

area.”

Pawlitz also explains that the Forest Service is not the sole authority in the valley. She says the agency is required to work hand-in-glove with Klickitat and Skamania Counties, as well as the State of Washington, when dealing with privately owned lands that fall within the Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

“The key here is that it’s a state, local and federal partnership,” Pawlitz says.

And according to Andrews, “It seems to be a common misunderstanding that we have the authority to regulate on private land along the river. Anything that is not the river itself, we monitor from the river. That’s the only legal place that we can monitor because we don’t have jurisdiction to go on the land.”

Andrews and Pawlitz say the CRGNSA Office is directing its limited resources toward monitoring activities on the river itself, and the agency runs an outfitter program that issues special use permits for commercial rafting trips down the iconic Wild and Scenic stretch.

As for purchasing private lands adjacent to the river, Pawlitz says they have a priority list of properties they’d like to acquire. At the top of that list is Northwestern Park, which is located at the southern terminus of the Wild and Scenic stretch (and is currently owned by PacifiCorp.) The park is a popular river access for rafters and kayakers, and it would be the third public river access acquired by the agency within the Wild and Scenic Corridor. The other two sites are located at BZ Corner and Husum Falls.

