



SEEDS
of
CHANGE



FOY'S  BLACKTAIL
TRAILS

2021 Annual Report

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Wow, I can't thank our community enough for their incredible support, especially with the tremendous amount of change (and challenges) the past couple of years. In 2021, we've had a phenomenal year of fundraising, trail system growth and events, and we love seeing so many of our supporters back out on the trails wearing smiles.

We were thrilled to join The Whitefish Community Foundation's Day of Giving last spring and the six-week long Great Fish Community Challenge this fall. It's rather humbling to join the ranks of 60 other local non-profit organizations doing good work in Flathead Valley. Thanks to everyone, especially the FTBT Board Members and Gabe Dillon, FTBT Program Coordinator, for their dedicated efforts. Six weeks is long time to keep the energy going. However, we exceeded our fundraising goal by more than \$10,000 and earned the "New Fish on the Block" grant award. Of course, heartfelt thanks goes to you, our donors, for stepping up!

All of this means trail touch-ups and new projects for Foy's to Blacktail Trails that you can read about in our By the Numbers section of the annual report. I'm hoping the good changes keep on coming! It is an honor to serve on the FTBT Board with such an incredible group of people. I'm grateful to my fellow board members Dave, Jandy, Seth, Travis, and Christy for donating their time and expertise, and need to give extra kudos to Gabe for keeping us all in line and organized.

Thank you for your generosity and support,

Lynn Foster

Board Chair, Foy's to Blacktail Trails

We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. "Chief Seattle

If you think adventure is dangerous, try routine, it's lethal. "Paulo Coelho



DONATE *before* DECEMBER 21

And you could win fabulous prizes!

For every \$10 you donate to FTBT by December 21, you'll earn a raffle ticket entry and could be the winner of one of these prizes.

ORIGINAL HERRON PARK TRAILHEAD SIGNS ★ \$200 GIFT CARD TO MURDOCH'S RANCH
\$250 GIFT CARD TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTFITTER ★ BIKE TUNE PACKAGE FROM A7 CYCLES

Donate on the FTBT website and select which prize you might prefer to win.

FVCC STUDENTS LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL THIS SUMMER

We had the help of Flathead Valley Community College Heavy Equipment Operator students to put the finishing touches on the Emmons Saddle trailhead this summer. This FVCC program gives students hands-on experience using various heavy equipment and it was a win-win combo to have their help "rolling out" the parking lot. FTBT offers a dump truck full of gratitude for your help!



Several students from FVCC got real world experience building the new trailhead at Emmons Saddle as part of the Heavy Machinery certification program.



BY THE NUMBERS 2021: SEEDING YOUR TRAIL DOLLARS

GREAT FISH CHALLENGE

\$34,327

We were honored to be a part of this community-wide fundraising effort for the first time ever! And you turned up to make it a great one. Thank you for helping us hit our fundraising goals and more. Remember to be on the lookout for Fish-squatch!

RACE ENTRIES

\$25,168

It felt so great to host trail races again! The Herron Half and the FTBT Marathon were full – everyone was ready to mingle again. Our 2020 DIY races just weren't the same. Big thanks to our event sponsors and runners. Your contributions help us maintain trails.

DONOR SUPPORT

\$27,694

Every single year YOU give back to your local trails and there are not enough ways to say thank you. Hikers, bikers, runners, equestrians, dog-walkers, families, photographers, and everyone that pitches in to support FTBT... THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEER EVENT VALUE

\$8,000

Many hands make light work. We tallied 400 hours donated at our race events to help us set-up, break-down, hang out at water stations, mark race routes, give out post-race snacks and more. We are so lucky to have wonderful people like you on our team!

VOLUNTEER TRAIL VALUE

\$5,700

It's a special kind of person that enjoys doing trail work and battling noxious weeds. A special shout-out to the folks that offered their brain power on Emmons Ridge trail planning. We were grateful for the 41 souls that pitched in on trails. A little dirt don't hurt!

TRAIL WORK \$PRICELESS

Annual trail maintenance is always needed, but our big accomplishment this year is the new Emmons Saddle trailhead including a pit toilet (that smells oh so sweet), parking area and hitching post. Go check out our work. We're real proud of it!

G R O W T H

I N V E S T M E N T

EVENTS & OUTREACH

\$10,216

If you plan it, they will come. We were thrilled to host the Herron Half and FTBT Marathon this year after a COVID hiatus.

WAGES & OPERATIONS

\$39,825

Well-made plans are only as good as the leaders that implement them. We run a tight ship with staff and also appreciate their time.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

\$26,610

Tools and machines are necessary to build trail. Big thanks to Swan Lake RD for their help with the new Emmons Saddle trailhead!

ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTION

\$12,000

We are building the FTBT nest egg. We love our local trails and this endowment fund will grow in time and keep us going strong.

You should sit in nature for 20 minutes a day, unless you're busy - then you should sit for an hour. 🗣️ Zen saying

One individual cannot possibly make a difference, alone. It is individual efforts, collectively, that makes a noticeable difference—all the difference in the world! 🗣️ Jane Goodall



WHAT'S NEW IN '22 NEW TRAIL ON EMMONS RIDGE

Expect to see some big changes in 2022. We will be leaning on your generous donations and various grants to continue building six new miles of singletrack trail near Blacktail Mountain next summer. And we are excited! We hope you are, too.

**END OF YEAR
GIVING**

**LET'S RALLY TO
BUILD
NEW
TRAIL**

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT**



Head to our website at FoystoBlacktailTrails.org and find the **DONATE** button on the top left of the home page. You know what to do from there. But wait, there's more! For every \$10 you donate up to December 21, you will receive a chance to win an end-of-year raffle prize! Check out the raffle page one turn back for a list of prizes. Every dollar donated during this end-of-year drive will go toward new singletrack at Emmons Ridge in 2022. Let's do this! We greatly appreciate every donation, large or small, that we receive. Psst: your donation is tax deductible, too! Consult your financial advisor for details. (We have to say that.)

Give me health and a day, and I will make the pomp of emperors ridiculous. “Ralph Waldo Emerson



A SUMMER TO REMEMBER (OR TRY TO FORGET?)

Can you believe it's almost 2022? Many of us feel like we are still recovering from the epic summer of 2020.

We all experienced it: hordes of people on the trails, trailheads full of cars, and no open campsites. According to a report released in November 2021 by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation accounted for 4.3% of Montana's GDP last year – a higher percentage than any other state. It seems like everyone picked Montana as their COVID getaway.

Overall, outdoor recreation and tourism fell in 2020 as consumers canceled, rescheduled or rearranged their plans. However, Montana fared pretty well as everyone flocked to enjoy our state's outdoor resources. Of course, we locals continued to explore, according to a poll conducted by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. But

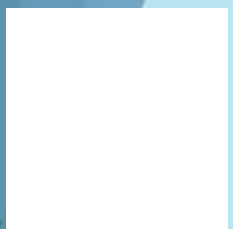
between locals and visitors, campsites saw so much pressure that 23% of Montanans said they could not stay at their chosen location. Most found another spot to enjoy, while about 25% simply went home to relax and avoid the crowds altogether.

The good news in 2021? Sporting events have returned. Music festivals are back on. Travel is less restricted. Trails are less crowded. The summer of 2020 won't soon be forgotten, but it sure does make us appreciate our little corner of the world. We are beyond blessed to have public lands right out our front door. These trails can't be built or maintained if we don't fund them. With the uncertain outlook of the lingering pandemic, be sure to support your local trails. You never know what you have until you share it with 12.6 million visitors.

A healthy ecology is the basis for a healthy economy. “Claudine Schneider



FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS



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