

The properties adjacent to the Weyerhaeuser property are of significance. SDS Lumber Company is owned by the Stevenson family and they have the land to the south of the Weyerhaeuser property. This SDS property is within the management boundaries. They have constructed a "predevelopment" road through their property downhill toward the river. Klickitat County has improved Oak Ridge Road, which services this rural area, apparently in anticipation of pending development. To the north is a property owned by Six-S Corporation, owned in part by Tom Stevenson (of the Stevenson family), who has done residential development in the past. Ross Henry, of Copper West in Hood River, Oregon, told us Tom Stevenson has made an offer on half of the 240 acres owned by Weyerhaeuser. We are somewhat doubtful about whether this is true. If developers acquire the middle Weyerhaeuser property we may be looking at a mega-residential development, and that would be a mega-disaster for this Wild and Scenic River.

The Weyerhaeuser property straddling the management boundary should not prevent Forest Service acquisition of this property. The Forest Service has the authority to make boundary amendments, and they have successfully brought other properties into the boundaries and into public ownership.

The threat to the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River - the most popular white water recreation river in the Northwest - is both real and imminent.

Therefore, COLUMBIA GORGE AUDUBON SOCIETY IS REQUESTING CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION AND OVERSIGHT TO ENCOURAGE THE FOREST SERVICE TO PROCEED QUICKLY TO BRING THE WEYERHAEUSER 240 ACRES ALONG THE WHITE SALMON NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER INTO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP. WE ALSO REQUEST THAT YOU CONTACT WEYERHAEUSER CORPORATION AND COPPER WEST AND ASK THAT THEY FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF THIS PROPERTY INTO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

The Forest Service is presently prioritizing their funding request for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We advise quick action, but if you miss this funding cycle, please go for the next one.

Weyerhaeuser is a billion dollar corporation. They can afford to make this one small sacrifice amounting to a minor inconvenience for them, to help this Wild and Scenic River. If this property does not qualify for their special lands program, what does? We are starting to get media coverage about the Weyerhaeuser property, the White Salmon River, and Forest Service mismanagement of the Wild and Scenic rivers, after our recent protest at a Columbia Gorge Commission-Forest Service Open House in Hood River. Weyerhaeuser needs to decide soon whether or not they want bad PR or good PR.

We speak from experience regarding interactions with the Forest Service National Scenic Area Office. We advise skepticism when they offer their assurances or excuses. They are both likely to be deceptions which suit their purposes. They are experts at sabotaging