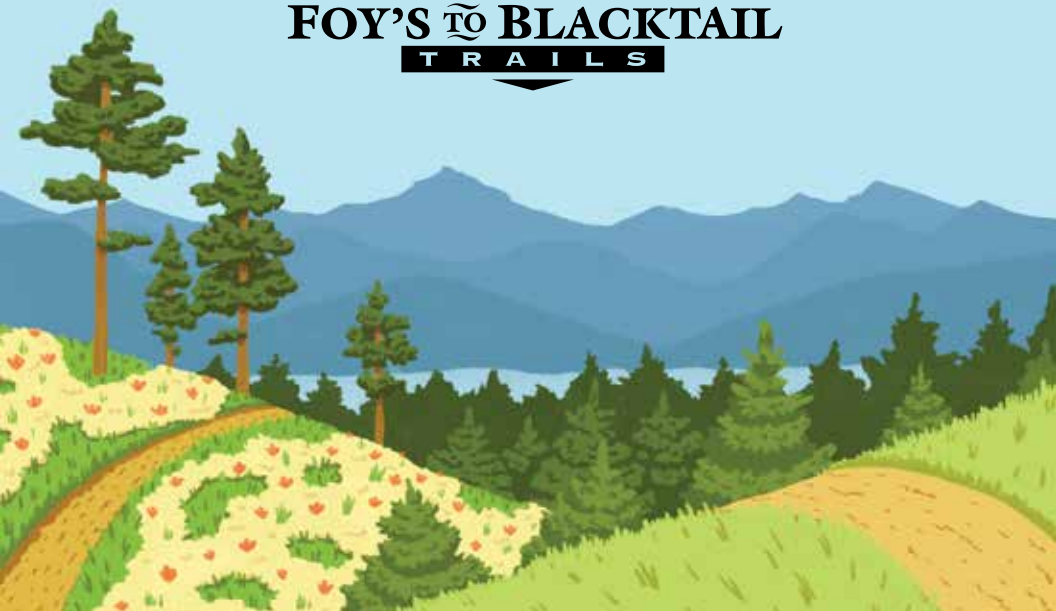




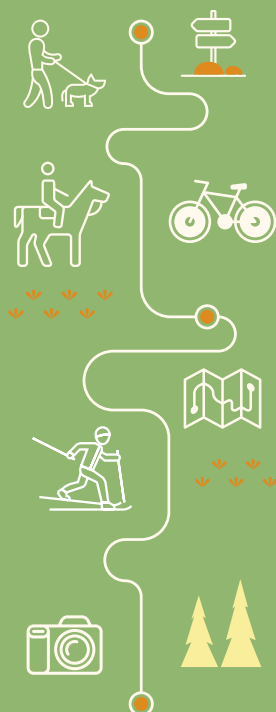
FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS



Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- **Donate in April and get entered to win an epic ebike adventure trip FOR TWO in Glacier National Park this spring!** Huge thanks to Whitefish Outfitters & Tours for their generous donation (it's a \$450 prize!!). Raffle proceeds help fund FTBT efforts. Donate online!
- **Tips & Reminders for Shared Use**
Hikers, bikers, runners and horse people...as trails open up this spring, we have some reminders for you. Thanks in advance for doing your part.
- **Spring & Summer Event Schedule**
Sign up early for your favorite races and events!
- **Meet Our Fearless Leader: Gabe Dillon**
Get to know the wizard behind the curtain.



**DONATE \$50 BY MAY 1
FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!**
Seven Winning Tickets!



Ticket to Ride



HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- **What do I win?** SEVEN winners will be selected to win a Ticket to Ride (a pair of tickets each). Each winning ticket is good for two (2) ebike rentals and a shuttle to and from Glacier National Park. This prize is worth \$450! Whitefish Outfitters & Tours has generously donated this prize and we think they are amazing!
- **How do I enter the raffle?** Make a donation to Foy's to Blacktail between now and May 1 and for every \$50 you will receive an entry for Ticket to Ride. You may donate on the Foy's to Blacktail website (all the details are found on the home page) or you can donate in person at Rocky Mountain Outfitter in Kalispell or A7 Cycles in Whitefish (please donate there with cash or check, thank you kindly).
- **More questions?** Check out the FTBT website > FoystoBlacktailTrails.org



TRAIL ETIQUETTE TIPS & REMINDERS

With spring upon us, we'd like to share some tips and reminders about multi-user trails. Thank you in advance for your kindness and patience with others – let's be safe and courteous on our shared Montana trails. And really, this is good advice for newcomers and long-time locals. It's not about rules or who was here first. It's just good manners, folks.

ADVICE FROM HORSE RIDERS

Horses may look large and imposing on trails, but they are really prey animals at heart (translation: always on high-alert). When startled, usually by mountain bikers or an unleashed dog, a horse's instinct is to run or flee. And they can move quickly! This can be dangerous for the rider and those around the horse. As equestrians, we encourage this motto: "Say Hi, Pass Wide." Let us know you are near. Give us lots of space. Keep your dog by your side. We want interactions with bikers and hikers to be pleasant and enjoyable, and it helps if all trail users understand how a horse brain works. It's for your safety and ours. Thanks for sharing the trail with us.

— Mary Kay Wilson, Herron Park Equestrians



ADVICE FOR FOLKS ON FOOT

Even though the standard rule is that bikes yield to foot traffic and everyone yields to horses, runners and hikers take up less room and can move to the side more easily than some of our two-wheeled or four-hooved neighbors. If it's easier for you, be kind and move to the right of the trail and out of the way. When coming up on someone from behind, make sure they know you're there without giving them a heart attack. A well-timed cough or throat clear from a ways back is a handy early warning, followed by an "excuse me, on your left" as you approach. Say thank you. Never hurts to add a smile, wave, or "good morning" either.

— Christy Cummings Dawson



ADVICE FOR FOLKS ON WHEELS

With downhill-uphill traffic, it's our job (on bikes) to slow down to walking speed and communicate intentions to pass a hiker. Hikers on an uphill mission may not want to break stride but many folks will kindly step off the trail to let you pass. It's a judgment call, but remember that bikes are technically the ones to yield. Also, if approaching from behind, be LOUD. Not scary loud but with more volume than you think. My favorite phrase is, "Let me know when it's okay to pass please." You may have to say it twice. We all get into the zone out there and a zen-like trance can need a nudge. Oh, and consider ditching the headphones.

— Jandy Cox



Don't take up the full width of the trail. Leave room for others to pass.
Say hello and use your voice when passing — especially around horses.

Consider leaving your headphones at home or keep the volume
very low so you can hear other people (and critters) around.



GET OUTSIDE WITH US

2022 EVENT CALENDAR

May 16 // Flathead Area Mountain Bikers Women's Clinic at Herron Park
Register online: flatheadamb.org. Be sure to check out the kids' clinics too!

June 4 // National Trails Day at Herron Park and Lone Pine State Park
Trail work in the morning, food in the afternoon. Join the volunteer list on the FTBT website (FoystoBlacktailTrails.org) and we'll send you all the pertinent deets.

June 12 // Herron Half, 10k and 5k Race
Register online: ftbtraces.com. Something for everyone! All proceeds support new trail building and maintenance with Foy's to Blacktail Trails.

June 17-18 // Herron Park Equestrians Derby
Event info and details online: herronparkeq.org. Come watch these hard-working critters and their riders show off their skills (no-cost to spectate).

June 25 // Spirit Bear Gran Fondo Mountain Bike Race
There's 24- and 48-mile options available. Youth under 18 register free! Go to runsignup.com and search Spirit Bear Mountain Bike Gran Fondo.

July 23 // Flathead Valley Big Sky Challenge Hike
Benefits the Brain Injury Alliance of Montana. Go to biamt.org and check out the events section.



August 13-14 // 12 & 24 Hours of Flathead Mountain Bike Race
Event proceeds support the Last Best Grant scholarship fund for adaptive athletes. More info and registration at: 24hoursofflathead.org.

August 26-27 // Herron Park Equestrians Derby
Event info and details online: herronparkeq.org. Come watch these hard-working critters and their riders show off their skills (no-cost to spectate).

September 16-17 // Herron Hustle
Youth mountain bike race for the National Interscholastic Cycling Association. Check out montanamtb.org to learn more.

September 18 // Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon
All proceeds help maintain and develop trails from Herron Park to Blacktail Mountain. Sign up online: ftbtraces.com.

September 24 // National Public Lands Day
Trails don't take care of themselves. Volunteer at Herron Park and Lone Pine State Park. Help get our trails ready for the long winter. Sign up on the FTBT volunteer list (FoystoBlacktailTrails.org) and we'll send you info. 🌱



If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success. 🗣️ James Cameron

Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game. 🗣️ Babe Ruth



YOUR FEARLESS LEADER MEET GABE DILLON



Gabe Dillon, FTBT Program Coordinator



Adventuring is a family affair in Montana!



Top photo: Isaac. Bottom photo: Alina.

Many of you have met Gabe. The wizard behind the curtain. The guy that pulls all the levers. Our trail-guru, grant-writer, accounting-master, volunteer-leader and all around “I got this” guy. But, some folks are new to the area and we thought it was time we bragged about Gabe again so everyone knows how hard he works at Foy’s to Blacktail Trails. We asked him to share a little about himself so you can get to know him.

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Wow! Six years have passed since we moved to Kalispell, and five of those have been working for Foy’s to Blacktail. My wife, Lynette, is from the Flathead, and I couldn’t be happier to have married into Montana.

My background is in education – for 11 years I taught at a school in Boulder, Colorado for at-risk youth. However, when Isaac, our first child, was born, I resigned to focus my attention on our new addition.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT WHITEFISH OUTFITTERS & TOURS

Whitefish Outfitters & Tours is the sponsor of our spring giveaway and we are beyond grateful for their generosity. We invite you to pop into their shop sometime soon and check out all the cool stuff they have going on.

Whitefish Outfitters & Tours is tour service and rental shop that is ready to set you up for just about any adventure in the Flathead Valley. Rent gear like bear spray, baby gear, paddle boards, ebikes and more for your DIY trip (who wants to travel with all that stuff?) or they can take all the details off your plate and plan it all for you, with gear and guide included!

The best part about Whitefish Outfitters & Tours? They support our local community and local trails! Plus, renting this gear means less waste as one-time visitors to Montana can re-use items like bear spray instead of tossing it in the trash. They keep the gear in top-notch shape with routine bike tune-ups and patchwork (when needed) for rental gear. They take the worry and stress away when it comes to logistics so be sure to check them out for your next outdoor excursion or when friends and family visit.



Did we mention they offer tours? Driving tours, cycling tours, climbing

MEET GABE DILLON, CONTINUED

We eventually sold our home in Denver, headed north, and added another family member: our daughter, Alina. Most recently we decided to add a four-legged furball, Jed, to our ranks last October.

I've always enjoyed working and I tend to dedicate my energy to the same organization/effort for a long time. But I also have diverse interests and skills. I've been a substitute teacher, worked at Whitefish Mountain Resort, taught mountain biking with Beyond the Boundaries, washed windows, and am now leading bike tours when not attending to FTBT duties. Looking over these roles, the common thread includes lots of outside time and leading/guiding others. Both bring me great satisfaction and I'm lucky to have a supportive family to help make all my adventuring possible.

As I look at trail goals for 2022, I'm excited to build on the legacy that began back in 2017 with other local trail leaders at the helm. The ultimate target has been to build a trail from Herron Park all the way up to Blacktail Mountain. This year, we're planning to complete the Ridgeline Trail - six new miles of singletrack! That means more great views and more opportunities to recreate.

As the to-do list gets longer, I'm holding on and enjoying the ride. Huge thanks to all the amazing volunteers that have offered up their time and energy. Foy's to Blacktail Trails is a great project to be a part of!

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Gabe, thank you for your ongoing dedication, sweat on the trail and positive energy you bring to your role. Flathead Valley is lucky to have you behind the FTBT wheel! 🌿

WHITEFISH OUTFITTERS & TOURS , CONTINUED

tours; multi-day trips or one-day outings – they have the perfect excursion to suit the mellow traveler or more thrill-seeking adventurer.

One of the best services Whitefish Outfitter & Tours offers? Vehicle shuttles! Schedule with these folks to drop off and pick up for a cycling, hiking or paddling trip and get the most out of your time outdoors! Eliminating the car retrieval on long outings provides convenience, ease and a few extra hours doing what you love (instead of sitting in a car). Whether it's an after-work drop off at Beaver Lakes in Whitefish, a shuttle to the top of the Foy's to Blacktail Trail in Lakeside, or a parking-free experience in Glacier Park, Whitefish Outfitters and Tours is an excellent option for adventures.

Whitefish Outfitters & Tours was founded in 2019 and expected a busy summer season. Much to their surprise, winter rentals and adventures were also a hit! Be sure to keep them in mind all year round!

Lastly, we're stoked that Whitefish Outfitters & Tours has stepped up to support FTBT in a big way! They have donated an amazing prize for our spring fundraising efforts and we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you! 🌿





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