Nason Ridge Community Forest

Vision and Desired Conditions 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 proposed modifications)**

### Recreation & Public Use

* 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.

See the full suite of objectives developed by the Nason Ridge Advisory Committee, and the benefits that accompany the achievement of those objectives at the end of this document.

**Nason Ridge Desired Conditions**

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| **Desired Conditions** | | |
|  | **Summer** | **Winter** |
| Natural Resources | Sensitive ecological areas will be protected from development and overuse impacts. These areas include riparian areas, wetlands, critical wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors.  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.  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.  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.  Restoration of natural resources will be prioritized following management activities and on the property in general.  Efforts are made to increase awareness/education of forest health in the surrounding communities. | |
| Activities | Hiking/walking/running  Viewpoints  Biking  Birding/wildlife viewing  Hunting  Education (school outings, youth education)  Interpretation (signage, kiosk, naturalists)  Equestrian  E-bikes? In the future, classifications will not matter. Have to decide on management and sign well. Design and build for the desired use. May be appropriate in some areas.  Overnight huts?  Commercial activities (guided activities, permitted events)? | XC Skiing  Snowshoeing  Warming Huts  Overnight huts (concession)?  Commercial activities (guided activities, permitted events)? |
| Visitor Experience | Self-reliant experience, little enforcement  Different options for different experiences/management types (classification management zones will be developed for trail development)  Visitors have opportunities to experience nature through a healthy forest and intact ecosystem.  ‘Community Forest feel’, through signage/education at access points | Self-reliant experience, little enforcement |
| Facilities and Services | 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.  Infrastructure and design features will be used to manage uses (i.e. gates, fences/openings, wide or narrow trails) | 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. |

Notes:

State Parks Classification Management zones: Natural; Natural preserve; Resource recreation; Recreation. Utilize similar system to provide resource protection and range of experience.

Determine types of accessibility needed for different underserved community members to be able to gain benefits of Community Forest.

**Range of Management Objectives from Community Forest Management Plan:**

### Forest Management

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