

Golf resort plan flawed; people must voice views

In the Business section of the *Frontiersman* on Dec. 4, there was an article titled "Resort receives better reception." The article inferred that people that attended the Lazy Mountain Community Council meeting were in favor of this project. While there were a few people in favor, the vast majority were opposed to the golf course/resort project.

Mr. (Victor) Trygstad appeared to be a slick talker, trying to sell something to people that they do not want. Among questions asked to Mr. Trygstad was how he will handle wetlands in this area? His reply was that he had spent considerable time walking this area and there were no wetlands in the parcel. In fact, there are approximately 120 acres of wetlands. Is he trying to pull the wool over our eyes or does he truly not know what he is talking about?

Mr. Trygstad was also asked if he would cancel the project or relocate to another area if the vast majority of people in the Butte area were not in favor of this project. To summarize his response, he did not care how the people felt, but would build the resort no matter what we want. He does not sound like someone who would be a good addition to the community.

Everyone needs to be aware of what is going on and get involved or we will lose the area we had for recreation for decades. If you have an opinion about this issue one way or another, contact your area assembly person. Presently the feeling is that only a few discontented people are against this project, and the borough "powers that be" need to know differently.

The main trail involved connects Maud Road to Plumley Road generally known as Sawmill Trail. The parcel also includes part of Burnt Butte Trail. Mr. Trygstad says he is willing to move the

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trails but we still lose the use of the surrounding area that we have been enjoying for years.

Listening to Mr. Trygstad's rendition of this project, he talks about the construction of his resort, about the jobs for people while it is being built, that there will be somewhere between 40 and 50 full-time jobs once it is on line, about the money that will be brought into the Valley because of people drawn to the area and the trickle down effect. What Mr. Trygstad does not talk about is who is going to pay for road upgrades that will be needed to support the extra traffic; where the water is going to come from that is needed to support a golf course, resort, and the residential units that he plans on building?

How about chemicals used to maintain this area? Where are they going to go? Are they going to end up in McRoberts Creek, a salmon spawning creek that flows through the area? How about the loss of a recreational area that Valley people have used for decades? How about the wildlife in the area? Where are they going to go? This area is prime wintering area for moose, which keeps them from being a hazard on local roadways.

Mr. Trygstad was not well received at the Butte Community Council meeting, either. Face it, the majority of people we have contacted that live in the Butte and Lazy Mountain areas are against this project.

Larry E. White Jr. is from Palmer.