

to see the largest timber company in the country advocating for a Wild and Scenic River? The Forest Service will listen to Weyerhaeuser. You can make this deal happen.

Second, Scott emphasized that we need to organize an intermediary to "bridge funder" the sale of your property in order to bring it into public ownership. At that point in our talk, Scott and Jim still did not grasp the political reality of the situation here. The Forest Service will not act to purchase your property within Alternative 2 boundaries to protect the river unless they are convinced that it is the only way that they can avoid being embarrassed. (Forest Service public exposure and embarrassment is our job.) The land purchasing intermediaries are very familiar with Forest Service neglect of this river, and they will not become involved until they hear that you are seeking to sell your property to the Forest Service. If we had a Forest Service that was managing the river the way that Congress directed them to, we could do this deal in the usual sequence - the way we have done it before, and the way that Jim and Scott wanted us to do it - but the Forest Service has instead been subverting the will of Congress and the proper management of this river. This fact must be taken into account, and actions must be based on this fact, for this land deal to work. Otherwise, it will surely fail.

We know that Jim and Scott are busy people. When we asked what Weyerhaeuser was willing to do for the river, and suggested how they could make this deal work, they responded that they did not even have the time to write a letter to help save the river. We therefore suggest that they delegate someone to help bring your land into public ownership. It should be someone that can think out of the box, and has the authority to get the deal done.

Third, this good deed that we hope you will embrace, starts with you notifying Copper West Real Estate that you wish to remove your lands within the Alternative 2 boundaries from your over-all sale of approximately 4,000 acres in Klickitat County. Implied in this decision is a commitment on your part to compromise on your "highest and best use" bidding war strategy and accept a "fair market value" as established by a government approved appraiser, that will result in a fair price that the Forest Service can pay. You may even decide to donate some of the land as a gesture of corporate responsibility. Regardless of how the property comes into public ownership, doing the right thing for this relatively small property would barely register on your bottom line profits, but it would have a very beneficial impact on our community and this National Wild and Scenic River.

I apologize for this long letter, but the devil is in the details. We are laying our cards on the table here. We are taking a chance by giving you the excuses that have been developed by the Forest Service over the years to avoid acquisitions along this river, excuses that you could use to kill this deal. We are hoping that Jim and Scott and the Weyerhaeuser board can appreciate the value of our request for your help to make this deal happen. Over the years, Dennis White and I have saved a lot of land that was going to be lost for future generations, land that is now being used and enjoyed by the public. Most people have no idea of the role that we played in saving those lands, but we know,