

New planned community proposed in Foothills

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Developers this week revealed plans to convert a 70-year-old 1,414-acre Foothills ranch into a planned community of at least 4,300 homes.

The former Dry Creek Ranch, until recently owned by the Jeker family, is northwest of Boise between Idaho 55 and the Hidden Springs planned community, south of SunCor's Avimor planned community.

Planners held a neighborhood meeting Monday evening at Shadow Valley golf course. About 50 people attended the meeting including nearby resident Joanne Pence. She said she and others expressed concern to planners about high-density development in a rural area, wildlife habitat loss and water availability.

The project will be 30 percent to 35 percent open space, including a 12-acre recreational complex, a greenbelt along Dry Creek and possibly an equestrian center, according to Ashley Ford with WRG Design,. The project also includes potential sites for a 74-acre high school/middle school campus and two 12-acre elementary schools, Ford said.

A complete planned community application, providing more project details, will be submitted to the county in August, Ford said. The county's planned community ordinance calls for economic, traffic, water and wildlife analyses to be submitted with the application.

The landowner/developer is JMM Dry Creek, a limited liability company registered in Texas.