

HOOD RIVER NEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
February 19, 2003

Pebble to scale

I am not a consultant creating charts, diagrams and colored maps, or writing about the technicalities of watershed boundaries and zoning laws as they relate to the Mt. Hood Meadows proposed resort. I am exercising my right and responsibility as a citizen.

A good part of my life has been spent in the upper Hood River Valley and I raised my children there. They grew up on Crystal Springs water and hikes to find giant boletus mushrooms in the woods near Cooper Spur. We marveled at the sight of elk herds crossing the East Fork Hood River and Highway 35, on the move from Dog Mountain to the wild places of Lamberson and Cooper Spur. We explored parts of the historic irrigation ditch above the Cooper Spur Junction, peeked through the trees for glimpses of the steep and straight old wagon road to Cloud Cap. We reveled in the quiet while cross-country skiing high above the roads and houses, with Mt. Hood always looming yet higher.

I fear what will become of the wild places of the elk and boletus if Mt. Hood Meadows develops its proposed resort in the Cooper Spur area. I believe those wild places will be fertilized and mowed, native species will be sacrificed or expected to move along, and what is left will be available only to the club of highest bidders. Surely the very Hood River County residents employed by the resort will not be able to afford membership in that club. I oppose this proposed development. I believe the permanent loss will far exceed any presented gain. Mt. Hood Meadows has the financial backing to present a pretty picture. It is for profit. Theirs.

Mt. Hood Meadows' influence is a boulder. I am but a pebble. I add my pebble to the scale.

Carol Davidson
Canby