

Friends of the South Slopes

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Donations Flow to FOSS in Memory of Pete Spencer

As many of our FOSS members already know, Pete Spencer, a long-time member of the FOSS board and our treasurer for eleven years, died suddenly in October, 2021. To honour Pete's memory, Fairlane Loop Trail bridge has been designated as 'Pete's Bridge' thanks to the generous donations of a group of businesses from the agricultural community that Pete worked with for many years.

Lani French (President, North Okanagan Livestock Association) is coordinating the donations. To date, contributions have been received from Crystal Lake Ranch (the Stump family); the BC Cattlemen's Association; Delta Irrigation; Havenwood Ranch, (Lani French) and the North Okanagan Livestock Association. Lani said, "I hope this will benefit your Society and hope it will be able to commemorate our beloved Pete in a special way!" She said the bridge was a fitting tribute to Pete as he "was always bridging the gap in our industry with other industries." A memorial plaque will be placed on Pete's Bridge this summer.

2013 Pete (on the right) working on replacing Deeper Creek Bridge, Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park.



Spring Project—Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park

On March 24th, FOSS volunteers Brad Wright and Andrew Stevenson logged a ten hour day in Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park. Counting in their travel time and time loading/unloading/loading/unloading the UTV & ATV it was an epic day of trail maintenance. There were far more windfalls than they had anticipated but they were able to clear the blowdowns between the Golden Mile Trail (Lakeshore Rd.) up Wild Horse Canyon Trail to the canyon entrance which is the halfway mark to Buchan Bay. As is usual in the springtime, the canyon is flooded and there were many, many large trees -- one tree alone took them 1 1/2 hrs. to buck and clear off the trail. Just look at the size of some of the pieces they had to roll off the trail!

FOSS' plans are moving ahead to do ten continuous days of trail improvements in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park, May 11-20. A crew of 4-6 volunteers will work from the north (Kelowna) end for 3 days. After that they will reposition to Buchan Bay Flats above Buchan Bay. The camp will be supplied by boat and the Backcountry Horsemen volunteers will pack the gear up to Buchan Bay Flats by horse where they will establish the main wall tents of the camp. The FOSS crew will then expand to include members of Backcountry Horsemen.

The goal is to do full maintenance on the trail, which has been somewhat neglected over the past years. It is an ambitious project taking us down as far as Commando Bay.



Photos from the March 24th project in OMPP (Photo credits: Andrew Stevenson)



You won't miss our **FOSS Trail Maintenance Crew** when they are out working on the trails this year!!! Thanks to donations from **Okanagan Power Equipment** and **Chevy's Source for Sports**, our volunteers are sporting 'safety green' high visibility shirts that will brand them as FOSS TRAIL MAINTENANCE. This will raise public awareness of FOSS' presence in the park.



There's an App for That!

If you hike, bike, ride, run or ORV anywhere on the South Slopes you will likely have picked up a few hitchhiking ticks this spring. The three FOSS-Elles continue to be tick magnets! In a one hour hike last weekend, one of our fearless hikers came home with six ticks.



Last year BC became the latest province to provide the tick identification [eTick app](#). It's free, you can download it from the App store. Simply create an account and you can use it to identify ticks by uploading photos, usually a top and bottom picture. Instructions on the process are on the app.

There are two tick identification technicians with the BC Centre for Disease Control who will look at your photos and try to identify the tick to species or genus level. If it is identified as a western blacklegged tick that can carry the agent of Lyme disease, you will be provided with some information on what to do. Data will be collected to monitor trends in the province.

For more information on ticks, where you'll find them, how to remove them and how to prevent tick bites visit:

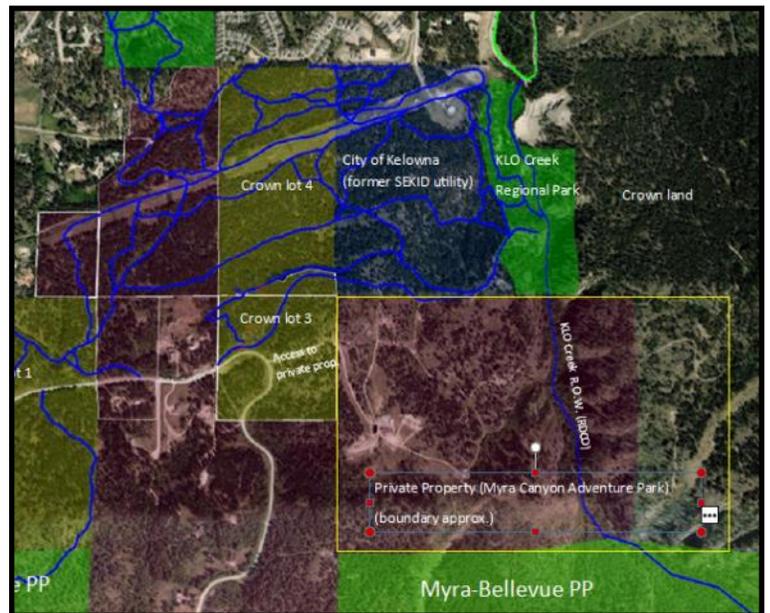
[Ticks in British Columbia - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/ticks)

And don't forget your furry friends! You can check with your veterinarian to determine what preventive medication is best for your dog

FOSS' Section 57 Application Moves to Next Level

FOSS' application to maintain and rehabilitate the trails identified as Crown Lot 3 and Crown Lot 4 on this map has been accepted by FrontCounter BC and assigned to the Vernon office of Recreation Sites & Trails BC for review. RSTBC has referred our application to:

- * Consultation with First Nations which have aboriginal interests in this area
- * Other government agencies having statutory responsibilities related to the application
- * Local governments
- * The general public



Once the application process is complete, RSTBC will advise FOSS whether our application has been approved or declined.

Update on Targeted Grazing Pilot Project: Fencing is complete and the gates and cattleguards are in place. Fencing is on Crown Lots 3 & 4 and the City of Kelowna Utility Property. The Range Agrologist advised FOSS that cattle will be onsite this spring. Exact timing will depend on the height of the grass; however, it is expected to be May / June.

We acknowledge that our community is located on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people