

Take action today to protect the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness!

Our long awaited Wilderness bill is in the works and, thanks to you, it is gaining momentum! Thousands of Oregonians have contacted their Senators and Representative over the last year to demand that the unprotected wild lands of the Columbia Gorge and Mount Hood be permanently safeguarded as a legacy for future generations. Our hard work is paying off--the Oregon Congressional delegation is beginning to act! In July Congressmen Greg Walden and Earl Blumenauer held a series of meetings on Mount Hood to talk about the need to protect more the area's pristine lands, and in August they hiked the Timberline Trail on Mount Hood together to discuss Wilderness and get a first-hand view of this Oregon icon.

But our work is far from done! In the coming weeks Oregon's two Senators and five Representatives will be sitting down to write Wilderness legislation. It is vital that Oregonians who value wild forests, clean rivers, and abundant wildlife contact their elected officials today and encourage them to protect all 261,000 acres of Wilderness-quality land in the Columbia Gorge and on Mount Hood! The next few weeks are crucial!

**Take Action! Please act today to protect Oregon's natural heritage!
Sample letters below to Congressman Walden and Senator Smith.**

Here's what we need you to do.

If you are a resident of Congressman Walden's District #2, (Hood River)

Write a letter to Congressman Walden urging him to permanently protect Oregon's scenic icons - Mount Hood and the Columbia Gorge.(see template below)

Using your computer's fax function (it's usually listed in your printers file); fax the letter to Congressman Walden's office in Washington DC at (202) 225-5774. If your computer doesn't have a fax function, we encourage a trip to Kinkos or the nearest fax machine.

If fax technology hasn't yet come to your neighborhood, please print your letter and mail it to Congressman Walden's Bend office at the Jamison Building 131 NW Hawthorne, Suite 201, Bend, OR 97701

But please, don't stop with Representative Walden. When you've sent your fax or letter, take a few moments to call Senator Gordon Smith at (503) 326-3386 and urge that he also get behind legislation to preserve more of the Columbia Gorge and Mount Hood as Wilderness!

As more details about Wilderness legislation become available, we will relay them to you via email and postcards.

Friends, we know that you've worked hard to get us this far. During a time when we have been besieged by seemingly endless threats to our wildlife, wild lands, and waters, we are, for the first time in 20 years, very close to passing legislation to permanently protect a large area of Oregon's remaining wild forest as Wilderness. That's why it's so important we redouble our efforts.

Now is the time to help our leaders protect the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness!

Sample Letter

Dear Congressman Walden (for Hood River residents)

email address: <http://walden.house.gov>

I am writing to urge you to introduce legislation to permanently protect all 261,000 acres of Wilderness-quality lands in the Columbia Gorge and on Mount Hood as a legacy for future generations. Congressional Wilderness designation is the best tool to safeguard these natural treasures and ensure that future generations also have a chance to get outdoors and enjoy backcountry recreation like hiking, hunting, camping, and fishing, or to simply take in their scenic beauty.

When President Theodore Roosevelt gazed upon the Grand Canyon, he noted, "Leave it as it is. The ages have been at work on it and man can only mar it." Just as with the Grand Canyon, we have a responsibility to conserve these unspoiled forest lands as an enduring legacy for our children and grandchildren.

Mount Hood's forests not only offer world-renowned scenery, they also support hundreds of jobs which sustain the surrounding communities. My excursions to these areas always include a stop in the towns of Sandy or Hood River, and the proposed Wilderness will certainly draw more visitors to these communities, especially during the bicentennial of the historic Lewis and Clark expedition. These sources of revenue are sustainable, while the continued old growth logging of the Mount Hood National Forest is not.

It's critical that we protect the last best wild places around the Mount Hood National Forest. Places like the old-growth forests of Boulder Lake and Tilly Jane that provide unparalleled back country recreational opportunities. The fishing community supports of protecting the ideal salmon habitat in the Clackamas River found in Big Bottom and Roaring River. The clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and economic benefits provided by these wild places must be passed to future generation of Americans. Protect the forests, our way of life and our natural and cultural history by passing the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness.

Sincerely,
(Name) (Address)

Dear Senator Smith:
email address: <http://gsmith.senate.gov>

I am writing to you to urge you to support Senator Ron Wyden's Wilderness Proposal to protect 261,000 acres of wild and beautiful places in Oregon.

This proposal would protect magnificent areas in the Columbia River Gorge, Mt. Hood, and Clackamas County.

California has 13% of their state in wilderness protection. Washington has 10% of their state in wilderness protection. Oregon has reserved only 3.6% of the state in wilderness. This proposal would add only .1% to Oregon's wilderness. As you can see this is a very modest proposal.

Please be aware that your concerns about mountain biking access have been addressed by Oregon Natural Resources Council and Senator Wyden. Senator Wyden's proposal has been very generous to mountain biking interests. No currently used mountain biking trails will be closed. The statement that 200 miles of mountain biking trails would be closed is not accurate and is a statement perpetuated by misinformed persons.

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