

time, was owned by a member of the Stevenson family, and they formed a blockade against the logging trucks.

“We stopped that logging operation,” White says. “After we stopped it, the Forest Service wrote them a letter saying, ‘you can’t do that.’”

“Then a few years later, guess what? They came back in and logged the hell out of it.”

The logging that occurred around Spring Creek, which White calls the “crown jewel” of the Wild and Scenic White Salmon, is at the heart of his and Thies’ frustration with how the river has been managed over the years.

The Weyerhaeuser tract

Their most recent campaign involves another timber company: Weyerhaeuser, which is one of the world’s largest private landowners with over 12 million acres of commercial timberland in the United States. The publicly-traded corporation has always been a big name in the state (and especially in southwest Washington), but its presence in the White Salmon Valley increased substantially when, in 2013, it purchased Longview Fiber for \$2.6 billion and acquired roughly 645,000 acres in the Mid-Columbia Region.

Weyerhaeuser is now attempting to sell off some of that land, including 240 acres located on the east side of the river. This acreage can be accessed via Oak Ridge Road, and it neighbors the property where the Whites have lived since 1979.

Weyerhaeuser has divided the 240 acres into three 80-acre tracts, and one of those tracts is currently listed with Copper West for \$339,000. Of those 80 acres, 30 of them fall within the present boundary of the Wild and Scenic Corridor. The tract also straddles the White Salmon River, with a small chunk of it located on the river’s west bank.

