

property along the lower section of the White Salmon River from residential development, with the goal of bringing this section of the river into the National Wild and Scenic River system. You can help in two ways:

First, we ask that you cease all efforts to sell your lands to leasers (who may then sell to residential developers or develop the land further) or to anyone else, excepting for the land that may be sold to the Yakama Indian Nation. No doubt they want the lower section of the river for fishery use, and they may want to establish a fish hatchery. (Our understanding is that a native fish hatchery would be excluded from Wild and Scenic River regulations.) We have heard that you have recently sold 40 acres that will likely go into residential development. This was bad news for us and for the river. Now we can only ask that you hold off on further land sales along the White Salmon River.

Second, we ask that you contact the Forest Service and request that they initiate action that will bring this section of the lower river into the Wild and Scenic River system. Furthermore, we ask that you suggest to them that the best resolution of the present impasse would be for the remainder of your lands - other than the property going into Yakama Indian Nation ownership - be brought into public ownership through Forest Service acquisition.

Considering the embarrassment that the Forest Service may soon be confronted with over their river management, and the obvious benefit to the public that this recommendation would have, we hope that you will support bringing this section of the river into the Wild and Scenic River system, and that you will make this case to the Forest Service. The Forest Service will be hard pressed to turn their backs on your request, especially if you make your recommendation publicly.

We realize that maximizing profits is important to any large corporation such as your own. No doubt you have balanced the need for profit through mitigation measures on other properties. We are now asking you to initiate mitigation measures on this nationally significant property. After all, this river is now recognized as a white water recreation Mecca, and now that people can freely pass all of the way to the mouth, do we really want residential development overlooking the river? Instead of selling the balance of your property for private ownership and having it end up being logged and/or used for residential development, we ask that you act to preserve it for the benefit of future public use. This will also help off-set global warming, a growing concern that all of us face, and need to act responsibly on. Fortunately, your corporation is a publicly regulated monopoly, and your profit margin is assured. This should make it even easier to do the right thing for this river.

We hope that you will sincerely consider what we have told you here. We know that the best long term solutions do not just happen. We have in general offered you a plan to achieve that goal, and we believe that it can succeed; but without your cooperation, it will not happen.