

HOOD RIVER NEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Flora, fauna first

Nature offers a unique atmosphere that cannot be attained elsewhere. Driving up to the mountain, alone or with a friend, is an experience unlike going to the mall or working out at the gym. The unmarked territory of the natural world offers a place of purity, a place where one can breathe, and feel at peace. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput stated, "Each year we get more and more disconnected from nature and its sacramental message. Remember that nature itself is a kind of sacrament, a sign that points to God." My point is not that ski resorts or massive real estate developments are wholly bad. But the elimination of priceless, scarce and sacred natural environments is deeply unpleasant. Imagine living in an area that is so developed and congested that one's only escape from the concrete jungle is to tour the housing developments that inhabit the Mt. Hood area. Rather than a detoxifying jaunt in the woods, it is more of the same houses, streets, business. The sacrifice of flora and fauna for development doesn't sound even slightly attractive.

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