

Kroll, Kari

From: RASDAK Ride Across SD <rasdakbiketour@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Kroll, Kari
Subject: [EXT] RASDak supports Rapid City's Proposal on the Mako Sica Trail

RASDak, the bicycle ride across SD, is writing in support of Rapid City's Proposal on the Mako Sica Trail.

Bicycle tourism is growing nationwide, and there is a big opportunity for the people and communities along this proposed trail. RASDak now has bicyclists coming from over 30 states and Canada as the word is getting out to the biking community about what a great state SD is to ride in. The participants of RASDak love our open spaces, the variety of scenery and cultures, and the hospitality of the people. We were well on our way to another record year until we were forced to postpone due to the coronavirus.

One of the most popular routes that RASDak has taken is from Rapid City to Kadoka. We took this route in 2014 and 2017, but frankly a number of people would love to do it every year. You can't beat the scenery of the Black Hills, the Cheyenne River Valley, and the Badlands. They also liked the caramel rolls at the Caputa store, meeting the kids of the Interior Booster Club, and the food and hospitality that Kadoka showed us were amazing.

I grew up on a ranch on the Rosebud Reservation and almost all of my relatives are in the ranching business in western South Dakota. I want to see the ranchers and the communities along this route thrive. However, that isn't going to happen unless we diversify the local economy by promoting another tourism opportunity. The great thing about bicycle tourism is bicyclists are traveling at 10-15 MPH, so they have to stop at the small communities along the trail, and they are going to spend more time there.

There is no doubt in my mind that doing a rails-to-trails would be a great benefit to the communities and people along this route and to the state of South Dakota. If you accept the proposal from Rapid City, RASDak will do everything we can to turn this vision into a reality.

Sincerely,

Kasey Abbott
RASDak Volunteer President and Tour Director
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