

Cooper Spur Wild and Free Coalition (CSWF) is a coalition of conservation and recreational groups that was formed in 2001 to protect the Upper Hood River Valley and specifically the Cooper Spur area in the alpine region of Mount Hood. The Tilly Jane A-Frame is located there and preserving that structure and the wild lands around it is the reason the CSWF was formed. Since formation we have been working to preserve the area and its structures and to prevent large scale development. We are writing in support of funding a project for the restoration of the historic Tilly Jane A-Frame cabin.

The A-Frame, along with the other contributing elements of the Cloud Cap-Tilly Jane Recreation Area Historic District, has an important place in the history of Mount Hood. It resides on the Tilly Jane Trail which was the original climb route for the Mt. Hood Summit. The Tilly Jane A-Frame was a product of the nation's response to the Great Depression. While Timberline Lodge was under constructed on the south side of the mountain the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps built this rustic cabin by hand.

Since the 1930's, the Tilly Jane A-Frame has provided shelter for generations of outdoor enthusiasts. The cabin is the base camp for many of the climbers and hikers who are drawn to the famous backcountry of Mount Hood's north side. Day hikers from all over the world visit this site to experience a piece of our nation's history

Due to budget constraints the USFS has not been able to maintain the Tilly Jane A-Frame and a substantial amount of investment is needed to keep it open. A prior organization, Friends of Tilly Jane (FoTJ), operated it for several decades but did little maintenance. When FoTJ folded the Oregon Nordic Club (ONC) stepped in and has increased usage significantly and has been doing a great job of minor maintenance. Volunteer labor has increased at the A-Frame. The ONC taking on a restoration project, and this effort deserves the support of all Norwesterners. There is no question that the Tilly Jane A-Frame is one of Mount Hood's treasures, and the CSWF is pleased to support this important project as part of our goal to protect the area and its historic structures.

Thank you,

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