**Nason Ridge Stewardship Group Meeting 1/23/25**

**Attending:**

Mark Kihlstrom

John Essex

Dave Millard, Kahler Glen

Shon Smith, Commissioner

Paul Tomas, WA State Parks

Tim Gallagher

Sarah Smith

Mary Gallegher

Bill and Nancy Miller (Kahler Glen)

Dennis Broughton

Barbara and Rolly Schmitten

Chad Spies

Jim Clark

**On Zoom:**

Eric Prestbo

Bill Deters, NCW Audobon

AR Hall, Mary Brunjes

David Millard

Lottie Sam, Yakama Nation Fisheries Ed and Outreach Specialist

Sue McCausland

Mike Kaputa

**Sno-Park WA State Parks**

Parking by Gate, Bulletin Board

Are majority of residents in favor

Plowing- who would pay for that?

Increase Non-motorized Access

Upper section before gate

Dennis: Who owns the 6910 road? $8000 deposit that Butcher Cr residents invested to have the road plowed.

Sarah: Lives at the end of the plowed road and has a ‘parking lot’ in front of her house.

Dave: County could have a road use agreement for doing maintenance. Is there something that could be done to mitigate the issues.

Erin: We received $30K for road improvements

Dennis: Road needs to be improved/fixed

Bill: Master Plan for shared maintenance of road in a collaborative way.

Mary: This isn’t the fault of the community forest

Dave: An increased funding request is going to rely on increased use to justify the funding request.

Bill: Road engineer available to do survey of road? Combined/shared maintenance plan

Tim: USFS revenue comes from timber. Sno-park would be beneficial for community. Deep pockets in county/WA parks. It’s not the comm forest fault or sno-park fault.

Erin: We’re sitting in this room talking about it and looking for solutions.

Chad: Sno-park might keep snowmobiles out.

Bill: Fire Station gives people the wrong idea

Paul- Could enforce parking at gate if Parks had permission from County. Application would be due June 1 for Sno-Park to be put in place by winter 2025. Signage and law enforcement would help keep it non-motorized.

AR Hall- The county does not have a legal right to the road.

Tim- Can county provide written opinion to the group from counsel describing easement access?

Mike- We can discuss. Incremental gains should be the goal.

Rolly: We need a survey of the road.

Mark: Culverts should be replaced- water quality issues.

Dennis: Feels like we’re moving forward with something without a plan.

No concerns with Sno-Park outside of the road maintenance/access.

**Title II grant info**

Mark- will want to get USFS road engineer out in the spring to do a survey on USFS road

Dave- we might need to be flexible

Erin: We can work with USFS on permits for Mark and Dennis to do road work

Chad: Working to brush out trails on Nason Ridge

Tim: All the trails on the maps are still there

Erin: Good spring meeting topic- discuss priorities for trail work projects for this summer

**Community Forest Fuels Reduction Projects**

Thinning project on Rolly’s property:

31 slash piles of significant size, burned all but 4 which were left as habitat

Still smoldering in places

Plant 7-10 thousand seedlings, doug fir, white pine, larch, cedar

All signs have been removed

All snags marked with signs

Rolly is very happy with the outcome.

Cougar killed a deer and dragged it 20 yards uphill and buried it in the ditch. Bear scavenged carcass.

Pre and post harvest mastication, missed one unit but worked with DNR to fund the mastication.

2025: Planning and implementing ridgetop fuels reduction, funded by NRCS- mix of machine mastication and hand piling. Strategic fuel break and will open up views. Layout will happen in the spring (after nesting season). Non-commercial thinning project.

NFWF grant proposal, on 125 acres of habitat improvement. Chad made red suggestion polygons that county will use in grant application. Implemented in 2026

Community Wildfire Defense Grant- for non-federal lands, private lands adjacent to lands where work is already happening. Non-commercial fuels reduction work. Tools available to private landowners. Fire districts will work with smaller defensible space projects.

**Kahler AWS Project**

Wood debris structures to be installed

Working through permitting and it’s possible that it could be implemented in 2025 but not for sure

Machines will go on county and CDLT lands but habitat will be rehabbed afterwards

Would happen in August- ish

Nason NEPA on hold for now

Bill: thanks to state parks

Mary: Should we create a group to work with Paul to write application for Sno-Park.

Application must be approved for 3 consecutive years.

Snowshoe routes, dangers involved, signage, visitation, trail counter data, is this bringing money into sno-park system, landowner agreements.

Mark is willing to help with application, Chad can help with snowshoe route. Gallaghers are willing to help.

Dennis: do we need a road project team? Mark is willing to help with that.