

Resort Ill-fitted

The citizens of the Hood River Valley have spoken up again and again in favor of protecting the quality of life and sense of community of this very special place where we live.

This is not a no-growth position, but a compatible-growth position.

It should be clear that giving Mt. Hood Meadows the green light for a destination resort and real estate venture, with the support of the alleged 95,000 "friends" (Hood River News, Jan. 15) would not be compatible with our Upper Valley agricultural community. It has the potential to devastate it for all time.

In this connection, an Oregonian editorial of Jan. 16, 1989, concerning the protection of our agricultural land, stated: "It should be axiomatic that economic development begins by not destroying the industry that exists. The effort to plan the careful use of the land is aimed at protecting a fundamental industry from being lost to misguided progress."

Let's face it. Destination ski resorts are not benign. Mount Hood already had more than its share of development for downhill skiing, with five separate ski areas – more than any other mountain in the United States.

The historic Cooper Spur Inn and the small family-oriented Cooper Spur Ski Area, as run by its previous owners, have been enjoyed by local people and have fit in with their surroundings with little impact.

There are much better places for intensive real estate development and job creation than on the north slope of an already overstressed Mount Hood and adjacent to the watershed which serves thousands of valley residents.

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