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SIGNAL PEAK MINE

DAINES TOUTS COAL AS KEY



LARRY MAYER, BILLINGS GAZETTE

U.S. Senator Steve Daines visits the Signal Peak Mine to meet with miners and tour the facility.

Senator promotes work with Trump on ‘Big Beautiful Bill’

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ROUNDUP — To several dozen workers seated near Signal Peak Energy’s coal mine on Thursday, U.S. Sen. Steve Daines touted his work on President Donald Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill as key to saving their jobs.

Daines’ speech to workers came after years of uncertainty around the future of Montana’s only underground coal mine. In 2023, a federal land expansion was halted by U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy in Billings, citing an insufficient environmental assessment on the potential expansion.

Daines told workers the bill, which was passed on July 4, will give workers nine more years of certainty at the mine.

“I want to thank you for working hard for this country, because if you don’t have energy security, you don’t have national security, and God has blessed our state with more recoverable coal than any other state in the United States,” Daines told workers. “And I hope and pray we will be able to mine coal here in Montana, not only for this generation, but for our kids’ generation and for our grandkids’ generation, because we need affordable, reliable baseload power.”

Although Daines and a press release by the Department of the Interior cited Signal Peak as essential to national security, 98% of the coal from the coal mine is exported, with 60% of its production going to Japan and 30% going to South Korea.

Before the major policy bill, the Trump administration approved an expansion at Signal Peak in June through the Department of the Interior, citing a “national energy emergency.”

Daines told workers he’s currently working on passing the Crow Revenue

Please see **COAL**, Page A2

108,000 BLM acres in MT have possibility of disposal

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Along the West Boulder River in Park County is an 80-acre Bureau of Land Management parcel that has been identified for possible disposal.

Or has it?

The acreage, surrounded by private land, is the only public parcel along the coveted trout stream where other access issues have been brewing over a fence stretched across the stream.

The land is among 6.08 million acres highlighted in an online map identifying Bureau of Land Management parcels scattered across 17 western states that have been identified for possible disposal.

Montana-based onX developed the map

in partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to alert the public and policymakers.

“We created this map with TRCP to bring transparency to the land disposal process, to inform outdoor enthusiasts of nearby parcels, and to encourage lawmakers to uphold existing policies that safeguard the public interest when considering any land sales,” said Laura Orvidas, onX CEO, in a statement.

BLM clarifies no sales are occurring

However, a BLM official disputed the accuracy of the map that is based on flexible

Please see **BLM ACRES**, Page A2



GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

A newly created online map identifies Bureau of Land Management parcels considered for possible sale in Resource Management Plans.