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Right: Nearby Lake Cascade is well-suited for boating and windsurfing in the summer. Below: One of Tamarack's 2,400-square-foot Bitterroot chalets, replete with a freestanding garage and mudroom.



SHERIL HANNIN, COURTESY TAMARACK RESORT

## Tamarack, Idaho

**The first ski resort** to open in the United States in nearly two decades will not rival the industry's leaders with hot restaurants, dozens of lifts and hundreds of ski trails. Instead, the cozy Tamarack Resort, located 90 miles north of Boise in Donnelly, Idaho, is adopting a smaller-is-better approach.

The ski mountain was pulled from bankruptcy by Mexican investor Alfredo Miguel Afif, who brought on French real estate investor Jean-Pierre Boespflug as CEO and managing partner.

At Tamarack, Boespflug hopes to find success by spending \$1.5 billion to meld the best of two successful resort concepts: Deer Valley, a public but cushy Utah ski area that prides itself on superior service, and the Yellowstone Club, an invitation-only private ski and golf resort in Montana. At semiprivate Tamarack, real estate investors are offered membership in the Club at Tamarack. Along with organized social activities and dedicated concierge service, membership comes with access to an 89,000-square-foot members' lodge. Set to open in December this year, it will harbor a spa, fitness facilities, restaurants, a business center and a small hotel with 17 rooms and 27 condominiums.

The boutique nature of Tamarack has attracted investors such as Lloyd Mahaffey, a 50-year-old former Silicon Valley executive who recently moved to Eagle, Idaho, a bedroom community outside Boise. "Two years ago we became intrigued with the investment potential of Idaho," says Mahaffey. Although his business is in Idaho real estate development, Mahaffey bought

his fully-furnished 1,800-square-foot three-bedroom chalet with ski-in/ski-out access at Tamarack for pleasure.

In addition to chalets of this type (priced from \$1 million), Tamarack offers ski-in/ski-out and golf course homesites (\$470,000 to \$875,000), smaller chalet lots (\$280,000 to \$325,000), townhomes (\$400,000 to \$760,000) and condominiums (\$325,000 to \$1.45 million).

"The resort offered the design and service standards we were looking for," says Mahaffey. Along with the real estate, he was drawn to the four-seasons nature of the resort. After the snow melts, Tamarack residents can access 60 miles of maintained trails for hiking and mountain biking, an 18-hole Robert Trent Jones II golf course and Lake Cascade for boating and swimming. In winter, Mahaffey and his two children take on the mountain's 60 ski trails while his wife prefers to snowshoe on the Nordic trails with their chocolate Labrador.

KIM FREDERICKS



**Tamarack Resort**  
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