

For Immediate Release - DRAFT
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Mt. Adams Community Forest Grows with Recent Purchase

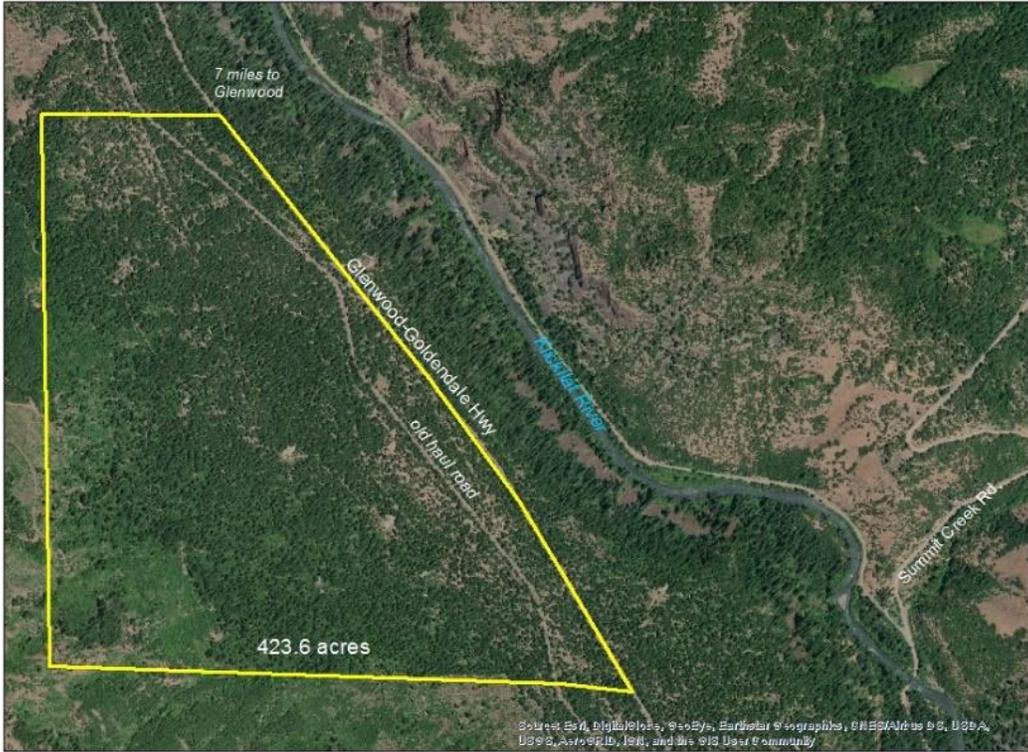
A stretch of forest above the Klickitat River east of Glenwood is home to Mt. Adams Resource Stewards' (MARS) latest expansion of the Mt. Adams Community Forest. At 424 acres, the purchase of the Klickitat Rim Tract represents MARS's single largest purchase in the organization's fifteen-year history, and their fourth community forest property acquisition overall.

The Community Forest now includes just under a thousand acres that MARS has acquired to protect as working forest, managed for sustainable provision of wood products, habitat, public access and other local priorities, such as wildfire risk reduction. The new addition is in the heart of a migration corridor for black-tailed deer as they move from Mt. Adams into wintering grounds in the Klickitat Canyon. It is also an area with one of Washington's largest populations of western grey squirrel – a state protected species.

Columbia Land Trust bought the property from Hancock Natural Resource Group in 2018 as part of a larger purchase and effort to conserve this beautiful stretch of the Klickitat River Canyon. The Land Trust used a loan to purchase and hold the Klickitat Rim Tract, enabling MARS the time to raise funding for the purchase. The MARS purchase allows the Land Trust to pay back the loan. "We really owe a debt of gratitude to Columbia Land Trust for partnering with us on this opportunity," commented MARS Executive Director, Jay McLaughlin. "They truly honored the values of our small, rural communities that have such strong ties to working forests as reflected in our Mt. Adams Community Forest efforts. In the end, we have a win-win situation, where they own and manage a portion of the Klickitat Canyon and forestlands on the east side of the river, while we've gained ownership of a nice stretch of forest that anyone driving from Glenwood to the river or Goldendale passes through."

Funding for the purchase was supported with grants from the US Forest Service's Community Forest Program and a grant from the Washington Department of Commerce secured with the assistance of Senator Curtis King.

MARS staff are in the process of developing a management strategy with an overarching focus on forest health, while enhancing features, such as Oregon white oak and their acorn producing ability that is critical for wildlife. MARS welcomes community input and communication can be directed to Executive Director, Jay McLaughlin, at jay@mtadamsstewards.org.



Mt. Adams Community Forest - Klickitat Rim Purchase

