

# Salt Lake Tribune, The (UT)

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## Elk Meadows may get ritzy

Author: Mark Havnes The Salt Lake Tribune

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The upper lodge at Elk Meadows sits in front of a logged area that has been cleared for a new hotel. The new structure would be part of the planned resort development.

BEAVER - If built as proposed, the Elk Meadows Ski and Summer Resort in Beaver County will be transformed in the next decade into a gated, private club for the rich and famous, leaving many who own condominiums on the property wondering what's to become of them.

Craig Burton, who is managing the development for an unidentified investor, told about 80 people crammed into the Beaver County Commission chambers on Saturday that he plans to purchase the assets of the resort - in bankruptcy since 2004 - for an undisclosed amount of money today.

Out of that property would rise a \$3.5 billion development that one county commissioner said would increase the assessed value of the county in southwestern Utah sevenfold.

Those in attendance at Saturday's meeting were concerned about what they considered elusive answers by Burton to questions about who was involved in what would be known as the Mount Holly Club.

Located 18 miles east of Beaver City, Elk Meadows rests at an elevation of more than 10,000 feet in the Tushar Mountains, surrounded by 200,000 acres of Fishlake National Forest.

Plans by the developers include the purchase of 600 acres of private land around Puffer Lake, a popular fishing spot for area residents, in addition to the possible acquisition of some school trust lands.

Burton said the developers would like to buy all the condominiums and level them to start over, but acknowledged that's not going to happen because not everyone is willing to sell.

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Owners who don't want to sell would have access to their property within the club's walls and would be allowed to continue skiing on the 36 existing runs - but for a fee consistent with the club's level of exclusivity, somewhere in the range of \$150 to \$400 a day.

They would not be allowed use of an 18-hole, Jack Nicklaus-signature golf course that is planned for the club.

Another option would allow owners to trade their property for a view lot on Grizzly Ridge, located across State Route 153 from the resort.

Most attending Saturday's meeting were dismayed at what they considered the developer's arrogance in presenting the county's planning and zoning commission with a plan for property they don't even own.

Burton admitted the first plan was premature and said a revised proposal would be presented to the planning commission on Oct. 18.

Like many at the meeting, Larry Petche said he was not pleased with what he heard.

"They're trying to roll over everybody," he said. "No matter what it takes."

mhavnes@sltrib.com

Caption:

Elk Meadows resort could turn into a gated club if developers have their way. The new resort would cater to the luxury-seeking elite.

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