

HOOD RIVER NEWS

Meadows buys Cooper Spur Inn

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By Kirby Neumann-Rea

More fruit pies, for sure.

Condominiums, not yet sure.

That's the recipe known so far with Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort's purchase Friday of the historic Inn at Cooper Spur, from former owners Dan and Sharon Dillard. The Dillards bought the 70-year-old facility in 1974.

The Inn is a year-round destination that will be operated independently of the Meadows resort, yet the operations will complement each other, said Dave Riley, Meadows general manager. He said Meadows has been seeking ways to diversify into 12-month operations.

The 155-acre mountainside restaurant and lodging facility is located 12 miles from Meadows resort, and features a lodge and restaurant, cabins, tennis court and hot tub. The restaurant is known for its legendary large steaks.

The property is currently zoned Forest Land, except for the commercial zone where the lodge and cabins are located. "Obviously, if we were to do anything (development) we'd have to change the zoning. The question of what type of zoning – that's part of what we've got to figure out as far as planning and strategy."

"What is very important to us is that the community has an opportunity for input. It would be presumptuous to say we're going to start construction at a certain date."