

HOOD RIVER NEWS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
February 26, 2003

Resort 'intrusion'

Hood River County Commissioners' consideration of the Cooper Spur expansion shows how easily our system is manipulated. A destination resort at Cooper Spur is an intrusion into one of the last wild sections of the mountain, thereby stressing an already badgered wildlife population. Easier access to the mountain means only one thing; more human intrusions into an area that would otherwise require more planning, forethought, physical fortitude and spiritual respect.

Encouraging humans to use these areas also sends another message that the Hood River County Commissioners cannot help but to realize; Hood River is inadequate to attract the sort of clientele that purporters of this plan wish to attract. By considering it, they condemn Hood River to second class status.

Oregon is full of recreational activities and lodging opportunities; what is missing is respect for the reverence that prior Oregonians have had for the wild places in our state and pride in our special way of doing things.

Hood River County Commissioners need to remember global warming and resist the urge to contribute, and think of the consequences of putting a white elephant on our mountain. Purporters of this plan need to be reminded that although past history suggests it, in no way does the Constitution guarantee them a profit.

Mark Nelson
Wheeler, Ore.