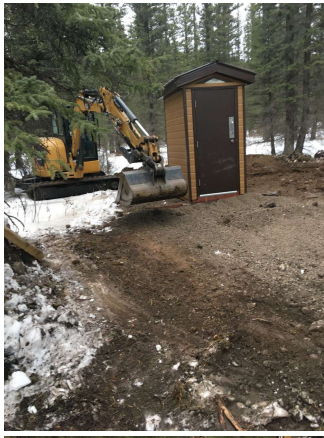




What has FOESA been up to?

The Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association has been busy over the fall and winter so far. At Eagle Creek Campground, 2 new outhouses were installed and new sites have been added and work is still in progress at Panther River campground. Construction at 7 Mile campground wrapped up in August and Elk Creek campground and Peppers lake campground upgrades were completed earlier in the summer. 3 new outhouses have been built and are ready to install at Hummingbird campground.

Pictured: (Top to bottom) New outhouses at Eagle Creek, Brush piles being burned at Panther for campground expansion.



Record Rainfall and Flooding.

June saw record flooding throughout the west country. Many campgrounds and recreation areas were closed temporarily due to flood waters and access restrictions. Among those were Hummingbird, Bighorn, Eagle Creek, Panther Staging/Campground, 7 Mile, Cut off Creek, Elk Creek Fish Ponds, and Pepper's Lake which was closed for construction at the time.

FOESA is working with various levels of government on a Bighorn mitigation plan with hopes of being open and operational for spring 2023.



Pictured: (top to bottom): Aerial view of Bighorn campground, Bighorn campground, washed out road to Hummingbird on June 21, 2022.

Update on Membership

There are currently 1525 members of the Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association! Thank you to those who continue to support our organization and the work we are doing. Just a reminder that memberships expire on Dec 31, 2022. You can use our easy online membership tool on our website to renew your memberships anytime. Follow the link below.

[Memberships](#)

FOESA's Newest Campgrounds Open to the Public January 1!

If you haven't heard, the Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association took on management of 5 new campgrounds. Many of these have seen locked gates over the past years. However, as of the new year, these sites will all be once again open to the public for camping and recreation! Keep an eye out for updates as we work on upgrades and improvements on these sites in the very near future. We are excited for the additional opportunities these campgrounds will provide for recreation and outdoor enjoyment this summer!

These campgrounds include:

Wildhorse, Red Deer River (North and South), James Wilson, Deer Creek and Cartier Creek

Pictured: (Top to bottom) Deer Creek located west of Sundre, Red Deer River North, located east of Mountanaire Lodge, Camp kitchen at Wildhorse, located at Wildhorse Flats west of Sundre.



REMINDER:

Please be courteous when dumping horse manure in the drop off locations and back right up to the pile. This helps keep our costs down for hiring machinery to contain the piles and keeps our sites tidy.

Also, PLEASE DO NOT dump garbage in the toilets. This is an ongoing expense for us as pump out costs and effort increase significantly when there is garbage in toilets.

UPDATE

An OHV trail connection has been approved between the Ghost and Dormer/Sheep Public Land Use Zones trails and the Panther Public Land Recreation Area (PLRA). The new routes include a west and east connection with the Panther PLRA, creating a loop system for OHV's. OHV's are not permitted on the Panther road between the Panther PLRA and Mountain Aire, but are permitted on the Panther road from the Panther PLRA west and south to compressor station. Keep an eye out for new signage and updated Public Land Use Zones Maps.

Please stay on designated trails and do not use ATV's on the Panther road except in the signed locations.

See below for a map of approved trails.

[Panther PLRA trail west connection and east.pdf](#)

NOTICE! 2022 marks the last year that panels will be allowed in the Campgrounds.

As of the 2023 season, use of panels will be prohibited at all FOESA managed campgrounds. Please be prepared to use the highlines and stalls provided for your use as of next year. There have been many new highlines installed with the past and current site upgrades.



The 2022 CAMP HOST PROGRAM WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

We would like to thank all of the hosts that volunteered at our various campgrounds for the 2022 season. The program, which was started in 2021 has proven to be a great success. We could not do this without the people who volunteer to be our hosts. They not only sell memberships but are cleaning toilets, providing important information to riders and campground users, helping in emergencies if needed and much much more.

We get great feedback from campers, which is valuable information which we can take back to our board of directors for review. We are learning new things each year and will go into the 2023 season with new ideas to help campers old and new.

With the addition of 5 new campgrounds that are now under our management, we will be in need of even more camp hosts this upcoming season.

If you are interested in becoming a Campground host in the 2023 season, you can send an email to

<mailto:foesacampgrounds@gmail.com> for more information.

Upcoming Events:

Our Annual General Meeting and banquet will once again be held in the new year. Keep an eye on your emails, Facebook updates and our website for date and location.

Past Event Spotlight:

Annual Horse Rally 2022

A great time was had by all at our annual horse rally and chili cookoff held August 6 at Eagle Creek Campground. There were 165 registered riders who took part in the fundraising ride. The day consisted of the poker rally followed by door prizes, auction items, and dinner to follow. There were some beautiful prize buckles awarded throughout the evening. This year's chili cookoff winner was Wanda Malka, the highest pledges buckle was awarded to Bev Van Metre, and the best poker hand was awarded to Deryl Thompson. Buckles for the riders with the most and the least number of years under their belt were awarded as well.

Thanks to everyone who took part and made the event a success.

Pictured below: The crowd gathered for morning registration. Dale Marshall presents Wanda Malka with the buckle for best chili. Bev Van Metre with the buckle for highest pledges. Doug Morris and family with the buckle for oldest registered rider. President Dale Marshall and director Graham Overguard.

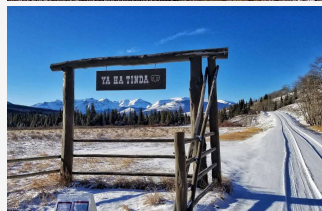
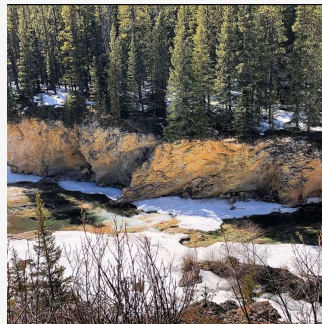
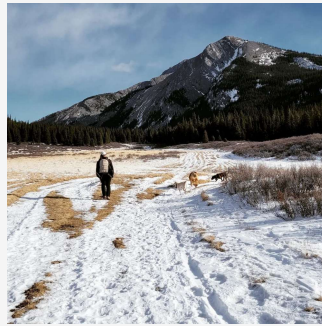


Winter recreation in the Eastern Slopes

Don't let the snow and cold weather discourage you from getting out and enjoying what the west country has to offer this winter! Pack up the family and head west for a cold weather adventure. From Bighorn and Eagle Creek campgrounds you can find ice fishing at Eagle Lake, frozen waterfalls at James falls, Bighorn falls and Hidden falls, along with many other adventures within a few hours from town. Day riders are occasionally spotted making the most of the less populated trails and many of our campgrounds have camp kitchens with wood stoves to warm up after a day of activities. (Please remember to bring your own firewood)

Picture credits:

Hike to Eagle Lake- Nici Klotz, Hummingbird falls-Sherry Quintilio, Ya Ha Tinda Gates-Kyla Routhier, Cutblocks-Cassie Pashko

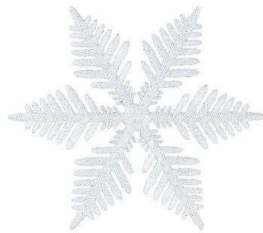


Merchandise

Did you know FOESA has a line of merchandise including jackets, hoodies, vests, wild rags and hats? These items can be purchased in person at any of our organized events or from a camp host during our summer season.



We would like to wish our membership a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support.



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