

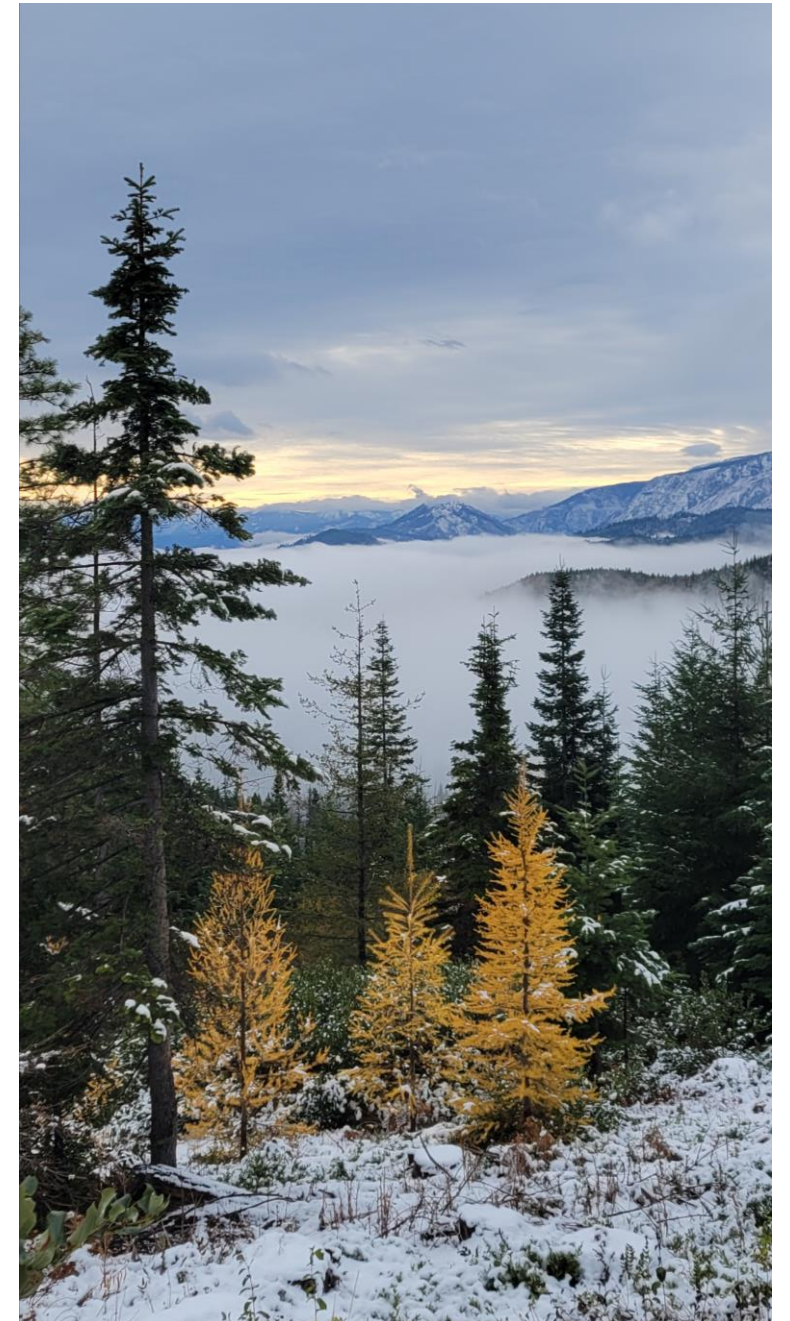
# Nason Ridge Community Forest Quarterly Updates

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

- Introductions and Purpose of Meeting
- 2023 Recap
- 2024 Workplan
- Next Quarterly Meeting Topics
- Questions/Comments?

# 2023: Community Forest Projects

- Recreation and Access Planning Effort
- Coulter Block Assessment
- Restoration/Maintenance Projects
- Winter Warming Hut
- Cross-boundary Forest Health Projects
- Access and Signage
- NW Community Forest Coalition Nason Ridge Field Visit and Executive Committee participation
- Audubon Birding Outings



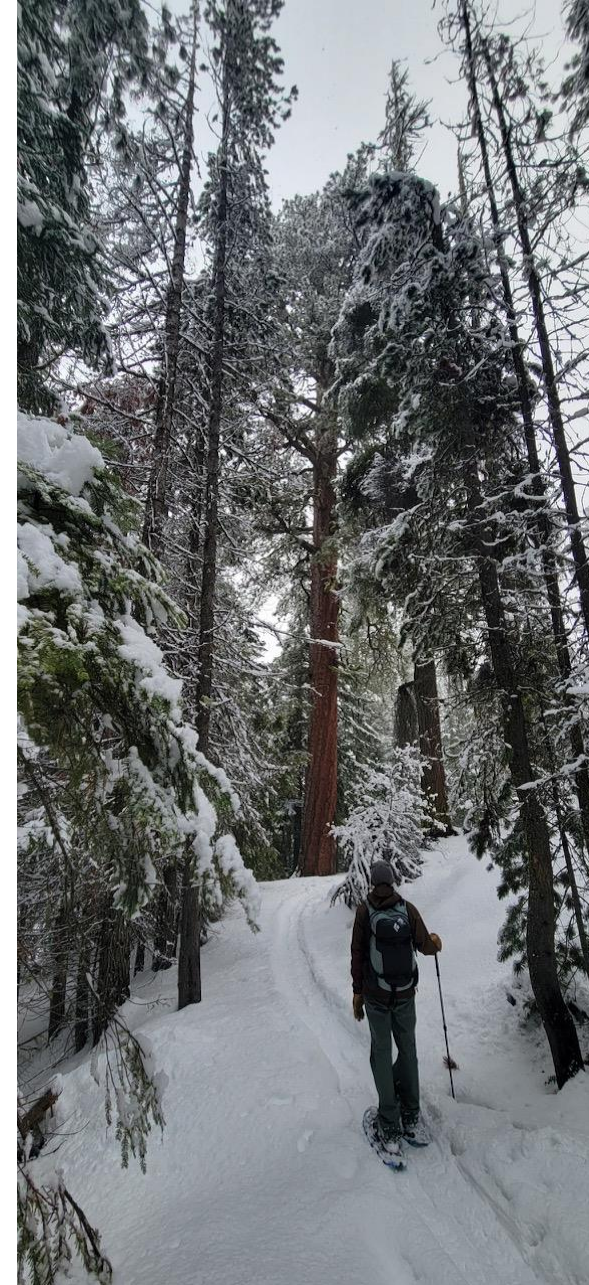
# Recreation and Access Planning

## Desired Future Opportunities

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

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

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



# Recreation and Access Meeting Topics

- Vision and Desired Conditions
- Winter Grooming and Warming Huts
- Access and Parking
- Hunting
- Trails and Interpretation
- Coulter Block Assessment
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management



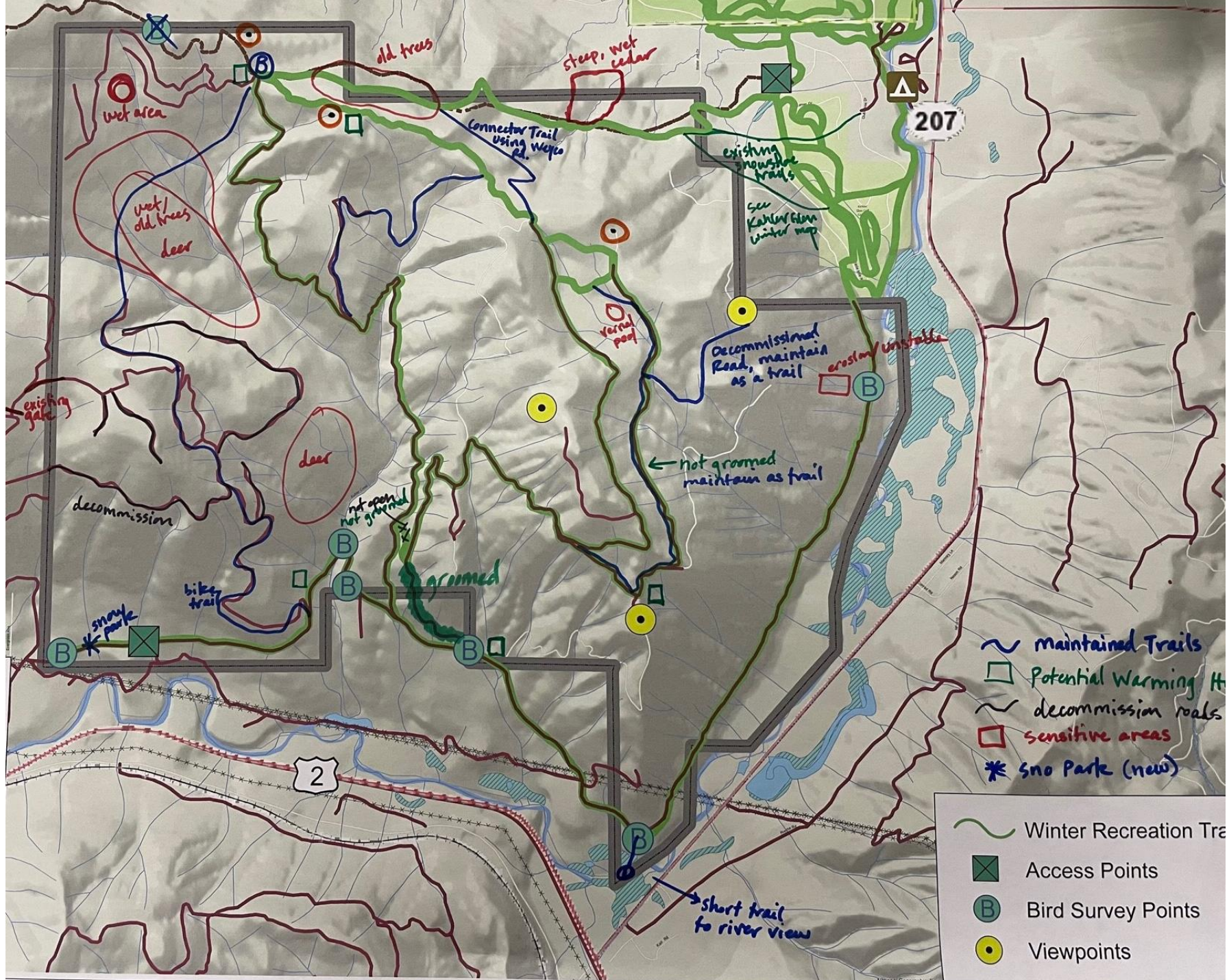
# Vision and Goals for Access and Recreation

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

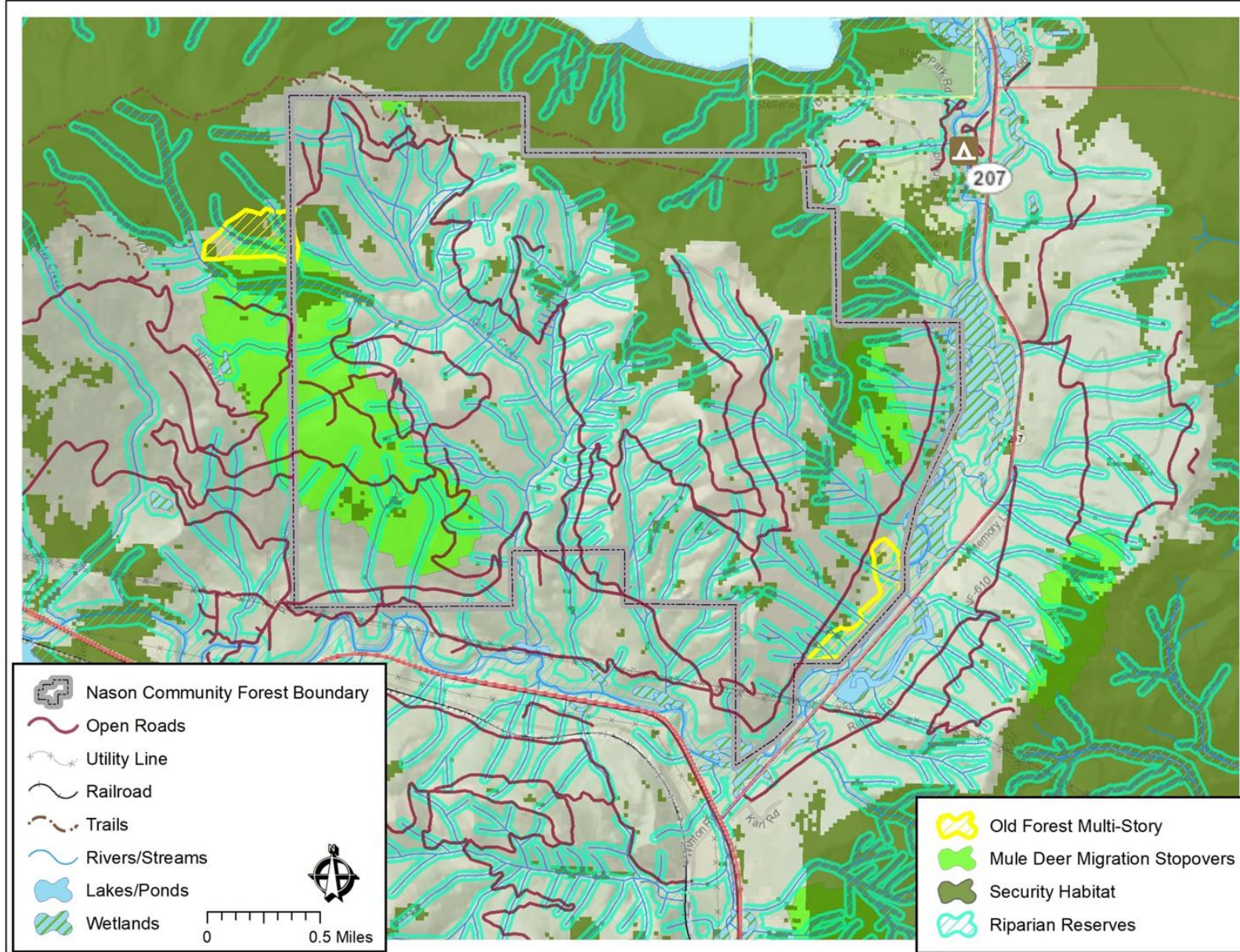
Augment existing Community Forest and cross-boundary recreation opportunities with intentional recreation improvements that showcase healthy forest ecosystems and allow for a variety of experiences. The Community Forest provides accessible nature-based enjoyment and educational opportunity aimed at benefiting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

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

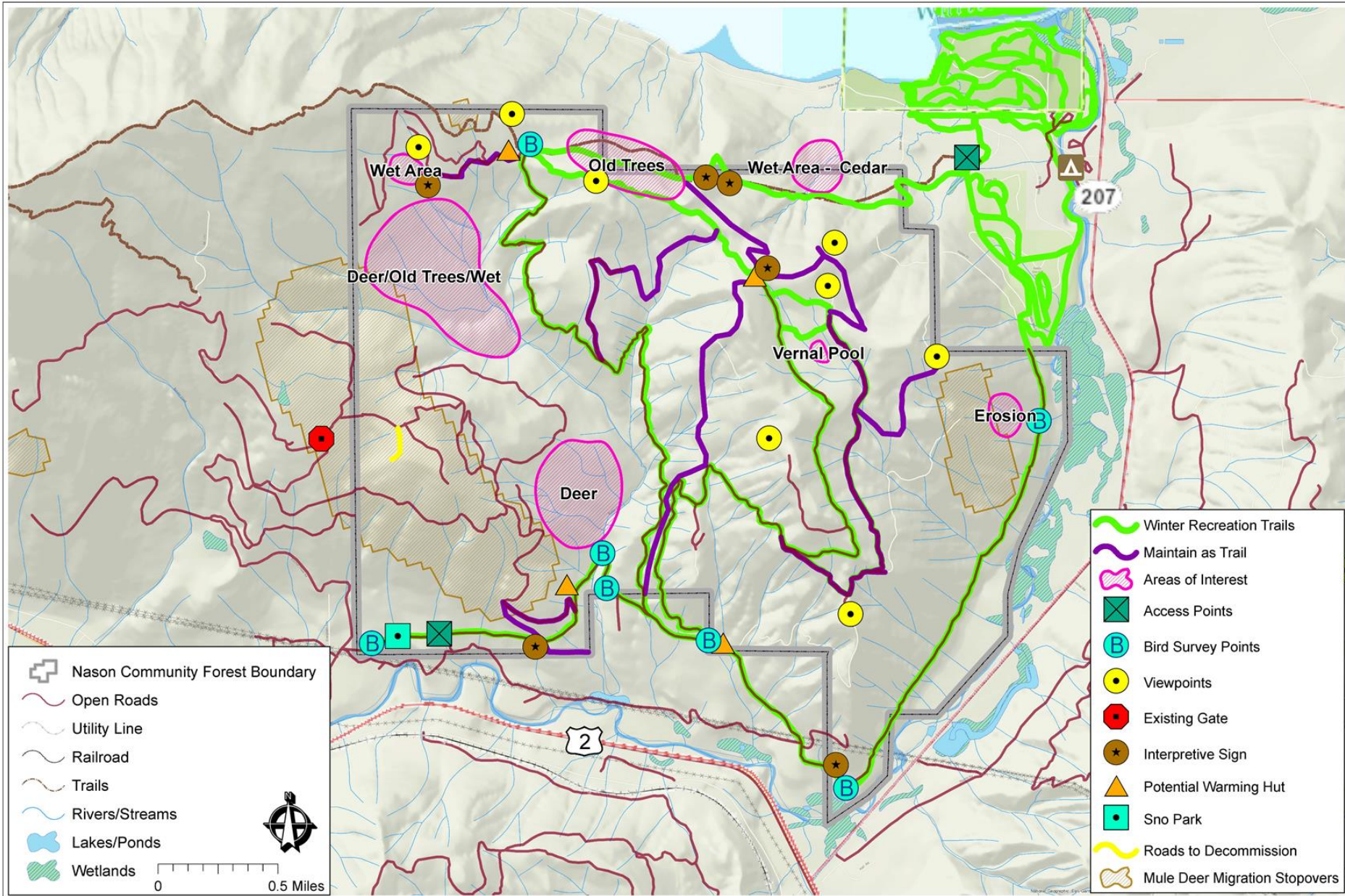
The management goal for recreation is to work with community members, recreational interests, and neighboring landowners to address the recreation objectives in a manner that integrates with forest management and aquatic/ecosystem health.



# WCSI Wildlife Impacts Assessment



# Trails and Interpretation Concepts





# Draft Recreation and Access Supplement

- Draft is nearly complete, still working on Monitoring and Adaptive Management Section
- Goal is to finish in February
- Draft will be sent out to Stewardship Group for review/comments
- Meeting notes here:  
<https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/nason-ridge-community-forest>

Chelan County  
January 23, 2024

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## **Nason Ridge Community Forest**

### **Recreation and Access Supplement to the Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan**

Prepared by

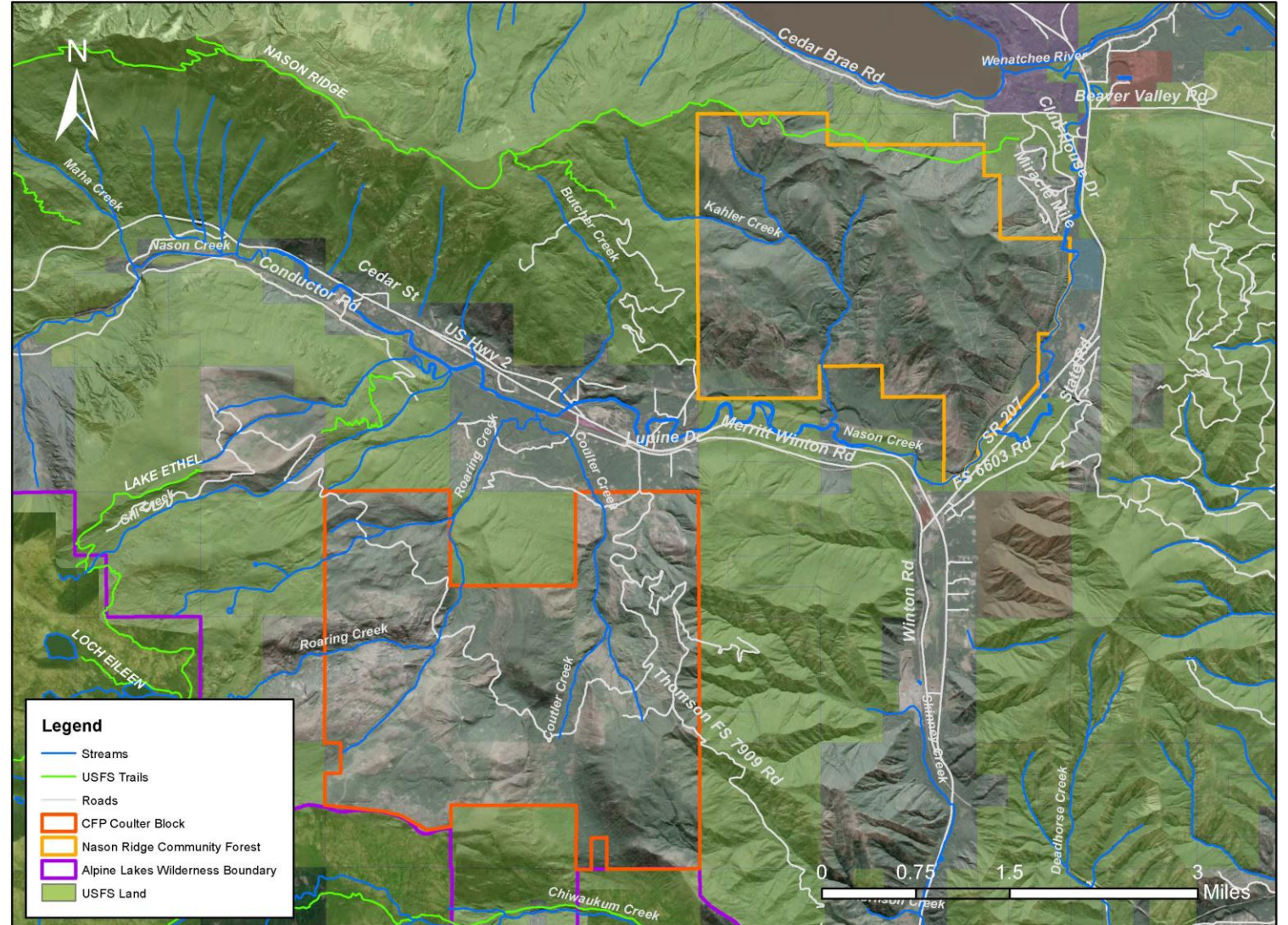
Chelan County Natural Resource Department  
Nason Ridge Stewardship Group

# Coulter Block Assessment

- Chinook Forest Partners (formerly Weyco) lands are under option by Trust for Public Land
- Site visit and community meetings in August 2023
- Assessment report completed to help potential future landowners better understand the property, available here:

<https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/nason-creek-watershed>

- No further progress to report on at this time

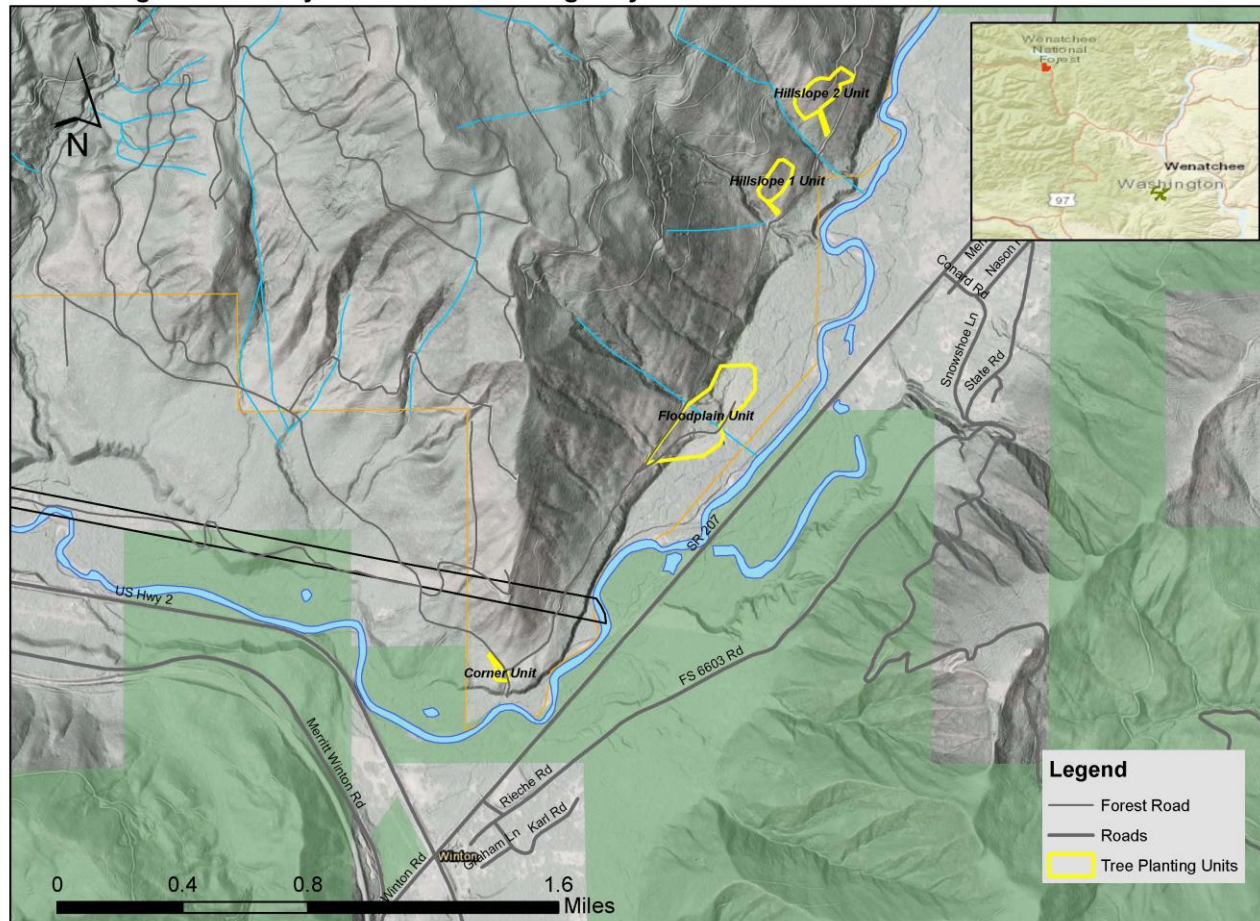


Coulter Block Lands Proximity to Nason Ridge Community Forest

# 2023 Restoration/Maintenance Projects

April: planting of 1,300 ponderosa and Douglas fir trees in floodplain and hillslope cutblock units on east side of Community Forest with ECY funding

Nason Ridge Community Forest Tree Planting Project

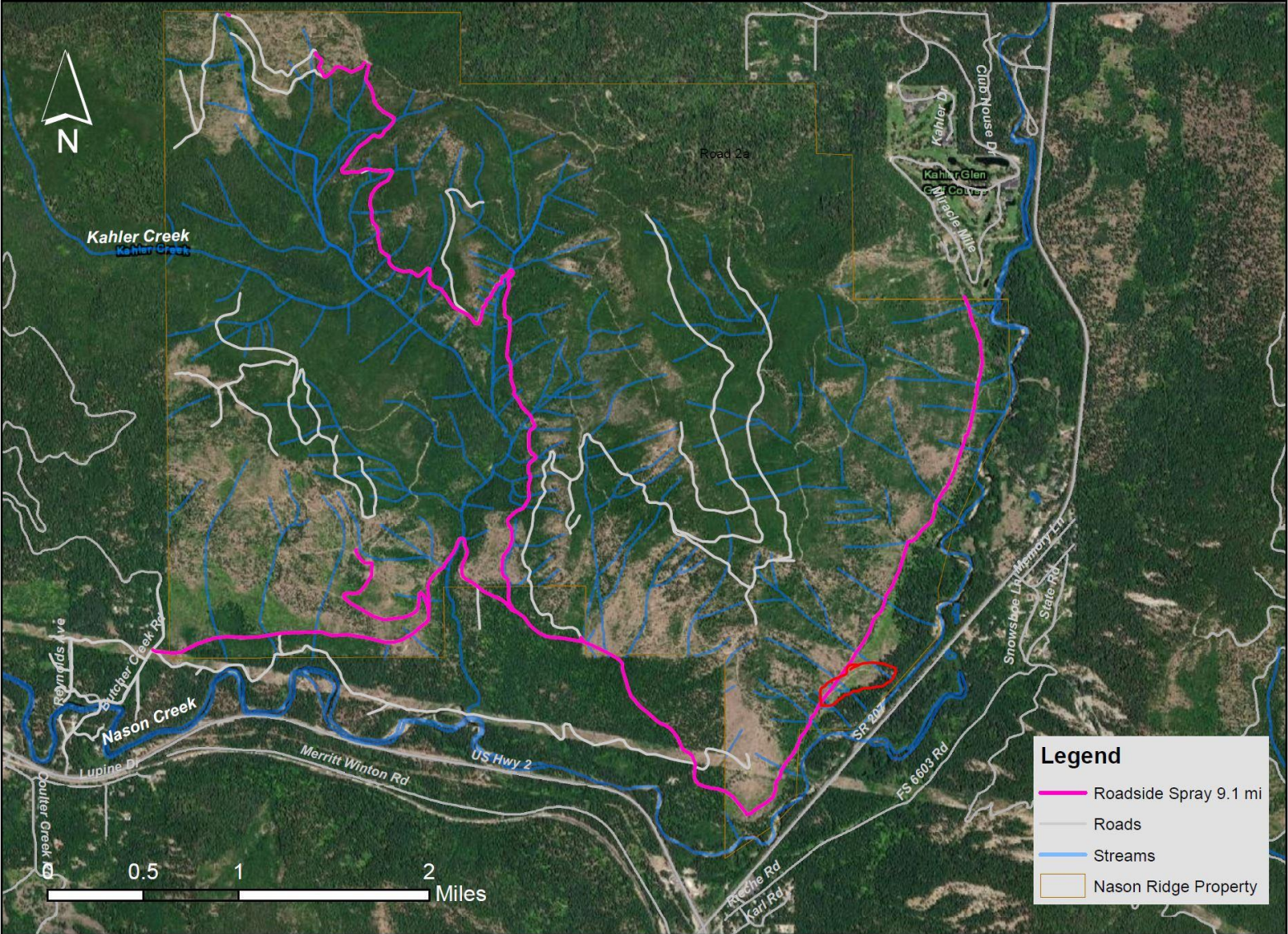


Chelan County GIS 2021



# May: Year 2 knapweed spray along perimeter road and decommissioned road areas

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

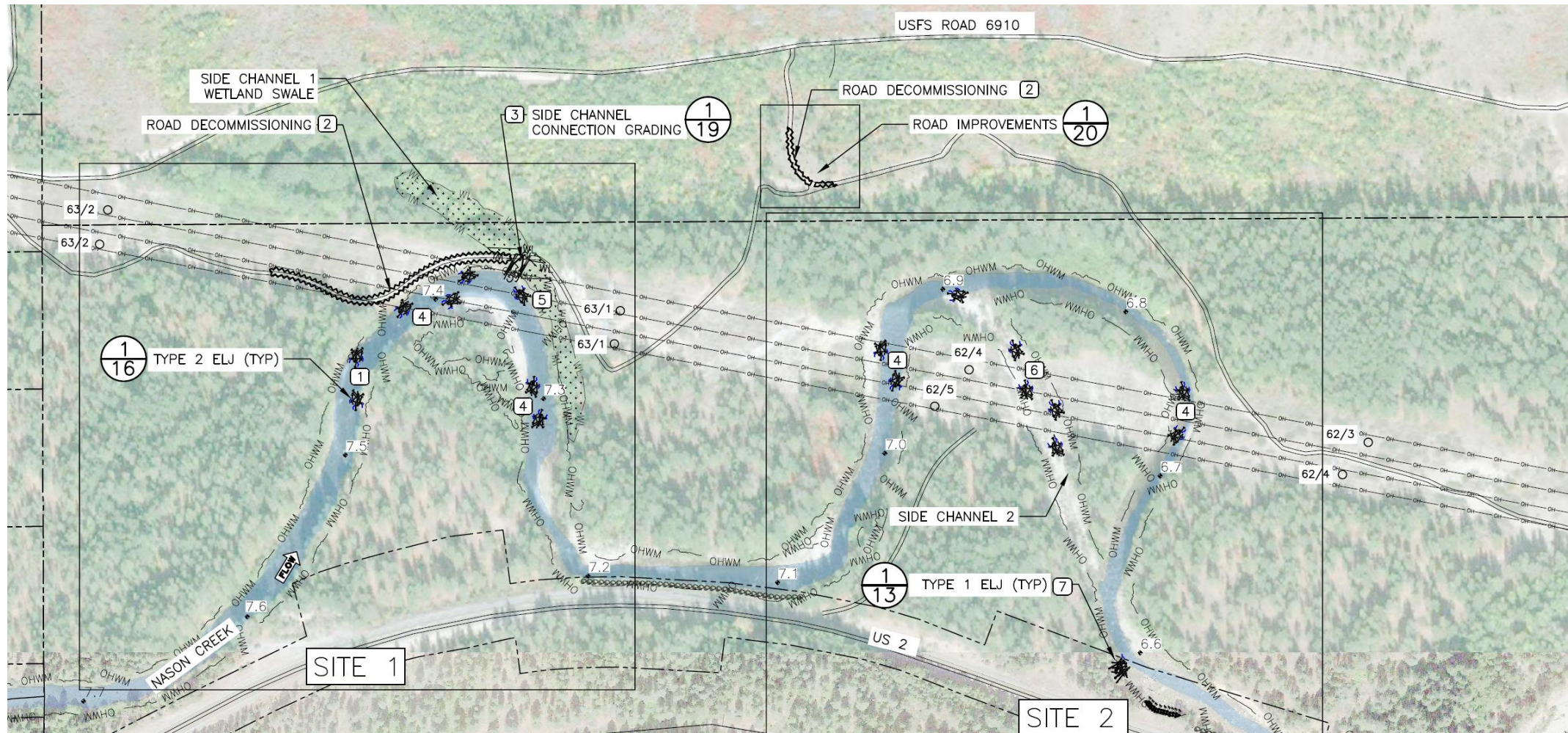


June: Rolling dips installed on perimeter road at location of erosion and plugged culvert, 40lb of native grass seed purchased with ECY funding

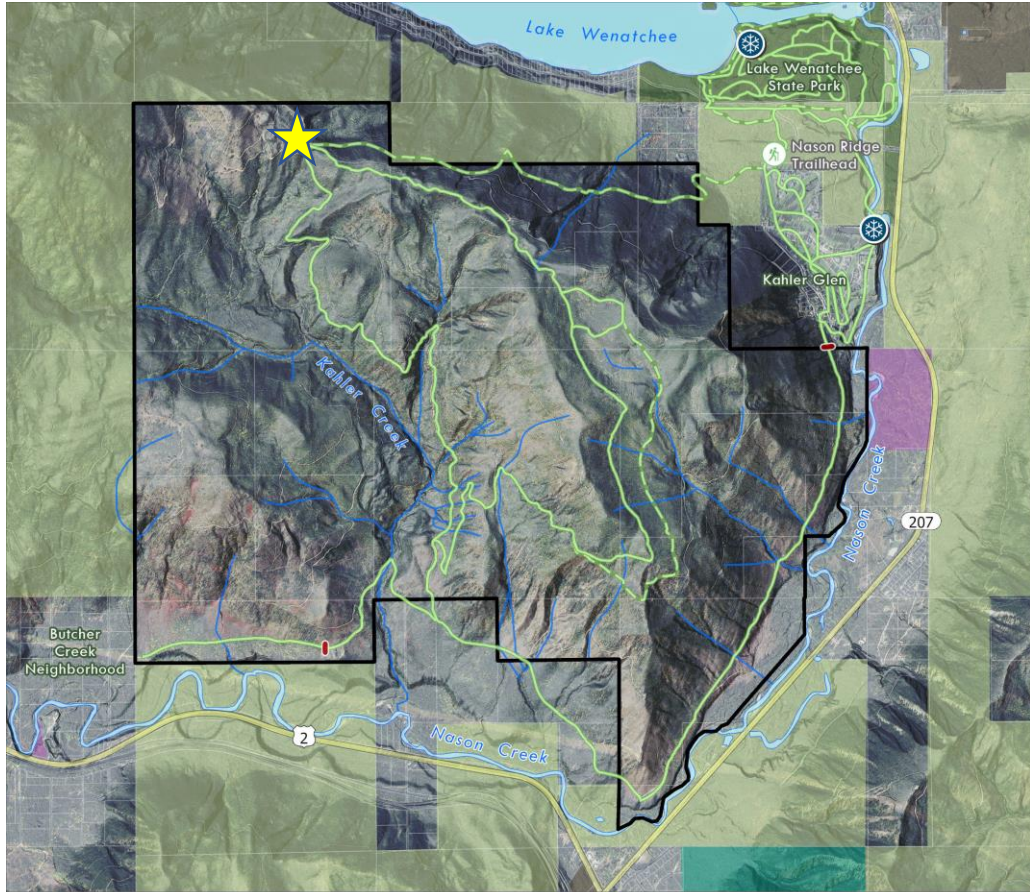


# Nason Kahler Habitat Project

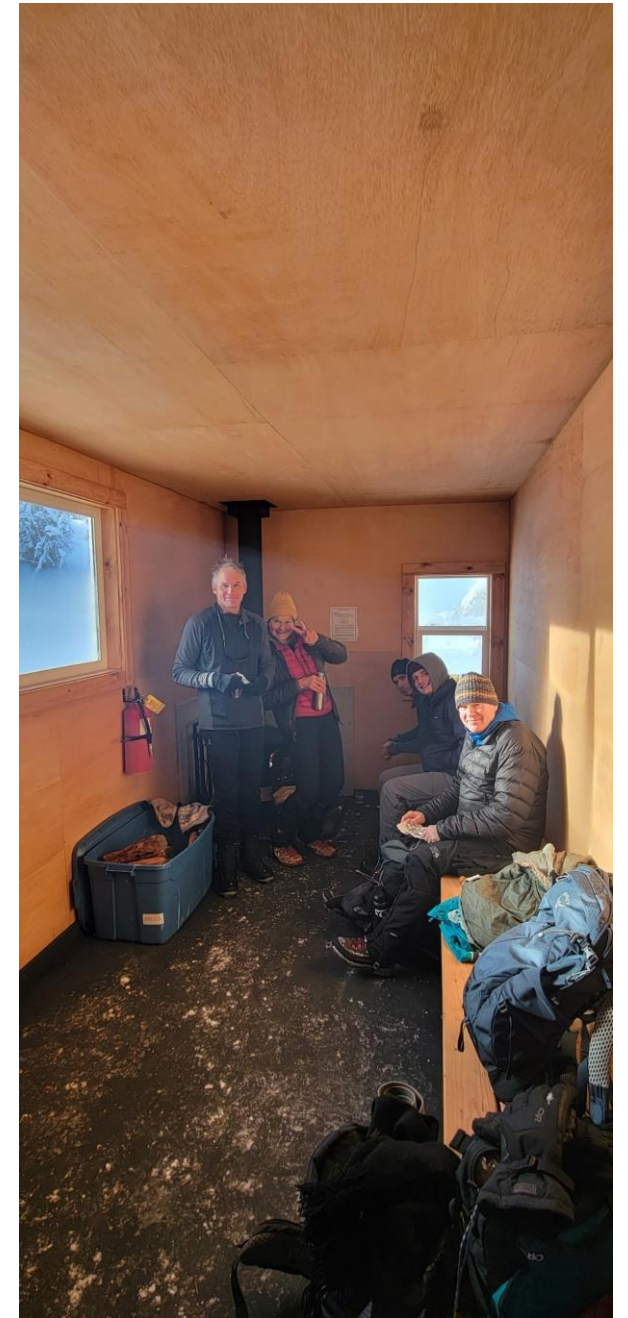
- ESA listed spring Chinook and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat improvement project
- Installation of ELJs (engineered logjams), floodplain restoration and road decommissioning
- Construction in Summer 2022 and 2023 with RCO Salmon Recovery Funding



# Winter Warming Hut

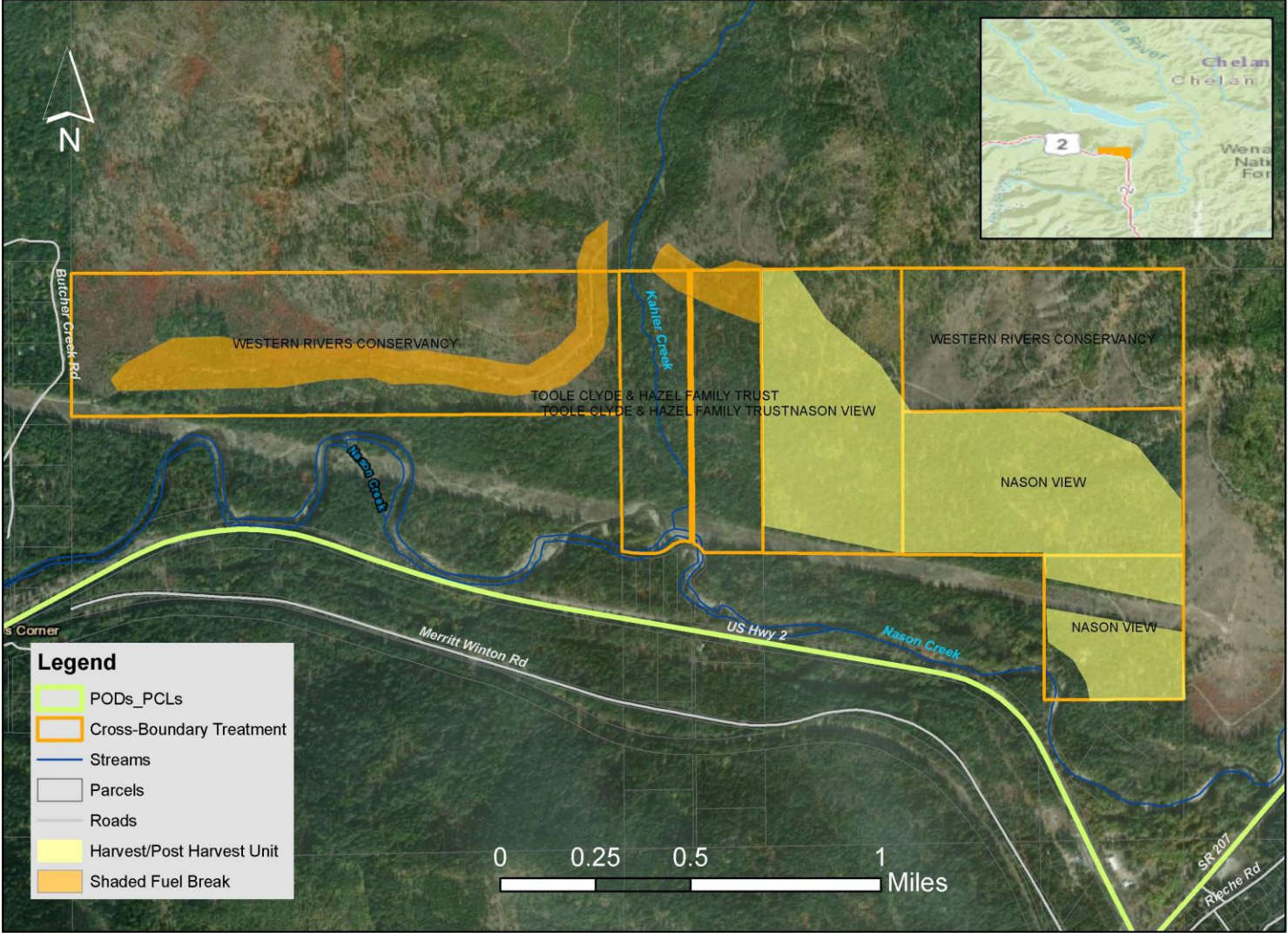


0 1/4 1/2 Miles



# Nasonview Forest Health Harvest

Nasonview Cross Boundary Treatment Area



Chelan County GIS 2021

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



# Access and Signage



- Gate installed prior to hunting season in fall 2023
- Location by tree island to prevent driving around the gate, wide area for parking
- Cleared by USFS for placement in current location
- Local concerns about gate placement
- Traffic counters will be installed in spring as part of monitoring plan

# Additional Projects and Outings

- State Parks boom mower on xc groomed route- example of shared stewardship road maintenance
- May 10<sup>th</sup> Community Forest Coalition Nason Ridge site tour: 28 participants from Oregon and Washington
- Birding outings led by Tim and Mary Gallagher
- July 6<sup>th</sup> visit with C6 Biochar feasibility to assess stands for potential biochar feedstock/forest health treatments

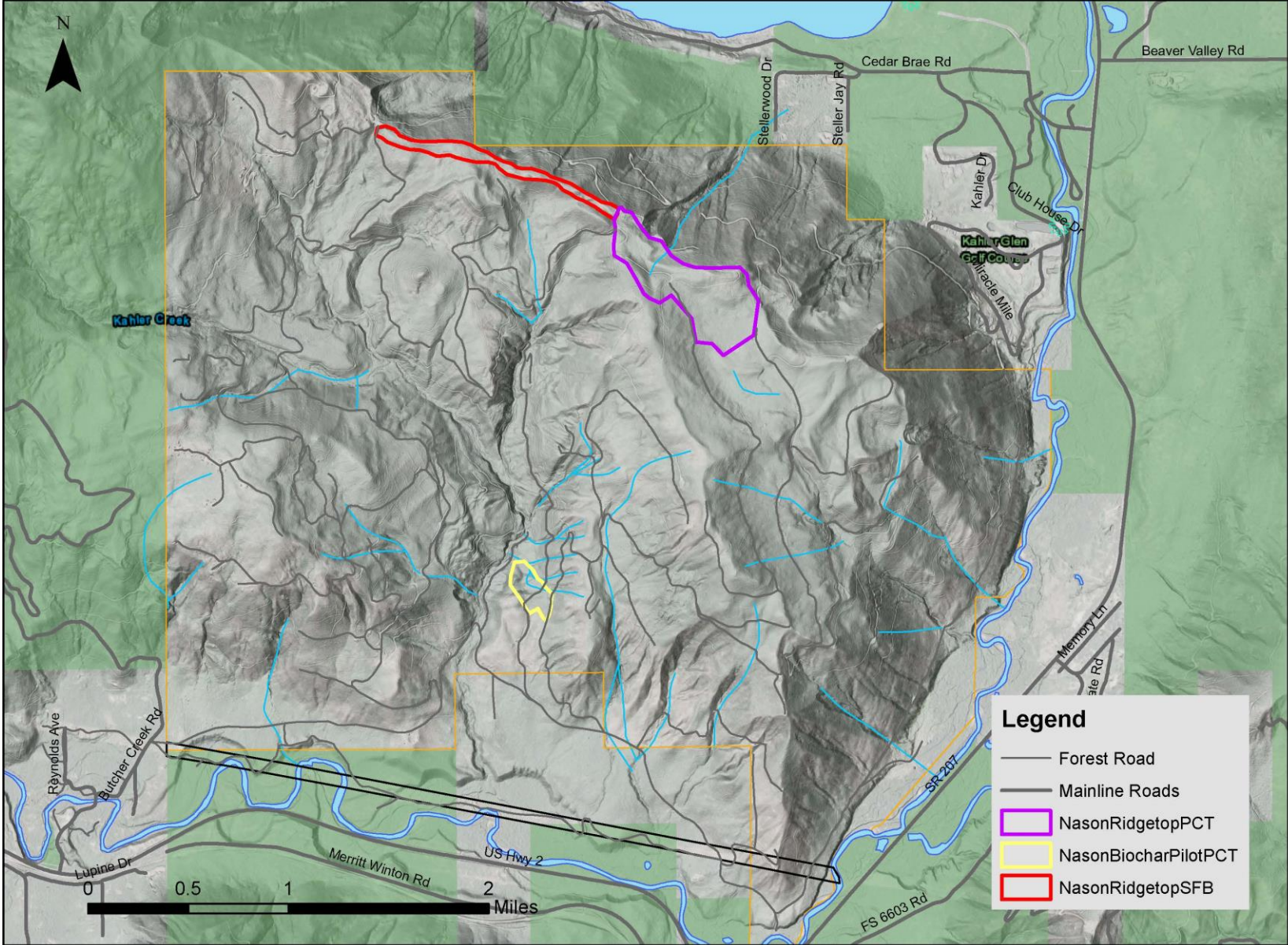


# 2024 Workplan

- Complete Recreation and Access Supplement
- Develop fuels reduction/forest health units with funding from DNR and NRCS, Nason watershed NEPA process
- Priority Recreation and Access projects
  - Trail connections from Nason Ridge Trail, delineate Nason Ridge Trail at top of ridge intersection
  - Continue to improve signage
  - Work with Butcher Creek/Rd 6910 residents on gate placement and road maintenance
  - Sno-park feasibility
- Carbon financing feasibility
- Kahler Creek restoration design

# Potential Fuels Reduction Units

Nason Ridge Community Forest RCPP Forest Health Thinning Units



# Next Quarterly Meeting Topics

- Nason Watershed NEPA process
- Kahler Creek Restoration Design
- Trail Projects/volunteer opportunities
- Other ideas/topics?