



Foy's to Blacktail Trails | PO Box 81 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

SUMMER UPDATE: BUSY BEES!

With the help of many dedicated supporters we have been able to tackle some great work this summer despite various challenges. Here's to a job well done!

Noxious Weed Mitigation

In late June and early July, Foy's to Blacktail Trails completed our first-ever noxious weed mitigation of the Foy's to Blacktail Trail! FTBT considers weed control to be just as important as the actual trail surface, and plans to include it as part of routine trail maintenance. We learned a ton and have a solid plan moving forward.

But first, a little history of the terrain: Last summer, we utilized a Montana Conservation Corps crew on Forest Service lands, which includes both the Lakeside to Blacktail and Foy's to Blacktail trails. FTBT volunteers and MCC crew members covered around 12 miles of ground, and found the single track trail corridors nearly void of noxious weeds! However, the 3-mile double track road south of Emmons Saddle, the Emmons Saddle TH, and both trailheads at Lakeside and Blacktail Mountain had significant amounts of knapweed and thistle. All were sprayed in June 2019 and still look good this year.

Over the past several years, FTBT has assisted private landowners adjacent to Herron Park with mitigation, and worked on the Chase Forest with Mr. Chase's permission. These areas still contain many noxious weeds, and efforts will continue to control the problem over the next decade (or more). FTBT does not currently have permission from Flathead County to conduct weed mitigation in the 440 acres of Herron Park.

North of Emmons Saddle, the FTB Trail follows Forest Service land for 1.4 miles then crosses private timber land for another 6.2 miles before reaching the Chase property. Timber sales over the last three decades have left a healthy amount of knapweed along the road beds. Several of these logging roads were part

of the historic 71A route from Foy's Lake to Blacktail Mountain for which our organization sought to secure a trail easement 15 years ago.

The Foy's to Blacktail Trail now crosses through this network. In cooperation with American Forest Management, Flathead County Parks, and private landowners, FTBT is responsible for weed mitigation along the 15-foot-wide trail easement. During these early treatments, we have been granted permission to create a 60-foot wide corridor for weed mitigation in order to get a handle on the problem. This fall we will do a second application.

This June we deployed three crews to spray weeds. With weather and volunteer availability, it took 5 work days and 150 hours to complete. The main challenge with the FTB Trail is that it's hard to get to! However, the task is approachable with enough volunteers. Weed spraying occurs each spring in mid-to-late June and once again each fall. We are seeking more volunteers to help with trail maintenance this fall. Please reach out if interested. FTBT will provide all training and materials!

Notch & Overlook Trails

The Herron Park maintenance project was slated to take place in Fall 2020. Earlier this spring, we decided to start part of the project in June to take advantage of soil moisture content and contractor availability.

As a destination to see pretty things, the Notch Trail is undeniably the most used trail in Herron Park. It offers the best views, has an explosion of wildflowers early in the season, and has many access points. As such, it was the first one on the list to get a makeover. By improving drainage throughout the 1.6 miles of Notch, we are confident that it will stand up to the ever-increasing use these days and beyond. With well defined drains and out sloped tread surfaces created using a mini excavator, we now have a fresh start and a clear road map to handle maintenance over the next five years with hand tools.

Rounding out our time with the trail planner and excavator operator, we continued to create drainage improvements for another mile of the Overlook Trail connecting back to the upper kiosk. This piece of trail is very steep and turns into a virtual river bed during heavy rain. Our goal for these double track sections is to mitigate the deep ruts that have been forming over the past few years to create a safer user experience.

Work will continue in the fall once we get some moisture back into the ground. Yes, we know Notch is dusty and unsettled in the wake of our sloping efforts this summer. We will be working to set in the trail with tools, tires and feet as soon as conditions allow. We are able to carry out these projects largely in part to your contributions these past few years, but also because of generous grants from the Applied Materials Foundation and Recreational Equipment Incorporated. Both organizations have volunteer programs that encourage employees to give back to our community, and a major component to these grants involves volunteer incentives.

Once the entire Herron Park and Chase Forest trail system has gotten an overhaul, we will need your help to keep these trails in good shape. All trails need yearly maintenance, and many hands make for light work!

Emmons Saddle Trailhead

The Foy's to Blacktail Trail only has one mid-trail access point: Patrick Creek Road. It is 9.3 miles up from Foy's Canyon Road, and takes about 25 minutes to drive there. It is unmarked, and efforts to keep signage posted have been challenging. However, FTBT

has been conducting regular trailhead cleanups for the past three years.

The Forest Service has recently authorized the formal development of this trailhead! Parking lot grading, fill gravel, barrier rocks, hitching posts and a pit toilet will be installed this year. An eventual kiosk will also be erected down the road.

We've visited the spot twice this season and cleaned everything up. Our goal is to keep things tidy until construction time, then monitor the area in hopes that folks will take the party down the road. As recreation in the Flathead Valley increases, we know this trail access will become more and more popular.

FTBT is also committed to building another four miles of ridgeline single track trail south of this trailhead. That process is ongoing, and will create a 7-mile nested loop and increase the system mileage to 38. Stay tuned!



ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT FTBT!

Go to smile.amazon.com then select Foy's to Blacktail Trails as your preferred charitable organization. Each time you make an eligible Amazon a portion of your payment will be donated to FTBT. You can also activate AmazonSmile on the Amazon app (on your smart phone). Easy peezy! Thank you for your support.

IF YOU USE THESE TRAILS, IT'S TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER!

If you're a routine trail-user please consider donating one dollar for each time you have enjoyed your outside time at Herron Park or on Foy's to Blacktail Trails this past year. Your gift supports trail building, stewardship, youth education, signage and way-finding, maps and more! Get involved and support the place you love.



HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU ENJOY FTBT TRAILS THIS YEAR?

WOULD YOU CONSIDER DONATING \$1/DAY?

Become a FTBT Member for as little as \$15 a year and feel great about pitching in! And, even better, please encourage others to get on board when you rock your FTBT membership sticker. All the cool kids do, ya know.

- \$15 Friend
- \$45 Family
- \$100 Supporter
- \$250 Sustainer
- \$500 TrailBlazer
- \$ _____

DONATE ONLINE AT
FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

Do **NOT** send me a membership decal

Mail checks and donation form to **FTBT, PO Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903** or donate online on the FTBT website via PayPal at FoystoBlacktailTrails.org. Questions? Contact us at (406)203.3939 or info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

IMPORTANT NEWS: FALL RACES

There is no easy way to put this: we have decided to cancel our fall race events and it's a real bummer. We have canceled the Herron Half/10K/5K and the FTBT Marathon that was scheduled for September 20, 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. All participants can choose one of the following options if you have pre-registered and already paid.

1. Donate your registration and support local trails,
2. Bump your registration to next year (2021) for free,
3. Get a refund, less \$1.00 and the original Run Sign Up processing fee.

Participants will be asked to make their decision after September 20 once this year's event has been updated in Run Sign Up. Those that don't want to wait can send us an email with their choice and we'll take care of it.

Foy's to Blacktail Trails would like to offer trail users a way to get out and enjoy our incredible trail system while safely enjoying the challenge of a group event so check out the do-it-yourself race options on the right if you're feeling it. Go get it!

Herron Half (DIY)

We will flag the 5k/10k/Half Marathon courses this fall so you can explore the courses on your own. The courses will be marked on Saturday, September 12 and will stay up until the end of the day on Sunday, September 20. Keep your eyes peeled for green markers if you'd like to run the 5k, red for the 10k, and blue for the Half Marathon.

The 5k climbs the Notch trail, turns before it gets steep and crosses over to the Horse trail via Scary Stump. The final stretch down Horse/Family trails is shared by the other courses. The 10k takes you a bit higher up the steep stuff, then through the many layers of Overlook, Boundary, Chase, and logging road. The Half Marathon provides the best views-but is also the toughest course, utilizing new and old pieces of the Foy's to Blacktail Trail.

Foy's to Blacktrail Trail Marathon (DIY)

We will mark the course for marathoners to participate self-supported with pink flags during that same week. The loop around Blacktail Mountain Ski Area has some difficult turns, and even with a small horde of volunteers at past races, participants have come close to missing the connector back to the main FTB Trail leading to Herron Park. Be aware that water is a concern, as there is none available along the course and resupply will require a cache at Emmons Saddle, approximately half way.

Note: Please send us an email if you run any (or ALL) of the courses during that week. We'd like to know if our efforts of marking the DIY courses were worthwhile! Thank you.



These races are the largest annual fundraisers for Foy's to Blacktail Trails. We've kept registration fees low over the last nine years to keep the events affordable. The money raised from the races goes directly to building and maintaining trails in the 34-mile FTBT system that our small non-profit organization manages with volunteers and donor dollars. In addition to event fees for the races and yearly memberships, our trails thrive largely in part to our dedicated sponsors. FTBT would like to recognize the following sponsors for their financial contributions in 2020 and many years prior:

Step Ahead Foot & Ankle Clinic
 Advanced Rehabilitation Services
 Measure Law, PC
 Jordahl & Sliter, PLLC
 Dental Distinctions
 Youth With A Mission—Endurance Adventures
 Kalispell Regional Healthcare
 Wheaton's Bicycles
 WGM Group
 Rocky Mountain Outfitter
 Trailhead Realty Group
 Hammer Nutrition
 Chuck Olson Real Estate
 Glacier Centre for Dentistry
 Kalispell OBGYN
 Kalispell Brewing Company
 Sportsman & Ski Haus

We would also like to thank our volunteer partners. Hundreds of hours of time and thousands of dollars have helped to maintain this trail system:

Applied Materials Foundation
 Recreational Equipment, Inc.
 Kalispell Daybreak Rotary
 Montana Conservation Corps
 Montana State Parks
 Flathead National Forest
 F.H. Stoltze
 American Forest Management
 Herron Park Equestrians
 Flathead County Parks

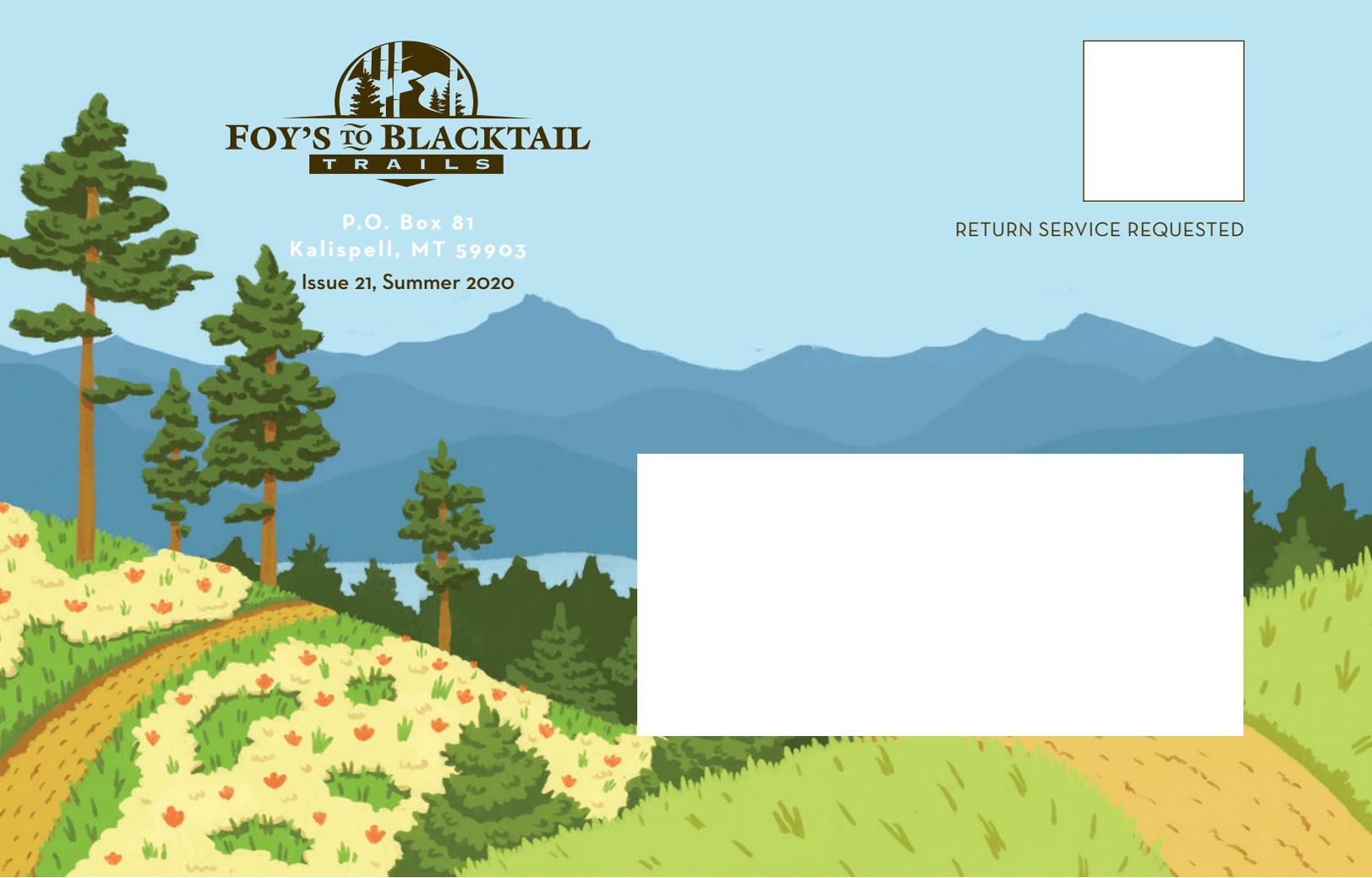


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



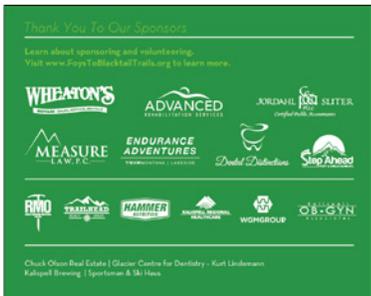
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Follow us online for news and stay tuned to FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

NEW MAP COMING SOON!

The map of Herron Park and John Chase Forest from 2014 has been updated to include new sections of trail, including the Foy's to Blacktail Trail. Panels have been ordered, and a new look is coming your way soon!

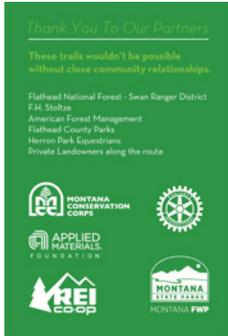


CHECK OUT THE NEW SPONSOR PANELS

FTBT also updated the sponsor panel to showcase local businesses that have supported us these past six years. Please visit their businesses, shop for their goods and services and be sure to offer your gratitude for making our community trail system so awesome. We appreciate you, sponsors!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Money talks and helps us achieve our mission, but hard-working bodies and hands also make a huge impact on our achievements. We've dedicated a partner panel for organizations and businesses that support our trail maintenance, both financially and with volunteers. We can't do our work without you!



@foystoblacktail #herronpark