

The management corridor provides an important migration route for wildlife through this valley that is undergoing development pressures. The boundaries that presently exist pinch that migration route along your property. This migration corridor not only provides for the movement of wildlife, but also allows for necessary genetic exchange between dispersed populations of wildlife.

The White Salmon River relies on diminishing glacier run-off from Mount Adams and seeps and springs to maintain late summer river flow necessary for commercial irrigation, fish migration (since the removal of Condit dam in 2011), and for white water recreation. This is a very popular white water river; records show that twenty five thousand people go down the river annually. These three uses provide significant infusion of money into our local economy. Hydrology, both from Mount Adams glaciers and from springs and seeps from your property and others along the river, is considered an Outstandingly Remarkable Value by the Forest Service. Residential wells are known to negatively impact this hydrological resource, and we believe that it would heavily impact all of the commercial uses of the river.

As the glaciers on Mount Adams recede every year, we become more aware of how this fact threatens our river flow, and thus the agriculture, fishing and white water recreation businesses that depend on that flow. Trees are the best sequesters of carbon, and thinking locally, we believe that tree production, not residential development, is a way that we can step up to help maintain the glaciers that feed our river.

Historically, your property has been used for hunting. We understand that you have leased out hunting rights in the past. We believe that the public would like to have access to this land in the future for hunting. This would not be possible if the land was converted to residential development.

We believe that our community would like to retain this property in timber production for future jobs, balanced with conservation needs. These jobs and timber products would be lost if the land was converted to residential development.

The sloping hillsides of your property provides a portion of the visual back-drop for this National Wild and Scenic River. Granted, a clear-cut is not scenic, but trees grow back, and in a few years the bare ground will be green again, and the forest will renew itself. However, if this property is eventually converted to residential development, the backdrop for this special place will be houses, and if that gets started, it will set a precedent that will become a trend, and that trend will become the dominant overlooking theme of this river. This is not just a guess, it is what we know will happen without intervention.

Scott Dahlquist tried to reassure us that "residential development would be unlikely to happen." One of the benefits of this meeting is that we had an opportunity to address misunderstandings such as this one.