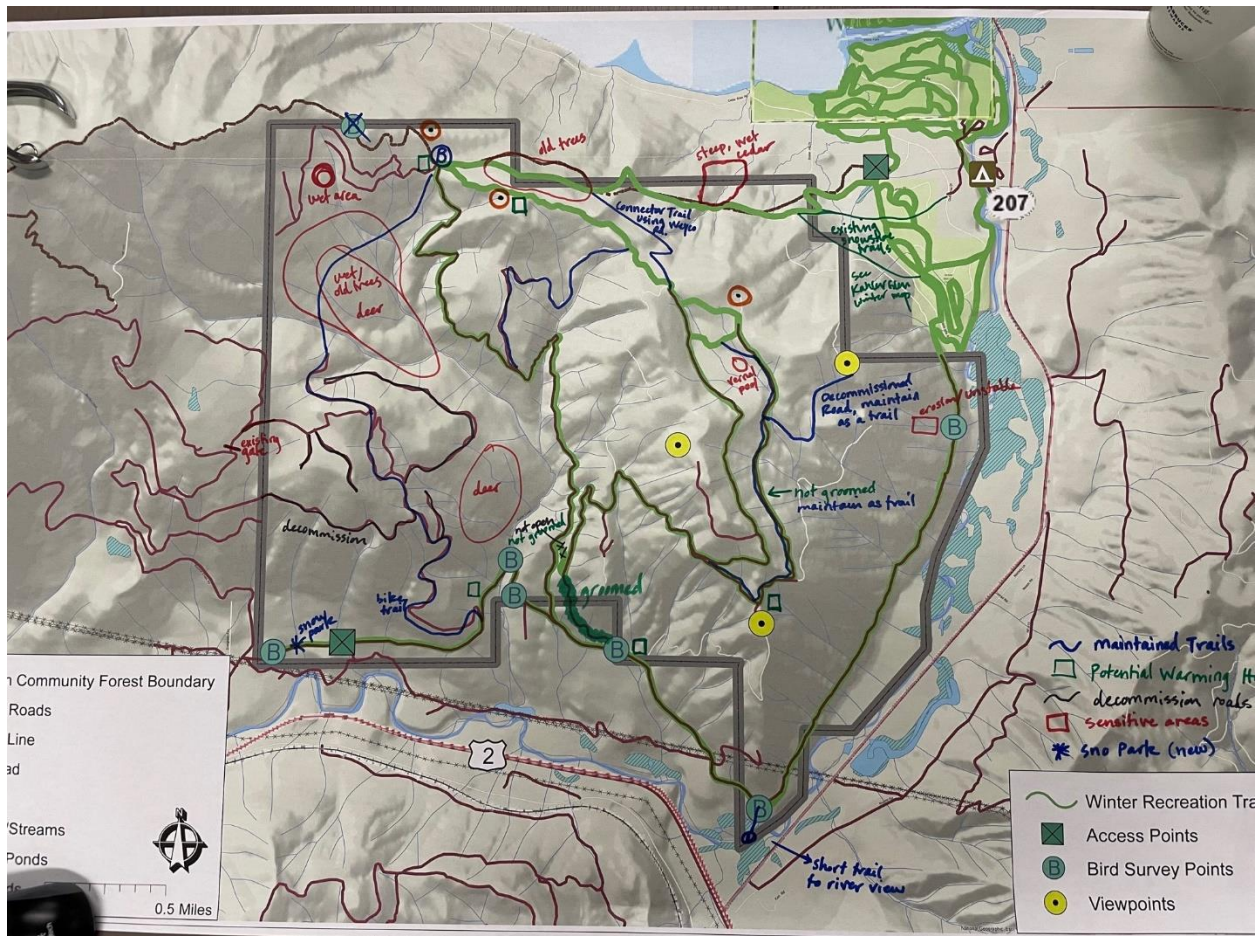
Trails Part 1: Break-out exercise to provide feedback on maps and trail ideas

- Mark special areas that you know of that aren't covered under WCSI analysis
- Destinations (viewpoints, warming huts, birding sites etc.)

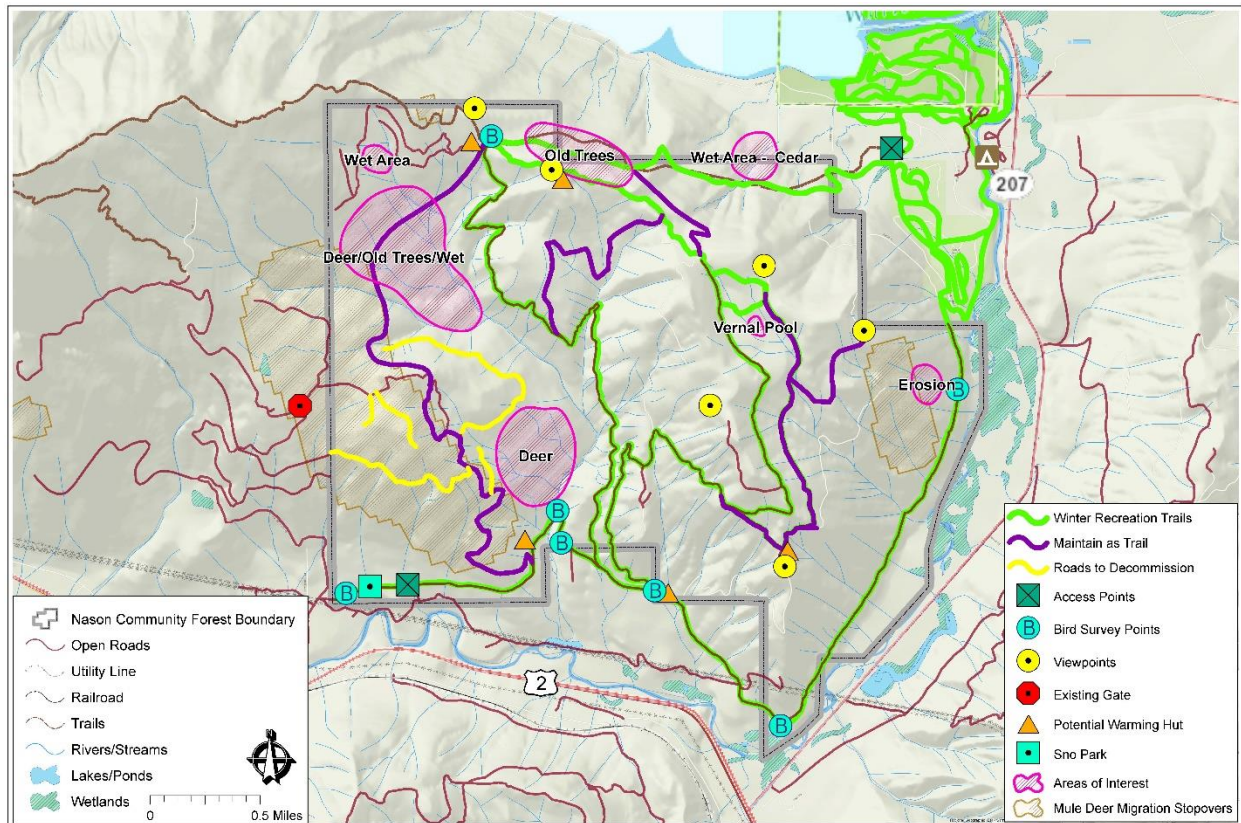
Recreation and Access Topics

- 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

The following map is a composite of the early concepts developed by the Stewardship Committee at the first Trails meeting.



The draft concepts above were digitized and overlaid with the sensitive areas defined by WCSI. The additional sensitive areas identified by the Stewardship Group were also added to the composite map. WCSI reviewed the draft concept map shown below and made recommendations to the group to consider at the Trails Part 2 meeting.

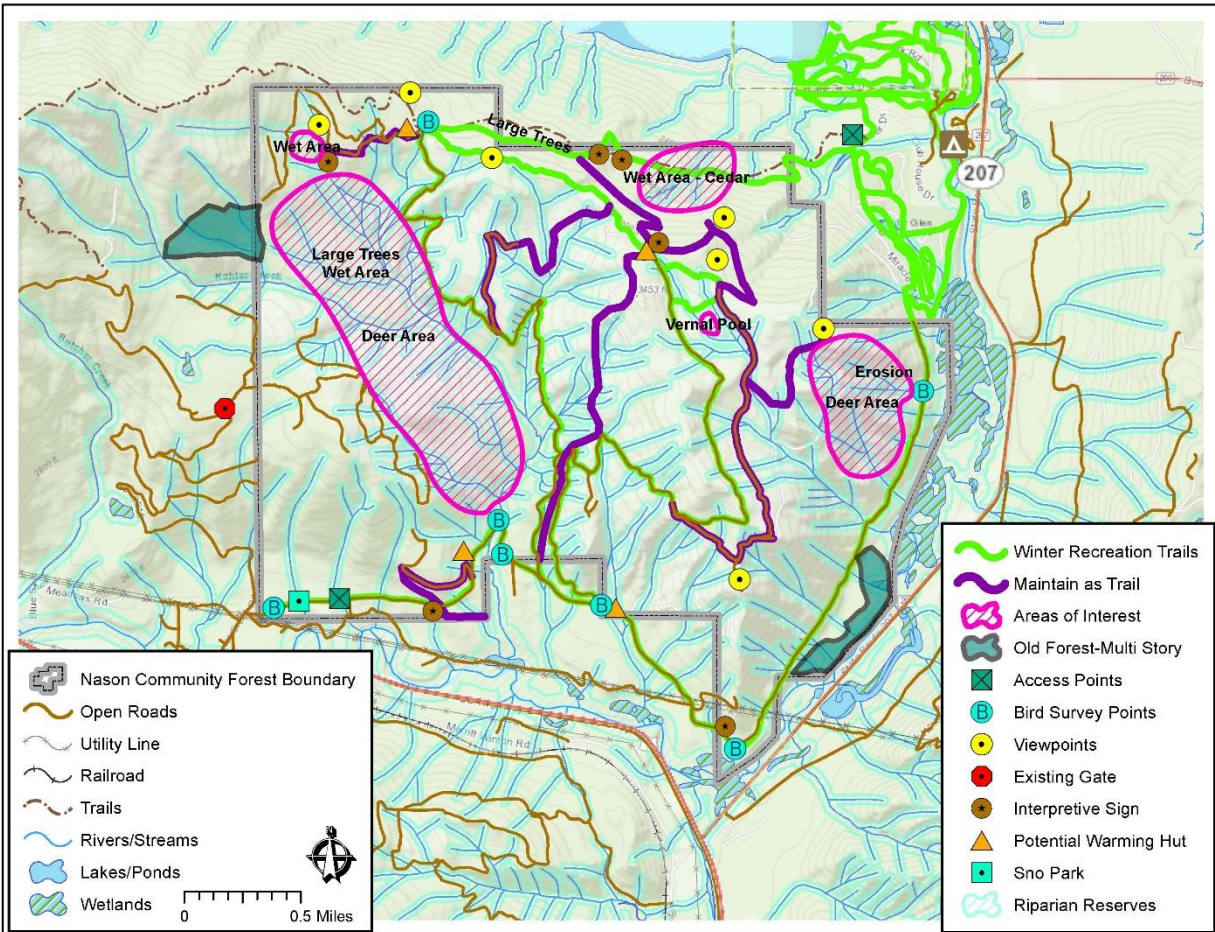


Washington Conservation Science Institute/Chelan County 2023

Meeting 2 Outline

- Red Flags for wildlife/special zones
 - Suggestions for mitigating red flags
- Specific uses of trails
 - What are trails designed for and how to reduce user conflict
 - Hiking, biking, equestrian, interp (nature based)
 - Ebikes
- Accessibility options
 - Ideas for accessible trails

The following map is a digitization of the final concepts and recommendations developed during the Trails meetings. The recommendations listed below are shown graphically on the map to the best extent possible but are still at concept level and are not exact.



Washington Conservation Science Institute/Chelan County 2023

Trails Recommendations

- Accessible trail focused on educational/interpretation opportunity on 6910-112 (Butcher Creek side)
- Connect existing roads into trail loops/linkages along and near ridge top
 - Link shortcut to ridgetop road from Nason Ridge Trail just past Big Red
 - Delineate Nason Ridge Trail at intersection at top of ridge to prevent confusion and keep motorcycles on Nason Ridge Trail
- Create interpretation opportunities at viewpoints and special areas of interest
- Identify e-bird sites
- Assess for new trail to separate uses on the Nason Ridge Trail (this trail could be a bike-specific trail to reduce multi-use pressure on Nason Ridge Trail)

Recreation and Access Topics

- Identify specific uses for new trails if desired
- Keep trail development out of sensitive areas identified by Washington Conservation Science Institute (see Appendix B: Wildlife Recommendations)
- Continue to assess for new trail opportunities
- Assess impacts of new trail development in terms of capacity of existing access points (i.e. if new trail development will encourage significant use increases, identify appropriate access points first)

Concessions and Special Uses

Concessions and special uses were discussed during a Quarterly update meeting, and the following topics emerged.

- 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.

Concessions Recommendations:

Recreation and Access Topics

- Evaluate concession structure for winter hut system
- Work with Stewardship Group to evaluate any other concessions proposals that may arise in the future
- Allow Special Uses that incorporate the following criteria: provide community benefits, support local non-profits, do not bring large numbers of people into the area, fit the vision and goals identified in the Community Forest Management Plan
- Do not implement a fee system at this point. Can be re-evaluated in the future if needed

Coulter Block Assessment

Chelan County Natural Resource Department hosted the August 16th, 2023 meeting to gather input from local residents, business owners, agencies, and stakeholders on current recreation opportunity, desired future recreation and access, potential issues/challenges, and overall objectives for recreation and access on the Chinook Forest Partners- owned Coulter Block Lands. This input will be included in the Coulter Block Assessment Report, which will provide information on the property to aid in the discussion led by Trust for Public Lands of the future land ownership and management of the Coulter Block Lands.

Current Uses/Opportunities

- Accessing Alpine Lakes Wilderness for hiking, camping, high hunt, solitude, etc.
- Fishing in high lakes- probably the longest-standing recreation type in this area
- Hunting mule deer, bear, and grouse (hunting no longer permitted by Chinook Forest Partners)
- Hiking, biking, and riding street-legal motorcycle on roads with USFS easement (FS 6930, 6935)
- Winter recreation including cross-country skiing, back-country skiing, snowshoeing, cat-skiing (winter recreation opportunities are provided through Alpine Lakes High Camp)
- Snowmobile by private landowners (not authorized for public)
- Intermediate to advanced recreation access due to elevation gain and steepness of terrain

Recreation and Access Topics

- Off-road recreation such as hiking, mountain biking and skiing currently allowed only for Alpine Lakes High Camp guests through a standing recreation lease on Coulter Block lands

Future Desired Recreation Opportunity

- More beginner-level recreation opportunity
- Equal access to wilderness and recreation opportunity as that of private landowners adjacent to the Coulter Block lands
- Protect wilderness lakes from "Colchuck Lake syndrome" by gating road several miles from trail access (potentially in 'beaver pond area' with a buffer to protect ecologically sensitive areas)
- Preserve quiet character and secluded feel of lands
- Connect to Chiwakum Creek trail and other USFS trails
- Increase recreation access off of the USFS easement road prism, including opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, back-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.
- Renew hunting access
- Explore options for hut system
- Consider permit system to generate revenue and/or regulate use
- Seasonal closures of specific areas during different seasons to meet different recreation opportunity objectives and protect habitat values
- Connectivity with Nason Ridge Community Forest groomed trail system for winter recreation
- Work with Alpine Lakes High Camp to find road management solutions that work for both public access and High Camp operations
- Consider options for snowmobile and ATV access

Potential Issues/Challenges

- Management of road system, both summer and winter (impacts of various types of recreation on road surface, as well as different types of vehicles accessing roads during winter)
- Ongoing maintenance of parking areas and related infrastructure
- Enforcement challenges, especially with encroachment into wilderness
- Permit system/regulatory management
- Potential for increased trespass on private lands adjacent to Coulter Block lands
- Safety for winter access- un-controlled slopes, variable conditions
- Potentially inflexibility on management depending on ownership
- More use could result in higher need for emergency response

Overall Objectives for Recreation and Access

- Balance accessibility with protection of wilderness and preservation of character
- Manage differently for different seasons (summer and winter) to address specific opportunities and issues
- Increase accessible (beginner level) recreation and education opportunities in lower elevation areas (gentler terrain)
- Continue positive partnerships between Alpine Lakes High Camp, landowner, and neighbors
- Balance recreation with forest health restoration and wildlife habitat protection
- Increase access to recreation opportunity off of the road prism

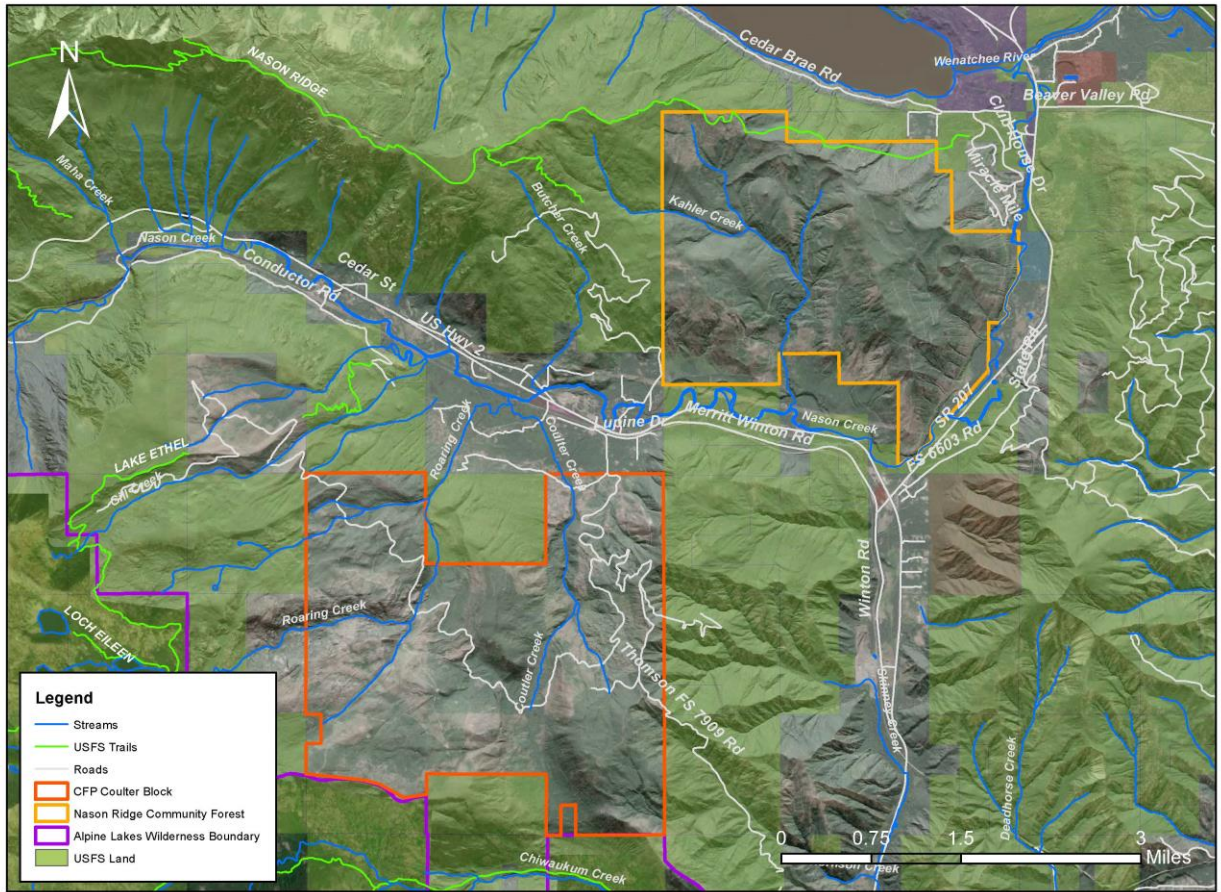
Maintain/improve connectivity with adjacent public lands

The input received at this meeting was compiled as part of the Coulter Block Assessment Report, which is available on the Chelan County Natural Resource Department site here:

The Coulter Block property subject is not a part of the Nason Ridge Community Forest Planning effort, but was integrated into the meeting series in order to build on the momentum of community involvement that was occurring at the same time for the Nason Ridge Recreation and Access effort. The notes and link to the report are included in this supplement as they may be of interest to the Nason Ridge Stewardship Group, but all future planning and outreach for the Coulter Block will be conducted separately. The Coulter Block Assessment is a high-level document meant to provide information for potential future ownership. It does not include proposed management actions or a schedule for future planning.

Coulter Block Recommendations

- Continue to work with Trust for Public Land, Chinook Forest Partners, and other stakeholders on future ownership/management options



Coulter Block Lands Proximity to Nason Ridge Community Forest

USFS, Chelan County GIS 2023

Summary of Recommendations- Short and Long Term

To summarize the recommendations resulting from the planning process, the table below breaks the recommendations described above into Short Term (1-3 years) and Long Term (3-10 years) Recreation and Access Recommendations.

Topic	Short Term (1-3 years)	Long Term (3-10 years)
Winter XC Trails	Implement warming hut on Nason Ridge Groomed trail system maintained by State Parks	Consider winter hut system operated by concessionaire
	Consider additional sno-park on west side of property by working with Butcher Creek neighbors on potential 6910-112 sno-park location	Increase grooming frequency; dependent on more State Parks Winter Program grooming funding
	Increase accessibility of trails to local ski teams by partnering with Plain Valley Ski Team and Leavenworth Winter Sports Club	Explore opportunities for connecting to higher elevation trails to adapt to climate change
	Assess improvements to existing ski trail system on Community Forest	
Hunting	Do not limit hunting with a permit system, no resolution needed at this time	Track take reports and monitor poaching incidents, request assistance from WDFW and/or Chelan County Sheriff on poaching incidents
	Develop trailhead signage to be in place prior to hunting season	

Recreation and Access Topics

<p>Access and Parking</p>	<p>Lake Wenatchee State Park: Work with State Parks on signage needs for trails connecting to Community Forest</p>	
	<p>Nason Ridge Trailhead: Keep as main summer access point for eastern side. Main hiking access point. Increase signage about Community Forest Consider improving parking orientation in existing footprint of Nason Ridge Trailhead to provide additional parking Consider toilet improvement at trailhead</p>	<p>Monitor use and consider expansion if use increases due to Community Forest. Plan ahead with USFS as process can take years. Expansion would require coordinated NEPA</p>
	<p>Kahler Glen: Maintain current use of winter snopark, work with Kahler/State Parks on signage and Community Forest linkages</p>	
	<p>Butcher Creek/ 6910-112: Develop shared maintenance plan to address maintenance needs on 6910 from Hwy 2 to 6910-112 intersection Determine new gate location and parking area with signage about Community Forest, small parking area. Work with residents and USFS on signage Determine level of use desired, monitor use levels and develop</p>	<p>Work with WSDOT on potential safety improvements</p>

Recreation and Access Topics

	<p>adaptive management strategy</p> <p>Potential winter sno-park. Work with State Parks and Butcher Creek neighborhood to determine feasibility of winter access point/plowing etc</p>	
	<p>Cole's Corner:</p>	<p>Evaluate as long-term objective to increase access off of Hwy 2 and integrate a pedestrian suspension bridge to ease pressure on other access points</p> <p>Identify most likely bridge location and parking options in terms of ownership and topography</p> <p>Level of Use/Facilities: designed for higher levels of use than can be supported by short-term access priority sites (Butcher Creek road and Nason Ridge TH)</p>
<p>Trails</p>	<p>Connect existing roads into trail loops/linkages along and near ridge top</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Link shortcut to ridgetop road from Nason Ridge Trail just past Big Red -Delineate Nason Ridge Trail at intersection at top of ridge to prevent confusion and keep motorcycles on Nason Ridge Trail 	<p>Assess for new trail to separate uses on the Nason Ridge Trail (this trail could be a bike-specific trail to reduce multi-use pressure on Nason Ridge Trail)</p>
	<p>Accessible trail focused on educational/interpretation opportunity on 6910-112 (Butcher Creek side)</p>	<p>Identify specific uses for new trails if desired</p>

Recreation and Access Topics

	<p>Create interpretation opportunities at viewpoints and special areas of interest</p> <p>Identify e-bird sites</p>	<p>Continue to assess for new trail opportunities</p>
	<p>Keep trail development out of sensitive areas identified by Washington Conservation Science Institute (see Appendix B: Wildlife Recommendations)</p>	<p>Assess impacts of new trail development in terms of capacity of existing access points (i.e. if new trail development will encourage significant use increases, identify appropriate access points first)</p>
Concessions	<p>Evaluate concession structure for winter hut system</p>	<p>Work with Stewardship Group to evaluate any other concessions proposals that may arise in the future</p>
	<p>Allow Special Uses that incorporate the following criteria: provide community benefits, support local non-profits, do not bring large numbers of people into the area, fit the vision and goals identified in the Community Forest Management Plan</p>	<p>Do not implement a fee system at this point. Can be re-evaluated in the future if needed</p>

3

Design Charrette

Purpose and Process 55

Charrette Outcomes 62

Purpose and Process

To build on the trail and interpretation recommendations made by the Stewardship Group, the NPS RTCA program was able to bring the Washington Association of Landscape Architects onboard to join a design charrette following the planning process. This opportunity was made available through a partnership between the NPS and WASLA, and the Nason Ridge Community Forest was selected due to the robust community involvement demonstrated throughout the acquisition process. The planning process was also in a very conducive stage for the fall Design Charrette schedule, as all priority topics had been covered and specific recommendations/concepts had been identified by the Stewardship Group.

The NPS and Chelan County planned and organized the design charrette with help from WASLA members. The purpose of the charrette was to bring professional landscape architect skill sets to a workshop where the ideas and concepts developed by the Stewardship Group could be fleshed out into draft designs that could then be used to move priority projects toward implementation. The design workshop brought together community members and professional landscape architects in a collaborative, productive atmosphere with valuable, high-level outputs achieved. The design charrette did indeed add value to the planning process by not only producing quality draft design concepts, but also bringing additional creativity and meaningful context to the forest. For example, a strong theme that emerged from the interpretation and education effort was the inclusion of indigenous legend and history brought by a member of the Yakama Nation Tribe.

The design charrette process is described below through the workshop agenda, attendance, and team goals.

Design Charrette Workshop Agenda October 20-21st

Friday, October 20th; 2 PM – 7 PM

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 2:00- 5:00 | Field Tour |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet at Nason Rest Area for tour of Community Forest (Butcher Creek access, perimeter road, Nason Ridge TH) |
| 5:30-7:00 | Dinner and Orientation |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet at: 59er Diner, 15361 Highway 2, Leavenworth. Presentation on Nason Ridge Community Forest background, WASLA background |

Saturday, October 21st; 8 AM – 5 PM

Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club, 14400 Chiwawa Loop Road; all day design workshop

Overview and Goals

The purpose of a charrette, or design workshop, is to generate design ideas and alternatives. To achieve this, the focus of the group will be:

- Engaging all participants
- Encouraging and focusing discussion
- Seeking resolution
- Developing, organizing and recording ideas as a physical manifestation of the group's values
- DRAW! DRAW! DRAW!
- Take notes on your process and on your solutions

Participant List

Team 1: Trails and Access	Team 2: Interpretation & Education
<i>Team Leader/Landscape Architect, WASLA</i> Jim Brennan	<i>Team Leader/Landscape Architect, WASLA</i> Jan Satterthwaite
<i>Landscape Architect, WASLA</i> Steve Yavanian	<i>Interpretive Planner</i> Angela Mele
<i>Landscape Architect, WASLA</i> Lisa Rose Baker	<i>Landscape Architect, WASLA</i> Paz Ochoa
<i>Landscape Architecture Student, UW</i> Elizabeth Umbenhower	<i>Landscape Architecture Student, UW</i> Tim Spenser

<i>Local Hunter</i> Chad Spies	<i>Wenatchee River Institute</i> Rebecca Ryan
<i>WA State Parks</i> Trevor Wylie	<i>Yakama Nation</i> Lottie Sam
<i>WA Trail Association</i>	<i>Audubon Society</i> Bill Deters
<i>Stellerwood Neighbor</i> Eric Prestbo	<i>Chelan County Natural Resource Dept.</i> Erin McKay
<i>Kahler Glen Neighbor</i> Bill Miller	<i>Local Historian and Landowner</i>

Other resources and facilitators not assigned to teams:

- Don Benson, Washington Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects
- Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resource Department
- Susan Rosebrough, National Park Service
- Alexandra Stone, National Park Service

Access and Trailhead Team: Site Design Objectives and Guidelines

Summer and Winter Trailheads and Access Points

Desired Outcomes

- Conceptual drawings of access sites and signage and wayfinding guidelines
- Short written summary about the conceptual plans and signage – recorder
- Photos of precedent examples of signage

Objectives

Design Charrette

- Nason Ridge Trailhead (USFS): Develop conceptual design ideas for expanding summer parking and facilities to accommodate additional use in the short-term.
 - Desired Facilities: toilet improvement, signage about the community forest, accessible parking spot(s)
 - Develop alternative concepts to increase capacity
- Butcher Creek Road/6910:
 - Develop conceptual design ideas for short-term improvements for a snopark and summer access.
 - Desired facilities:
 - Toilet, signage, parking, one accessible site, equestrian trailer parking further down; rocks to create barriers to prevent ATVs/motorcycles from continuing in unauthorized areas; parking for buses;
 - Identify improvements/design for the road/safety improvements on the turn into the road, potentially consider a roundabout and bike lane from Cole's Corner (lower priority)
- Existing Sites to develop signage concepts for:
 - Lake Wenatchee State Park
 - Kahler Glen (snopark)
- Design a signing system for the trail system for winter and summer use
 - Look at trail crossroads and opportunities for signage and delineation of trails
- Consider multiple trail uses and potential for separated uses for certain trails

Design Guidelines

- Consider best practices to increase parking lot visibility to reduce vandalism, dumping, and trespassing issues.
- Consider best practices for placing infrastructure and access sites that support green infrastructure and continued conservation of habitat, flora, and fauna. Locate trails away from steep slopes, erodible soils, riparian buffers, or sensitive and unique habitats such as wetlands.
- Consider design solutions and best practices to reduce unauthorized use by

Design Charrette

motorcycles/ATVs.

- Consider accessibility design standards and best practices when placing and locating trails and infrastructure where possible.
- Create safe access for visitors arriving using bicycles
- Propose and design features, signage, and amenities that fit forest characteristics and aesthetics.
- Identify and place inclusive signage at key features. Consider what these would look like and general messaging and content.
- Identify and place signage with clear use guidance, directions, maps, and safety messaging.
- Consider active forestry practices when locating amenities. Identify ways in which recreation development will fit into forestry practices such as selective logging, access closures, and moveable/flexible infrastructure. Think about and consider how to actively direct and change recreation activities and where they occur to accommodate for active forestry practices.
- Seek and consider exemplary examples from other places in design recommendations.

Interpretation and Education Team: Design Objectives and Guidelines

Desired Outcomes:

- Identification of themes and stories
- Visual and graphics of what interpretation could look like on the forest
- Identification of signage location and interpretive areas and features
- Written summaries of the design concepts
- Identification of groups and organizations that could help implement and partner on these concepts or a particular theme

Design Objectives

1. Building on the draft stories and themes, brainstorm and expand stories and themes to share about the Nason Ridge Community Forest.

Design Charrette

2. Prioritize interpretive topics and stories.
3. Propose locations and different types of interpretive elements that support self-directed and group programming and education.
4. Propose and locate different features and viewpoints of the property that support interpretive stories, themes, and topics, building on the map from the Advisory Committee.
5. Identify signage style recommendations.

Design Guidelines

- Provide a range of interpretive elements, programming, and educational content that considers elementary to adult learners.
- Interpretation should have inclusive and accessible messaging and be installed at key features.
- Consider and identify educational opportunities for both self-guided exploration (i.e.: interpretive signage) and guided group use (i.e.: available school lesson plans or events).
- Identify features and activities that highlight traditional and current indigenous use, provide opportunities for those with disabilities (of all types), include learners of all ages, and help provide safe and welcoming opportunities for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals and communities.
- Identify and place inclusive and accessible signage at key features. Consider what these would look like (style) and general messaging and content.
- Consider and identify different types of artistic installations and where they might be located, including murals, artistic sculptures, signs, benches, interpretive elements, etc.
- Consider temporary and movable signage that will be less impacted by forest management activities and could describe the working forest theme (i.e., selective logging of forest stands, access closures).
- Seek and consider examples from other places in design considerations.

Charrette Outcomes

This section documents the creative outcomes of the design charrette. The concepts and ideas contained here are high-level design outputs from very experienced landscape architects who have worked on several similar projects. The combined efforts of the Stewardship Group members who participated in the workshop along with the landscape architects produced the high-caliber concepts that can be used to move the recommendations developed through the recreation planning process toward implementation with future grant funding sources. That said, the concepts developed at the workshop will still need to undergo environmental and public review and approval prior to implementation. The Stewardship Group and local communities will have the opportunity to weigh in prior to implementation of any of the concepts contained herein, and cultural resource and environmental permitting requirements will be met prior to any ground disturbance.

Trails and Access Design Concepts

Vision/Design themes:

"Trails that loop within each microclimate allow visitors to experience the reciprocal nature of a community forest."

"Rhythm of use is seasonally influenced, and the cadence of movement within welcomes all aspects."

Butcher Creek Trailhead Design

Objective: Develop parking, add toilet, add signage, educational access/parking, equestrian access/parking, sno park, ADA access

Option 1: least intensive, head-in parking

- Improve up to 5 head-in stalls by adding gravel and widening existing road. Possibly add 1 ADA stall.
- Add minimal turnaround before gate for buses and truck/trailer combos to turn around.
- Widen existing road on North side, east of existing Pine stand for bus and/or equestrian trailer parking. Allow for one bus or truck/trailer combo. Assume 60' in length.
- Add horse stile access "gate" adjacent to the existing vehicular gate. Design to allow for horses to walk over but deter motorcycles and ATVs.
- Add pedestrian and ADA gate adjacent to the existing vehicular gate. Possible "kissing gate" design.

Design Charrette

- Add kiosk with signage about Community Forest, information about no motorized vehicles, trail maps, fee box for sno park, etc.
- Add restroom (possibly portable toilet for interim).
- Add trails from parking to kiosk, bathroom and gates.

Option 2: More intensive, open gravel lot

- Add up to 10 parking stalls (some angle parking and some parallel parking in a loop. Add a removable barrier in front of the angle parking for easy snow removal)
- Circular parking area without a planted island.
- Widen existing road on North side, east of existing Pine stand for bus and/or equestrian trailer parking. Allow for one bus or truck/trailer combo. Assume 60" in length.
- Add horse stile access "gate" adjacent to the existing vehicular gate. Design to allow for horses to walk over but deter motorcycles and ATVS.
- Add pedestrian and ADA gate adjacent to the existing vehicular gate. Possible "kissing gate" design.
- Add kiosk with signage about Community Forest, information about no motorized vehicles, trail maps, fee box for sno park, etc.
- Add shelter near kiosk – 12'x12' for approximate size. Open air shelter, shed roof with benches. At ground level, not raised
- Add restroom (possibly 'portable toilet' for interim).
- Add trails from parking to kiosk, bathroom and gates.

Option 3: Most intensive, loop parking

- Add up to 10 parallel parking stalls
- Circular loop parking around existing trees and vegetation. Allow for more trees to grow in this middle space.
- Add shelter and kiosk area with bench for gathering before and after forest use.
- Add horse stile access "gate" adjacent to the existing vehicular gate. Design to allow for horses to walk over but deter motorcycles and ATVS.
- Add pedestrian and ADA gate adjacent to the existing vehicular gate. Possible "kissing gate" design.
- Add kiosk with signage about Community Forest, information about no motorized vehicles, trail maps, fee box for sno park, etc.
- Add shelter near kiosk – 12'x12' for approximate size. Open air shelter, shed roof with benches. At ground level, not raised
- Add restroom (possibly 'portable toilet' for interim).
- Add trails from parking to kiosk, bathroom and gates.
- Add split rail or simple wood fence between vehicle gate and pedestrian gate, extend to property boundary where forest is thicker

Nason Creek Trailhead Design

- Add parking 'spurs' off existing circular parking area where clearing and grading allow.

Design Charrette

- Improve picnic area and signage kiosk. Add second kiosk or remove existing one and install a much larger one to allow for existing information and additional community forest information.
- Add interpretive signage about trails, Community Forest, and Cultural relevance.
- Replace existing bathroom with new one.
- Add signage to show where trailer parking/offloading is located and show no parking in front of so as not to block it

Overall Trail Site Map Includes the following:

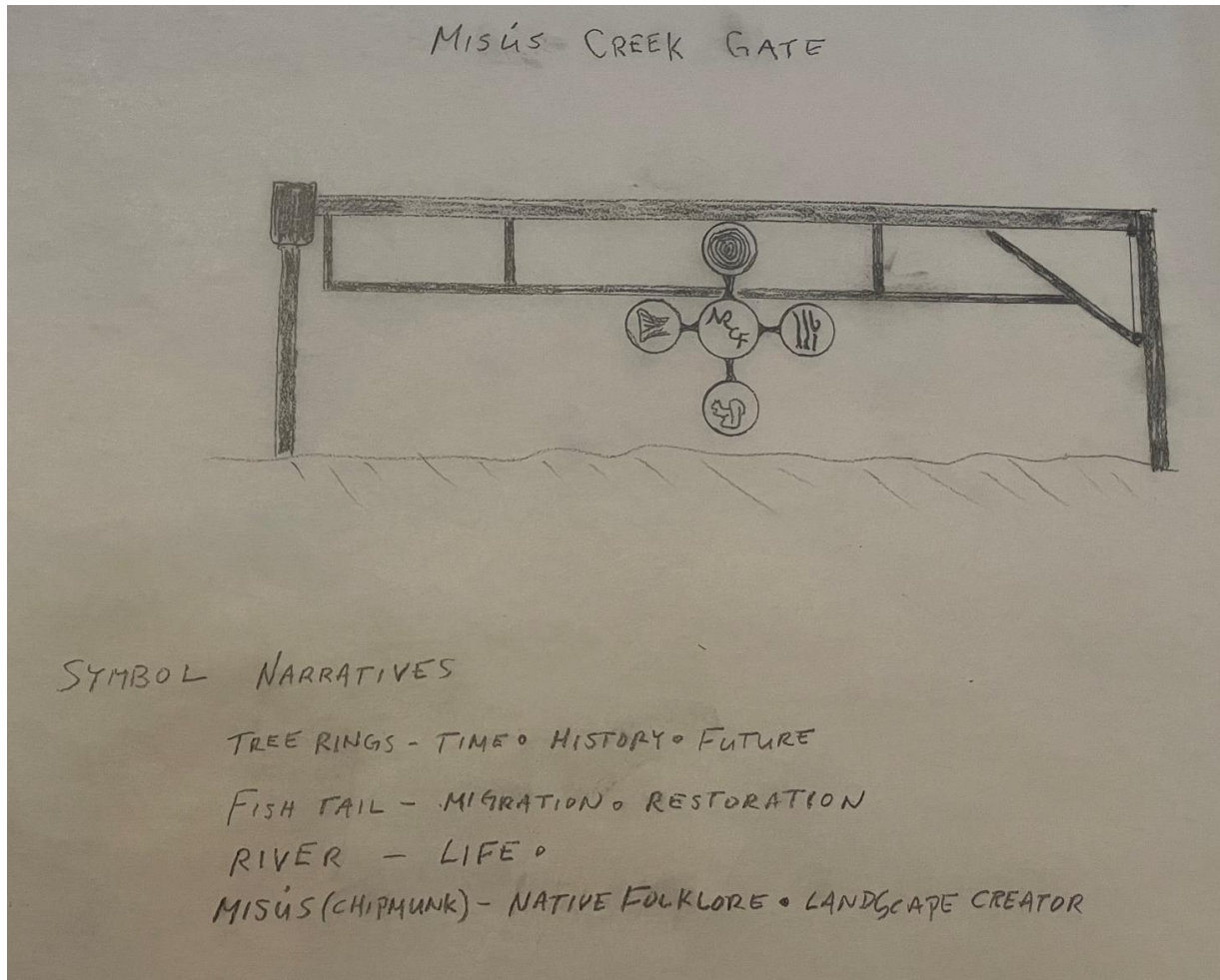
- Main entry points
- Trailheads/Sno Park
- Possible future entry points
- Adjacent roads
- Existing trails, possible future trails
- Warming hut locations
- Viewpoints

Trail/Parking Concepts

Butcher Creek Option 1



Butcher Creek Gate Design and Naming Idea



Interpretation and Education Design Concepts

PRIORITIES

Flora and Fauna

- Interconnections of birds/other wildlife
- Tracking wildlife for education and learning
- Diversity of plants, importance of disturbances, maintaining diversity, wildfire management, prescribed burns

History/Legend

- Chipmunk and the importance of wetlands
- Stories from Indigenous people with place names – gathering berries, fishing, hunting
- “Cascadia” field guide with poems, stories
- Place names – Charlie Nason, cultural/burning

Restoration

- Impacts from roads/railroad, logging, etc. and contrast with ongoing restoration work to restore these systems

Balance

- Use and protection, recognizing certain areas to stay out of → indigenous names
- Locations for interp themes
 - Nason Ridge Trail: indigenous story, uses, plant names
 - Butcher Creek Access: forest restoration, river restoration, balance theme, diversity, fire on the landscape, moveable interp element for forest management
 - Winter recreation: better for animal tracking and seeing river – Butcher Creek could be great educational snowshoe access

Thought Provoking Question

- How do humans fit into this landscape? Are we part of it?
- Reciprocity: the land gives, we give back to the land. Finding the balance

Forest Management

- Community driven
- Show contrast between past logging practices and planned future forest management
- Resilient forests (insect, climate, fire)
- Complex ecology of forests (Book: Hidden Life of Trees)
- Wildfire management: ridgetop interp, fire breaks, fire is natural part of our landscape, Rx fire is intention, low intensity

Long-term Vision

- With suspension bridge comes more opportunity for interpretation, especially along perimeter road on Kahler side
- Connect with trail team: vernal pool/wet area with protected access, trail to it but barricade/fence so people don't enter

Design Charrette

Interp and Education Concepts





Design Charrette Group at the Lake Wenatchee Rec Club, October 21st 2023



4

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Monitoring and Indicators 73

Thresholds 74

Adaptive Management Actions 75

Short-term Management Activities Monitoring and Adaptive Management 77

Long-term Management Activities Monitoring and Adaptive Management 77

How do we know if the Desired Conditions identified early on in the planning process are being met? How do we understand the impacts of recreation and access on the resources of the Community Forest and on the surrounding neighbors? A monitoring and adaptive management plan is an important component of management, and having a strategy in place can help mitigate issues as they surface (or before they become issues). This section outlines a suggested strategy for monitoring and adaptive management, but continued community involvement will be needed to verify effectiveness and update the strategy as needed.

Monitoring and Indicators

This plan emphasizes a phased approach to implementation, with some elements dependent on adequate access and infrastructure that can support anticipated use and impact levels. This approach is a way to anticipate future uses and provide guidance for managing recreational pressure that may increase over time in this area. The monitoring component of this plan provides a way to ensure the values of the community that were identified during this planning process and the overarching objectives of the Community Forest Management Plan are still being met. Utilizing this monitoring component as recreation and access recommendations decisions are implemented will help determine adaptive management needs and provide data that can be used in future plan updates.

A monitoring plan is designed to provide land managers with a framework to determine whether the goals and objectives of the plan are being met. A monitoring plan typically utilizes indicators and thresholds to determine the need for adaptive management. Indicators are monitored, and adjustments are made as appropriate. As monitoring of conditions continues, managers may decide to modify or add indicators if better ways are found to measure important changes in conditions. Monitoring indicators helps determine the most effective way to manage visitor use to attain desired visitor experiences and resource conditions. The Interagency Visitor Use Management Council has produced the *Monitoring Guidebook: Evaluating Effectiveness of Visitor Use Management (2019)*, a resource that can be used by the Stewardship Group to stay on track with the monitoring process. The following monitoring framework is specific to Nason Ridge Community Forest and provides options for using suggested indicators to track the success of the plan in addressing the original issues and opportunities.

Indicators translate desired conditions into measurable attributes (i.e. number of user-created trails) that can be tracked over time to evaluate changes in resource or experiential conditions. The following indicators and monitoring strategies were developed in response to specific

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

concerns raised by Stewardship Group members and adjacent landowners during the planning process. These indicators and monitoring strategies provide suggestions for how a monitoring strategy can help determine the success of the plan and identify adaptive management needs and future plan revisions/additions. To document monitoring data, a monitoring log will be created and maintained by the landowner. This monitoring and adaptive management approach relies heavily upon participation by the Stewardship Group to help provide the indicator observations needed for the monitoring component. Chelan County staff will continue to work with the Stewardship Group to maintain the monitoring log and assess adaptive management needs.

Indicators	Monitoring Strategy
1. Number of cars accessing the Community Forest via FS 6910-112	Traffic counter on FS 6910-112
2. Number of cars parked at 6910-112 access point	Visual monitoring reports (volunteers, Chelan County, neighbors, etc)
3. Number of cars parked at Nason Ridge Trailhead	Visual monitoring reports (volunteers, Chelan County, USFS, neighbors, etc)
4. Presence of trash and other undesirable trailhead impacts	Visual evidence/reports of trash and other undesirable impacts
5. Unauthorized trails in sensitive areas	Visual evidence of new unauthorized trails
6. Trail use conflicts	User reports of undesirable trail use conflicts
7. Unauthorized motorized use	Visual evidence/neighbor reports of motorized use

Thresholds

Thresholds represent the minimum acceptable condition for each indicator and should be established by considering descriptions of the desired conditions, data on existing conditions, staff and committee management experience, and understanding of community

impacts/preferences. Although defined as “minimally acceptable,” thresholds still represent acceptable conditions. Also, establishing thresholds does not imply that no action would be taken prior to reaching the threshold. Thresholds identify when conditions approach unacceptable levels, so threshold serve as warning lights letting managers, user groups, and the public know that corrective action will keep conditions acceptable, ultimately allowing goals to be met and tracked over time.

Establishing thresholds that trigger adaptive management will help protect both resources and surrounding communities from potentially negative impacts of public access and recreation on the Community Forest. However, determining these thresholds will be an iterative process of data collection, observation, and working with neighbors and community members. The following section contains an example list of thresholds from a land-manger perspective, but continued community involvement will be needed to ground-truth these thresholds in terms of community and/or resource impact. They mirror the indicators and monitoring table, but provide actionable adaptive management suggestions for indicators that are approaching thresholds. A short-term priority for the Stewardship Group is to work with early monitoring data to develop numerical thresholds that can be used to evaluate the need for adaptive management.

Adaptive Management Actions

Pre-determined adaptive management strategies are important for being able to address potential threshold exceedances. The following table lists adaptive management actions from a land-manger’s perspective, but again, community and neighboring landowner input will be needed as adaptive management actions are considered. Adaptive management strategies can be implemented before thresholds are met, with the intent of preventing the meeting of a threshold.

Thresholds	Adaptive Management Strategies
1. Traffic counter numbers for vehicles entering the Community Forest via FS 6910-112 increasing in a manner that is unsustainable for the road surface and the Butcher Creek neighborhood	Limit signage from Highway 2 to avoid attracting traffic that may just be passing by Limit development of trail systems to avoid attracting significant usage increases from the recreational community Use traffic counter numbers to gage changes

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

	<p>in use over time and work with Butcher Creek neighborhood to assess changes in use and associated impacts; develop threshold numbers to guide adaptive management</p> <p>Close access point if thresholds are exceeded and no other alternative adaptive management can be implemented to address the issue</p> <p>Actively assess the suspension bridge alternative from Cole's Corner as a long-term access option</p>
<p>2. Parking capacity at FS 6910-112 access point exceeded more than once over the course of the high-use season</p>	<p>Many of the same adaptive management strategies can be used as for unsustainable traffic numbers</p> <p>If parking is full but traffic number thresholds are not met, consider expanding parking capacity</p> <p>If traffic number thresholds are also met, add signage stating that if parking is full, visitors need to go elsewhere</p>
<p>3. Nason Ridge Trailhead use increases to the point that parking capacity is exceeded frequently over the high use season</p>	<p>Work with USFS to reconfigure parking area utilizing the existing footprint to increase parking capacity or expand trailhead footprint through NEPA process</p> <p>Develop signage about other parking/access options</p>
<p>4. Trash and other undesirable trailhead impacts are noticed on a regular basis</p>	<p>"Pack it out" signage</p> <p>Contract services for garbage collection/toilet facilities</p>
<p>5. Presence of any new user-built trails in ecologically sensitive areas is observed</p>	<p>"Sensitive area" signage</p> <p>Rehabilitation projects</p>
<p>6. Trail use conflicts</p>	<p>Establish designated uses for specific trails</p>

7. Unauthorized motorized access is frequently observed	Improve barriers Increase signage Trail cameras
---	---

Other adaptive management strategies for addressing indicators and thresholds include:

- Evaluate possibilities of increased law enforcement presence, through grant funding or agency designation
- Educating the public via social media and partnering with user groups
- Partner with user groups on clean-ups and stewardship activities.
- Establish trail watch/stewards volunteers program.

Short-term Management Activities for Monitoring/Adaptive Management

- Install vehicle counters on FS 6910-112
- Work with Butcher Creek neighbors and the Stewardship Group to identify thresholds for use levels and gate location
- Establish shared maintenance plan for FS 6910
- Improve signage at access points
- Work with Stewardship Group to develop numerical thresholds for indicators using early data such as vehicle counters and trailhead impacts

Long-term Management Activities for Monitoring/Adaptive Management

- Use phased approach for trail development to avoid over-use impacts at current access

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- points. Establish appropriate access points for level of use anticipated with trail development
- Assess need for facilities and contracted services for garbage and toilets
- Continue to update monitoring and adaptive management strategy with indicators and thresholds as needed

Appendix A

Non-consensus Issues

Purpose 81

Survey 83

Purpose

As defined in the 2019 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. This goal is achieved through working with the Stewardship Group as well as through open communication with the community at large to look comprehensively at opportunities and issues around recreation and access, and how these balance with other Community Forest objectives.

The Planning Framework (see Chapter 1) states that any recommendations brought forth in the Recreation and Access Supplement will have full Stewardship Group consensus. However, not all issues encountered during the planning process were able to get full consensus. The land manager is ultimately responsible for making management decisions around these issues even when the Stewardship Group cannot reach consensus or provide a recommendation. In this case, the process used to address issues and generate community input will be documented in the Recreation and Access Supplement for transparency in decision-making. The following Recreation and Management Objectives were included in the 2019 Management Plan and highlight the importance of including neighboring landowners when making land management decisions that may impact neighbors of the Community Forest.

- 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.
- 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.

Two primary issues were encountered during the Recreation and Access planning process that did not reach full consensus by the Stewardship Group. One issue is the use of e-bikes on the property, and the other revolves around the access point location on FS 6910-112/Butcher Creek Road. A survey was developed and sent to the entire Stewardship Committee email list to get broad input on the issues. The issues and survey results are described in this Appendix.

The first survey question asked Stewardship Group members for input on allowing e-bikes on the property. This issue was discussed during the development of the Desired Conditions document at the February 2023 meeting. Different agency approaches to allowing e-bikes were discussed,

and the group also received input from trails experts that enforcing e-bike rules based on e-bike classifications is difficult and will continue to get more difficult as e-bikes continue to evolve. The group was unable to come to consensus on a recommendation at that meeting. Chelan County received direct input on this topic from Stewardship Group members, both in favor of allowing e-bikes and against allowing e-bikes. Since the group could not reach consensus on this topic, a recommendation was not included in the plan. However, a final decision must be made by the land manager and the survey was intended to get a broad perspective from the local community on the desire to be able to access the Community Forest via e-bike.

The second survey question revolves around a very specific access issue on the west side of the Community Forest, at the FS 6910-112 access point off of Butcher Creek road. This access point was identified during the planning process as a priority to improve parking and access. This road is the only road entrance to the Community Forest on the west side. The original gate was located on a steep, tight location on the access road without any parking about .5 miles in from the property boundary. This area is mostly used for hunting, birding, and occasional walking/biking access. The access improvements identified by the group included moving the gate to a flatter location where a limited parking area with signage could be developed to better support and manage Community Forest access. Several members of the Stewardship Group including State Parks, local hunters, birders, and local residents helped locate a new gate placement. A new gate was placed in the fall of 2023. However, not all community members were aware or supportive of the new gate location. In keeping with the 2019 Management Plan which states that local landowners must be involved in decision-making around access points, Chelan County conducted detailed community outreach around the gate location and received additional input about potential impacts to Butcher Creek neighbors.

The second survey question was developed to get input on a possible gate placement solution that takes into account all concern and input. This is a tricky topic, as the gate placement affects traditional access to a USFS system road that accesses Nason Creek, but the traditional access is via a non-system road on the Community Forest. Butcher Creek neighbors also have concerns about increased use and traffic on FS 6910-112. Other Community Forest supporters are concerned about the ecological impacts of having vehicle traffic on the .5 mile access road to a potential parking area further from the Butcher Creek neighborhood and to Nason Creek. The 2019 Management Plan speaks to balancing different Community Forest management objectives while also respecting private landowners adjacent to the Community Forest. The land manager intends to meet these objectives to the best extent possible.

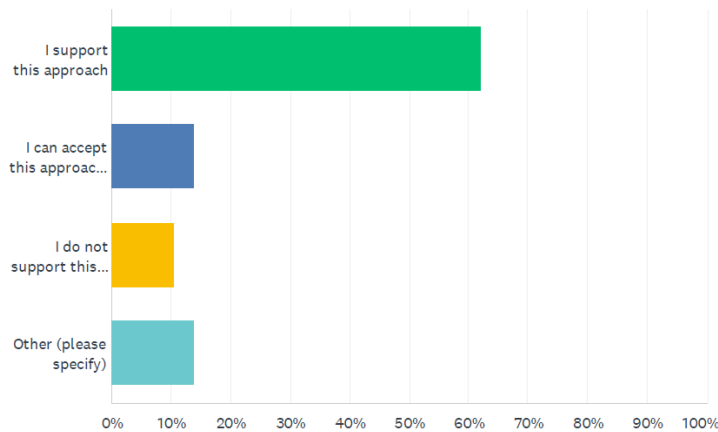
Survey

Nason Ridge Community Forest Use Survey: 29 responses from Feb. 1- Feb. 11, 2024

E-bikes: 90% consensus for allowing e-bikes on roads and trails within the community forest (specific trails may be developed as foot-traffic only in the future). Support: 19; Can live with: 7; Do not support: 3

Q1 E-bikes can provide a way for people of all ages to recreate outdoors. Land management agencies have taken different stances on allowing E-bikes on public lands. For example, WA State Parks allows E-bikes on trails where regular bikes are allowed, while USFS only allows E-bikes on trails and roads that have been designated motorized. In order to provide access and enjoyment for the largest sector of the local community possible, Chelan County proposes to allow pedal-assist E-bikes on the road system on Nason Ridge Community Forest. E-bikes are already allowed on the Nason Ridge Trail, as it is a USFS designated motorized trail. As trails are developed on the Community Forest, they can individually be designated for specific uses and restrictions, with input from the Stewardship Group. Do you support this approach?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I support this approach	62.07%	18
I can accept this approach, even though it may not be exactly what I want	13.79%	4
I do not support this approach	10.34%	3
Other (please specify)	13.79%	4
TOTAL		29

Non-consensus Issues

“Other” responses regarding e-bike use:

1. This will be hard to regulate. I propose allowing E-bikes on all multi-purpose trails. Which is all trails. (I can accept this approach, even though it may not be exactly what I want)
2. Seasonal closure of Ebikes from Oct 10 to June 10 to keep the Hunting season closed to Ebikes and disturbance during Fawning season. (I can accept this approach, even though it may not be exactly what I want)
3. E-bikes, whether pedal-assist or not, are motorbikes and should be regulated as such. I can support input from the Stewardship group. (I can accept this approach, even if it may not be exactly what I want)
4. I strongly support this issue. The primary reason motor bikes were prohibited was fire risk from combustible engines. With an increasing bird watching focus e-bikes do not create a noise issue. (I support this approach)

The range of options considered for e-bikes were: a) do not allow e-bikes on the property, b) allow pedal assist e-bikes on all roads/trails, c) allow pedal-assist e-bikes on certain roads/trails. The Stewardship Group discussed the difficulties with managing complex rules around e-bikes, and therefor any decision would have be clear and straightforward. While the use of e-bikes was generally supported in the survey results, there are concerns around e-bike access that will continue to be evaluated and addressed. Throttle-powered electric motorcycles do not fit in the category of pedal-assist e-bikes and will continue to be allowed only on the Nason Ridge Trail.

Butcher Creek/FS 6910-112 Access and Parking: 62% consensus for the proposed solution of 2 gates, with one seasonally closed to protect resources and reduce fire risk. 28% do not support the proposed solution, and the remaining 10% don't quite fit into a category.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I support this approach	41.38%	12
I can accept this approach, even if it isn't exactly what I want	17.24%	5
I do not support this approach	20.69%	6
Other (please specify)	20.69%	6
TOTAL		29

“Other” comments:

1. Keep the new gate where it is. (Do not support)
2. Keep gate where it is. No need for second gate. (Do not support)
3. I believe this offers a great solution for all parties concerned (Support)
4. I support leaving the new yellow gate where it is for protection of resources, road damage and fire hazards. If you keep it open, then you need to put a gate on the spur

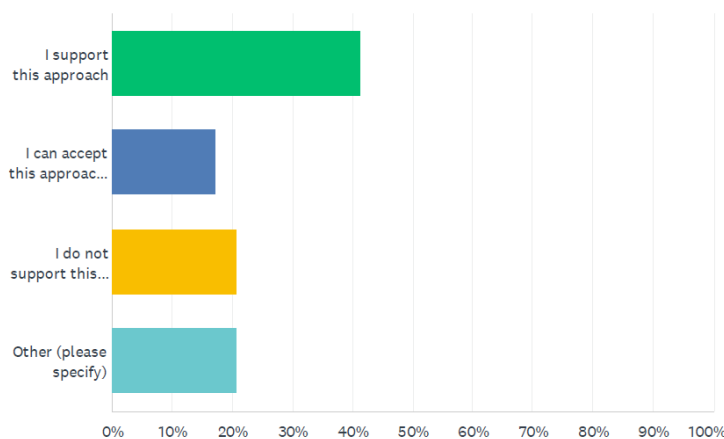
Non-consensus Issues

road that goes down to the river just past the yellow gate on the right. I don't know why we never talked about putting a gate in on the landing before?

5. I can support this approach but I wonder, given the proposed establishment and use of a parking area just beyond the old gate location, if this new gate isn't just a solution hunting for a problem. Exactly what damage has occurred in the past that now requires a new gate location? The primary issue with the new gate location is that during the winter months it would further impede access to the river which is often used by people for winter recreation.
6. I support 2 gates, but I suggest moving the west gate slightly east to allow year-round motorized access to the Forest Service section to the south of Rd 112

Q2 The location of the gate/parking for Community Forest access on FS 6910-112 (off of Butcher Creek Road) is important for the residents of the Butcher Creek neighborhood and other users of the Community Forest. Chelan County proposes to keep the current location of the new gate for winter and spring access, and during times of high fire danger. This would provide a possible location for a sno-park, would protect from resource damage during spring melt-out, and would reduce risk of wildfire starts from vehicular traffic during high fire danger. A second gate would be placed just past the location of the old gate, allowing parking on the large landing approximately 1/2 mile in from the Community Forest boundary. This would provide parking further from the residences of Butcher Creek neighborhood when use is likely to be highest, and would allow Butcher Creek neighbors to use the lower portion of the road as they traditionally have. The landing provides a flat, open area for parking and could be a good access point for an accessible trail. While the recreation type on the Community Forest is non-motorized, providing access and parking via the 6910-112 road is an acceptable use. Chelan County plans to monitor use of the road with traffic counters and continue to work with the residents along 6910 on road maintenance options. Do you support this approach?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



Non-consensus Issues

The range of options for the FS 6910-112 access point and parking considered by the Stewardship Group included:

- a) No change to the old gate location/parking
- b) Move the gate to the western property boundary
- c) Place the gate near the tree island, utilizing an existing level, clear space for parking and natural barriers to prevent circumventing the gate (this was field-checked and supported by members of the Stewardship Group and a new gate was placed here in Fall 2023, cutting off access to the spur road that accesses FS 6920-112)
- d) Place a new gate at a place further east closer to the old gate with parking availability

Option a. was not supported because there is no parking availability at the old gate location, and this option would not provide the access and management goals identified in the planning process. Option b. was not supported because it was too close to private properties and would be potentially impactful to local residents. Option c. was initially selected, but a critical step of notifying all adjacent landowner was omitted, and when concerns were expressed from local neighbors, Chelan County undertook an outreach effort gather input and better understand the issue. As stated in the 2019 Plan, sensitivity to neighboring landowners is paramount, so this input was an important step in the process. Further outreach and research led to a fifth option, which includes two gates that can meet a range of management goals by protecting resources and residents during critical times, utilizing existing level areas for parking, providing traditional access to FS 6920-112 as long as it remains an open system road, and providing an extended buffer for landowners from public recreational use. This option was presented through the survey and represents a potential compromise for a non-consensus issue. Chelan County will continue to work with the Stewardship Group on this issue, and implementation of a selected option will be closely monitored and adapted as needed according to the Monitoring Plan (Chapter 4).

Surveys may be used from time to time to gain a better understanding of the range of perspectives on the non-consensus issues identified during the planning process. The results are not meant to provide a hard and fast decision tool, but rather look at how proposals might be evaluated and refined to get closer to group consensus. The Stewardship Group and land manager will continue to work toward resolution of non-consensus issues by evaluating the concerns raised and comparing decision outcomes with the original goals and objectives of the Community Forest. It is important that all concerns are heard and that decision-making is done cooperatively. Any final decision that is made in non-consensus situations will document how concerns have been addressed and how the plan going forward incorporates monitoring and adaptive management based on those concerns.

Appendix B

Wildlife Recommendations

Nason Ridge Community Forest

Wildlife and Natural Areas for Recreation Planning

December 2023

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION SCIENCE INSTITUTE

William L. Gaines and James S. Begley, Washington Conservation Science Institute, in partnership with Erin McKay, Chelan County Natural Resources Department. We are very grateful to all the members of the recreation planning team who provided their time to this process. Their knowledge and input greatly enhanced the quality of this planning effort.

Nason Ridge Community Forest Recreation Planning Wildlife and Natural Areas Considerations

Overview

This memo documents the process used to provide information on wildlife habitats and unique ecological natural areas within the Nason Ridge Community Forest. This information was integrated into the recreation planning process. In this memo, we provide a brief overview of (1) recreation and wildlife interactions and mitigations, (2) the land classifications used, (3) describe the recreation and natural areas data layers developed, and (4) provide recommendations on how to maintain or enhance some of the ecological values associated with the habitats and natural areas.

Recreation and Wildlife Interactions and Mitigations

The primary forms of recreation that occur in the Nason Ridge Community Forest are non-motorized and include hiking, mountain biking, and cross country skiing. Roads are used to access private lands and to maintain roads and trails. These kinds of recreation activities can impact wildlife and their effects vary by wildlife species. For example, some species are more sensitive to motorized use and can be displaced or avoid areas near roads (Gaines et al. 2003). Other species are more sensitive to non-motorized use and can be displaced or avoid areas near trails (Gaines et al. 2003). In addition, impacts can vary by the time of year, as some wildlife species are more sensitive to disturbance during the spring when they are raising their young (Gaines et al. 2003).

The potential impacts of recreational activities on wildlife or on sensitive natural areas can be mitigated by (1) establishing secure areas (referred to as security habitat) where animals can escape disturbances from roads or trails, (2) timing activities to occur outside of critical periods, (3) providing educational opportunities about human and wildlife interactions, and (4) designing recreational activities with knowledge about sensitive areas upfront in the planning process.

Land Classifications

Establishing land classifications are a means of zoning areas to emphasize various resource values and/or priorities. Land classifications were used in the Nason Ridge Community Forest recreation planning process to identify areas that would emphasize non-motorized recreation and areas that would emphasize sensitive wildlife habitats or natural areas (e.g., Areas of Interest, see map Figure 1). The process of classifying the lands began with initial maps of recreational facilities (roads, trails, ski trails, access points, bird stations, etc.) along with maps of sensitive habitats. Maps of sensitive habitats were derived for the following: (1) map of existing security habitat (areas away from open roads and trails), (2) mule deer migration routes and stopovers (WDFW 2020), (3) riparian and wetland habitats, (4) high erosion potential areas based on topographical settings, (5) and old forest habitats based on previous forest vegetation mapping (WDNR 2020).

These maps were provided to the recreation planning team and revised based on local knowledge and conditions.

Recreation and Natural Areas Designations

Based on resource data and input from the recreation planning team, a map depicting areas to be managed for non-motorized recreation and areas managed to protect and enhance natural area features (Areas of Interest, Figure 1) was completed. This map is depicted in Figure 1 and was used to develop management recommendations to the natural areas and habitats. The data sources and methods used to identify wildlife habitats and other natural areas are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Information sources and methods used to develop overlays of wildlife habitats and sensitive natural areas.

Wildlife Habitat/Natural Area	Data Source or Methods Used
Security Habitat	Map of existing road and trails buffered by a 500 m zone of influence (based on Gaines et al. 2003).
Mule Deer Stopover and Migration Routes	Based on WDFW (2020) and enhanced with local knowledge from members of the recreation planning team.
Old Forest Habitats	Based on forest vegetation mapping completed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and field verified.
Riparian and Wetlands	National Wetlands Inventory, NHD Stream Layer, local knowledge from the recreation planning team.
High Erosion Potential Areas	Based on a NetMap tool that uses high resolution imagery and a digital elevation model to identify steep slopes and small catchments prone to erosion.

Management Recommendations

Stopover/Habitat Security Areas

- Minimize human access into these areas via roads or trails, especially in the spring and fall when they are most likely to be used by resident or migrating mule deer.
- These areas also provide secure habitats for other wildlife species that are sensitive to the effects of linear recreation routes.
- In some places, forest regeneration is so dense it is difficult for wildlife to move through. Where access allows, some forest thinning while retaining adequate cover patches may enhance conditions.

Old Forest Habitats

- Old Forest Habitats are very rare and unique in this landscape given the past forest management and fire histories. Limiting trail development within the remaining old forest habitat would retain the effectiveness of these habitats to support a full array of wildlife species, including bird species associated with old growth forests.
- Provide interpretation of the importance and uniqueness of old forest habitats.

Riparian and Wetland Habitat and High Erosion Potential Areas

- Continue to reduce the impacts of legacy roads and old roadbeds on riparian habitats and wetlands.
- When revising, rerouting, or developing new trails, use maps of sensitive riparian and high erosion potential areas to carefully design trails to minimize the potential for sediment delivery to streams and to reduce the potential for chronic maintenance.
- Some locations were identified where existing road/ski trails are causing chronic sediment and maintenance issues. These areas should be evaluated and addressed.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the thoughtful input and information provided by the recreation planning team and the leadership of Erin McKay through this process. This effort resulted in a sustainable plan for recreation that also addressed the issues and concerns for sensitive wildlife habitats and natural areas. It is a good example of how resource information and recreation planning can be fully integrated.

Bill Gaines, Wildlife Ecologist
James Begley, Spatial Analyst
Washington Conservation Science Institute

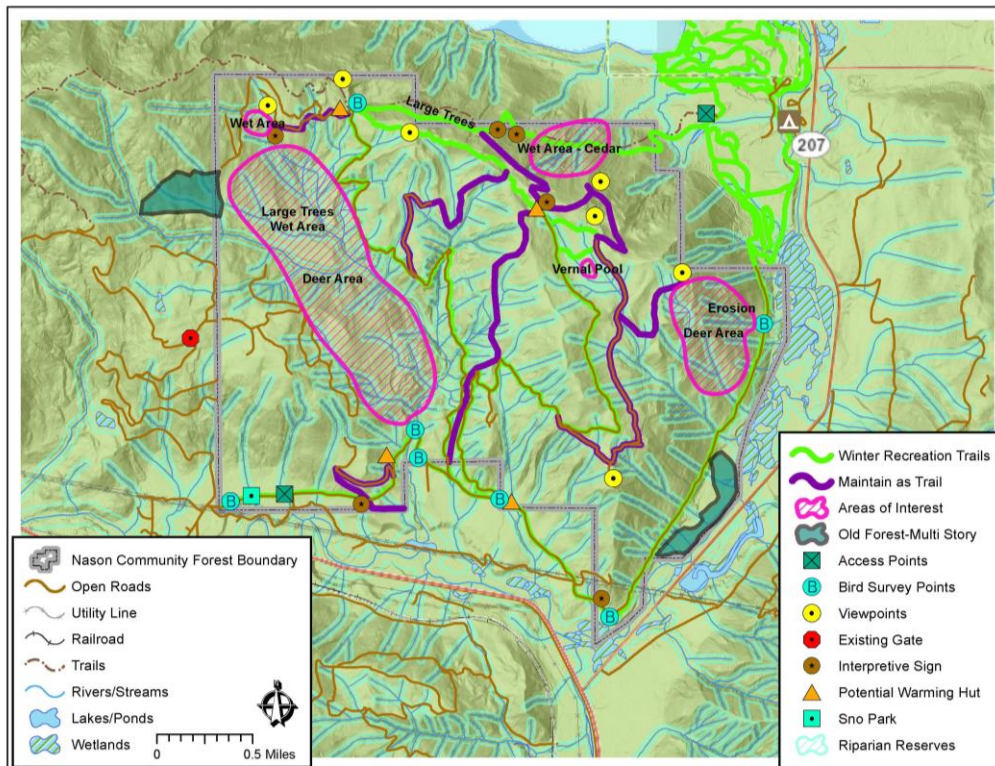


Figure 1. Map showing the recreation activities, infrastructure, and areas of interest (wildlife habitats, old forest and other sensitive areas) in the Nason Ridge Community Forest.

References

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