The Deadwood Standard Project is proposing a 124-acre surface gold mining operation on the limestone plateau east of Savoy. The disturbed area is proposed to keep back from the canyon rim 500 feet. The average depth of the ore is 23 feet, with 75% of the ore at about 35 feet deep. The operation is not supposed to be visible from Spearfish Canyon. The processing facility is to be located 1.6 miles from Savoy and will be in operation 24 hours a day. Blasting and machinery movement will take place only during daylight hours, say company officials. Mine officials propose that the life of the mine will be 8-10 years.

The mine permitting process is long and comprehensive. Lawrence County must first issue a Conditional Use Permit before the state permitting process begins. Commissioners took three hours of public input at a recent hearing on the CUP June 7, 2012. They then voted to delay their decision to at least July 5 in order to review letters, studies, testimony, and documents presented to them. After the county issues a CUP, the matter goes to the S.D. Board of Minerals and Environment for study.
President’s Corner

By Gene Shaw

Welcome to another summer in beautiful Spearfish Canyon and the privilege of living in one of the most scenic areas of our wonderful USA. We also have the joy of spending time with all of our special Canyon friends as we tour, fish and have relaxing conversations.

Please reserve July 21 for our annual SCOA meeting in the Fire Hall. Once again we will meet at 6:00 for another one of Dave’s delicious dinners followed by the meeting. To expedite the meeting we have included Committee Reports in this Newsletter. I encourage you to read these carefully and then at the meeting we will answer any questions you may have. This will let us spend more time during the meeting to discuss the attack on the Mountain Pine Beetle and the proposed Deadwood Standard Mine Project.

Thirty-six of our SCOA members have generously donated to fund cutting and chunking of green infested MPB trees. As an organization we have contributed $14,350 to this effort. Please continue to give any amount you can as we, together with other Lawrence County groups, continue this 10-year project to save our Canyon and all of Lawrence County. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you on July 21!

Attacking the Mountain Pine Beetle

The first phase of slowing the advance of the MPB was completed at the end of the cutting season. An amazing group of statistics best tells the story of what was accomplished since the effort was initiated in January and completed at the end of March. As you read these statistics keep in mind the group of people we talked about in the last Newsletter. These people made this happen.

- 68,000 acres of forest were surveyed in Lawrence County and infected trees were marked.
- 142,000 trees were cut and chunked, of these 12,000 were in Hanna and 42,000 in Spearfish Canyon

This picture was taken the night of 3-26-2012. It was the night that trees were falling all over the place due to the strong winds. Linda Ahlers presented a check of $500.00 to the Spearfish Canyon Volunteer Fire Department from Spearfish Canyon Resorts of Savoy. Pictured are: Jack Wanstedt, Treas.; Linda Ahlers, Mgr. Spearfish Canyon Resorts; and David Brueckner, Secretary.

- 500,000 trees were cut and processed by mills in USFS Timber Sales
- The epidemic area of MPB trees by Hanna that threatens all of Spearfish Canyon was thinned to slow the infestation
- 100 cutters were trained for cutting. About 50% were local cutters and the others from out of state.
- $1.1 million were invested in this first phase

This summer, planning for the new cutting season, which will begin in September, is directed to surveying the infestation, identifying the cutting areas and investigating new techniques, such as girdling trees and baiting. All of this work is directed to cutting where it is most needed and using available funds in the most efficient way. The effort to attack the MPB will need to continue for 10 years. To effectively continue the effort to attack the MPB infestation we need for all of you to continue your generous contributions.

Contributions to preserve the scenic beauty of our Spearfish Canyon can be made by sending donations to SCOA, P. O. Box 642, Lead, SD 57754. Make checks to SCOA or, if you prefer to send it to a tax exempt organization, Spearfish Canyon Foundation. 100% of your contributions will be sent to Lawrence County and used for attacking the MPB.
This fawn was all curled up and very quiet on June 12. It was about a week old. Mama was nearby.

DOT reports highway construction

HIGHWAY 14A

A slide repair, truck turnaround and slope flattening project is scheduled for the section of Hwy 14A between Cheyenne Crossing and Savoy. This work will require one-way traffic during construction. The completion date for this project is June 15, 2012.

A mill and overlay project on Hwy 14A between Cheyenne Crossing and Savoy is scheduled to begin in June 2012. One-way traffic can be expected with flaggers and a pilot car operation. The completion date for this project is September 15, 2012 with a Sturgis Rally work restriction from August 1 through August 13, 2012.

A crack seal project is scheduled for 2014 on Hwy 14A between Cheyenne Crossing and Savoy. Work will take place sometime between June and September with one-way traffic controlled with flaggers and/or a pilot car operation.

Storm sewer pipe extensions on Hwy 14A between Cheyenne Crossing and Savoy tentatively planned for 2014. This work would require intermittent one-way traffic controlled with flaggers.

HIGHWAY 85

A crack seal project is scheduled for 2013 on Hwy US 85 between Wyoming and Cheyenne Crossing. Work will take place sometime between June and September with one-way traffic controlled with flaggers and/or a pilot car operation.

A chip seal project is tentatively planned for US Hwy. 85 between Wyoming and Cheyenne Crossing in 2013. This work would require one-way traffic controlled with flaggers and/or a pilot car operation.

Treasurer’s Report

By Jim Benson, SCOA Treasurer

We have had a good year in the SCOA treasury. We currently have $5,253.00 in checking and $20,060.00 in savings for a total of $25,313.00 on hand. We have one homeowner that is past due for $75.00 so thanks to all of you that have kept your dues current.

Donations from thirty five of our members for the pine beetle fight in Lawrence County have totaled $9,350.00 to date. So with the donation of $5,000.00 from the SCOA treasury the canyon homeowners have given a total of $14,350.00. If you have not contributed and feel you would like to, please send your contribution to SCOA and we will forward it onto Lawrence County. Thanks to everyone that has helped in this very serious threat to the Canyon.

Building Permit Procedure

http://www.canyonowners.org/

The Architectural Review Committee has a packet for people who want to obtain a building permit in Spearfish Canyon. The packet contains the SCOA building permit application and copies of the building rules and pertinent covenants. You can also get it on the SCOA website.

Before any kind of external work is done, the home owner or their builder may fill out the application, and supply the necessary drawings to the any ARC member so that the committee persons may begin a review of the project.

When they approve the project, ARC members sign the application and drawings, and return it to the owner or builder. The owner then refers their project to Lawrence County with the completed L.C. building permit application for approval.

Be advised that the LC Planning and Zoning office is not responsible for explaining or enforcing SCOA covenants. Their only concern is that the SCOA permit process has been followed before they take action on a L. C. building permit.
Board of Directors meets with USFS about upcoming canyon projects
By Carol Reausaw

On May 7, 2012, the SCOA board of directors met with United States Forest Service officials to discuss construction projects planned for this summer in Spearfish Canyon. This meeting was done by conference call.

Representing the USFS were Scott Hass, Recreation Officer; Rhonda O’Byrne Northern Hills District Ranger; Melissa Dempsey, Hydrologist; and Jackie Gross, Planner.

Two projects are planned by the USFS. The first is an improvement to the Bridal Veil Falls viewing area on Highway 14A. Construction is set to begin the last week in August, and last for three weeks. The crosswalk will be restriped and warning signs about pedestrian traffic posted. A 14’x35’ deck with bench seating will be constructed adjacent to the highway, allowing a safe and full view of the falls. There will be no actual access to the falls and there will be signage warning people not to walk down to the falls.

O’Byrne stated that the Department of Transportation is comfortable with the location of the deck and she will be checking with the Department of Energy and Natural Resources as well and the Game Fish and Parks Department on both projects.

The second project planned is titled “The Long Valley Spearfish Canyon Recreation Site Improvement Plan.” This plan includes the addition of up to four more picnic table sites; fishing platforms; hardened paths; and reconfigured parking with four additional spots. It would continue to allow daytime use only for the area. The schedule for this project would be for completion as late as fall of 2013.

Funding for these projects comes from a Federal Highway Grant and, according to O’Byrne, the plan satisfies the mandate of the USFS to manage, improve, and keep this site safe, as well as update it and make it accessible (handicapped).

Some concerns were stated by members of the SCOA board. They expressed disappointment that three other picnic grounds with outdoor bathrooms have been recently closed due to budget constraints by the USFS. (See “Where have all the privies gone???” In the October 2009 issue of Spearfish Canyon News)

Gene Shaw stated that the plan runs contrary to maintaining the beauty and serenity of Spearfish Canyon. He also had concerns about increased capacity in the picnic ground causing increased turning traffic on the highway.

Director Tom Adam voiced his objections as a property owner close to the picnic ground. He cited instances of littering and noise disturbances that occur at present, and stated that expansion of the area would just make it worse. Some flooding hazard questions were also asked. Dempsey stated that the only danger of flooding would be some loss of gravel from the hardened paths.

Haas offered that elimination of the two picnic sites and fishing platform on the south end of the site would satisfy some of the concerns of the SCOA board. This compromise met with more favor by the board. The environmental assessment of the projects is being wrapped up at press time and will be referred to the Forest Supervisor for decision or for more public comment.

Gene thanked the USFS officers for their cooperation, and for their unique help in battling the Mountain Pine Beetle in the canyon.
Spearfish Canyon Coffee Klatsch

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Fire Chief Report

By Gerry Bennet

The Spearfish Canyon Volunteer Fire Department responded to a couple of incidents this spring. A semi-truck loaded with 23 tons of bentonite in 100 lb. bags rolled over near Eagle Cliff on US Hwy. 85. Bennet stated the driver was overdriving the conditions.

Clean-up was complicated by the fact that the trailer was lying across the stream which feeds the Lead city water supply. The Spearfish Volunteer Fire Department sent man-power, and Bentonite Performance Minerals LLC of Belle Fourche sent a giant vacuum truck to suck up the spilled bentonite. The material was hauled to the Lead Wasp Dump.

On Tuesday, June 5, high winds caused a pine tree to fall on a power line about 2 miles west of Cheyenne Crossing on US Hwy. 85. Fire department personnel responding were Dave Palmer, Dave Brueckner, Don Harvey and Paul Thomsen from Lawrence County Emergency Management. The crew brought the Brush I (Type 6 brush truck holding 300 gallons of water) to knock down the fire. US Forest Service personnel arrived to mop up.

Bennet stated that he and members of the Firewise Committee will perform a survey as to which 911 signs are worn out, and get them replaced.

Canyon Chatter

By Carol Reausaw, editor

This newsletter is all about keeping in touch and keeping informed. The 200 or so home owners in this canyon are really great people and we have a unique relationship knit together by our love of Spearfish Canyon. There is evidence of our strength in numbers by our management of the many environmental issues we tangle with! From mining, to campground expansion, to questions of commercialization of property in the canyon, the board of directors takes a wise and measured approach. Each one sometimes has to put aside personal desires in favor of the good of the canyon as a whole, always guided by the purpose of the organization as stated on the outside of this newsletter.

(Continued on page 7)
Continued from page 6….

I have discovered new neighbors who have purchased the home at 21322 Hwy 14A. They are Duane and Kathy Jesch of Dickinson, ND. Welcome! Home sales in the canyon are finally picking up a bit and that is good news.

Please pay special attention to a few issues that face our association at this time. One of them is the fact that owners are commercially advertising and renting their properties as vacation homes. Unfortunately, this puts their neighbors in the uncomfortable position of knowing that this violates the covenants and should be reported. A stern letter from the SCOA BOD will be mailed to each owner regarding this activity.

Please also be aware of South Dakota state law regarding ATV and off-road vehicle activities. There are rules regarding licensing, highway travel, underage drivers and the like which vehicle owners should know about and obey. Go to: http://www.blackhillsbadlands.com/home/thingstodo/outdoorrecreation/yearround/atving

Bear with board and committee members who give of their time as volunteers. The best thing you can do is offer a helping hand and a cheerful smile. I am willing to hand this job over to anyone who wants to give it a try! I'll even help out for awhile.

Don’t forget to check out good summer fun on the Homestake Opera House schedule at: www.homestakeoperahouse.org.

Out at the Lead Country Club you can purchase raffle tickets for a case of Ben Hogan Collection Edition Wine valued at $500.00. Proceeds go to refurbishing the warm-up mat and other worthy projects. The country club facebook page is hilarious and informative too. It is at: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lead-Country-Club/103000969735953

Al Varland, clubhouse manager is also an extreme photographer. The photo he took of the rainbow, flag and clubhouse is stunning.

You have my best wishes for a fabulously fun, relaxing summer in Spearfish Canyon!

Is it Occasional?

The rental of lodging accommodations or campsites is subject to state sales tax, tourism tax, and the applicable municipal sales and municipal gross receipts tax. Some individuals may occasionally rent their home, cabin, a room in their house, or allow someone to camp on their property. An instance of this could be rental of property in the town of Sturgis during the annual motorcycle rally.

If the occasional rental is for 10 days or less in a calendar year, no tax is due on the rentals. Please review the Hotels, Motels and Campgrounds Tax Facts on the S.D. Department of Revenue’s website at: http://www.state.sd.us/drr2/businesstax/publications/taxfacts/hotels.pdf or contact them if you have questions regarding the tax on lodging. 1(800)829-9188.

According to the Third Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and Reservations for Homestake Cabin Lot Sales In Spearfish Canyon:

1. (b) Rental Use. No Lot or Dwelling Unit shall be rented to non-family members for more than 14 days during any calendar year. Owners are obligated to insure compliance by Renters with this Declaration and all Spearfish Canyon Rules.
“The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain the beauty, serenity and attractiveness of the Spearfish Canyon, and monitor and protect the water quality and flow of Spearfish Creek and its tributaries and to preserve in perpetuity the covenants and conditions placed upon said property by Homestake Mining Company of California.”
(Section A, Article III, Articles of Incorporation. Spearfish Canyon Owners’ Association)

Spearfish Canyon News…

is a newsletter by and for the homeowners of Spearfish Canyon Owners Association.
Send comments and articles PLEASE to Carol Reausaw: Caroljeanie@yahoo.com. Many thanks to Bruce Oberlander at Dakota Graphics for printing our newsletter. Our website is:
http://www.canyonowners.org

2011-2012
Board of Directors
President-Gene Shaw, Vice President-Steve Paula
Secretary-Fred Welker, Treasurer- Jim Benson
Executive Committee Member-Tom Adam
Directors-Ralph Reausaw, Ray Rossi, Harold Matti, Bob Geis
Committees:
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Firewise-Ray Rossi
Architectural Review-Ralph Reausaw, chair,
Jim McGinnis, Jim Benson, Harold Matti, Gene Shaw
Newsletter-Carol Reausaw, Barb Wanstedt
Nominating-Jim Benson
Weeds-Fred Welker