



Newsletter

Of The

Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society

A Helping Hand Partnership Caring For Our Environment

The Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society's 14th Annual Ed Gregor Memorial Stewardship Day is scheduled for Saturday June 7th

Where: Blairmore Forestry Office

When: 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Who: All Backcountry Users

The day traditionally starts off with a free pancake breakfast at 7:30 A.M. at the Blairmore Land and Forest Service yard. After everyone is fed, the volunteers choose their "job groups" and head out to their assigned projects (see project work sheet). At the end of the day when everyone is gathered up for the free supper, draws will be made for terrific prizes of a Husqvarna H340 Chain Saw -- donated by Rocky Mountain Mechanical & CFSS, a Unique Hand-Crafted Walking Staff by Bill Kinnear, as well as many other great donated prizes. Awards are also made for the youngest/ oldest volunteer, traveled the furthest, and for the most unique piece of garbage picked up through the day. All of the food and prizes are donated by local businesses, cooked and served by the Coleman & Blairmore Lions Clubs.

Everyone, young and old, are welcome to participate. Remember to bring your work clothes including gloves, hat and boots. As well as tools, your own water, lunches, cameras and suntan lotion for the day. We always seem blessed with great weather. Also any trail clearing or trail repair equipment you have would be appreciated. We will be posting some planned projects on our website prior to the day. Please log any volunteer hours there.

www.crowsnestforest.com

Please copy the poster and pass it on
See you all on the 7th!

President's Message - Andrew Ruszyk

It is almost the beginning of June and that means the Annual Ed Gregor Memorial Stewardship Day is rapidly approaching. June 7th is the date and Darryl Johnson (SRD) always promises good weather on the first Saturday of June! There has been a lot of talk and attention given to our area over the last year regarding Land-Use and what should happen to the place in which we choose to live and recreate. It is imperative that anyone that is interested in the Crowsnest Forest area gets involved with Stewardship, public forums and write to your MLA and the Minister of ASRD. The Ed Gregor Memorial Stewardship Day is a great way to show how real Albertans treat their own backyards. So bring a friend, some gloves, a lunch and a smile and have fun on June 7th, 2008.

The Big Rock Bridge (see page 4) was installed last fall after a mindless act of vandalism or terrorism by some idiot with a truck, generator and a grinder. A person with very limited intelligence tried to destroy the bridge as it sat on a trailer beside the installation location. Thankfully, the hard work of the Crowsnest Quad Squad made it possible to save the bridge and they successfully lowered it across the river last fall with the decking going in this spring. Money from the sale of T-shirts during the Lost Creek fire was used to help fund this bridge. The money was supposed to be used towards recovering legislated trails in the fire area and this new bridge is on a trail that is in the heart of the fire area. This is just one bridge that is part of the amazing bridge installation program that the Crowsnest Quad Squad is implementing in the Crowsnest Forest.

There has been a tremendous amount of interest in the Ed Gregor Stewardship Day so come out to help show the world what real Albertans are like. The morning starts at 7:30 A.M. with the free breakfast at the Blairmore Ranger Station. So get a good meal in your stomach for a rewarding day of taking care of our forest. If you need more information please contact me at (403) 564-4242 or at andrewr@skicastle.ca. I'll see everyone on June 7, 2008.

Web sites of interest

CFSS - www.crowsnestforest.com

Castle area and C-5 DFMP (CROWPAC) are on:
www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/regions/southwest

This is a letter being sent to the Minister of A.S.R.D. Ted Morton. We encourage you to write your opinion to him and your M.L.A.



Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society
Box 1607
Blairmore, AB.
TOK 1W0
(403) 564-4242

April 9, 2008

To : The Honourable Ted Morton
Minister of Sustainable Resource Development

From : The Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society

Re : Land-Use in the C5 Forest

Dear Minister Morton,

We would like to take this opportunity to express how much the Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society (CFSS) has enjoyed working with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) Staff over the past 13 years. Everyone with the CFSS enjoys living and recreating in the C5 Forest Area and a big part of this enjoyment is due to the efforts of ASRD and multi-users.

The CFSS is a purely volunteer organization and the multi-stakeholder composition of the CFSS Executive provides us with clear insight into the interest and concerns of most of the people that live and recreate in the area. We have supported and continue to support the Land Management efforts of ASRD and believe in the Access Management Plan for the C5 Forest is the right Land-Use Management Plan for the area. Our Society lobbied for implementation of this Management Plan. As written in point 3 of our Mandate, we support multiple-use in the area.

The **Mission** of the CFSS is:

As Stewards, we are committed to active participation with land management agencies and other users, and to the promotion of public education regarding the responsible use of public lands within the C-5 Forest.

And the **Mandate** is:

1. To develop, produce, and distribute materials and programs focused on public education regarding proper stewardship of public lands within the Crowsnest Forest.
2. To participate with Land Management Agencies on enhancement, maintenance and reclamation projects within the Crowsnest Forest.
3. Promote the continuation and sustainability of multiple-use opportunities while maintaining environmental protection objectives within the Crowsnest Forest.

The CFSS acknowledges the need to review the Access Management Plan, the desperate need for stronger, legislated fines and penalties, and a budget for adequate monitoring needs to be in place. This review must be done in a clear and transparent fashion that includes **All** user groups and **All** Albertans. The proposal to have a review that concludes in one pre-supposed out come, namely the proposed Andy Russell - I'Tai Sah Kop Park, is completely unacceptable in that there is no public process involved with this proposal. There is a concern that the feeling of ownership felt by many Albertans who live and recreate in the area, will be significantly reduced should a "Park" be forced upon them. This concern would lead to organizations such as the CFSS ceasing to exist. Most people will feel that a "Park" should be maintained by Government staff exclusively and they will stop participating in such activities as our Ed Gregor Memorial Stewardship Day that is in its 14th year. This will effectively eliminate the ability of volunteer organizations to work in cooperation with the land managers for the sustainability of OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

We would encourage you and your ministry to review the Access Management Plan with ALL stakeholders and to request the Premier to legislate significant fines for people that abuse the area. Please feel free to contact the CFSS Executive at anytime to further discuss this.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rusnyk
Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society President
(403) 564-4242
andrewr@skicastle.ca

• **AGM Approaches**

The Crowsnest Forest Stewardship Society's **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **May 28th, 2008 at 7:00 PM** in the downstairs meeting room in the Blairmore Forestry Office. Primary on the agenda will be election of officers and finalizing plans for Stewardship Day.

• **Renewal Membership Info Required**

To stay informed about your Stewardship Society, please renew your free membership today. Info required: all family names, address, postal code, phone, e-mail (please!)

e-mail to: Leah Filipuzzi (lfilipuzzi@telus.net) or post to: Box 2354. Pincher Creek. AB.. TOK 1W0

• **Executive - Directors 2007-2008**

Andrew Rusyntyk ..564-4242	Leah Filipuzzi ...627-8554
Gail Simmons627-2796	Terry Aris628-3744
Dennis Beasley563-5640	Melissa Brown564-4892
Brendan Carter563-1108	Neil Chalmers ...563-3215
Duane Filipuzzi 627-8554	Robert Johnson .627-3794
Bill Kinnear563-5476	John MacGarva...628-2447
Bill Paton562-8927	Cameron Welsh ...628-3186

CFSS Mission

As Stewards, we are committed to active participation with land management agencies and other users, and to the promotion of public education regarding the responsible use of public lands within the C-5 Forest.

Mandate of the C.F.S.S.

1. To develop, produce, and distribute materials and programs focused on public education regarding proper stewardship of public lands within the Crowsnest Forest.
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3. Promote the continuation and sustainability of multiple-use opportunities while maintaining environmental protection objectives within the C.F.

• **Door Prizes!**

***All Participants are automatically entered into the draw. Increase your chances by purchasing more tickets for \$1.**

All proceeds go towards CFSS projects.

Last year the big draw prizes were a Husqvarna H340 Chain Saw donated by Rocky Mountain Mechanical, Husqvarna and the CFSS, and a unique handcrafted walking staff donated by Bill Kinnear. Many other great-donated prizes were enjoyed by all the winners.

A Big Thank you goes out to David Coutts, our past MLA. Dave has always supported the CFSS, attending many Stewardship Days and in particular with his Silent Auction 03/04 with the CFSS as recipient!

Thank you to all of our many Sponsors

Over the past 13 years - all of the work accomplished could not have happened without your support! See the attached listing of 2007 Sponsors. Please support them and add your name to this year's list!

Spray Lakes Sawmills - BREAKFAST

Aris Instruments - SUPPER

B&P Johnson Welding Ltd. - SUPPER

Kawneer Co. Canada Ltd. -Lethbridge

Rocky Mountain Mechanical - Pincher Creek

Bill Kinnear Carvings - Coleman

Coleman Lions

Blairmore Lions

Castle Mountain Resort

S.R.D. Land & Forest

C.J.P.R. Radio

Pincher Creek Marketplace Co-Op

Walmart - Pincher Creek

Shell Canada Ltd.

Blairmore Pharmasave

Hillcrest Fish & Game

Pass Beverages

Saddle Mtn. Ranch Self-Healing Centre

Summit Home Center - Blairmore

Hedderick Insurance - P.C.

Chris' Restaurant - Coleman

Blairmore IGA

McDonald's Restaurant - Pincher Creek

Blairmore Pharmasave

Ruffles Boutique - P.C.

Pincher Office Products

Sobey's - Pincher Creek

Fountain Tire - P.C.

A. & W. Rusyntyk

Kentucky Fried Chicken - CNP

Treadsoftly

Ewen Rexall Drugs - CNP

Remax Southwestern

Boytinck Home Hardware - P.C.

Donations gratefully accepted.

All moneys are spent on sustainable projects in our Crowsnest Forest. Income tax receipts available for donations over \$25.00

Over the years, your CFSS has been very involved with maintaining sustainable multi-use in our public lands. We have made many presentations-written and verbal-to government agencies, committees, organizations and the public, always maintaining our vision and mandate.

This is the Land Use Designation chart for Public Land in Alberta. Write your MLA and Ministers as to the use you would like to see in the C-5 Forest.

Designation	Principle Activities	Excluded Activities	Conditional Activities
Ecological Reserve	Strict preservation of natural ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure development, motorized access, industrial and commercial activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foot access only Scientific research projects
Wilderness Area	Non-consumptive, nature-based outdoor recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure development, motorized access, industrial and commercial activities Grazing of domestic animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foot only access Limited opportunities for nature-based recreation – e.g., hiking, wildlife viewing and mountain climbing. NOTE: hunting, fishing and use of horses are not permitted.
Wildland Provincial Park	Large, undeveloped natural landscapes that retain their primeval character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure development, motorized access, industrial and commercial activities Grazing of domestic animals (e.g. Don Getty) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foot access trails and primitive back country campsites are provided in some parks. Designated trails for off-highway vehicles may be provided in some parks if management plan allows. Grazing of domestic animals may occur if management plan allows (e.g., Bob Creek Wildland Provincial Park)
Provincial Park	Protect natural and cultural landscapes and features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting is not permitted. Grazing of domestic animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road access Interpretive and educational facilities Variety of outdoor recreation activities and support facilities Commercial activities supporting educational and recreational activities.
Heritage Rangeland	Preserve natural features representative of Alberta's prairies. Grazing is used to maintain grassland ecology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure development, motorized access, industrial and commercial activities – unless identified and supported in the management plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully managed grazing contributes to ecological integrity of area. Limited opportunities to outdoor recreation activities.
Natural Area	preserve and protect sites of local significance and provide opportunities for low-impact recreation and nature appreciation activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure development, motorized access, industrial and commercial activities Grazing of domestic animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most natural areas have no facilities and in those that do, facilities are minimal and consist mainly of parking areas and trails.
Recreation Area	Support outdoor recreation and tourism; they often provide access to lakes, rivers, reservoirs and adjacent Crown land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off – Highway vehicles unless designated. Grazing of domestic animals. Hunting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some areas are intensively developed, while others remain largely undeveloped.

Crowsnest Pass Cross Country Ski Association – Update

The 2007/08 season saw significant progress on our clubs projects. We were the grateful recipients of a new snowmobile which will replace one of our ageing Alpine units. There is now funding in place to construct a new shop at the trail head, and we have rough cut 2 kilometers of new ski trail. One section will be a beginners loop near the start of the trails and the second leg creates a new North / South trail with improved snow conditions and alignment than the present cut line offers.

We are asking any and all who would like to spend pleasant days outside this summer to phone 563-3215 and submit your name as a volunteer to assist in clearing off the brush and leveling out the bumps so grooming of these new trails can begin this fall. This could be a great excuse to have a family day and picnic. Come out and enjoy Allison with us, and help make it an even better recreation wonderland.

Lethbridge Coulee Kruzers - Update

The Lethbridge Coulee Kruzers Jeep Club was founded in August of 1966, we are an OHV club with the emphasis on Jeeps and 4x4s however a significant number in our club enjoy the use of quads and dirt bikes, currently we are 40 members strong. In the early years of the CFSS our club was very active putting on a dinner, a number of breakfasts as well as participating in trail reclamation projects, highway clean-ups and generally helping where needed. With time our club participation with the CFSS has dropped to the point where only a few have continued to participate.

Presently our club recognizes the need to once again be a strong supporter and partner with the CFSS to maintain trails and to promote responsible use of our public lands. We are currently gathering info on potential projects so we can have a clear and definite project to bring forth in the future.

Crowsnow Riders Snowmobile Club – Update

The Crowsnow Riders had a great 2007/2008 season with lots of snow, (Still!) and awesome sledding. We are the proud new owners of a new truck for transporting our groomer and are finally able to retire the 46 year old fire truck. The truck was purchased through Summit motors in Taber, who generously donated \$15,000.00 towards the purchase price. Our Poker ride to the south Shelter was well attended with 99 registrations, 146 Poker hands, and lunch sponsored by Ranchers Supply of Pincher Creek who were doing there demo ride. Between the two events there were over 200 sleds at the shelter that day and 300 smokies inhaled. We were also supported by the SRD, RCMP & Search & Rescue to ensure a safe enjoyable ride. These boys enjoyed the demo rides as well. Work bees were well attended with more than a dozen volunteers showing up to bring in the winter supply of firewood at the North & South Shelters.

The Crowsnow Riders has been a registered non-profit society for 19 years and still have the first Newsletter produced. We now have 149 ASA trail members, 4 lifetime Honorary members, more than 50 additional members who do not snowmobile but support our club and 75 Corporate Sponsors. Our ASA Raffle tickets are on sale at a number of our Corporate sponsors, with the Grand prize being a GMC Sierra Truck. For the next season, we are planning to attend the Edmonton & Calgary snow meets dirt trade fairs again, and we now have an ASA Southern regional director to help bring in some of the programs offered to us by the ASA. One of these will be the classroom training of snowmobile safety, for our youth as well as the adults. We promote 0 Tolerance for alcohol on the trails and Avalanche Safety Awareness courses.

Crowsnest Pass Quad Squad - Update

The CNP Quad Squad Assoc has had another successful year of installing bridges and creating approximately 25 km of new trail. Ten bridges in total were installed, 5 north of Hwy 3 and 5 South, 3 of which are in the Castle Special Management Area. We were fortunate to be able partner with the Stewardship Society to install a 60 foot bridge which has become known as "Big Rock Bridge" across Lynx Creek adjacent to Satoris Rd. between Goat Creek and the junction of Satoris and Adanac Rds. Approximately 18 km of new trail was created linking East Lynx Creek trail across Big Rock Bridge to the Lost Creek and Goat Creek areas. Another section connected the North end of the Willoughby Ridge Trail to Lyons Creek Rd. All of our projects are designed to create circuit trails and get OHV traffic off the roads.

We expect 2008 to be another busy year of bridging with 6 of the engineered 50 and 60 foot bridges being installed on upper North Lost Creek, Lynx Creek, Goat Creek and York Creek. Several of our shorter pipe bridge installations are planned for Lynx Creek, Goat Creek and Upper South Lost Creek. All of these projects will make the trails safer and help preserve one of our most precious commodities, our watersheds.

Keep it Green, Keep it Clean, and Tread Lightly



The New Big Rock Bridge – Thanks Quad Squad!!