




# FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS

ISSUE 9

FALL 2011

Foy's to Blacktail Trails | PO Box 81 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | [www.foystoblacktailtrails.org](http://www.foystoblacktailtrails.org)

**PHASE 2**  
**(60 MORE ACRES)**  **DONE**

## FROM THE CHAIR

### *Greetings Foy's to Blacktail Enthusiasts!*

Much has transpired since our April newsletter. As you read through this issue, I ask you to consider the implications of our accomplishments. I think you will conclude that what this organization, our partners, and our dedicated volunteers are achieving is indeed inspiring. We are reaching our objectives.

Last spring, FTBT contracted with our friends at Forestation for design and layout of a trail through the 40-acre parcel we added to Herron Park in December 2010. Montana State Parks awarded Flathead County just over \$12,000 toward the new trail construction, and the Montana Conservation Corps matched that with over \$3,000 (in-kind work). The result is an additional mile of thoroughly enjoyable single-track we now call the Notch Trail. This trail's immediate popularity was demonstrated not only by the boot/tire/hoof tracks of users who couldn't wait until construction was finalized, but also by the trail's inclusion in the courses for both the Herron Hustle foot race, and Herron Hammer bike race.

FTBT hosted an incredibly successful National Trails Day event in June, during which the Daybreak Rotary, Backcountry Horsemen, Flathead Youth Homes, Montana Academy, MCC and numerous individual volunteers established a hardened path across the meadow from the parking lot, as well as a connector to the Family Trail from the parking lot. Similarly, FTBT hosted two successful National Public Lands Day events in September during which volunteers continued work on the highly scenic single-track connection between the Notch Trail and Foy's Overlook Trail.

We are happy to have added new options for park users, and see this as the final arc in a cycle we expect to repeat through the coming years; raise money, purchase land, improve/increase the user experience. It is important to note that trail construction is funded solely through grants and partner dollars, while your donations go strictly toward land acquisition.

VERY exciting news—**as this goes to print, we are finalizing the purchase of an additional 60 acres (Phase 2)!** In less than one year we've added 100 acres to Herron Park, nearly a third of the way toward our ultimate goal of 320 acres. Thanks to hundreds of individuals; businesses like Pacific Steel & Recycling, Plum Creek Timber, Valley Bank, Glacier Bank, and Wells Fargo Bank; agencies including Montana State Parks' RTP program and the Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust; and grants from generous non-governmental organizations, we have received strong financial support this year.

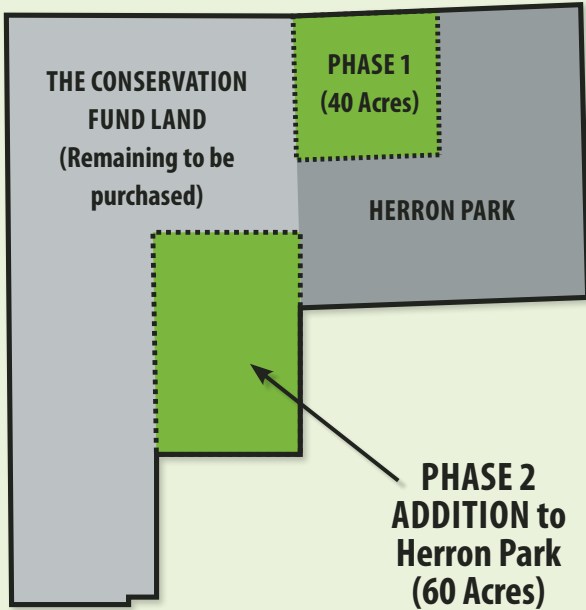
The efforts of FTBT continue to be organized and carried out by a dedicated cadre of board members, volunteers and partners. In recent years we recognized the need to hire a part-time Administrative Coordinator, and have been grateful to organizations like the Sustainability Fund which have supplied necessary funding to support the position. We thank Jill Seigmund and Holly Huntsberger for their past service in that position, and welcome Tiffany Nitschke to the role.

As always, our work could not move forward without continued support, both financially and otherwise, from patrons and partners like yourselves. For your contributions, we are extremely grateful! Yes, there remains a long trail ahead, but we're well on our way!

-Clifford Kipp, *Chairman of the Board, Foy's to Blacktail Trails*



Foy's to Blacktail receives an \$8,000 check from Dale Augusta of Pacific Steel & Recycling



Location of Phase 2 (60 acres) added to Herron Park in October.

## NOTCH + OVERLOOK = TOP TO BOTTOM SINGLE TRACK

*Matt Brake, Foy's to Blacktail Trails Committee*

The big news from the Trails Committee is that we now have single track trail that takes you from the bottom of the trail system all the way up to the Foy's Overlook Trail. We've accomplished a major goal that we set for ourselves last spring.

In a heroic effort (2+ days) volunteers from Montana Conservation Corps and Foy's to Blacktail Trails "scratched in" a trail which connects from "The Notch" to the Overlook Trail. The lower section of the Notch Trail was completed early this past summer (the trail-head for lower Notch Trail is off of the Plum Creek Access Road, just before the Family Trail). The new uppermost section will receive further refinement in years to come, but for now it is adequate for most users. That said, because this new trail is tougher than any previous ones, few of us will choose to mountain bike up (or trail run down) this connector. It is, however, walk-able uphill for most folks.

The easiest way to find this latest addition to our trail system is this: Go to the upper kiosk, then walk uphill on the Notch Road which heads north. After about 0.3 mile the main road/trail bends to the left and gets quite steep. Just after this it flattens out, and as you catch your breath you will find a new trail on your left.



MCC and volunteers pack a picnic table donated by Western Building Center to the Notch Overlook during National Public Lands day

This is it. (Be aware that the trail which continues straight ahead on the old road is slated for decommission in the near future). As you go up I encourage you to stop at the new picnic table provided by Western Building Center and enjoy the scenery. Because the trail meanders along the ridge, the views here are truly wonderful, especially on a clear autumn day!

Later this fall we will spread a seed mix on targeted areas of mineral soil to speed up revegetation. Also this fall and into next year we will be improving our trail system signage. (If anyone is interested in assisting with this or other trails committee work, please contact me: matt.ftbt@gmail.com). We are a volunteer trails committee and we welcome your help.

**Thank you to all who have helped to get us this far along the trail! However you choose to contribute, we appreciate it.**



Plum Creek Timber's Lorrie Woods presents a \$5,000 check to Cliff Kipp of Foy's to Blacktail



Runners and walkers in the May 2011 Herron Hustle covered new ground on its 5.5 mile course.

## MYTH BUSTERS

By Sara Swan Busse, Fundraising Committee

Although it's not directly stated in our volunteer job descriptions, one of our many roles is Myth Busters regarding common misconceptions about Foy's to Blacktail Trails. We quickly earn our badge as we encounter similar questions over and over. So here's your chance to join the ranks of the FTBT Myth Busters by knowing the truth yourself!

- Foy's to Blacktail Trails and Rails to Trails are the same thing. **FALSE!**  
*Rails to Trails, a wonderful but entirely different organization, works to convert old railroad beds to pedestrian and bicycle trails. We have no railroads, old or new, in the FTBT project area.*
- The Notch Trail now connects to the Overlook Trail. **TRUE!**  
*See Notch + Overlook article in this issue.*
- All of the land and trails people enjoy when they start hiking/biking/riding from Herron Park is public. **SO VERY FALSE!**  
*We still need to raise more than \$1.5 million to make this true! The Conservation Fund (a private non-profit) temporarily owns 220 acres next to Herron Park that must be purchased. County-owned Herron Park has grown from 120 to 220 acres in just one year, thanks to FTBT!*
- FTBT uses donor funds to build trails. **FALSE!**  
*All of the money donated to FTBT is used to purchase The Conservation Fund land. We are great grant writers though, and with the help of many partners have been able to secure grant funding and in-kind donations (equipment, labor, volunteers) for ALL of the trail building.*
- Most of the money for this project comes from the government. **FALSE!**  
*Of the money raised for this project to date, 60% has come from private donors—people like you. If you value these trails, please donate! Don't assume "someone else" will do it.*

- FTBT is the "leash police" at Herron Park. **FALSE!**  
*Flathead County Parks Department sets and enforces policy concerning leash rules in Herron Park and other county parks.*
- There will eventually be a trail that leads from Herron Park to Blacktail Mountain. **TRUE!** (or at least it will be true, with your help).  
*Our primary goal right now is secure the "front country" gateway (TCF land) ensuring access to the Plum Creek, Stoltze, and U.S. Forest Service lands to the south—making the trail possible.*

## IN MEMORY OF KATE PARKIN



Kate Parkin, 1950-2011

Foy's to Blacktail mourns the passing of Kate Parkin, 61, on September 21 in Kalispell. Kate enjoyed the outdoors, animals, and especially horses. She was an avid rider and enjoyed volunteering in the horse community in organizations, events and special causes.

Kate requested that memorial contributions be made to Foy's to Blacktail Trails, a cause that was near and dear to her heart. We are honored by this request, and feel that Kate would be deeply touched, as we are, at the tremendous response from her family and friends.

## THANK YOU!

Our thanks to Robin Sorg, who donated her graphic design talents to producing this newsletter, as well as our classy new bumper sticker. (Visit



[FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](http://FoystoBlacktailTrails.org) to find out when they are available)!

## HOW TO DONATE

- Yes!** I want to support Foy's To Blacktail Trails' efforts to secure Phase 3 and beyond. Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Street: \_\_\_\_\_
- City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email: \_\_\_\_\_
- If gift is in memory/honor of someone, please note here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail checks and this form to:** P.O. Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903  
You may also make a secure donation at: [www.FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](http://www.FoystoBlacktailTrails.org)



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## OUR MISSION

To secure historic access to trails and lands connecting Herron Park to the forest lands at Blacktail Mountain.

To provide long term stewardship of this corridor.

To accomplish this mission through voluntary and cooperative means.

[www.foystoblacktailtrails.org](http://www.foystoblacktailtrails.org)

Cyclists head up the trails during the 2011 Herron Hammer. Foy's to Blacktail received a portion of the proceeds from this event.