**Nason Ridge Stewardship Committee**

**July 10, 2024 Quarterly Meeting**

Attendees:

Erin McKay, CCNRD

Mike Kaputa, CCNRD

Elle Robinson, CCNRD

Christina Barrineau, CCNRD

Chad Spies

Bill Deters

Mara and Tim Gallagher

Eric Prestbo

Sean Simmons

Tony

Sue McCausland

Rollie Schmitten

Mimi Brunjes

Joe Cannata

Jeff Holmes

Don and Colleen Long

Trevor, Lake Wenatchee State Park

Shon Smith

Jim Clark

Amber Zimmerman

Deb Wadkins, State Parks

Community Forest Project Information/Updates

Nason Creek Habitat Restoration Project, Phase 3

Expected Timeline: 3 more weeks of work, wrap up first week of August

Nasonview Thinning Project, Rollie Schmitten’s property

Fully stocked forest

Family owned since 1978, policy of not clearcutting

Need for a sign on Hwy 2, “logging operation ahead” and “vehicles prohibited” in addition to signs warning hikers and bikers of logging operation

Equipment includes Feller-Buncher, cuts tree off at 12” and will bunch up 3-4 trees, rubber tired skidder picks up bunch and brings to landing. Third piece of equipment cuts logs to length.

Now 3 employees can do the work that 13 used to do.

Trying to achieve a thinned forest, diversity of species, uneven ages, separate so it cannot crown.

Wildlife love the thinned forest, leaving cedar and western white pine and ponderosa pine.

About 2/3 of the way through the project. Contract with American Forest Mgmt, hired Westwood Logging (local)- now working hoot owl conditions to reduce risk of forest fire.

Q’s: Are you going to make a profit?

A: It’s a very expensive operation

Q: Where does equipment live?

A: Close to the forest property

Q: Do you have a maintenance agreement with USFS for road?

A: Planning on hand filling potholes after operation is complete

Q: Are you aware of structural damage to bridge?

A: Was mentioned in meeting notes, but USFS engineer says bridge is sound

Beehive Reservoir fire started by fireworks, but fire stayed low and on the ground due to thinning

Q: If you thin a forest, does that mean you shouldn’t replant?

A: Maybe plant some species that you want to favor, will require maintenance treatments over time (eg, PCT)

CF Fuels Reduction Projects

Steller Wildfire Risk Reduction Project underway

Ridgetop PCT fuel break thinning in planning stage- non-commercial unit, NRCS application submitted (can be long process), good unit planned, will open up views on ski trail and hiking, whole unit will be strategic fuel break. Will likely happen next year.

Q: Where is support funding coming from?

A: NRCS would pay a certain amount per acre, cost share

Fuel break on Coulter Creek road, DNR strategic in slowing fire towards Coles Corner

Volunteer Trails Project- Nason Ridge Trail delineation fence

Build delineation line at warming hut intersection to reduce confusion for motorbikes to keep them on the motorized trails.

Salvaged wood from slash piles left by Weyerhauser

Tim, Mary, Chad, Erik, Dan volunteered- they made a really cool sign at the intersection. Generator helped get the job done.

New sign will be posted on the warming hut which will have more info.

Kahler Creek Stream Restoration Project

Channel Complexity- Adding habitat features

Riparian Enhancements- planned for next year

Nason Creek River Mile 12- Planned for 2026-2027

Nason/Kahler Thermal Refuge Project at confluence- enhance that area

Confluence of Butcher Creek

Focused on Chinook, Bull Trout, and Steelhead

Water Quality impairments centered around temp excedences, working with DOE (Centennial Grant Program)

Kahler Creek accessed by 6910 road

Why focus on Kahler Creek? Stream has downcut over time and can no longer its floodplain. Need larger wood to retain water, channel incision, low woody debris recruitment, lost connection to floodplain, minimal summer base flow. But Kahler Cr is cold water source for Nason Creek which is important for Nason fish.

Alluvial Water Storage- install wood debris structures, aggrade sediment, retain surface water, connect to floodplain, force groundwater exchange. Creates more wetter ground in riparian areas which is good for reducing wildfire.

Design considerations: size of stream, stream gradient, how long do we want structures to last, downstream concerns

Lower 0.6 miles of stream, 3 machine built structures, 9 hand engineered logjams

Construction will start next fall, securing remaining funding, securing permits, bidding process

Volunteer opportunity fall 2025 for Nason Creek and Kahler AWS plantings

Q: What caused channel incision

A: past logging created sediment dumps into streams

Q: Can you use materials that you could source from NRCF slash piles

A: Possibly. Can use wood from fuels reduction projects.

Q: How to get big machinery into that area?

A: 1-2 routes, will attempt to minimize disturbance.

Q: How extensive are plantings? Could girl scouts help?

A: Sometimes contract WCC crews, but wanted to offer volunteer opportunity for assistance

Future Plans:

Install second gate at landing where there is more potential for parking and signage. Planned for this fall.

Will discuss keeping second gate open.

RCO grant round for trails and recreation maintenance. Will submit proposal that includes interpretive signage. Deadline is Oct 31 and will send out to group for feedback.

Continue with stream health and restoration projects.

Contribute to road maintenance- gravel, dust abatement

Q: Side fencing to prohibit going around gate?

A: Yes, would like to work with Rollie to design a way to extend gate

Map of new gate location.

Will post meeting notes and powerpoint slides on website.