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Protect treasure of Mount Hood

I was thrilled to read that the Tilly Jane Trail on Mount Hood was unanimously nominated by the state Historic Preservation Office for the National Register of Historic Places ("Mount Hood Trail edges toward listing, " April 12).

I have been up the trail on my skis and on foot a number of times now and have enjoyed the solitude, old-growth ponderosa pines and western hemlock along the way. This area is a unique historic treasure, and I applaud Sen. Ron Wyden's efforts to protect these lands as wilderness ("Wyden finds support for Hood wilderness at 'listening session'," April 15).

In my view, wilderness is the highest public purpose for these public lands. We only have one Mount Hood and not nearly enough opportunities for backcountry recreation like Tilly Jane provides.

We have more than enough roads, ski lifts and developed recreation. Mount Hood has more ski areas than any other mountain in the United States. What we need is someone with the vision to protect the priceless historic treasures that remain. So way to go, Senator Wyden!

Indra Lesh
Southeast Portland