

**Whitefish Trail:
F.H. Stoltze Land &
Lumber Co.
Haskill Basin

Management and
Operations Plan
2016**

05/13/2016

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Introduction

This Management and Operations Plan (Plan) provides the purpose, objectives, development, and management strategies for the City of Whitefish (City) in its administration of the Whitefish Trail in Haskill Basin under the Public Recreational Trail Easement, the outlined goals of the Haskill Basin Conservation Easement (Conservation Easement), and the associated Multi-Resource Management Plan (MRMP) for the Conservation Easement.

The primary intents of the Haskill Basin Conservation Easement are:

To effect the purpose of the FLP in accordance with the provisions of Title XII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 2103c), by protecting environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses, protecting important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife, recreational resources and riparian areas, protecting the capacity of the Lands to produce economically valuable forestry products – all while allowing the Landowner and its successors and assigns to continue conducting sustainable commercial timber and resource management activities.

To protect important habitat for native wildlife and fish species. To this end, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, is providing additional funding for the Easement through its Section 6 Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program, which is specifically designed to help states conserve important habitat for federally listed and at-risk species.

To perpetuate the Lands as forest land; to ensure the long term, sustainable, professional management of the forest resources through forestry activities permitted hereunder; and to provide for commercial production of forest products in a manner compatible with the conservation of water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation and other Conservation Values (as defined in the Easement).

To satisfy a number of needs of, and provide a multiplicity of benefits to the residents and visitors of Whitefish, including (i) the protection and preservation of the City's water supply, including the primary source drinking water supply for the City's municipal water system, (ii) the aesthetic protection of the scenic backdrop to the City, (iii) the preservation of important wildlife and fish habitat, (iv) the securing of nearby and accessible recreational opportunities, and (v) the preservation of sustainable timber harvesting, along with all of the associated local job and economic benefits that come with such benefits

In addition to the Whitefish Trail in Haskill Basin, the Whitefish Trail utilizes a portion of the 13,000 acres of State Trust Lands adjacent to the Whitefish area, which have been used by past generations of community members and visitors for recreation. For hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, and other outdoor enthusiasts, this forested land offers stunning views, premier wildlife habitat, and challenging terrain. Opportunities to enjoy nature just minutes from town are becoming increasingly rare, making the preservation of areas such as these of vital importance to the community.

To ensure these opportunities will be available for future generations, many partners collaborated to establish the Whitefish Neighborhood Plan, a framework for decision-making regarding the active management and conservation of these trust lands. These partners included the Montana Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board), the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), the U.S. Forest Service, Flathead National Forest, Flathead County (County), the City, private landowners, and community groups and interested individuals. The Land Board approved the Neighborhood Plan in 2004.

In 2005, the City and Whitefish Legacy Partners (WLP) initiated the Whitefish Neighborhood Plan recommendation to establish a recreational trail system to connect various State Trust Land parcels and adjacent public and private parcels to create a trail corridor encircling the greater Whitefish area. The State of Montana, through the DNRC, the City, and other partners developed the Trail Runs Through It Master Plan (TRTI) in 2006. This plan serves to guide the development and execution of the conservation, recreation and revenue-generation concepts of the Whitefish Trail, as established in the Neighborhood Plan. The Whitefish Trail continues to be a community-driven project supported by unprecedented partnerships, planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining a trail system across these lands. The current planned Whitefish Trail is identified on the attached map (Exhibit E) and the attached Haskill Basin Trail Easement map (Exhibit D).

This Plan is the City's working operations manual and assists the City and its employees, volunteers, partners, and contractors in planning, constructing and maintaining the Whitefish Trail in Haskill Basin in cooperation with FWP and F H Stoltze Land and Lumber Company (Stoltze).

I. Haskill Basin Easements, Trail Easements and Agreements

A. Stoltze granted the City and FWP a Conservation Easement over 3,020 acres of forested land in Haskill Basin. The primary objectives of the Conservation Easement are to protect the City's municipal water supply, maintain working forests and ensure that they will continue to be sustainably managed, conserve important fish and wildlife habitat, and maintain public recreational access.

B. In conjunction with the Conservation Easement, Stoltze granted the City a Public Recreational Trail Easement to occupy and use a portion of its property that is subject to the Conservation Easement for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and managing a recreational use trail. The recreational use trail and trail-related amenities are referred to as the "trail corridor and amenities."

C. The City, FWP and Stoltze have developed the MRMP for the Conservation Easement which describes those steps that will be taken to protect, manage, and enhance

soil, water, range, aesthetic quality, recreation and public access, timber, fish, and wildlife resources in a manner compatible with the Conservation Easement.

D. Development of the Whitefish Trail

1. The Whitefish Trail in Haskill Basin may connect to the rest of the Whitefish Trail network in the future, but will presently be a separate section of the Whitefish Trail system. If successful, trail connections are planned from the City of Whitefish paved bike path network, to Whitefish Mountain Resort, USFS property, DNRC property, and ultimately to the Whitefish Trail at Swift Creek and Smith Lake.
2. There will be a trail corridor on the Stoltze property to connect the Iron Horse/Flathead Land Trust parcel to the Whitefish Trail corridor located on Winter Sports Inc. property. The trail corridor as proposed totals approximately 3.6 miles of trail. The trail corridor will be comprised mostly of new single-track trail, utilizing only a small portion of pre-existing logging roads near Whitefish Mountain Resort.
3. This trail corridor will be located on a 3,020-acre property owned by Stoltze subject to a Conservation Easement held by FWP and the City. Although the Conservation Easement limits development and use of the property, the non-motorized public access hiking trail corridor is an outlined and allowed use.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Stoltze is the landowner of the property which is subject to the Conservation Easement and MRMP. Stoltze is the owner of the majority of property underlying the Haskill Basin Whitefish Trail.

B. FWP is a Conservation Easement holder and a party to the MRMP. As outlined in the MRMP, FWP will take necessary steps to protect, manage, maintain, and enhance all resources outlined. FWP will assist Stoltze in enforcement of the policies and restrictions outlined in the MRMP to ensure the continuance of the conservation values of the Conservation Easement land.

C. The City is a Conservation Easement holder, a party to the MRMP, and the Public Recreational Trail Easement holder. Through the Parks and Recreation Department, the City is primarily responsible for planning and managing the Whitefish Trail in Haskill Basin, as identified on the attached map, in accordance with the principles and guidelines set forth in the Conservation Easement and MRMP. The City's duties include trail construction oversight, annual trail maintenance, and annual trail operations management

including and not limited to, budgeting, meetings, conducting annual meetings, reporting to the Whitefish City Council, acting as liaison to Stoltze and FWP, communications with the general public, and other services related to the trail.

D. The Legacy Lands Advisory Committee (LLAC) and Whitefish Trail Operations Committee (WT Ops) are committees formed under an MOU between the City and WLP. Members include representatives appointed by the City Council, WLP, and ex-officio members. The purpose of the committees is to advise and assist the City and WLP in achieving the recreation, conservation, and revenue goals and objectives of the Neighborhood Plan and the Whitefish Trail Master Plan.

1. LLAC assists the City in developing and implementing the annual work on the Whitefish Trail, provides input on the planning, design, construction, and management of the Whitefish Trail, and reviews proposed projects and proposals. LLAC will consult with DNRC, FWP and Stoltze as ex-officio members of the joint committees and include other key partners as technical advisors.
2. The WT Ops provides advice and direction to the City on trail operations and the planning, design, construction, and management of the Whitefish Trail Recreation System. The Operations Committee recruits volunteers to support the Whitefish Trail.

E. WLP is an active member of the LLAC and WT Ops committee and WLP is responsible for facilitating recreation-related methodologies, fundraising, and supporting all activities associated with the advancement of the Whitefish Trail (operations, planning, design, construction, management, events, education, volunteers, grant writing, etc.). WLP is devoted to creating a lasting legacy for the Whitefish community and is dedicated to acting as a catalyst to create innovative and unprecedented solutions to permanently protect Whitefish's important places and public recreation opportunities.

III. Whitefish Trail Operations

A. Trail Management Activities

1. The City Parks and Recreation Department Director, or designee, is responsible for the ongoing planning and management of the Whitefish Trail. The City is responsible for trail planning, design, construction, and management through the LLAC and WT Ops. The City may contract with project specialists, volunteers, and other third parties when necessary to plan, design, construct, and maintain the Whitefish Trail. The City is responsible for recreation management and maintenance.

2. Recreation management includes:

- a. Trailheads, trail corridors, and all improvements will be maintained and checked for maintenance needs and supplies.
 - b. Trailheads signs and trail signs will be maintained and checked for clear signs regarding trail locations, trail etiquette, forest management rules, trespass, and current hazards or updates. The Whitefish Trail will be signed to direct recreation users to stay on the trail corridor.
 - c. Trail users will be directed to stay on the designated trail corridor and trespass to adjoining private lands will be discouraged.
 - d. Trail use may be limited during wet periods.
3. Recreation maintenance includes:
- a. The trail corridor should be kept cleared of non-merchantable woody debris, brush and branches to a width of up to twenty feet and a height of up to ten feet above the underlying ground and such maintenance may occur without Stoltze's authorization.
 - b. Drainage should be maintained at all times on the trails.
 - c. Trail use should be limited during wet periods, as necessary.
 - d. Posting and maintenance of approved signage.
 - e. Any trail construction, reconstruction, relocation or abandonment would require the written consent of the Stoltze Land Manager depending on activity location. This would include submitting design standards for trail width, grade, erosion control features and location for approval.
 - f. Any activities that require power equipment (heavy equipment) for soil moving require written consent of the Stoltze Land manager.
 - g. Based on use, trailheads and parking lots may be plowed of snow through the winter season.
 - h. Trailhead improvements will be maintained and checked for maintenance needs and supplies.
 - i. WT Adopt-A-Trail, WT Ambassadors, and WT Bike Patrollers will

assist with picking up garbage, checking trailheads and trail corridor for cleanliness, checking restrooms for cleanliness and supplies, providing information to visitors, and reporting vandalism.

- j. WT Bike Patrol and WT Ambassadors will assist with reporting trail use, supporting trail users, providing information to visitors, and reporting vandalism.
- k. Trailheads will include wildlife resistant trash receptacles for garbage when applicable. Trash will be removed to prevent accumulation and overflow.
- l. Trailheads will include mitt dispensers for pet waste when applicable. Pet waste rules will be posted at trailheads as applicable.

B. Trail Corridor Guidelines

- 1. The Whitefish Trail easement corridor will be twenty (20) feet in width.
- 2. The City will maintain maps showing the location of new trail construction and the installation of new trail improvements.

C. New Construction - Trails

- 1. The City will design, construct, manage, and maintain new trails in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Public Recreation Trail Easement, Conservation Easement, the MRMP, this Plan, and IMBA Guidelines.
- 2. Trail mitigations include:
 - a. Clearing for new trails (tread) should occur in a narrow swath, not to exceed 39 inches for standard tread and 48 inches for handicap accessible tread.
 - b. Back slopes (cut slopes) should be at a stable angle.
 - c. Wasted material must be spread to a depth that would not inhibit existing vegetation. Additionally, waste material will not be placed in a draw or location that could facilitate erosion to a draw.
 - d. Grass seed mix should be used for trail cut slopes and wasted

material. Bare soil must be seeded to stabilize soils and reduce the risk of weed infestations.

e. Drainage should be maintained at all times on the trails.

f. The City will avoid trail construction, relocation, and reconstruction activities that involve ground disturbance during wet conditions.

g. All tracked and wheeled equipment will be cleaned of noxious weeds prior to beginning trail construction.

3. Motorized access for the purpose of constructing, managing, maintaining and repairing the trail, including the transport of equipment and supplies necessary to support the above listed work, will be allowed in accordance with the terms of the Public Recreational Trail Easement.

4. Special Trail Design Criteria – There are no special design criteria required for trail construction as currently proposed in Haskill Basin. Any special features or special design criteria that may be required will be reviewed with Stoltze prior to new trail construction.

D. New Construction -Trailheads and Parking Areas

1. There are currently no trailheads or parking areas within the Conservation Easement area proposed as part of the Whitefish Trail system in Haskill Basin. Whitefish Trail trailheads and parking areas serving Haskill Basin are proposed adjacent to the City's Water Treatment Plant on Reservoir Road and on Winter Sports Inc. property adjacent to Stoltze, Lookout Ridge, and the Big Mountain Road.

E. Signs

1. Whitefish Trail signs will be designed and installed in a consistent fashion throughout the trail corridor, and all sign designs, content and plans will be reviewed by Stoltze prior to installation. Specific sign design, content, and plans specified in the trail easement will be met and maintained. Appropriate signage will be installed to notify trail users to stay on the trail. Interpretive sign content may include education regarding working forests, forest ecosystems, forest succession, plants (native, non-native, and medicinal), birds, geology, fire, and other topics.

2. The City will install approved signs at trailheads, parking lots, and on all trails. Prior to the installation of any signs the City will review the sign's contents

and location with the designated representative of Stoltze.

3. The City will maintain a log identifying signs and their installation and maintenance and a map showing the location of all signs located by the City in the licensed area.

F. Trespass

Although extreme care has been utilized to protect personal privacy, portions of the trail pass through private property on easements. In addition, segments of the trail pass in proximity to various private properties. While passing through private property, trail users will be required to stay on the trail. For those portions of the trail that are on Stoltze land but come near private property, the City may install signs, in appropriate locations, that indicate nearby private property and encourage trail users to stay on the established trail corridor. The City may also provide "Private Property" signs for interested landowners to place along property boundaries. All WT signs will be designed in a consistent fashion.

G. Forest and Fire Management Activities

Stoltze specifically reserves its rights for forest management and fire emergency management, in accordance with the Conservation Easement, the MRMP and the Public Recreational Trail Easement. Stoltze may temporarily close the trail in accordance with the terms of the Public Recreational Trail Easement and the Conservation Easement.

H. Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds are a serious issue in Montana that displace native plant habitat and threaten ecosystem health. The City will help eradicate noxious weeds along the trail system as needed. Each spring the City will contact Stoltze for its approval of the City's planned method of control for noxious weeds.

I. Wildlife

1. Signs at the trailheads will inform users of recreating in an area with large carnivores and proper behavior around wildlife.

2. Signs at the trailheads will inform users to maintain vocal control over their dogs to minimize disturbance to wildlife, particularly big game, wolves, and grizzly bears.

J. Commercial and Special Events

1. Special Events: The City may hold non-commercial events periodically to support the Whitefish Trail. The City will notify Stoltze in advance (preferably 30 days, when possible) of scheduled special events.

IV. Stoltze Reservations and Right to Entry

A. Stoltze reserves all rights and interests to the land consistent with the terms of the Conservation Easement, the MRMP, and the Public Recreational Trail Easement.

B. Stoltze Access: Representatives of Stoltze will have the right to enter into and upon the trail easement and all parts thereof for the purpose of responding to fire emergencies, managing the land and/or inspecting and examining uses thereof.

V. Complaint Procedure

A. Complaints should be directed to the City for resolution.

1. Individuals may raise complaints by contacting the City Parks and Recreation Department Director, or his/her designee, at 863-2471 or parksadm@cityofwhitefish.org, or by contacting the Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant at 863-2470.

Individuals may also choose to notify the City in writing addressed to Parks and Recreation Department Director, PO Box 158, Whitefish, MT 59937-0158, or by completing forms available online at the City's website, www.cityofwhitefish.org, under the Parks and Recreation Department.

2. If a complaint is not resolved to the individual's satisfaction, the individual may contact the City Manager, City Mayor, or the City Council through the City Clerk's office for resolution:

City of Whitefish PO Box 158, Whitefish, MT 59937-0158
City Manager: Chuck Stearns 863-2406
cstearns@cityofwhitefish.org

City Clerk: Michelle Howke 863-2403
mhowke@cityofwhitefish.org

If the complaint is elevated to an LLAC or City Council meeting agenda item, Stoltze will be notified as much in advance of the meeting as reasonably possible.

B. For complaints directed to Stoltze activity or which require a Stoltze policy or FWP policy change, the complaints will be forwarded to Stoltze and FWP for resolution.

F H Stoltze, 600 Halfmoon Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 (Physical)

P.O. Box 1429, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 (Mailing)

Stoltze Land Manager: Paul McKenzie

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901

Region I Contact: Alan Wood

C. The City and Stoltze will review citizen and agency complaints received by the City and Stoltze the previous year at their annually scheduled meeting.

D. Emergency Services:

1. To report an emergency, call 9-1-1. The 911 call center will dispatch the appropriate agency(ies) emergency response, which could include fire trucks, ambulance, law enforcement, and FWP wardens.

2. To report wild animal incidents and problems, call the FWP Wardens:

Whitefish Game: Chris Crane 249-6231

3. To report other incidents, call the Flathead County Sheriff, 758-5585. The majority of the Whitefish Trail is located outside of Whitefish city limits, and as such, the Flathead County Sheriff is primarily responsible for law enforcement.

4. Additional law enforcement along the trail and on Stoltze property will be provided by the FWP Wardens:

Whitefish Game: Chris Crane 249-6231

VI. To Report a Problem

Report problems concerning the Whitefish Trail, trailhead, bathrooms, parking lots, signs, garbage containers, or other trail amenities to the City of Whitefish, Parks and Recreation Department, 863-2470. For information on how to address a deceased animal on the trail, please refer to Exhibit C.

VII. Annual Public Meeting

The City will conduct at least one public review meeting per year as a means of collecting public comment, input, and concerns in order to maintain good relations,

minimize conflicts, maintain existing recreation opportunities and provide the best possible user experience. This meeting may be combined with other similar public meetings required of the City under any other Whitefish Trail authorizations. The City will send timely written announcements to Stoltze. The City will make its best effort to send timely written announcements to neighboring landowners and/or residents in advance of the meeting. Upon the City's request, Stoltze will assist in providing what neighborhood contact information it may have available to support the effort. The City will also provide published notice of the meeting date, time and location to the public. The public meeting shall be scheduled in time to collect input and determine solutions to be incorporated into the updated Operation Plan.

VIII. Annual Review Meeting between the City and Stoltze

The City and Stoltze will conduct at least one meeting per year, following the annual public meeting, which will include annual review of the Whitefish Trail Management and Operations Plan, at a mutually convenient date and time to promote clear communication and discuss any issues related to the licensed area and Easement area. Stoltze may review the City's records of maintenance and construction work, which are available to Stoltze at the City Parks and Recreation Department at any mutually agreeable time. Stoltze may also schedule an annual meeting with the City to coordinate shared maintenance and operations responsibilities where applicable and when necessary.

IX. Annual Review of Whitefish Trail Management and Operations Plan

At the annual meetings between the City and Stoltze, the parties will review and update the Whitefish Trail Management and Operations Plan as required. The review should include (but not be limited to) the following items:

- A. An assessment concerning the progress of work and summary of trails and improvements installed to date.
- B. A summary of current operation and management procedures.
- C. New proposals for construction of trail and trail improvements for the next year.
- D. A Stoltze summary of timber management, timber harvest, commercial use, and lease and license operations and management procedures of the previous year that affected the Whitefish Trail corridor.
- E. To the extent known, proposed Stoltze plans for timber management, timber harvest activities, commercial activities, and other activities anticipated for the next year: Provided, however, the parties acknowledge that such plans are subject to change

F. Identification of complaint resolution procedures.

This Whitefish Trail Management and Operations Plan is intended to be a "living" document that will grow and change to meet the needs of Stoltze, the City, FWP, volunteers, surrounding landowners and trail users.

X. Visitor Management

A. Permit and Fees: There are no permits or fees required for areas and amenities on the Whitefish Trail.

B. Requirements for fishing and hunting licenses apply throughout the Whitefish Trail.

CITY OF WHITEFISH

By: Charles C. Stearns Date: 5/23/16
Charles C. Stearns, City Manager

F H STOLTZE LAND AND LUMBER COMPANY

By: Chuck W. Rody 5/17/2016 Date:
Chuck Rody

Exhibit A

Contact Information

City of Whitefish:		
City Mgr: Chuck Stearns	863-2406	cstearns@cityofwhitefish.org
Dir. Parks & Rec: Maria Butts	863-2471	parksadm@cityofwhitefish.org
Parks & Rec Adm Assist: Mary Blubaugh	863-2470	mblubaugh@cityofwhitefish.org
Whitefish Fire Chief	863-2491	jpaige@cityofwhitefish.org
F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber, Co.:		
Lands & Resource Mgr: Paul McKenzie	892-7012	pmckenzie@stoltzelumber.com
Vice-Pres./General Mgr: Chuck Roady		croady@stoltzelumber.com
Fish, Wildlife & Parks:		
Region 1 Park Mgr: Dave Landstrom	751-4574	dlandstrom@mt.gov
Whitefish Game Warden: Chris Crane	249-6231	ccrane@mt.gov
Emergency Services:		
Emergencies	911	
Flathead County Sheriff's Dept.	758-5585	
Flathead County Office of Emer. Serv.	758-5562	
Whitefish Legacy Partners		
Board Member: Fred Jones	862-3880	fredj@bresnan.net
Executive Dir: Heidi Van Everen	862-3880	heidi@whitefishlegacy.org
Program Dir: Alan Myers-Davis	862-3882	alan@whitefishlegacy.org

Exhibit B

Deceased Animal Protocol

Bike and Equine Patrol

If a patroller finds anything, such as a dead animal, on or near the trail that may be cause for concern, pose a potential risk, or create an unhealthy situation, the patroller should attempt to decrease this hazard.

If a patroller notes a dead/decaying animal on or near the trail, he or she should attempt to remove it from the vicinity of the trail by dragging it a minimum of 100 yards from any trail. This will create a safer environment.

In the case that patrollers are unable to move the animal, please contact the Bike Patrol Coordinator or the Director of Parks and Recreation with an accurate description of the location and size of animal. Emergency Response sign numbers should be utilized to determine location.

If you find a dead animal on or near the trail and there is a bear or other dangerous animal in the vicinity, leave immediately and call FWP to ask for help.

Bike Patrol Coordinator, Jess Downing (303) 506-2776
Director of Parks and Recreation 863-2471
Fish, Wildlife and Parks 752-5501

Exhibit C

Emergency Response Plan

Overview

The Whitefish Trail (WT) is a multi-use trail system located on state, federal, and private lands surrounding the community of Whitefish, MT. The Whitefish Trail opened in 2010, new trails have been constructed annually, and the entire trail system is open to the public. The trail system will continue to grow over the next several years across varied terrain.

Although precautions have been taken to reduce trail incidents through appropriate design and construction, effective signage, regular maintenance, and the presence of a Bike Patrol, inherent risks still exist on the trail.

In order to respond to incidents, an Emergency Response Plan has been established. The Emergency Response Plan acts as an action plan for emergencies occurring along the trail. Trail access data has been provided to the emergency responders to offer increased dispatch support. This information has been integrated into the public safety response system.

The Whitefish Fire Department (WFD) serves as the primary responders and provides emergency medical services and support on the trail. They work closely with the Whitefish Trail Operations Committee, WT Bike Patrol, WT Ambassador and other associated agencies.

Purpose

The purpose of The Whitefish Trail Emergency Response Plan is to identify coordination and response to trail-related incidents and emergencies occurring along The Whitefish Trail.

Background

1. The Whitefish Trail is a non-motorized network of single-track, natural surface, recreation trails. The WT, which is open to the public during all seasons, is designed for hiker, mountain biker and equestrian use.
2. The entire length of the Whitefish Trail is located outside the City of Whitefish limits.

3. The Whitefish Trail Operations Committee oversees operations of the trail and an Annual Trail Operations Plan is in effect regarding day-to-day management and oversight of the trail system.
4. The Whitefish Fire Department will be the primary response agency for incidents occurring along the Whitefish Trail.
5. Flathead County Office of Emergency Services (OES) will be the secondary response agency for incidents occurring along the Whitefish Trail.
6. The Flathead County Sheriff is primarily responsible for law enforcement at Whitefish Trail trailheads.
7. The following entities have been identified as Partners:
 - The City of Whitefish – Parks and Recreation Department
 - Whitefish Fire Department
 - Whitefish Legacy Partners
 - Whitefish Trail Bike Patrol
 - Whitefish Trail Ambassadors
 - Flathead County
 - Flathead County Sherriff
 - Flathead County Office of Emergency Services

Assumptions

1. While steps have been taken to mitigate potential incidents along the trail, risks may exist.
2. Trail users should act responsibly and use the trail at their own risk. Signs are available at all trailheads informing users of WT information.
3. Incidents occurring along the trail will most likely be associated with the following:
 - Accident-related trauma
 - Medical Emergencies
 - Wildland Fire Emergencies
4. The WT Bike Patrol is often present to assist in medical injuries and emergencies. Bike Patrollers are trained in basic bike maintenance, basic first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In addition, they educate trail users of proper etiquette, inform trail managers, land managers and trail users of trail

conditions, offer volunteer services at outdoor races and events, and collaborate on trail work days, clinics, group rides and other Whitefish Trail events as available.

5. The WT Ambassadors are not expected to provide medical assistance but shall be trained to report emergency situations in accordance with these procedures. In addition, they educate trail users of proper etiquette, inform trail managers, land managers and trail users of trail conditions, offer volunteer services at outdoor races and events, and collaborate on trail work days, clinics, group rides and other Whitefish Trail events as available.

Concept of Operations

1. Emergency Response Plan Trailhead Signs – Emergency Response Plan signs are located at all trailheads to inform users of the Emergency Response Plan in place on the Whitefish Trail. The trailhead sign informs users to always call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency on the Whitefish Trail, to be alert, and to remain aware of Emergency Location Numbers along the trail system. An example of an Emergency Location Number sign is also displayed. Additional contact information is also represented at each trailhead.

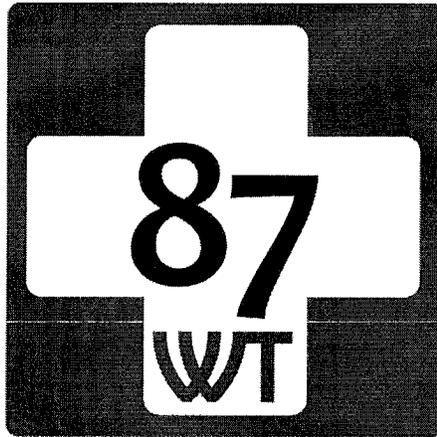
The Emergency Response Plan Trailhead signs read:



2. Emergency Location Number signs – An Emergency Location Number is a designated point along the Whitefish Trail used to help emergency responders locate injured trail users. Most sign posts on The Whitefish Trail have an Emergency Location Number sign.

Trail users will be encouraged to remain aware of these numbers through informative signage at all trailheads.

Image of Emergency Location Number signs located throughout the trail system:



3. Emergency Location Database and Maps - Detailed maps have been created that show the trail system, Emergency Location Points, proximal roads and access points, gates, and other information relevant to the WFD and Flathead County Office of Emergency Services.

4. Medical Incidents - When calls for medical assistance are received by 911, the Whitefish Fire Department is paged out and follows agency protocol. The Office of Emergency Services follows agency protocol.

5. Fire Incidents - When calls related to fire are received by 911, the Whitefish Fire Department is paged out and follows agency protocol. The Office of Emergency Services follows agency protocol.

6. Transfer Points - The WFD has established transfer points which will be utilized to transport patients from the Whitefish Trail and vicinity to proper medical facilities.

7. Staging - Staging Areas have been determined by responding agencies and will be utilized as necessary during an emergency response.

Exhibit D – Haskill Basin Trail Map



Exhibit E – Whitefish Trail Map

