

HOOD RIVER NEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
January 22, 2003

Last, best chance

O.K, let me get this straight – the “newly formed” “Friends of Cooper Spur Mountain Resort,” is a “grass-roots” effort that has a membership of 95,000 people that want to see development on the north slope of Mt. Hood.

It’s not April first, so I guess this isn’t an April fools day joke, but even so, it’s more frightening than funny. The recent Hood River News article about this so-called group is scary for two reasons; first, it shows the lengths to which Mt. Hood Meadows will go to get what it wants, even if that means apparently manufacturing “friends.” Secondly, it illustrates how uncritical reporting can distort reality – Raelynn Gill’s article read like nothing more than a paid advertisement for Mt. Hood Meadows.

So the questions I would like to see answered are: Who are these “95,000” people? How many live in Hood River County? Why is it that no one has ever heard of this huge group before now? What is Mr. Templeton’s relationship with Dave Riley and Mt. Hood Meadows? Was it just a coincidence that Meadows “Friends” popped up just before the Commissioners meeting to amend the county rules for destination resorts?

C’mon, Hood River County – wake up! Meadows is now a hairbreadth away from getting what they want – permission to go ahead with a massive development that will forever alter the wildlands in our backyard. Is this really what you want? Does it really serve the needs of our county, or just the needs of Mt. Hood Meadows Ltd? Show up and let your voice be heard at the Commissioners meeting at the Hood River Inn on Jan. 22. This may be your last, best chance to have a say in preserving the quality of our forest environment for future generations.

You can be sure that Meadows will be bussing its “friends” in – from wherever they live.

**Dan Ropek
Hood River**