

content to wait in their National Scenic Area office for sellers to walk in with land for sale. The obvious fact that this approach was not working did not lead to a reassessment of this policy.

The history of the nearly 150 acres of land that the Forest Service has acquired along the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River is revealing.

When SDS planned to clearcut the last stand of old growth forest in the lower White Salmon River valley, we asked the Forest Service to acquire this 40 acre property, which is in the Wild and Scenic corridor. SDS and the Forest Service cruised the property and worked together to discredit the claim that this was an old growth forest, to preclude acquisition and inclusion. We hired Chris Maser (the foremost expert on old growth forests and author of the guidelines for identifying old growth forests for the federal land management agencies), and much to the embarrassment of the Forest Service and SDS, Maser confirmed that this was indeed an east side old growth forest. To avoid public embarrassment, SDS agreed to sell this property to the Forest Service. Without Forest Service help, and a lot of hindrance, Congress nonetheless appropriated funds for acquisition and this last stand of old growth forest was brought into public ownership.

When another 40 acre parcel known as the Tillitson property was threatened by logging and development, we brought the cutting of trees to a standstill with an appeal. We met with Tillitson, and a curious thing happened over a period of time. He came to sense our integrity and admire our efforts to conserve land. He agreed to sell to the Forest Service, but he wanted earnest money to hold the land. We gave it to him, but he never cashed the check. Even though this was a key property located between Highway 141 and the river (and primed for future development), the Forest Service could not be convinced to purchase this property. Tillitson had an opportunity to close us out, but instead he continued to work with us. We kept pressing the Forest Service and they reconvened their Task Force and tried to persuade them that the Tillitson property was not a worthy purchase. But their own Task Force disagreed with the Forest Service and recommended that the property be purchased. We went to Washington DC and met with Senator Slade Gorton (R) to assure the Land and Water Conservation Fund would provide the funding. When we left Washington DC we thought the funding was secured. Despite Senator Gorton's efforts on our behalf funding was diverted by others to purchase the Star gravel pit the Trust for Public Land was holding. Later, we convinced Bowen Blaire, of the Trust, to support funding for the Tillitson property, and that property was eventually purchased by the Forest Service. Once again, the Forest Service had worked diligently to avoid acquisition of property, even though acquisition was "central" to implementing their plan.

When another acquisition opportunity known as the Dozier property came up for sale, we put down earnest money and approached the Forest Service to purchase this 40 acres. This time the Forest Service showed more interest. This eastside forested shoreline property was located next to a 10 acre property the Forest had previously acquired, and