

HOOD RIVER NEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
February 5, 2003

Protect Hood

To the Hood River County Planning Commission:

What are you doing? What are you thinking?

To anyone who has ever had the privilege of living, working, visiting, or observing in the Hood River Valley, Mt. Hood is sacred. Please do not allow the proposed zoning changes and development of a destination resort at Cooper Spur. This development is a bad idea, one that current and future generations of Oregonians would regret. Do not let this happen.

I was born and raised in Hood River. I lived there 18 years and return frequently to visit. My city-slicker children love to visit their grandfather's orchard and go "up to the mountain." I grew up as part of a Crag Rat family and have had the honor of being at Cloud Cap Inn. While visitors are always welcome to tour this facility, having a constant stream of numerous clients from a nearby "destination resort" would ruin this historic building.

The trails, roads, animals and wilderness in Mt. Hood National Forest should be protected. Protection means honoring the sanctity of these places.

I worked at Mt. Hood Meadows during the first years it was in business. I believe that their current location is as close to Hood River as a resort needs to be. Mt. Hood has plenty of ski areas already developed. I have no faith that the developers who brought us Mt. Hood Meadows would be any more careful or diligent or protective as they seek to take over another location.

Please do not be misled – these developers are looking at their own economic concerns. They are not hoping to provide jobs for the well being of Hood River residents. In fact the economic impact on agricultural lands and businesses could well be negative.

Your duty as a planning commission should be to protect the farm and forest settings of our valley. We do not need/want a recreational facility that includes pavement!

I am saying "No." Please do not allow destination development of Cooper Spur. You have the ability, the right, and the duty to take this stand. Please make wise decisions. Please protect our mountain.

Mandy Hukari Budwill
Seattle, WA