

HOOD RIVER NEWS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
April 17, 2004

### **Talk to Sen. Wyden**

I wish to thank Sen. Ron Wyden for proposing to add 160,000 roadless acres as Wilderness in the Mt. Hood National Forest, which includes about 36,000 acres of the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon.

The Columbia River Gorge is a national scenic treasure. It contains the highest concentration of waterfalls in North America, including Multnomah Falls, the fifth highest waterfall in North America. Above the falls on the flanks of Larch Mountain lies Multnomah Basin, where a network of trails provide easy access to the largest remaining old-growth forest left in the Gorge. In just a 30-minute drive from Portland or Hood River you can be hiking in an old-growth forest. With wilderness status this area will be permanently protected.

I urge you to speak out in favor of this proposal at Sen. Wyden's hearing on the Mt. Hood Wilderness Bill on Saturday April 17 from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m. at the Best Western Hood River Inn.

**Peter Cornelison**  
**Hood River**