



TO: US Senator Patti Murray, US Senator Maria Cantwell, and US Representative Jaime Herrera Butler.

FROM: Dave Thies, President, Columbia Gorge Audubon Society, PO Box 1393, White Salmon, WA 98672.

NOTE: DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL ADDRESS, but by phone or PO Box.

DATE: September 17, 2019

RE: Columbia Gorge Audubon Society is asking for Congressional intervention and oversight on how the US Forest Service National Scenic Area office handles our request for a land acquisition along the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River. Furthermore, we are seeking a Congressional investigation of what we consider to be 33 years of gross mismanagement of both the White Salmon and Klickitat Wild and Scenic Rivers.

WEYERHAEUSER PROPERTY INTERVENTION NEEDED:

Weyerhaeuser Corporation is now liquidating their timberland holdings in the Mid-Columbia region. Among their many timberland properties for sale are 240 sensitively located acres straddling both the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River and its management boundary. This property is being offered by Copper West Real Estate for "highest and best use" with options on lot sizes, two hallmarks of forestlands destined for future conversion to residential development.

We have asked Weyerhaeuser Corporation and Copper West to withhold this one property from the total sale, with the intent of bringing it into public ownership. We have heard that Weyerhaeuser has a program for saving special areas, but they have not responded to our request, and neither has Copper West.

We have asked the Forest Service NSA office to pursue this acquisition, but if history is a good predictor of future events, they will make a "show" attempt to buy while telling Weyerhaeuser they are not interested, and then they will tell us that there is no money. (We document a history of these ploys in the HISTORY OF MISMANAGEMENT section of this letter.)