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Comments: To whom it may concern -
I was lead to Spearfish South Dakota for the first time by a former resident, who I had become good friends with while wrenching together at a bike shop in Bismarck, ND. We were welcome with open arms to a local musician's house to spend several days, who was a good friend of my fellow bike mechanic from his time in Spearfish. That was over Labor Day weekend of 2006, the weekend of the Dakota Five-O mountain bike ride/race/tour that takes place on Forrest Service trail on the Spearfish Canyon rim. I have been back to Spearfish every Labor Day since that, and many other trips in between. The allure of Spearfish isn't difficult for anyone who has spent time there to understand. It's natural beauty and the quiet streets are a peaceful break from most city's hustle and bustle. It sucks you into its forests and trails and even when you're in town, or just a few miles out, you feel nature all around you. That first year I visited over Labor Day weekend, I was one of three people from our community that traveled down for the race. Once word got around about the community our local participation began to grow, and grow ... and grow. Now Bismarck's cycling community makes up a significant percentage of the Dakota Five-O race list that takes you around the rim of Spearfish Canyon. Our community has filled with people who also fell in love with the area through trail usage and the welcoming community, and take multiple trips down to the area each year to experience the trails and quiet forested area. I asked my wife to marry me in Spearfish Canyon (she said yes!). My kids think of this area as our home away from home. Please don't damage this heavenly slice of earth and destroy it's beauty to those who seek it out, for now and for future generations to come.