



Guest ranch being developed by Mazama couple

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Construction editor

Walter and Nella Foster of Mazama are moving ahead with their plans to build a tourist/residential guest ranch on 300-plus acres they own near the Okanogan County town. The site is located one mile southwest of town, along Goat Creek Road.

The development will center around a 15,000-20,000-square-foot guest lodge situated on a tournament-size-trout-stocked lake. Seattle architect Richard Fisher is following the Fosters' design guidelines for the lodge, which includes creation of a rustic American-style building that follows an architectural theme established in 1900 in Western national parks.

Fisher said a great room and lobby will dominate the interior of the lodge. Both will be flanked on each side by small meeting rooms and a centralized dining room that will open to a wooden deck overlooking the man-made lake.

A total of 21 rooms will be located at the ends of both levels of the lodge, creating a quiet environment for guests, away from the main section of the building. Each room will have its own private balcony. And no televi-

sion.

Other lodging opportunities will be provided by 15 rental log cabins and 16 vacation residences. The cabins will be clustered along the edge of a 70-acre open pasture, hidden amongst the trees. The rustic theme will be repeated in each cabin's design. They will connect to the main lodge by a series of foot paths and trails.

Vacation residences are envisioned as having three bedrooms and detached two-car garages. They will also be located in a treed setting, on the eastern border of the site.

Employees will be housed in a separate building at the south end of the lodge. It will include shop space and storage.

All buildings are expected to incorporate native woods, rock and stone on their exteriors.

A 6,200-square-foot reproduction of an historic barn that once stood on the property will be constructed and used to house the Fosters' collection of horse-drawn wagons and buggies. It will also serve double duty as a dance hall and informal gathering area.

Another barn-like structure will be constructed on the northern boundary of the property and will serve as a

performance hall for concerts, theatrical plays and meetings.

Finally, a riding arena measuring 200 feet by 80 feet will be constructed near the performance barn.

Guests will have many recreational options, including billiards, table tennis and games in a room on the lower level of the lodge. A separate building adjacent to the lodge will feature an indoor swimming pool, sauna and hot tub. Also, tennis courts and a gallery will be built in a protected area south of the lodge.

Outdoor recreational activities nearby include: cross country skiing, helicopter skiing, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, swimming, river rafting, horse back riding, breakfast rides, dinner rides, mountain climbing, wind surfing, golfing (if a proposed Early Winters course is finished), bird watching and nature walks.

The first phase of the project, construction of the lake, was started in 1991. Fisher said more infrastructure will be installed soon. Construction of the first structure for the site, the main barn, is expected to get underway this summer.

Construction of the lodge, cabins or performance barn may begin next year. The Fosters are deciding which they want to start first.