

Oregon Resort a Model of Sustainability

Written by Administrator

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The Resort at The Mountain, a premier golf and ski resort located on the western slope of Oregon's Mt. Hood, is continuing to expand its commitment to sustainability by implementing a wide spectrum of eco-friendly policies.

With a long history of community leadership in "green" practices, The Resort's added policies are focused on eliminating excess waste and conserving natural resources. Specific green initiatives have been implemented in virtually every aspect of business including the front office, where double sided photocopies have drastically reduced paper use. The Resort's food and beverage division is continuing to purchase locally grown products, and now donates surplus food to a local retirement home. In 2008, Executive Chef Paul Bosch oversaw the planting of an herb garden at The Resort, which he maintains and utilizes as sustainable and edible garnishes in each entree served at Altitude. To further reduce waste, The Resort adheres to a comprehensive recycling program.

The Resort stocks guest bathrooms with Green Natura body wash, shampoo, conditioner and moisturizer. The eco-friendly amenities are environmentally safe and packaged in biodegradable bottles made primarily from a corn-based plastarch material (PSM), which reduces environmental impact and promotes a sustainable future. The innovative ergonomically shaped, waste reducing soap was designed to eliminate the unused center of traditional soap bars. The soap carton is made from natural recycled packaging and printed with soy based inks. All Green Natura products are cruelty-free and contain no animal fat or byproducts. In addition, The Resort encourages guests to be efficient with water use and to reuse bath towels.

The Resort has been implementing sustainable business practices long before there was a global buzz about "going green." In 2002, The Resort's 27-hole golf course, The Courses, became a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, recognized for environmental excellence in five categories including Wildlife and Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation and Water Quality Management. Prior to this, The Resort formed a partnership with Wolfree and the Mt. Hood National Forest in 1995 to re-establish fish habitats along the Salmon River and its tributaries, resulting in the return of Coho Salmon in large numbers during the 1990s.

The Resort is currently implementing the Salmon River Side Channel Enhancement Project in order to repair salmon and steelhead habitats damaged by floods and erosion during the past two decades. This project involves placing approximately sixty 35-foot logs and forty to fifty 3-foot-by-3-foot boulders into the side channel. The end result will significantly reduce the risk of further bank erosion presently threatening a buried sewer line that services many local residences and a better habitat for Coho and Steelhead. (866-407-2262, www.thesort.com)