

# SEPA Nonproject Review Form

## PART I - FRAMEWORK

### 1) Background

a) Name of proposal, if any, and brief description.

#### **Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan**

The purpose of the Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan is to provide guidance and recommendations for managing recreation in the Stemilt-Squilchuck basin in a manner that provides for the types of recreational opportunity desired by the community while also protecting the important values of wildlife, water, and natural resources. While the Plan is not a formal management plan, it does represent input from local stakeholders on how recreation should be managed in the basin. It is designed to provide a path forward for managing recreation in the area over the next decade. Recommendations in the Plan are meant to provide informed guidance on how lands in the Stemilt-Squilchuck basin can be managed to meet both recreation and conservation goals. The Plan will be a useful tool in articulating a shared vision and recommended actions, and will help facilitate the securing of necessary funding for implementation of the recommended actions. Upon adoption, the plan will be incorporated into the 2015 Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan.

b) Agency and contact name, address, telephone, fax, email:

**Chelan County Natural Resource Department**  
**Erin McKay, Senior Natural Resource Specialist**  
**411 Washington St., Suite 201 Wenatchee, WA 98801**  
**(509) 630-5303**  
[erin.mckay@co.chelan.wa.us](mailto:erin.mckay@co.chelan.wa.us)

c) Designated responsible official:

**Mike Kaputa**  
**Chelan County Natural Resource Department Director**  
**411 Washington St., Suite 201 Wenatchee, WA 98801**  
**(509) 670-6935**

d) Describe the planning process schedule/timeline

**The Stemilt-Squilchuck recreation planning process occurred over a period of 2 ½ years, beginning in May 2016. A synopsis of the planning process timeline is as follows, and all meeting notes and dates are available to view on the County recreation planning page found at the link below.**

**Spring 2016-Winter 2016: Getting Organized.**

**Chelan County coordinated with land management agencies and the Stemilt Partnership steering committee to develop a planning process structure and decision framework. A recreation committee was formed with volunteer stakeholders, landowners, and agency representatives. A vision statement and list of Issues and Opportunities were developed by the recreation committee. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program joined the planning process through a technical assistance grant in January 2017, providing organizational and planning expertise.**

**Spring 2017-Fall 2017: Information Gathering and Analysis.**

**Regular bi-monthly recreation committee meetings began in March 2017. Existing use data and initial recreation concepts were gathered over the first meetings. Over the summer, field visits and surveys were conducted to assess existing conditions. Desired future conditions were defined by the recreation committee. WDFW conducted a wildlife assessment of the planning area in the context of recreation, and results were shared with recreation committee.**

**Winter 2017-Summer 2018: Developing Recommendations.**

**The recreation committee developed a set of preliminary recommendations based on current conditions and recreation concepts. The Stemilt Partnership weighed in on the preliminary recommendations through a survey that was emailed out to the Stemilt Partnership email list. Input from the survey was incorporated into the recommendations, which were shared at a public open house on March 21, 2018. The open house was followed by a 90-day comment period, to allow the greater community to weigh in on the preliminary recommendations. During this period, a monitoring framework was developed. Public comments were analyzed, and recommendations were revised by the planning committee.**

**Summer 2018-Winter 2018: Plan Production and Approval.**

**A draft plan was developed around the revised recommendations. The draft plan was shared with the Stemilt Partnership and agencies, and feedback was requested. The draft plan was finalized, and the SEPA process initiated. The draft plan will be available to the public through SEPA review in April 2019, and an additional public comment period and County hearing will occur**

following the SEPA comment period. Adoption of the plan is expected in late spring/early summer 2019.

11 recreation committee meetings occurred throughout the 2+ year planning process, with regular meetings beginning in March 2017. Meetings were open to the public, and meeting notes, documents, maps, and public comments are available on the Chelan County Natural Resource Department website: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/stemilt-squilchuck-recreation-planning>. Sub-group meetings occurred as needed between recreation committee meetings, to address issues that warranted additional time and attention. Results of subgroup meetings were shared during recreation committee meetings. Presentations and updates occurred at Stemilt Partnership meetings and for interested parties such as the Forest Ridge Wildfire Coalition, the Wenatchee Sportsmen Association, and the Apple Country Snowmobile Club.

Recreation planning meetings were held:

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

A Public Open House was held at the Malaga Fire Hall on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Recreation committee members were present and able to answer questions about the recommendations and planning process.

- e) Location - Describe the jurisdiction or area where the proposal is applicable.  
(Attach a map(s) if appropriate)

The planning area contains portions of Township 21N Range 19E and 20E and Township 20N Range 20E, and spans an area of ~17,000 acres. See attached map of project area. Most of the project area falls within Chelan County, with the southern-most portion occurring on state lands in Kittitas County. All of

the planning area occurs within the Stemilt-Squilchuck watershed, in WRIA 40A.

The Stemilt-Squilchuck watershed is situated to the south of Wenatchee and to the north of Ellensburg in Central Washington, and drains north into the Columbia River. The upper watershed is primarily publicly owned and undeveloped, and through conservation efforts by Chelan County, Trust for Public Land, and the Stemilt Partnership, has gained recognition as the Stemilt Community Forest. The majority of the public lands comprising the area of the proposed recreation plan range from 3,000-6,000 feet above sea level and experience four distinct seasons. The planning area is bordered by the Stemilt watershed boundary to the south and east (Naneum Ridge separates the basin from the Colockum basin to the east and the Swift Creek basin to the south), by Mission Ridge Ski Area and Squilchuck Road to the west, and by Stemilt Loop Road to the north. Land ownership is a checkerboard of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Chelan County, Washington State Parks, and private lands.

The non-project action will apply to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Chelan County owned lands within the Stemilt-Squilchuck planning area described above. The plan recommendations do not carry any obligation for private and federal landowners in the planning area, but collaboration with these landowners will continue throughout plan implementation.

f) What is the legal authority for the proposal?

**RCW 36.01.010 authorizes Washington Counties (including Chelan County) to purchase and hold lands and to make such contracts as may be necessary to their corporate or administrative powers, and to do all other necessary acts in relation to all the property of the county. This RCW applies to the lands purchased by Chelan County in the Stemilt-Squilchuck basin, and authorizes the County to take actions to manage the lands.**

**RCW 36.01.230 covers cooperative watershed management, and states that a county may, acting through the county legislative authority, participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. The Stemilt Partnership acts as a collaborative watershed management group facilitated by Chelan County, and this plan was developed in part to protect water resources and habitat in the Stemilt and Squilchuck watersheds.**

Washington Department of Natural Resources retains the legal authority to implement policies and guide the management of State Lands. Specific authority to plan and provide recreation is contained in the Multiple Use Act (Chapter 79.10.100 and 130 RCW). Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife retains the legal authority to implement policies and guide the management of wildlife and fish habitat throughout the state. Management of recreation on WDFW lands is governed by RCW 77.04.012 and RCW77.12.880, and agency policy includes providing for wildlife-related recreation as well as non-wildlife related recreation provided that recreation does not impair fish and wildlife resources.

- g) Identify any other future nonproject actions believed necessary to achieve the objectives of this action.

Individual project level SEPA will be required prior to implementation of any of the recommended Plan actions that involve ground disturbance and/or site development. Additionally, any recommended actions involving changes in official status of roads or access points will require due public process according to the management entity of the land upon which the action occurs. For example, one of the recommendations involves vacation of a segment of County road in order to open and designate a Green Dot Road that would improve connection within the main Stemilt Green Dot Road system and allow users legal access to the Green Dot Road system from Upper Wheeler Road. This road vacation would require a County public process and public scoping through WDFW green dot road proposed change process.

## 2) Need and Objectives

- a) Describe the need for the action. (Whenever possible this should identify the broad or fundamental problem or opportunity that is to be addressed, rather than a legislative or other directive.)

In 2015, the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife completed the Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan. This joint effort between the state agencies covers a large area including the Colockum and Whiskey Dick Wildlife Areas, part of the Haney Meadows/Tronsen Ridge area, and the Stemilt Basin, which comprises a small percentage of the planning area. The Naneum Plan includes recreational suitability modeling, management goals and strategies, and some recreation development concepts for the Stemilt Basin, and can be viewed online here:

[https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp\\_rec\\_final\\_naneum\\_ridge\\_to\\_columb](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/amp_rec_final_naneum_ridge_to_columb)

[ia river rec plan.pdf](#). While the concepts provide some management direction, such as implementation of a north-south trail linking Squilchuck State Park to Naneum Ridge trails and winter non-motorized access and play areas, these concepts lack the specificity needed to be vetted by the Stemilt Partnership and the community at large. The Stemilt Basin is a unique area with a broad range of stakeholders and interests, and this robust planning effort focusing just on this area and the adjoining access points from the Squilchuck Basin will facilitate implementation of the Naneum concepts pertaining to the Stemilt area. The impetus for this undertaking was the need for a focused planning effort that could examine the current conditions, incorporate work done through other planning efforts, take into account the changes on the horizon, and produce a set of recommendations vetted by the Stemilt Partnership, the agencies and landowners, and the community as a whole. The combination of checkerboard land ownership, importance of wildlife and water resources, and an invested local community underscores the importance of developing a recreation plan that is specific to the area and is produced through a collaborative process.

Demand for outdoor recreation opportunity is increasing in central Washington and throughout the state as the population increases, nature-based outdoor opportunities become more popular, and the health benefits of outdoor recreation are recognized (RCO Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022, <https://www.rco.wa.gov/StateRecPlans/>). This increase in demand is being felt in the Wenatchee Valley, and the Stemilt-Squilchuck basin provides the ideal high elevation venue for outdoor recreation in close proximity to Wenatchee and East Wenatchee. With demand for these opportunities increasing, community-based planning is critical to ensure community values are protected along with increases in recreational opportunity.

- b) Describe the objective(s) of the proposal, including any secondary objectives which may be used to shape or choose among alternatives.

The purpose of the Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan is to provide guidance and recommendations for managing recreation in the Stemilt-Squilchuck basin in a manner that provides for the types of recreational opportunity desired by the community while also protecting the values of wildlife, water, and natural resources. It is designed to provide a path forward for managing recreation in the area over the next decade. The planning area falls within the scope of the 2015 Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan, and the recommendations in the plan are designed to fit within and compliment those of the Naneum Plan.

**Objectives of the nonproject action include the following:**

- a. **Complete a community-based planning process that integrates input from all user groups.**
  - b. **Provide management guidance on State and County Lands for recreation within the planning area over the next 10 years.**
  - c. **Address the issues and opportunities identified in the planning process.**
  - d. **Continue community and stakeholder involvement in implementing plan recommendations into the future.**
  - e. **Integrate the protection of the three pillars of the Stemilt Community Vision- water, wildlife, and recreation- into the management of recreation in the planning area.**
  - f. **Implement specific recommendations that are consistent with the objectives of the 2016 Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan, in a phased approach focusing on high priority actions first.**
- c) **Identify any assumptions or constraints, including legal mandates, which limit the approach or strategy to be taken in pursuing the objective(s).**

**All actions to implement plan recommendations will be subject to processes, permitting, review, and regulations of the land-owning agency (in this case Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Chelan County). Any actions that occur on private land will occur only with permission from landowners and will adhere to any landowner requirements and all local, state, and federal requirements pertaining to development actions.**

- d) **If there is no legislative or other mandate that requires a particular approach, describe what approaches could reasonably achieve the objective(s).**

**This plan was developed on behalf of the Stemilt Partnership and the local community, and those entities will be critical in the achievement of plan objectives. The Stemilt Partnership will continue to be involved in the review of individual project actions and plans for implementation. Local user groups will be instrumental in implementing recommended actions through volunteer work and in-kind match. The Implementation chapter of the plan identifies how these user groups can be involved in accomplishing actions that are relevant to those groups. This Plan depends on the continued involvement of those individuals and**

**groups that helped produce the Plan, both in terms of implementation and resolution of any outstanding issues pertaining to recommendations.**

### **3) Environmental Overview**

Describe in broad terms how achieving the objective(s) would direct or encourage physical changes to the environment. Include the type and degree of likely changes such as the likely changes in development and/or infrastructure, or changes to how an area will be managed.

**The recommendations included in the plan are generally geared toward decreasing the overall impact of recreation within the planning area. While some of the recommendations aim to increase the amount of recreation access and infrastructure, these are crafted to encourage low impact recreation (generally non-motorized, occurring within impact buffers of existing infrastructure such as green-dot roads, located in areas of less importance to wildlife and away from critical areas, and incorporating season closures to protect wildlife, if appropriate). Many of the recommendations are intended to reduce existing impacts, particularly in areas of high importance to wildlife and in critical areas. For example, one plan recommendation is to prioritize hard closures of non-green dot roads in the vicinity of Pole Flats Road in Zone 3, to reduce the amount of non-sanctioned motorized vehicle traffic in the “core summer elk habitat area” identified in the elk habitat analysis conducted by WDFW. The plan also states that no new trails should be developed within the core habitat area in Zone 3. Rather, new non-motorized trail development recommendations are focused in Zone 2, where hubs for non-motorized recreation already exist and elk use modelling shows lower use. Recreation facility development, such as improved campsites and vault toilets, are identified in areas of high use and specify that these improvements will occur within the footprint of areas already impacted by recreation use. The goal with recommended improvements in these areas is to consolidate use and avoid continued spread of impacts, especially in sensitive areas such as shorelines of reservoirs and streambanks.**

### **4) Regulatory Framework**

a) Describe the existing regulatory/planning framework as it may influence or direct the proposal.

#### **COUNTY CODES:**

- **Chelan County Code**
- **Critical Areas Ordinance, Noise Ordinance, Land Use Development permits, Stormwater permits, Land Use Conversion permits**



## STATE LAWS

- **The Multiple Use Act (Chapter 79.10 RCW), 1971, directs DNR to allow recreational use on trust uplands if such use is consistent with applicable trust provisions.**
- **Department of Fish and Wildlife Mandate (Chapter 77.04.012 RCW), directs the WDFW Commission, Director, and the Department to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish in state waters and offshore waters.**
- **Wildlife Program Management (Chapter 77.12.880), directs WDFW to manage wildlife programs in a manner that provides for public opportunities to view wildlife and support nature-based and wildlife viewing tourism without impairing the state's wildlife resources.**
- **State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW)**  
**The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires state agencies to review proposed actions for probable significant adverse impacts and, when necessary, to prepare an environmental impact statement for actions that may have a probable, significant adverse impact on the environment. Compliance with SEPA ensures timely analysis, public comment processes, and mitigation of the probable significant environmental impacts during various activities, including project planning and implementation, as well as during programmatic or policy level planning efforts.**  
**The SEPA Rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC) provide more details for implementing this law. They also establish uniform environmental review requirements for all agencies. Often department activities related to forest management, i.e., planning, road development, harvesting, tree sales, and sometimes silvicultural activities are subject to SEPA. Similar activities by private landowners are not subject to SEPA unless a private proposal is a Class IV Forest Practice. Development of any motorized recreation facilities, any non-motorized camping areas with more than 12 sites or any non-motorized parking lots for more than 20 vehicles generally require SEPA review.**
- **Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW)**  
**The Growth Management Act requires local governments to establish comprehensive growth management plans that address a range of natural resource issues, including timber and other resources that may be on forested state lands.**
- **Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 RCW)**
- **Forest Practice Act (RCW 76.09)**

- **Hydraulic Projects Approval (RCW 77.55.021)**  
A Hydraulic Project Approval is required from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (or from DNR associated with Forest Practices) for most work done in or above a body of water. This is often necessary for road or trail construction projects, which may or may not occur in conjunction with timber harvest activities from forested state lands. If a forest practices application is filed for the activity, the landowner does not have to file separately for a HPA. However, DNR may be required to apply for an HPA if a management activity on state lands does not require a forest practices permit but involves a state body of water.
- **The State Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 90.48 RCW)**  
The Water Pollution Control Act requires that the state of Washington maintain the highest possible standards to ensure the purity of all waters of the state, consistent with public health and public enjoyment; the propagation and protection of wildlife, birds, game, fish and other aquatic life; and the industrial development of the state. It also requires the use of all known available and reasonable methods by industries and others to prevent and control the pollution of the state's waters.
- **Maximum Environmental Noise Levels (Chapter 173-60 WAC)**  
The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) adopted WAC Chapter 173-60 pursuant to the agency's authority to regulate noise under RCW Chapter 70.107. The Maximum Environmental Noise Levels regulate the intensity, duration, and character of sounds on specific receiving properties.

## **FEDERAL LAWS**

- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**  
The Endangered Species Act protects federally listed species and their ecosystems. Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1539) authorizes a landowner to negotiate a habitat conservation plan with the United States Secretary of the Interior to minimize and mitigate any incidental impact to threatened and endangered species while conducting lawful activities such as forest practices. A habitat conservation plan may allow the landowner to develop habitat for endangered species at a landscape level, rather than protecting the individual sites at which the species is found on the landowner's property. As long as the landowner manages under the terms and conditions of the habitat conservation plan, the landowner will not be prosecuted for "take" of an individual animal. The permit issued to

the landowner by the federal government is referred to as an “Incidental Take Permit,” and identifies the range of activities allowed under each habitat conservation plan.

- **Federal Water Pollution Control Act (CLEAN WATER ACT)**  
The Clean Water Act relates to protecting water quality. Washington’s Forest Practices Rules are co-adopted by DNR and Ecology so that meeting the requirements of the rules also meets the requirements of the state Clean Water Act and federal law.

- b) Identify any potential impacts from the proposal that have been previously designated as acceptable under the Growth Management Act (GMA), chapter 36.70A RCW.

**Under the Washington State Growth Management Act requirements, Chelan County updated the Chelan County Comprehensive Plan for 2017-2037. The updated Comprehensive Plan includes several elements that align with the proposed Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan. The Parks and Recreation Element contains several goals and policies that directly address the goals of this Plan, such as Goal 3: Park and Recreation planning and development should consider impacts to surrounding land uses, critical areas, and significant natural, scenic, historic, or cultural resources, and Policy 3.2: Preserve areas that are environmentally sensitive or have historic, cultural, or scenic value in the development of park and recreation facilities and opportunities. Goal 4 also speaks to this multi-agency planning effort: Increase recreation service availability and efficiency through coordination of federal, state, local, and private recreation planning. The Parks and Recreation Element also specifically calls out the development of the Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan as an ongoing effort to improve recreation and protection of natural resources within the County.**

**The impacts of the Plan are acceptable under the Critical Areas Ordinance, which protects sensitive areas from development and impacts of land-use changes. The primary land-use designations for the planning area are ‘non-commercial forest’ and ‘other resource production’. The intent for these lands is to keep them in public ownership as a ‘working forest’ that balances recreation, resource production, and protection of natural resources including water and wildlife. This Plan aligns entirely with the land-use intention for these lands under the Land Use Element of the County Comprehensive Plan.**

## **5) Related Documentation**

- a) Briefly describe any existing regulation, policy or plan that is expected to be replaced or amended as a result of the proposal. (Adequate descriptions in section 4.a may be referenced here, rather than repeated.)

**The Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan will be incorporated into the 2015 Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan.**

- b) List any environmental documents (SEPA or NEPA) that have been prepared for items listed in 4.a. or that provide analysis relevant to this proposal. **Note:** Impacts with previous adequate analysis need not be re-analyzed, but should be adopted or incorporated by reference into the NPRF.

**SEPA documents were prepared for the 2015 Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan. WA Department of Natural Resources was the lead agency on the SEPA process, and submitted the SEPA checklist in September of 2014. The Naneum Plan contains suitability assessments that cover the planning area in question (pg. 47 of Naneum Plan). The recommendations in the Stemilt-Squilchuck recreation plan were designed to fit within the broader scale goals, objectives, and strategies of the Naneum Plan, and should also fit under the SEPA determination of the Naneum Plan. A Determination of Non Significance was issued for the Naneum Plan in 2014. The SEPA documents for the Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan address the finer detail of the recommendations included in the plan.**

- c) List other relevant environmental documents/studies/models which have been identified as necessary to support decision making for this proposal.

**The 2008 Stemilt Vision Document contains an assessment of water and wildlife resources in the Stemilt-Squilchuck watershed, and was referenced extensively throughout this planning process. The Vision Document is available online at [http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/convis\\_wa\\_stemilt\\_1report.pdf](http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/convis_wa_stemilt_1report.pdf).**

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife also conducted an overview of elk use in the Stemilt Basin as part of this planning process, using current elk collar data. See *Wildlife Considerations, Chapter 5* of the Draft Plan.**

**6) Public Involvement (Optional)**

- a) Identify agencies with jurisdiction or expertise, affected tribes, and other known stakeholder groups whose input is likely to be specifically solicited in the development of this proposal.

The stakeholders involved in the development of the recommendations include the following organizations/agencies.

<b>Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce</b>
<b>Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance</b>
<b>El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club</b>
<b>Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers</b>
<b>Wenatchee Sportsmen</b>
<b>Apple Valley Snowmobile Club</b>
<b>Wenatchee Outdoors</b>
<b>Wenatchee Valley Ridge Runners ATV</b>
<b>Chelan-Douglas Land Trust</b>
<b>Backcountry Horsemen</b>
<b>Wenatchee Valley College</b>
<b>Our Valley Our Future</b>
<b>Chelan County Natural Resource Department</b>
<b>Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife</b>
<b>Stemilt Growers</b>
<b>Washington State Parks</b>
<b>Mission Ridge</b>
<b>Washington Department of Natural Resources</b>
<b>Stemilt Partnership Steering Committee</b>
<b>Wenatchee Heights Irrigation District</b>
<b>Stemilt Irrigation District</b>
<b>Chelan County Commissioner</b>
<b>Washington Trails Association</b>
<b>Residents of the Stemilt-Squilchuck Basin</b>
<b>United States Forest Service</b>

- b) Briefly describe the processes used or expected to be used for soliciting input from those listed. [Examples: ad hoc committees, tribal consultations, interagency meetings, public workshops or hearings, newsletters, etc.]

**Input was gathered from these groups throughout the planning process, through participation in the recreation planning committee or through surveys and public events. A 90-day public comment period was held following a public open house event in March 2018. Comments were gathered and documents, and the draft plan was refined by the recreation planning committee to reflect the input received during this period.**

**An additional public comment period will be held upon the release of SEPA documents, and comments received during this period will be reviewed prior to the hosting of a public hearing by the Chelan County Board of County Commissioners in 2019. All members of the recreation planning committee, the**

Stemilt Partnership, and all who submitted public comments or attended public events relating to this planning process will be informed via email of the public comment period and the public hearing.

## PART II – IMPACT ANALYSIS AND ALTERNATIVES

### 7) Affected Environment

Generally describe the existing environmental landscapes or elements (e.g., character and quality of ecosystem, existing trends, infrastructure, service levels, etc.) likely to be affected if the proposal is implemented. Include a description of the existing built and natural environment where future “on the ground” activities would occur that would be influenced by the nonproject proposal.

**Note:** When complete, this section needs to provide information on existing conditions for the elements of the environment discussed in sections 8 and 9. A list of the built and natural elements of the environment is in WAC 197-11-444, and is included at the end of this form.

**Terrain in the planning area is varied and contains many ecosystem types across aspects and elevations. Gentle rolling forested lands in the central portion of the planning area are punctuated by high ridges, steep cliffs, talus fields and a high plateau along the southern and higher elevation portions. These north-facing high elevation slopes provide critical snowpack retention that feeds the many streams and wetlands that are highly valued for their importance to wildlife habitat and agricultural water supply.**

**The diversity in elevation, aspect, and water availability provides important habitat for a variety of priority species. Wetland complexes and areas of high snow retention provide critical water storage in the basin and provide unique and desirable habitat for ungulates and other wildlife species.**

**The contiguous upland forests of the upper Stemilt basin provide critical seasonal habitat for a portion of the Colockum elk herd during the spring and summer. Most of the planning area falls under the designated Priority Habitat and Species polygon for critical elk calving habitat. Elk collar data collected between 2013 and 2017 shows bull elk use in the planning area as being widespread throughout the spring and summer, and concentrated in the south-eastern portion during the rut, indicating that cow elk are also present in this portion during mating season. Understanding the potential impacts of recreation on seasonal elk use in the basin was of great importance to many stakeholders in the planning process, including the Wenatchee Sportsman Association- a long-standing local group oriented around the preservation of elk habitat and protection of local elk populations. WDFW provided a team of wildlife specialists**

to assess potential impacts on elk habitat and populations and develop recommendations for limiting these impacts in the context of recreation management. As additional elk data/modeling becomes available, project actions will be evaluated against new information prior to implementation.

Other priority species present in the planning area include spotted and flammulated owl, white-headed and pileated woodpecker, mule deer, western toad, west-slope cutthroat, rainbow trout, eastern brook trout, black bear, bobcat, and mountain lion (Stemilt Vision Document, 2008). Endangered or threatened species potentially present in the planning area include Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*) and grey wolf (*Canis lupus*).

Agricultural water storage infrastructure is the primary built environment that currently shapes the landscape. Originating in the mid-1800s, when settlers began to move into the Stemilt basin and develop orchards, a complex system of reservoirs and pipelines provides a reliable source of water for irrigation. Multiple irrigation districts maintain and control this infrastructure, including Upper Stemilt Irrigation District and Wenatchee Heights Reclamation District. A major consideration throughout the planning process was the potential effects of recreation on irrigation district infrastructure, and the Districts were involved in the development of recommendations throughout the process. The high-use recreation sites in the planning area tend to occur near reservoirs or water sources. Improvements to these sites would result in more formalized access and hardened sites, with the main objectives being to reduce spread of impacts and improve user safety and experience.

The existing road network provides access to agricultural water storage infrastructure, as well as access to forest resources and recreational opportunities. The area contains a high density of roads, most of which are not part of the green dot road system. The green dot road system provides legal motorized access to the planning area and to recreational opportunities therein. Non green dot roads may be necessary for management needs such as accessing irrigation infrastructure or forest management activities, but are not legal for motorized use by the general public. An ongoing effort to prioritize hard closures of non-green dot roads to protect wildlife habitat connectivity and sensitive aquatic resources is included in the plan, and the Stemilt Partnership Roads Committee provides an advisory panel of a variety of stakeholders who can help assess prioritized hard closures and potential access needs.

Orchard and residential development occurs on the fringes of the planning area, and the Mission Ridge Ski Area borders the planning area to the southwest. Planned development expansions, including a new Mission Ridge Ski Area lodging and lift expansion within the planning area, and proposed orchard development in the northwest section of the planning area will alter the character of these portions of the area by greatly increasing the percentage of built/hardened area. These development activities are outside the scope of this planning process, but may affect some of the recommendations included therein.

**Landowners of the private lands where these developments are proposed participated in the planning process and are willing to continue involvement in implementation of plan recommendations alongside potential developments.**

**The area is primarily forested, and provides opportunities for commercial harvest and non-commercial forest health fuels reduction work. Forestry production was historically an important economic activity in the basin, and many of the roads that still exist originated as logging roads accessing timberlands owned by Longview Fiber and DNR. The Longview lands have since been purchased by Chelan County for inclusion and protection within the Stemilt Community Forest, and viability of small diameter harvest for profit has decreased, significantly slowing harvest activity in the area. Commercial harvest is likely to continue, but on a much smaller scale and with methods tied to increasing forest health and resiliency.**

## **8) Key Issue Assessment**

List the identified key issues or areas of controversy or concern and include a brief statement of why each is a key issue. For each item listed:

**This non-project action contains one major key issue. The proposed winter non-motorized use area was the main topic of over 200 public comments received during the 90-day public comment period, and resulted in attendance of over 100 people at a meeting held by the Apple Country Snowmobile Club to discuss the proposal. A subgroup of the recreation planning committee was formed with representatives of both motorized winter recreation and non-motorized winter recreation, to address public concerns with the proposal.**

**This recommendation raised concern from the winter motorized recreation community because the original proposal for a non-motorized winter use area contained lands that traditionally have been and currently are heavily used and highly valued by the motorized community. The public comments received were nearly evenly split between concern for losing motorized access to popular snowmobiling area, and the need/desire for areas in which non-motorized recreation can occur without the presence of snowmobiles. The volume of comments received and the attendance at public meetings illustrated the level of interest and passion within the community regarding winter recreation opportunities in the planning area. While the motorized community was clearly opposed to losing access to popular off-trail snowmobiling terrain, the non-motorized community felt that the area should offer equal opportunity for non-motorized recreation and that motorized and non-motorized recreation could not coincide in the same area. The Naneum Plan, with which this planning effort had to align, called for non-motorized recreation opportunities such as trails and play areas, and provided a large-scale map with polygons identified as conceptual areas for these trails and play areas. The language of the Naneum Plan did not**



call specifically for a non-motorized *area*, but rather for non-motorized *opportunities*. This plan assumes that non-motorized opportunities will be inherently free of motorized activity, in order to provide the type of quality non-motorized experience desired by the non-motorized community. Therefore, the focus of this planning effort was to establish the boundaries of a non-motorized area in which quality non-motorized recreation opportunities could be developed and utilized.

Several alternatives for this non-motorized area boundary were developed during the planning process. The original proposal was brought to the planning group by members who had participated in the Naneum Plan process, and included a non-motorized area that roughly encapsulated the areas shown in the concepts bubbles in the Naneum Plan. In this proposal, the groomed snowmobile trail system provided the eastern boundary of the non-motorized area, and all of Section 23, lying on the western side of the Mission Ridge Ski Area was included. This proposal was initially accepted by the planning group, and was shown at the public open house in March 2018. This proposal garnered concern from the motorized community, as it included within the non-motorized boundary some of the most popular high elevation off-trail snowmobile play areas. This proposal is referenced as the El Sendero NMA Proposal in the plan, as it was originally presented by El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club.

The motorized community felt that they had not had adequate input or representation within the planning process, which led to a proposal that was not acceptable to a large portion of the community. Additional representatives from the motorized community were invited to join the planning committee, balancing out this discrepancy. The motorized community also independently organized and developed a proposal for a non-motorized area that they felt would be acceptable considering their traditional use of the area. This proposal was presented to the recreation planning committee, and is referenced as the Motorized Group Winter Proposal in the plan.

At the May 2018 recreation planning meeting, the group discussed the proposal from the motorized community and determined that though they were not completely satisfied with the proposal, they thought that with more work an acceptable version could be crafted. A subgroup was formed with equal representation from both motorized and non-motorized groups, and the subgroup met twice in June and July of 2018 to craft a proposal that satisfied both groups. The result of these meetings is referred to as the Compromise Winter Proposal. Though El Sendero, a member of the planning committee and of the subgroup, announced that El Sendero would not formally agree to any compromise to their original concept, non-motorized users not representing El Sendero agreed that the Compromise Winter Proposal could provide the types of non-motorized opportunities desired by the community. Additionally, representatives from DNR and WDFW were present at the final subgroup meeting and were satisfied with the level of cooperation between the two groups to reach the Compromise Winter Proposal.

Two other alternatives exist, but are not carried forward for consideration. First, El Sendero had a mapped version of their proposal that covered more ground than the one presented at the March open house. This was taken off the table because it would have effectively blocked motorized access to private lands surrounded by the proposed area, and this raised concern from the private landowners in an early survey of residents and Stemilt Partnership members. This original proposal was revised into the El Sendero NMA Proposal. The motorized group also proposed a 'do nothing' alternative, meaning no establishment of a non-motorized area. This alternative could still allow for development of non-motorized trails and play areas, but it would not exclude motorized use from the area. This alternative was backed by the argument that these are public lands and no use should be excluded from public lands. This alternative was not pursued because of the resounding sentiment from the community that quality non-motorized opportunities cannot coincide with motorized use, and the Naneum Plan clearly mandates the development of quality non-motorized recreation opportunity.

There are no major environmental differences between the alternatives. The suitability studies conducted in the Naneum Plan do not show major environmental impacts associated with motorized use during the winter, as many sensitive wildlife species are generally absent from the area or hibernating during winter and snow insulates the ground and sensitive areas from vehicle impacts. The impacts of the different alternatives are more social than environmental. The establishment of a non-motorized area will impact motorized users by decreasing the land area that they are allowed to access. It will benefit the non-motorized community by allowing establishment of high-quality non-motorized recreation opportunities. The negative impacts to the motorized group could be mitigated by working to ensure that the most valued and highly used off-trail riding areas can still be accessed and used, and that motorized access to the groomed snowmobile trail system (sno-parks with adequate parking) is maintained.

The plan contains the three alternatives outlined above. Because not all members of the planning group could agree on an alternative, all three alternatives are brought forward for further analysis. In a vote to gauge support from the Stemilt Partnership, a majority of members voted in support of the Compromise Proposal. The landowner agencies will indicate support for a proposal during the SEPA comment period, and a preferred alternative should be selected for the final plan at the public hearing following the SEPA comment period.

Appendix E of the draft plan provides a detailed account of the process leading to the development of alternatives, and a description of the physical characteristics of each alternative.

## **9) Proposed Nonproject Action or Alternative Actions**

Describe a range of reasonable alternatives or the preferred alternative that will meet the objective(s). For each alternative, answer the following questions, referring again to the list of the elements of the environment in WAC 197-11-444:

**The preferred alternative is outlined in the draft plan, and includes the package of recommendations that were developed by the recreation committee and run through several rounds of public input and review by WDFW. Earlier versions of the package of recommendations included a set of alternatives that covered a range of development levels for each recommendation. These early versions can be viewed on the Chelan County Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Planning website here: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/recreation-planning-documents-and-maps>. The draft plan does contain a range of alternatives for the winter non-motorized area proposal, as described above in Question 8. The preferred alternative was selected as a means to meet the demand for recreation in the planning area while still protecting water resources and wildlife, as directed in the Stemilt Vision Document. The draft plan also describes the different range of alternatives for all recommendations that could have been selected, under the following categories:**

- **No Action Alternative**
- **Recreation and Access Based Alternative**
- **Wildlife Habitat Protection Based Alternative**
- **Balanced Alternative**

**A discussion of these alternatives is included in Chapter 6 of the draft plan. The Balanced Alternative was selected to meet the objectives of the plan.**

- a) If this alternative were fully implemented (including full build-out development, redevelopment, changes in land use, density of uses, management practices, etc.), describe where and how it would direct or encourage demand on or changes within elements of the human or built environment, as well as the likely affects on the natural environment. Identify where the change or affect or increased demand constitutes a likely adverse impact, and describe any further or additional adverse impacts that are likely to occur as a result of those changes and affects.

**The recommendations included in the preferred alternative will have the following impacts on the physical environment of the planning area:**

**Motorized/non-motorized recreation changes:**

- **Decrease the density of roads within the planning area by implementing hard closures on roads that are not part of the green dot road system, particularly along the Pole Flats Road in the area identified by WDFW as the having the highest elk use in the basin (Zone 3).**
- **Increase the amount of non-motorized recreation opportunity, including trails, trailheads, and marked winter routes, in Zone 2, located along the western edge of the planning area. This will**

likely include construction of new trails or conversion of road beds to trails, and establishment of a non-motorized winter use area.

- **Decrease illegal motorized traffic at Upper Wheeler Reservoir by altering the access point from Upper Wheeler Road to Orr Creek Road, opening a green dot connector road from Upper Wheeler Road to Orr Creek road to enable legal access, and improving the parking area at the gate located at the Orr Creek Road access point. Opening this connector road may result in higher impacts to wildlife in the area, but a vacation of the end of Upper Wheeler Road from the junction with the connector road on would offset this impact. Additionally, there is currently no hard closure on this connector road, so there is already likely motorized traffic occurring on it. This proposed change would result in an overall decrease of impact by motorized vehicle on both roads and irrigation district infrastructure.**
- **Establishment of a winter non-motorized use area would result in a decrease in motorized use within the boundaries of the area, and an increase in non-motorized use (xc skiing, snowshoeing, back-country skiing, fat-tire biking) within the area. Associated environmental impacts would include markings for non-motorized routes and boundary markings for the non-motorized area (likely signage affixed to trees).**

#### **Facilities/Site Hardening**

- **Improvements in campsites and parking at high use areas would result in minor changes to the physical environment by ‘hardening’ already impacted surfaces and adding materials and vegetation to create borders for these hardened areas to prevent spread of impacts. These improvements would lend a more organized and formalized look to sites that are currently unmanaged and used as dispersed recreation sites. Rustic improvements such as picnic tables and fire rings would encourage use of established sites, prevent the spread of impacts that is occurring at these sites as people build their own fire rings in various places and camp close to riparian areas and shorelines. Additions of fire rings would also decrease risk of human-caused wildfire by containing campfires. Improvements and hardening would occur within the footprint of already impacted areas at high use sites. The overall percent of impervious surfaces within the planning area as a result of this plan will be very minor, less than .1% of the total planning area. Minor vegetation removal may occur at some sites to improve parking availability and campsites. All site improvements would occur outside of a buffer protecting riparian/aquatic areas, with the goal of reducing use and impact within these buffers.**

- **Development of seasonal structures (winter warming hut in the Four Corners area for users of the groomed snowmobile trail system, and a yurt or hut in Section 36 on Naneum Ridge for non-motorized users in winter and potentially summer) would result in construction of simple facilities and higher use concentrations in these areas. The snowmobile warming hut would be limited to winter use, to protect wildlife movement and habitat use by elk during the summer and fall. Use of the structure in Section 36 for non-motorized users will need further evaluation to assess impacts of summer use. These structures will have minor hardened footprints, and will blend with the natural environment.**
- **Establishment of a designated shooting area would concentrate impacts of target shooting into one area that can be managed and periodically cleaned up. Establishing 'no shooting zones' in high use areas would increase safety for all users in these areas, and result in less trash associated with target shooting in high use areas.**
- **Site improvements, such as described above, and the recommendation for increase law enforcement to reduce impacts from damaging illegal activity and user conflict, means an increased need for public services. Rustic site improvements, as outlined in Phase 1 recommendations in the plan, would require little maintenance after implementation. Phase 2 recommendations, such as vault toilets, can only occur if a maintenance plan is developed concurrently.**

b) Identify potential mitigation measures for the adverse impacts identified in 9.a and describe how effective the mitigation is assumed to be, any adverse impacts that could result from the use of the mitigation, and any conflict or concern related to the proposal objectives and/or key issues identified.

**Adverse impacts identified in 9a include possible increased impacts to wildlife with development of new trails and facilities, loss of accessible terrain for winter motorized users, changes in access to Upper Wheeler Reservoir with the potential opening of a connector road between Upper Wheeler Road and Orr Creek Road and the closure of the end of Upper Wheeler Road, and increased need for law enforcement presence and maintenance activity. Potential mitigation measures for the adverse impacts associated with plan recommendations are as follows:**

**Mitigation for potential wildlife impacts:**

- **Decrease impacts of recreation on wildlife in key habitat areas such as those identified in Zone 3 by installing hard closures on non-green dot roads to preserve contiguous habitat, and restricting development of any designated trails or trailheads in Zone 3. Development of new non-**

motorized trails is focused in Zone 2, where trailheads and other developments already exist, and where elk modeling shows less concentration of use. Seasonal closures on recreation trails are also recommended, to protect elk during calving season (May-June). The plan includes recommendations to assess trail development potential within the impact buffer of already existing roads, to keep impacts associated with recreational trail use within areas that are already impacted and to avoid additional fragmentation of habitat. Trail and trailhead development will be assessed at the individual project level prior to implementation, and mitigation for wildlife impacts will be included for each specific project.

**Mitigation for loss of accessible terrain for winter motorized users:**

- User groups worked together to identify areas that provide desired opportunities for both users groups. The Compromise Winter Proposal was developed as an attempt to ensure that these opportunities will be preserved for each user group with implementation of the recommended non-motorized winter recreation area. Key high-elevation off trail play areas that are currently highly utilized by motorized users will remain accessible under the Compromise Proposal, while easily accessed areas that can provide high quality cross-county skiing, snowshoeing, back-country skiing, fat tire biking, etc, will be included within the non-motorized area boundary. The plan also calls for continued adequate access and parking for motorized recreation on the groomed snowmobile trail system, to ensure continued quality access for motorized winter recreation in the planning area. The boundary of the non-motorized area will be ground-truthed with members of both motorized and non-motorized groups to ensure that the boundary makes sense on the ground and is easily delineated (preferable by terrain features that allow for both types of recreation).

**Mitigation for potential opening of connector road between Upper Wheeler Road and Orr Creek Road and changes in access to Upper Wheeler Reservoir:**

- Opening a connector road (designating an existing road as a green dot road), would increase the green dot road density in WDFW Section 20. The mitigation for this increase would be to vacate the portion of Upper Wheeler Road from the junction with this connector road to the gate at the end of Upper Wheeler Road before Upper Wheeler Reservoir (end of the County Road). This would change the legal access to Upper Wheeler Reservoir to access from Orr Creek Road. The benefits of this change would be opening a legal access route from Upper Wheeler Road to the rest of the green dot road system in the basin, and decreasing illegal motorized activity on Wenatchee Heights Reclamation District property at Upper Wheeler Reservoir by ATVs coming from Upper Wheeler Road. The negative impact would be loss of public access to Upper Wheeler Reservoir from Upper Wheeler Road. Irrigation districts could still access the reservoir from Upper Wheeler Road as needed. The plan includes a recommendation for improved parking at the gate accessing

**Upper Wheeler Reservoir from Orr Creek Road to accommodate motorized vehicles at this access point.**

**Mitigation for increased need for law enforcement presence and maintenance needs associated with proposed developments:**

- **Strategies to accommodate the need for increased law enforcement and maintenance include grant funding opportunities for part-time agency employees dedicated to this area, and utilization of volunteer groups for ‘eyes in the woods’ observations and organized cleanups. Groups such as the Wenatchee Sportsman Association and Apple Country Snowmobile Club have traditionally organized cleanup efforts in the basin, and have expressed interest in continuing to do so. These groups and others will be vital to achieving the objectives of the plan through continued participation in the implementation and maintenance phases of this plan.**

**The mitigation measures described here are expected to balance any impacts with decreases in impacts in other areas, concentrate use in high use areas to prevent spread of impacts, and provide strategies to help agencies manage increases in facilities and recreational activity in the planning area. With community support and involvement, these mitigation measures are expected to be effective in helping achieve plan objectives.**

- c) **Identify unavoidable impacts and those that will be left to be addressed at the project level.**

**Any project involving ground disturbance (trail development, campsite/parking improvement, facility construction etc.) will undergo a SEPA process and impacts will be assessed at the project level. Mitigation for impacts will be determined through the SEPA process at the individual project level.**

**Some recommendations will result in changes to access. Some of these changes will only enforce already existing regulations (hard closures of non-green dot roads). Others will be new access changes (non-motorized winter use area, seasonal closures to green dot roads to protect road surfaces during melt-off). With any new access changes, continued access to traditional recreation uses will be ensured (seasonal closures on roads would end by fishing season opener or earlier, alternative access options would be identified if any sno-parks need to be relocated, etc.). The Stemilt Partnership and the Roads Committee will provide a forum for assessing these impacts and identifying alternative access points as needed to ensure continued opportunity for traditional types of recreation.**

Some recommendations contain elements that will need to be decided at the project level. For example, the non-motorized winter recreation area proposal states that motorized access will still be enabled from the Noyd easement to the groomed snowmobile trail system, for authorized users of the Noyd easement. The route for this access has not been determined, only specified to cause the least impact to the non-motorized area possible. The route will have to cross through the non-motorized area at some point, and stakeholders will need to work together to identify this route at the project level. Another example is the location for the proposed north-south trail linking Squilchuck State Park to Naneum Ridge. There are guidelines in the plan for locating the trail in a location with the least impact to wildlife (mostly in Zone 2, potentially within buffer areas of open roads), but the actual location will be determined at the project level.

- d) Describe how the proposal objectives will or will not be met if the impacts described in 9.c were to occur.

**Plan objectives will still be met if the impacts described in 9c occur. The recommendations in the plan are designed to minimize impacts on the values of water/natural resources and wildlife, and should be self-mitigating. Additionally, project-level SEPA on development proposals will ensure impacts of each individual proposal are acceptable, and provide opportunity for further public comment prior to implementation. A few key objectives from the plan objectives listed in question 2b will help ensure that the overall plan goals are met in terms of mitigation of impacts:**

- **Address the issues and opportunities identified in the planning process.**
- **Continue community and stakeholder involvement in implementing plan recommendations into the future. Continued community input and participation will be critical during implementation to ensure impacts of implementation are acceptable to community members and fit within plan objectives.**
- **Integrate the protection of the three pillars of the Stemilt Community Vision- water, wildlife, and recreation- into the management of recreation in the planning area.**

**Note:** Alternatives may be rejected at any point in the process if: they have no environmental benefit, are not within existing authority, are determined unfeasible, or do not meet the core objectives.



## **PART III – IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS**

### **10) Consistency of the proposal with other plans, policies and laws.**

- a) Internal consistency - If there are internal inconsistencies between this proposal and your agency's previously adopted or ongoing plans and regulations, identify any strategies or ideas for resolving these inconsistencies.

**There are no known inconsistencies between this proposal and any of the land-management agencies' previously adopted or ongoing plans and regulations.**

- b) External consistency - If there are external inconsistencies between this proposal and adopted or ongoing plans and regulations of adjacent jurisdictions and/or other agencies, identify any strategies or ideas for resolving these inconsistencies.

**There are no known inconsistencies between this proposal and any adjacent jurisdictions and/or agencies previously adopted or ongoing plans and regulations.**

### **11) Monitoring and Follow-up**

- a) Describe any monitoring that will occur to ensure the impacts were as predicted and that mitigation is effective, including responsible party, timing, and method(s) to be used.

**The plan contains a monitoring component, which identifies key indicators and thresholds against which impacts occurring as a result of plan implementation can be measured and plan effectiveness can be assessed. The monitoring plan includes indicators and thresholds, rational for the chosen indicator or threshold, applicable analysis area, monitoring strategy, and a suite of management strategies for a range of key issues/opportunities that were identified early on in the planning process.**

**A monitoring plan subgroup of the planning committee arrived at the following five indicator topics that would translate the desired conditions into measurable attributes that could be tracked over time:**

- **Areas for traditional recreational uses**
- **Non-motorized recreation opportunities**
- **Use conflicts/illegal activities**
- **Effectiveness of green dot road system**

- **Preservation of contiguous habitat areas**

**Motoring will be a shared responsibility between agencies and public users of the planning area. Some indicators will be measurable by GIS analysis following implementation of recommendation (for example, the preservation of contiguous habitat can be measured by mapping the roads/trails that are known to exist and be accessible by motorized vehicle). Others, such as ‘Use conflicts/illegal activities’ can be measured through law enforcement records and observed instances of illegal activity such as garbage dumping. Citizen observations can provide monitoring data on indicators and thresholds, and can be gathered through surveys and reports. Chelan County Natural Resource Department will maintain a role of tracking impacts according to the monitoring plan, and providing monitoring updates bi-annually as staffing levels and funding allow throughout the 10-year planning period. Updates will be shared with other land-management agencies and stakeholders, and mitigation actions will be considered if indicators/thresholds are breached as a result of plan implementation.**

- b) Identify any plans or strategies for updating this proposed action based on deviation from impact projections or other criteria.

**The plan should be updated every 10 years, taking into account changes in the planning area, effectiveness of plan in attaining objectives, and changes in use patterns. As mentioned above, if indicators/thresholds of the identified key issues/opportunities are exceeded within a two year monitoring period, agencies should convene and discuss issues affecting plan effectiveness and consider management changes that can address issues while still adhering to the plan objectives. For example, if a decrease in access points becomes an issue for maintaining the key opportunity of having areas for traditional recreation uses, such as a sno-park agreement ending due to changes in landowner agreements, an alternative access point should be identified through collaboration between agencies and landowners. Chelan County Natural Resource Department will maintain a role of organizing agency/stakeholder collaboration for mitigation of impacts as staffing levels and funding allow.**

=====

**WAC 197-11-444, Elements of the Environment**

**Natural Environment**

**a. Earth**

Geology; soils; topography; unique physical features; erosion/enlargement of land area

**b. Air**

Air quality; odor climate

**c. Water**

Surface water movement/quantity/quality; runoff/absorption; floods

**d. Plants and animals**

Habitat for and numbers or diversity of species of plants, fish, or other wildlife; unique species; fish or wildlife migration routes

**e. Energy and natural resources**

Amount required/rate of use/efficiency; source/availability; nonrenewable resources; conservation and renewable resources; scenic resources

**Built Environment**

**a. Environmental health**

Noise; risk of explosion; releases or potential releases to the environment affecting public health

**b. Land and shoreline use**

Relationship to existing land use plans and to estimated population; housing; light and glare; aesthetics; agricultural crops

**c. Transportation**

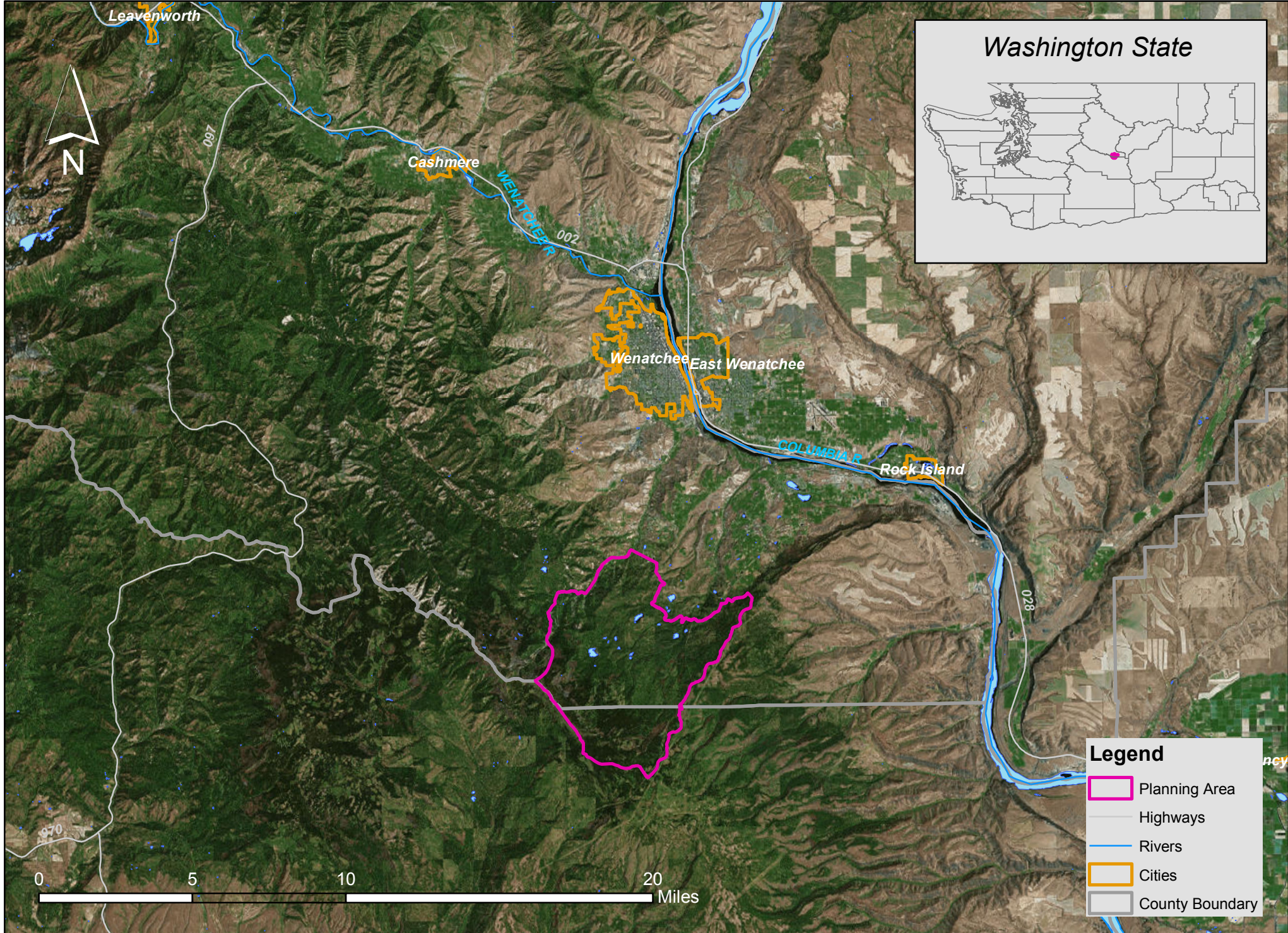
Transportation systems; vehicular traffic; waterborne, rail, and air traffic; parking; movement/circulation of people and goods; traffic hazards

**d. Public services and utilities**

Fire; police; schools; parks and other recreational facilities; maintenance; communications; water/storm water; sewer/solid waste; other governmental services or utilities.

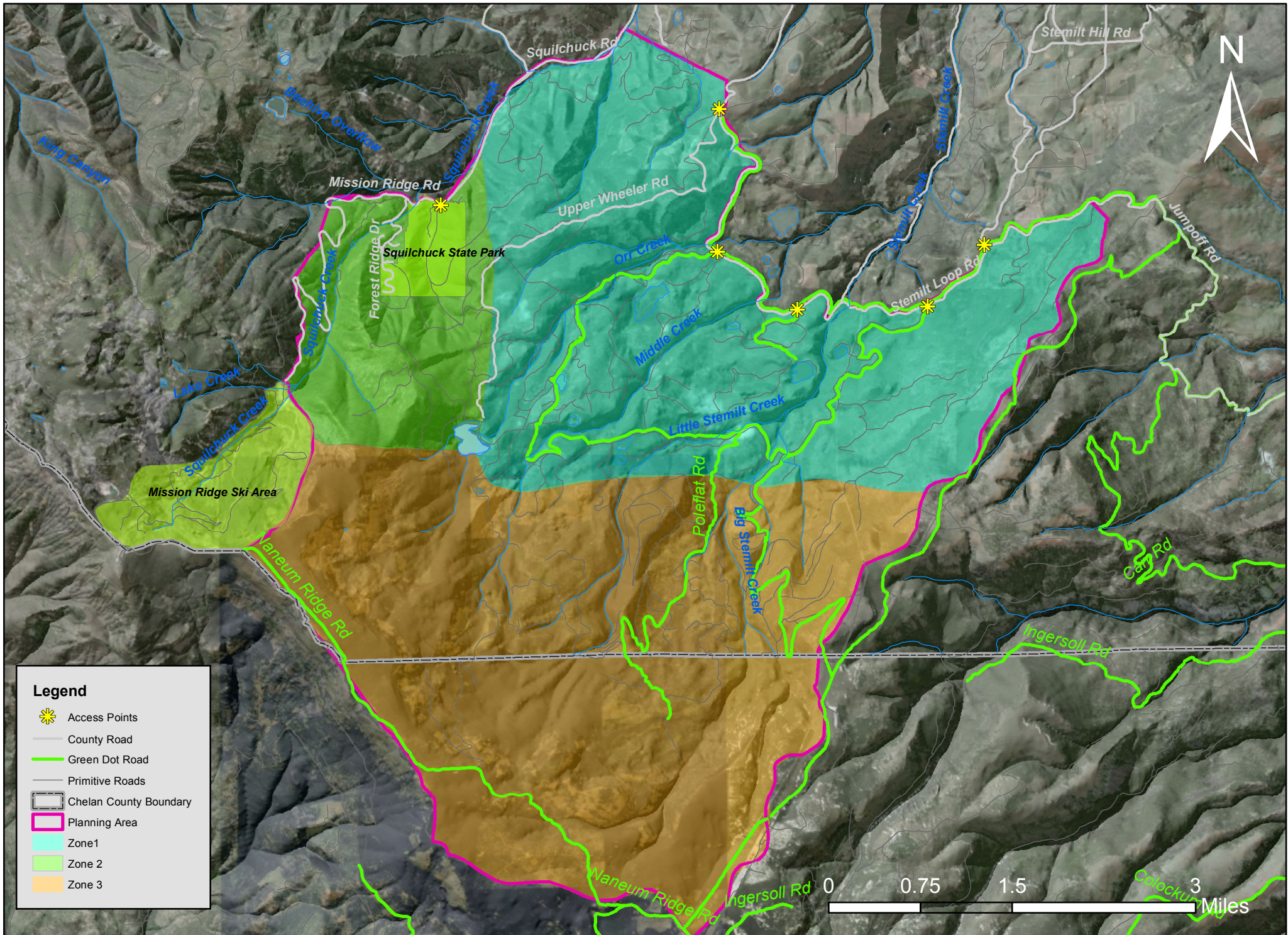


# Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Planning Area Location





# Stemilt Squilchuck Recreation Planning Area



The planning area is defined by the Stemilt Watershed to the south and east, the Mission Ridge Ski Area boundary and Squilchuck Road to the west, and Stemilt Loop Road to the north. Data sources: Stemilt Vision Document 2008, Chelan County GIS. Erin McKay 2016.