

we need to accept that fact. These are all reasons why we believe public ownership is the best solution for lands along this river, and we hope you will consider it the best solution too.

One good thing that Dennis and I took from this meeting is that Jim and Scott seemed to agree that the conservation format with timber management would be the best solution for your property, but they quickly pivoted to their disappointment that we did not come with an offer or a plan. We cannot make an offer because we are not financially positioned to buy your property. But we do have a plan. Here comes the part that will be hard for you to hear, for the simple reason that it is not what you are used to hearing. Although our plan is unusual and asks that Weyerhaeuser steps up and does the right thing for our nationally recognized river, at least it has the benefit of being the only practical way that we know to resolve this issue to help the river and the community, and - we believe - will also allow Weyerhaeuser to leave here with a clear conscience.

First, Weyerhaeuser must accept and respect this National Wild and Scenic River, and the role that your property will have - negatively or positively - on this river. If you accept our years of accumulated knowledge of the river and the politics involved in saving it, and if you really do seek out every opportunity to help save special places as your website suggests, you will join with us to help bring your land within the Alternative 2 boundary into public ownership. We understand the Forest Service has communicated with you, and that they may be receptive to purchasing the 30 acres within the river corridor, but we foresee they will not have shown any interest in your lands within Alternative 2 boundaries. This Forest Service "attitude" is consistent with a long history of river neglect and mismanagement that we have documented and have passed on to Congress for their consideration and action. We doubt that you will want to be walking lock step with the Forest Service into that debacle. Therefore, we believe that you should advise the Forest Service that you really want to do the right thing, by bringing all of your lands within the Alternative 2 boundaries into public ownership. To be effective your offer should be made public through the news media, so the Forest Service will know that the public is watching how they respond. This will also alert intermediary "bridge funders" of the pending deal so that they can become involve to speed it along. The Forest Service will step back from their reticence to purchase land from a willing seller - a purchase that will prevent future residential development along this portion of the river - and negotiations will commence. However, the Forest Service may first claim that they cannot purchase the land outside of the present boundaries. This is not true. They have the authority to amend those boundaries to protect the Outstanding Remarkable Values, and they have done it before. They may claim that there is no money in the budget. But, the money comes from the Congressionally authorized Land and Water Conservation Fund, and not the Forest Service general budget. They must, of course, request funding, and if they do, we believe that Congress will authorize funding to prevent a significant residential development threat to this Wild and Scenic River. The Forest Service may claim that it takes years just to work up a proposal; but they can, and do, fast tract projects when they want to. We know this, because they are fast tracking a property for us right now on the Klickitat National Wild and Scenic River. Wouldn't it be something