

2019 Recreation Management Report

Red Deer-North Saskatchewan Region

Bighorn Backcountry Public Land Use Zones (tasks completed)

- Outhouses and related infrastructure maintained. Combination of volunteer work and funding and GOA staff and funding.
- Bighorn Signage program, sign maintenance and replacements, kiosks and Bighorn Backcountry brochures distributed.
- Temporary portable outhouses install for all long weekends at the Bighorn Dam (human waste issues).
- Sub regional planning started for the Wild Horse rustic camping area and the Eagle Lake / James pass trail system.
- New trail development and maintenance completed on the Fire Smart Ecological trail system. Agriculture and Forestry staff and funding.
- Trail monitoring continued with trafX counters and trail cameras.
- GOA staff worked with volunteer groups, trail maintenance and future planning and approvals.
- Trail planning and work was started on the Bighorn Dam trail system. Completion of the work has been delayed due to wet ground conditions. The Bighorn Heritage ATV Society will continue the project in 2020.
- Hummingbird and Bighorn Dam trail systems had trail closures due to wet ground conditions.
- New footbridge was constructed on the Coral Creek trail by the JFR crew.

Rocky to Nordegg Rail Trail Project

- New trail work was done from the new Shunda bridge at Harlech to Tidewater gas plant was done. Graveling still pending.
- Erosion protection work was installed from Tidewater gas plant to Beaverdam PRA.
- Trail Cameras were installed on the new trail to develop user information.

Work on Vacant Public Lands Outside the Bighorn Backcountry PLUZs

- New trail planning and development has been started in the Meadows area. Delayed due to wet ground conditions.
- Planning & approvals work has been started for the James Pass bypass trail.
- GOA staff continuing to work with Volunteer clubs outside the Bighorn Backcountry PLUZs.

More on Bighorn Backcountry trail monitoring: <https://www.alberta.ca/bighorn-backcountry-monitoring.aspx>

2020 Recreation Management Planning

Red Deer-North Saskatchewan Region

General Priorities

1. Manage Bighorn Backcountry PLUZs
2. Manage and continue development of Rocky to Nordegg Rail trail.
3. Continue planning and development for the Meadows area trail system and the James Pass.
4. Continue to support Volunteer groups with approvals and planning.

Bighorn Backcountry PLUZs (objectives & critical objectives)

- Maintain signage program (critical)
- Maintain infrastructure , Toilets (Critical)
- Maintain trail systems and staging areas.(critical)
- Work with volunteers (critical)
- Continue consultation Bighorn Steering & Standing committees. (critical)
- Continue enforcement of legislation. (critical)
- Continue sub regional planning.

Rocky to Nordegg Rail Trail Project

- Maintain and protect new portions of the trail (critical)
- Finish work carried over from 2019. (critical)
- Complete re decking of Taunton trestle.(critical)

Vacant Public Lands projects

- Continue with Meadows planning & trail development
- New James Pass trail development. (critical)
- Continue working with Volunteers. (critical)