



P.O Box 6093, Innisfail, Alberta, T4G1S7

FOESA NEWSLETTER, ISSUE V, DECEMBER 2012

«GREETINGLINE»

AGM and Banquet

The Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association (FOESA) AGM is fast approaching. A reminder that this year's event will be held on **Feb 16, 2013** with the **general meeting starting at 1:00 PM** and the **banquet starting at 5:30 PM**. As usual the venue is the **Innisfail Legion**. Some great silent auction items have been coming in, looking to be a great fundraiser. If you have items you would like to contribute, please contact Dale Marshall at dale.marshall@foesa.org or 403-304-0456 or Jim Bartholow at jim.bartholow@foesa.org (403 638-2639). Banquet tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

We have arranged for **Dr. Brad Stelfox** (www.alces.ca) to give a presentation titled "*Land Use, Linear Features and Trails. A Broad look at Alberta; A specific Look at the East Slopes.*" This will be followed by a couple of hours of entertainment by a group known as "**The Wardens**" who will provide some original music and stories from the backcountry. (www.banffwardens.com). **Dan Butler** will be our MC and provide dance music to finish off the evening.

To reserve or purchase your banquet ticket contact Suzanne Comfort at suzanne.comfort@foesa.org (403 556-9989) or Dale Marshall at dale.marshall@foesa.org (403 304-0456) or Jim Bartholow at jim.bartholow@foesa.org (403 638-2639) or **purchase them online at www.foesa.org.**

Agenda items for the general meeting will include election of directors and voting on revisions to our bylaws. A complete set of the new proposed bylaws is available at www.foesa.org/bylaws/proposedbylaws.pdf. These are both very important items so please come out to vote and participate in this process.

Nomination of Directors

Nominations for directors from the general membership are open 60 days prior to the AGM. If you would like to nominate a member to the board of directors, please contact jay.mills@foesa.org (403 637-2410) or hans.vanvlaanderen@foesa.org (403 638-2077). Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the AGM.

Campground Maintenance

Thanks to the Leslieville Trail Trotters 4H club, we had four outhouses at the Eagle Campground and two outhouses at the Bighorn campground painted in July. They also painted three Kiosks. We are hoping to get the floors painted next summer along with another coat to the outside.

The Bighorn campground experienced some extreme flooding on June 6. The berm on Bighorn Creek was damaged in several places and a lot of sediment was deposited in the west portion of the campground. Thanks to Jim Barthalow for donating his bobcat to help with the cleanup and thanks to Nick Smith and Tom Davidson for the many hours they put in to help get things back in order.

Repair of the berm was discussed numerous times, and expertise from Sundre Forest Products was solicited for recommendations. Thanks to Airborne Imaging of Calgary for donating LiDAR data for the campground area, this was very helpful in preparing the maps used to discuss long term mitigation of flooding in the campground. In the end it was decided that a long term solution to the flooding problem needed more consultation and a final decision on campground changes will come next year. In the interim, the berm was realigned to help address the issue of winter icing within the campground. Thanks to Mark Crouch for his help on this project (Special Thanks to operators Theo and Brian for their excellent work!!).

Highlines at Hummingbird, Cutoff and Eagle Creek were not cleaned or re-graveled this fall. It was decided that this would be completed on the Clean-up weekend in May 2013. Funds were allocated from this year's budget to cover the cost of these project. A reminder to users that your site (including your horse's location) should be left as clean or cleaner than you found it. If we all do our part, it makes it easy to keep a clean and attractive campground.

Projects

Eagle Creek Campground had three beautiful cement tables installed in May 2012 thanks to the Alberta Trail Riders Association (ATRA). It also had 20 wooden picnic tables added thanks Sundre Forest Products.

The Bighorn Campground got some more upgrades to stalls this year. Thanks to Linus Clark for organizing this project and thanks to all the volunteers that came out to help. All but two sets of stalls now have the roof pipes installed. The last two stalls will be completed next spring, along with some cleanup and painting.

Funding has been secured to add a new outhouse to the Eagle Creek Campground and a new outhouse to the Eagle Creek Staging Area. These will be installed sometime in the spring of 2013.

The board of directors decided to take a pro active approach to trail maintenance this year and had all the trails on the north side of the Red Deer River checked and repaired where necessary.

Funding has been secured to have trails on the south side of the Red Deer River checked and repaired where necessary. This will take place during the summer of 2013.

Extensive damage to trails at the Hummingbird occurred during the flood on June 6, 2012. FOESA donated \$3000 to the Bighorn ATV society who took on trail repairs during August 2012.

Poker Rally

This year's poker rally was held on Aug 10. Thanks to Jeff Redmond for organizing this important event. A total of 100 riders participated this year and the event raised ~\$9500.

Membership

This year's membership total to date is 507. Donations were made by 179 individual members. Total revenue from membership sales and member donations was \$19,982.00. Thanks to everyone who contributed. A complete list of 2012 members and donators can be found on our website (www.foesa.org)

Memberships for 2013 can be purchased by returning the form included below. The form can also be downloaded from our web site or your membership can be purchased online at the www.foesa.org. Once again the family membership fee is \$20 but additional donations are appreciated and always put to good use. Please remember that it's your memberships that help keep us going.

Meetings

Many meetings were attended by board members throughout the year. Board members attend meetings to represent FOESA or to gather information for FOESA members. If you would like additional information on any of the meeting listed below, please contact one of the listed attendees.

Wildlife & Fire Workshop - March 9, 2012 (Parks Canada/Alberta Fish and Wildlife)

This meeting gave an excellent overview of the various projects that have been completed or are ongoing in the West Country! Projects discussed were Prescribed Burns by both Parks Canada and SRD, Bison Reintroduction in Banff Project, Caribou Translocations in the Mountain Parks, Wildlife Monitoring, Fire Suppression, Survival and Reproductive Rates on Migratory and Non-Migratory Elk with the day being wrapped up by a Ya Ha Tinda Research Overview and Next Steps. Attended by Dale Marshall, Larry Frischke, Tom Reinhart and Jay Mills.

Panther Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting – March 20, 2012

At this meeting we were given an update on Shell's activities in the area, including an overview of the Panther Field, Panther Drilling and Operations. A review of PAG Performance Measures and a Stakeholder Update followed, where all stakeholders attending gave an update on the

organizations they represented. There was then a review of the Panther River Environmental Enhancement (PREE) Legacy Fund and a confirmation of members on the PREE Committee, with new members being appointed. Attended by Dale Marshall and Larry Frischke.

The Future of the Ghost Watershed: Exploring Solutions - May 4, 2012

This was a Friday night workshop which was interactive and very informative. Discussions centered on current and future utilization of the Ghost Watershed. A full report is available at www.foesa.org/Meetings/ghostwatershed.pdf. Attended by Jay Mills.

Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan - Monitoring: Standing Committee Meeting – June 7, 2012

Don Livingstone gave a report on Activities, Enforcement and Signing, at which time we were informed that SRD Officials have lost all authority to enforce any of the regulations in the backcountry! He also gave us a 5 Year Review of the Standing Committee and a report on the extensive damage done to the west country from the flooding in June! We then heard reports from various groups, including a Recreation Update, The Nordegg Trail Plan, Prescribed Burning, Volunteer Projects, The Bighorn Dam Project Update and a very interesting presentation on The Hummingbird Archeological Findings. The meeting wrapped up with brief reports from the various groups present. Attended by Dale Marshall and Larry Frischke.

PAG Annual Social – June 8, 2012

This meeting involved a short information session with updates on various projects and a report on the status of the PREE Grant Applications. This was followed by nine holes of golf (there was definite entertainment value in watching Dale and I attempt to golf!!!) and a Steak Fry Banquet! Thanks to Shell for a Great Afternoon and Evening!!! Attended by Dale Marshall and Larry Frischke.

Restoration of Plains Bison in Banff National Park – FOESA Update Meeting – June 21, 2012

Parks Canada contacted FOESA and asked to have an information sharing session with FOESA members. To be discussed were the two bison reintroduction options being considered and to hear from our organization on what concerns, opportunities and level of future involvement we would like to discuss. Because of the very short notice for this meeting, attendance was limited to Dale Marshall and Larry Frischke. Parks Canada did provide a background document for members which can be found at <http://www.foesa.org/FOESBackgrounderJune212012.pdf>. The meeting covered a presentation on the Goals and Priorities of Bison Restoration, a Discussion of

the Ecosystems Involved, Review of the Pilot Trial, Five Year Project and discussions on Disease Risk Management, Fence Design and Permeability, Management Zone and Response Protocols, possible Locations, Timelines and Proposed Next Steps. It was a very informative meeting and there was some excellent information exchange on the various topics.

Parks Canada was recently contacted for an update. Their Concept Document has been finalized and Phase 2 consultation is forth coming. FOESA has arranged for a presentation to members sometime in January or February 2013. An exact date will be forwarded once it has been set.

Panther Advisory Group Meeting & Christmas Social – Friday, November 16, 2012

At this meeting we were given an update on Shell’s drilling activities in the Panther Area. We were informed that drilling at the Panther Site has been completed and there are no plans for further drilling in the area in the near future. This will also mean the termination of the PREE Legacy Fund. Then there were brief update reports from the various stakeholder groups in attendance. A Christmas Social followed, including an excellent lunch! Attended by Dale Marshall and Larry Frischke.

Bighorn Backcountry Access Management Plan - Monitoring: Standing Committee Meeting – Oct 4 2012

Lots of concern about new legislation and government re-structuring which has left ASRD and the Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee with fewer tools for enforcement. FOESA has agreed to draft a letter to the premier on behalf of the Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee. Attended by Dale Marshall.

2011 Emerald Award

Given the current concerns and importance of the Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee, we are including the following.

The Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association would like to congratulate the Rocky Mountain House ASRD and express special recognition of the Bighorn Backcountry Monitoring Group, Standing Committee’s significant achievement of being granted an Emerald Award in 2011, specifically, the “Emerald Certified Shared Footprints Award”, recognizing the accomplishment of the “Bighorn Access Management Plan Implementation”!

For more than twenty years, the Alberta Emerald Foundation has been working to recognize, celebrate and inspire environmental excellence in Alberta. Thirteen awards are presented in eleven categories that recognize and reward the excellent environmental initiatives undertaken each year by youth, educators, corporations, individuals, not-for-profit associations, community groups and governments.

the Government provided, review of the final plan, first year report and discussion on progress
the management of the Design and Remediation Management Zone and the progress of the
the various excellent information exchange on the various topics.

Public Canada was recently contacted for an update. Their Concept Document has been finalized
and Phase 2 consultation is being completed. FOSIS has a budget for a public consultation to commence
sometime in January or February 2013. An exact date will be forwarded once it has been set.

Public Canada's Design Meeting & Consultation - Friday, November 10, 2012

At this meeting we were given an update on the Design Meeting in the Public Area. We
were informed that during the meeting the Design Meeting has been completed and there are no plans for
further meetings in the area in the near future. This will also mean the termination of the FOSIS
Design Meeting. There were brief updates from the various stakeholder groups in
attendance. A Christmas Social followed, including an excellent lunch provided by the
Marriott and staff.

Public Canada's Design Meeting & Consultation - Friday, November 10, 2012

Public Canada's Design Meeting & Consultation - Friday, November 10, 2012
The Design Meeting was held on Friday, November 10, 2012. The meeting was held at the
Marriott Hotel in the Public Area. The meeting was held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The
meeting was held in the Public Area. The meeting was held in the Public Area.

Public Canada's Design Meeting & Consultation - Friday, November 10, 2012

Public Canada's Design Meeting & Consultation - Friday, November 10, 2012
The Design Meeting was held on Friday, November 10, 2012. The meeting was held at the
Marriott Hotel in the Public Area. The meeting was held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The
meeting was held in the Public Area. The meeting was held in the Public Area.

The Design Meeting was held on Friday, November 10, 2012. The meeting was held at the
Marriott Hotel in the Public Area. The meeting was held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The
meeting was held in the Public Area. The meeting was held in the Public Area.

Public Canada's Design Meeting & Consultation - Friday, November 10, 2012
The Design Meeting was held on Friday, November 10, 2012. The meeting was held at the
Marriott Hotel in the Public Area. The meeting was held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The
meeting was held in the Public Area. The meeting was held in the Public Area.

6

The Bighorn Backcountry Monitoring Group, Standing Committee was formed by ASRD in 2003 and brought together 15 various user groups of the Bighorn Backcountry to help formulate a management plan for the education, communication, development, surveys/monitoring work, data collection and betterment for all users and the environment of the Bighorn Backcountry.

In presentation of the award, The Emerald Award Committee stated that the Bighorn Backcountry Monitoring Group, Standing Committee: Bighorn Access Management Plan Implementation was *"Developed with input from representatives of all the different groups who use the Bighorn Backcountry, the Access Management Plan implements projects which helps those users reduce their environmental footprint thus allowing Bighorn Backcountry to retain its natural beauty and accessibility."*

Again, congratulations to Rocky ASRD! FOESA wishes to acknowledge your accomplishment and thank you for allowing us to be a small part of the Standing Committee!

An online presentation on this Emerald Award is available at <http://emerald.foundation.ca/recipients/shared-footprints-award>

PREE Grant Application

FOESA submitted three applications to the PREE Grant Legacy Fund in 2012 and all three applications were accepted and received funding!! These applications included: 1. Equestrian Trail Upgrades in the Red Deer / Panther / Dogrib Areas (\$7500.00), 2. Upgrading the Toilets in the Eagle Creek Campground (\$9100.00) and 3. Installation of a Toilet at the Eagle Lake Staging Area (\$9100.00). These projects will be undertaken and completed in 2013. FOESA would like to thank Shell Canada and the PREE Legacy Fund as well as the PREE Application Review Committee for selecting our projects and providing our organization with funding to help enhance the recreation facilities in the Ya Ha Tinda Area.

Merchandise

Lots of great FOESA merchandise still available. There are jackets, caps and vest in lots of sizes. These will be available at the banquet but would also make a great Christmas present. If you're interested please contact Suzanne Comfort at suzanne.comfort@foesa.org (403 556-9989).

Member Responsibilities

A reminder once again that FOESA is a volunteer organization and that user's of the backcountry need to behave responsibly. FOESA maintains campgrounds at the Bighorn, Eagle Creek, Cutoff Creek and Hummingbird with moneys raised through membership, grants and donations. Users can help to keep this on track by minimizing their impact. Guidelines for the campgrounds are as follows;

- Dispose of manure at manure drop off sites (no hay please)
- Use cubes instead of hay when possible
- Take out all your garbage and leave your campsite clean
- Tie horses to tie stalls , high lines provided, or your horse trailer (no trees)
- Maximum stay is 14 days
- Keep dogs on leash and clean up after them
- No dumping of any kind in the outhouses

Outhouses at the Bighorn, Eagle Creek and Hummingbird campgrounds are maintained from mid May through to thanksgiving. Outhouses at Cutoff Creek are not maintained on a regular basis. Users at Cutoff Creek need to look after outhouse cleaning and maintenance on an as need basis. Once again a reminder that there is **no dumping of any kind in the outhouses.**

Message from the President

Hello Eastern Slopes Campers,

As president of FOESA I wish to present a personal letter of my appreciation to everyone who has generously given of their time and money to support this organization.

First, I'd like to thank the directors for going above and beyond. They have put in countless hours of time attending meetings, volunteering, and using personal tools such as bob cats, welders, trucks, trailers and fuel. They have also spent time dealing with trail grants, making sure memberships are up to date, and that all the toilets in the campground are in great working condition. An enormous amount of planning and time also went into organizing the Poker Rally Trail Ride. The food was outstanding and a lot of effort went into selling tickets, vests, hats and other fundraising items. To all of those who helped out with all aspects of media including radio and newspaper, thank you; advertising sure makes a difference! Other directors have spent time keeping up with SRD in Rocky and Calgary, Parks Canada and everyone out on the ranch. And, to those who kept the wheels of our business side greased, handling the mail, bank deposits and volunteering time I just can't say thank you enough.

I would also like to thank two very important volunteers, Tom and Nick for selling a substantial number of memberships and putting in some hard work on the campground stalls. Thanks to Dwayne too, he helped make all their hard work possible by hauling out supplies for them to work with. Good team work fellas.

Finally, I say "Well done!" to each and every person who volunteered countless hours to pull everything off over the years, especially this year. Without the help of other clubs, organizations

8

and individuals donating their personal time, equipment and tools we would never be the thriving group of hardworking friends that we are today- making a difference in the Eastern Slopes together. With every ounce of appreciation, thank you very much.

Looking ahead to an exciting future, we are planning on expanding on what we are already doing well such as creating new trails for our friends and organizations to enjoy. Quad trails and a quad poker rally are one of the new projects we are considering. During these new ventures we hope to work with new groups and old friends to help educate everyone on how to look after this magnificent environment. For this we are really counting on everyone's continued support. Again, thank you to everyone for your time, donations, membership and support.

Dale Marshall

President of the Friends Of The Eastern Slopes.

That's it for this addition; looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM and banquet. If you received this by mail and would prefer to receive it by email, please send a request for "email" to jay.mills@foesa.org . If you have received this by email and would prefer mail, reply to the same email with a request for "Mail".

Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association



Jay Mills – Director