

HOOD RIVER NEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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Protect a gem

I own the property at 10734 Cooper Spur Road, across from the Cooper Spur Inn, and I am against the development of a destination resort at Cooper Spur. My parents, Ken and Kathryn See, bought that property in the early 1940s. Over the last 60 years I have seen a lot of development in the area – some good, some bad – but I have to say that my biggest concern is for water.

Since the water system for the Snowbird Development went in just next to our property, our beautiful Doe Creek has dried up every summer. This had never happened before. (When I was young, there were beavers and the beaver dams created ponds we “swam” in!) We have never placed a formal complaint about losing Doe Creek every summer, but now I regret that, as it would have been on record as an absolute fact that there is not enough water in the Cooper Spur area to develop much more extensively. If a creek disappears when an 11-site tract goes in, what on earth will happen when a destination resort goes in? My drinking water comes from a spring – is it safe? I have to imagine that it could easily get sucked dry to fill the needs of the resort and the ski area. For that matter, parking lots and structures placed above our water resource could possibly cause it to shift course. I have lots of concerns, but water, or lack of it, is my main concern.

On a less personal basis, my other concerns include noise and traffic and too many trees cut down, and fire danger from so many people just being there. I am concerned for the animals and the wildlife corridors. I don't feel that million-dollar homes on a golf course is the appropriate use of the land in question. Henry David Thoreau said, “In wildness is the preservation of the world.” The Cooper Spur area is a truly wonderful gem that should be preserved. I am sad to think that Oregon's carefully constructed land use laws are being so manipulated, and that Hood River County and the U.S. Forest Service seem to be in the mood to be so helpful to a wealthy land developer.

Carol See Kading
Cooper Spur