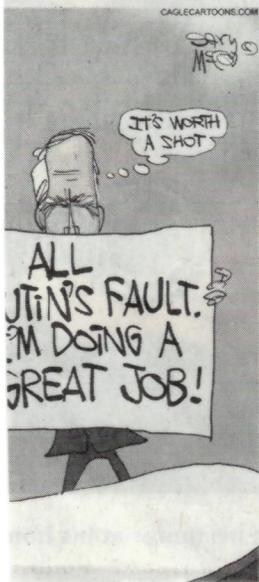


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A closer look needed at judge's preliminary ruling on Crazy access

Editor:

I am writing to respond to John Salazar's recent column about Judge Cavan's preliminary ruling, specifically as it relates to the Crazy Mountain Working Group and the Crazy Mountain Access Project. First, Salazar states, in part: "We should not be surprised by Judge Cavan's ruling; according to the ruling, the Forest Service ... engaged with landowners, local recreationists and several local conservation groups that collectively work together as the Crazy Mountain Working Group."

This statement is simply not true. Judge Cavan's ruling doesn't recognize the Crazy Mountain Working Group. In fact, Judge Cavan found the 2009 EA provided a detailed description of the reroute, its purpose, its location, and the work it would entail. The Crazy Mountain Working Group didn't surface until 2017, well after all the work had been done on the west side.

Second, Salazar states: "As access issues in the Crazies continue, we should support the dialog and engagement of the Crazy Mountain Access Project, a group of sportspeople, concerned citizens, and landowners, working with agency officials to bring permanent access to the east side of the Crazies."

Judge Cavan's ruling doesn't recognize this group either. In fact, Western Land Group began developing the east-side proposal in 2017, along with Western Skies Strategies. The Crazy Mountain Access Project didn't surface until 2020. Because Judge Cavan didn't recognize these groups as being involved in Crazies access issues, neither should the public. These groups are riding coattails.

Sheila Royston
Wilsall

Without affordable housing, some locals may have to leave area

Editor:

I am a fourth-generation Livingston girl. I raised my four kids and they raised theirs here as well. This town is home in every way that matters most to us. It has held nearly every cherished, unforgettable and even heartbreaking moments of our lives. We have memories everywhere, and can't imagine living anvwhere else. until now.