



This map shows the current boundaries of the Wild and Scenic Corridor. *Photo courtesy of the USFS*

It's important to keep in mind that all of this acreage was privately owned at the time. So the Forest Service came up with a plan that would bring more of this land into public ownership.

Pawlitz explains that at the heart of this plan was a three-way land exchange between SDS, the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the agency itself.

According to the Record of Decision: *"A key decision is that the Federal government will acquire, through exchange, all lands within the boundary owned by SDS Lumber Company. This is more than 700 acres, amounting to almost 40% of the land within the boundary."*

But SDS backed out, and the land exchange never happened. Today, the Lumber Company still owns approximately 40 percent of all lands within the boundary. And in the time since the land exchange fell through, the Forest Service has acquired a total of 144 acres (or roughly 13 percent of the lands within the boundary) out of a potential 770 acres.

Casey Andrews is the Wild and Scenic River Coordinator for the CRGNSA, and she explains that, according to the Wild and Scenic River Act, "We're only allowed to acquire 100 acres per river mile, and that would give us 770 acres that we could acquire."

Pawlitz adds that the Management Plan "calls for us to work on a willing basis with sellers," which means the agency has always avoided condemnation as a strategy for acquiring private lands.

According to the Record of Decision: *"The Forest Service will not use condemnation to acquire scenic easements on, or fee title to, private lands unless that is necessary, as a last resort after all other measures have failed, and then only to prevent imminent, serious adverse effects to the river"*