

projects be vetted in several different ways including management objectives and resource values, as well as transaction feasibility. Much of the success we have acquiring parcels of land is due to the strong support of land trust partners who are able to buy and hold property while the Forest Service goes through the processes required to advocate for and ultimately expend public dollars for public benefit.

We are reviewing and updating the Land Adjustment Plan for the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River. The use of Federal condemnation authority will not be a central component. Our goal is that the acquisition of necessary properties will be started early.

Each of the last five years, we have requested Land and Water Conservation Fund funding for land in the Northwestern Park Area in support of river access to the Lower White Salmon River. The project would secure a public takeout for tens of thousands of yearly recreational users. The need to permanently secure public river access in this location cannot be overstated. This parcel is critical for maintaining the current public recreational access to the White Salmon River. That includes access for the general public seeking to kayak, raft, fish or swim, and also access for commercial whitewater rafting trips, permitted through the National Scenic Area's (NSA) Special Uses Program.

Regarding the potential availability of Weyerhaeuser lands, Dennis White, a representative of Columbia Gorge Audubon Society, also recently brought this to the attention of my staff. Approximately 80 acres of the 240-acre Weyerhaeuser owned property was listed for sale. In discussion with Copper West Realty, we learned that Weyerhaeuser has letters of intent to sell the acres they own in the area. We will continue to discuss potential options for acquisition of the approximately 30 acres of these lands that are located within the Wild and Scenic River corridor.

My hope for the future would be that we can cooperatively approach these topics together. Miki Fujikawa, Lands Staff Officer ([miki.fujikawa@usda.gov](mailto:miki.fujikawa@usda.gov) or (541) 308-1714), is available to meet for discussion.

Thank you for your interest and support of the Lower White Salmon Wild and Scenic River.

Sincerely,



LYNN BURDITT  
Area Manager

CC: Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, Representative Herrera Beutler