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Grant aims to improve biking in Spearfish

Journal staff Sep 4, 2016



Courtesy photo

Black Hills State University received a \$13,000 grant from the Goldcorp Coeur Wharf Sustainable Prosperity Fund. The funds will be used to support the Bike Spearfish! program including bike signage for the City of Spearfish, a bike maintenance center downtown, and training of community members as League Cycling Instructors.

SPEARFISH | Spearfish Bike Week may be winding down, but commitment to bicycling is revving up, thanks to the recent award of a Coeur Wharf Fund grant to Black Hills State University.

BHSU last week received a \$13,000 grant from the Goldcorp Coeur Wharf Sustainable Prosperity Fund. The monies will be used to support the Bike Spearfish! program including bike signage for the City of Spearfish along with a bike maintenance center downtown, bike racks and bike corrals, according to a prepared release.

Petrika Peters, sustainability coordinator at BHSU, said the university was working with the City of Spearfish, local nonprofit Hills Horizon, and the Spearfish Bicycle Co-Op to advance active living through cycling. Peters said the City of Spearfish would donate labor for installation and financial support for roadway signage.

“We sincerely thank the Coeur Wharf Fund for their support,” Peters stated in the release. “Through this grant we’ll work with our partners to add a core bicycle street route in Spearfish, safe routes to school, and recreational path signage. We’re also increasing bicycle parking and adding a downtown maintenance center for quick tune-ups.”

Peters said the Wharf grant also would provide an opportunity to train 20 community members in a Traffic Safety 101 Course and three people will be trained as League Cycling Instructors. They would teach a minimum of 12 hours per year building a knowledge base within Spearfish leading to active, healthier lifestyles for residents, she noted.

Tony Auld, operations manager at Coeur Wharf who also serves on the fund board, said the purpose of the fund is to help establish sustainable communities for future generations to enjoy.

“It’s fun to read a grant request application and get excited about what the organization is going to achieve,” Auld stated in the release. “When it’s a Black Hills program that fulfills all four of the Wharf Fund’s core values, it’s kind of a no-brainer.”

Tom Griffith