

## The Four Wheel Drive Association of BC

The [Four Wheel Drive Association of BC](#) is actively involved in promoting responsible and sustainable four wheel drive recreation in British Columbia as well as advocating for public access to public land. The Association is made up of over 1400 paid members, over social media following of over 30,000, 18 member clubs and hundreds of volunteers who care deeply about adventure and exploration of the beautiful province of British Columbia. As avid backcountry recreationalists, we embrace the [Tread Lightly](#) philosophy and are a long standing provincial member of the [Outdoor Recreation Council of BC](#).

We organize and participate in many activities in support of that vision.

The Association maintains partnership agreements and manages 4x4 accessible recreation sites for [Recreation Sites and Trails BC](#), part of the [Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations](#) and we also have signed our first management agreement with [BC Parks](#) to restore and manage the [Cornwall Fire Lookout Tower](#) near Ashcroft, BC. The agreements involve our members and volunteers maintaining recreation sites, including building improvements, table construction/repair, painting, outhouse installation and maintenance, site brushing, trail repair and general garbage pickup and removal. Some examples of our work on these recreation sites include those shown below.

**Hale Creek Rec Site Shelter, West Harrison Lake. Volunteer constructed in September 2011. Approximately 750 hours of volunteer labour over 2 days.**



**Nahatlatch Fire Tower complete rebuild. August 2012. 1500 volunteer hours over 5 weekends.**



**Mt. Lavina Fire Lookout Tower, located at the North East end of Kootenay Lake, renovated by our volunteers in July and August 2014. Work is continuing with trail repair and maintenance and structural repairs in the Summer of 2015. Approximately 1000 volunteer hours invested to date.**



We hold monthly maintenance runs to these sites where weather conditions permit. During these maintenance runs we fulfill the obligations of our rec site contracts. We also use these opportunities to welcome 4x4 owners who are new to four wheeling experience our recreational pastime. This allows them to discover and build their driving abilities as well as become acquainted to their vehicles capabilities in a safe and respectful environment.

Other activities include volunteer cleanups of forest service road systems under pressure from urban populations. For example, the Association has held annual cleanups of both sides of Stave Lake located between Mission and the Fraser Valley Regional District. These 2 annual cleanups have removed hundreds of thousands of pounds of garbage and steel from this area.

Over the years, our volunteers have noted 6 separate sources of this garbage. They are as follows;

- Residential garbage dumping: ie: household garbage, technology waste, etc
- Commercial waste dumping: ie: drywall, asphalt shingles, asbestos, etc
- Lawn and garden waste which contribute to invasive species: ie plant and tree trimmings
- Shooting waste: ie: rifle shells, shotgun shells, applicances and other things used for targets
- Grow op waste: ie: soil, fertilizers, pots, clippings and garbage bags
- Party waste: ie: end of year parties and raves leave camping, food and beverage waste

The Association contends that a fee to dispose of garbage into the proper garbage stream at transfer stations encourages some to dump illegally. We advocate for tippage at transfer stations to be free and the costs to operate those spread across the residential and commercial tax base.



The Association is an advocate for trail access. In April 2010, 4 wheelers won a near 10 year long battle for legitimate access to Eagle Mountain which is a favourite local wheeling trail. This access was not easy. The party's involved in this agreement included the golf course owners, BC Hydro Transmission, BC Parks, Metro Vancouver, Rec Sites and Trails, City of Coquitlam and the Four Wheel Drive Association of BC. In the Lower Mainland, we have a representative who attends monthly meetings with the Chilliwack Recreation Advisory Group that includes representatives for ATV's, motorcycles, snow mobiles, 4x4's, horsemen, hikers, mountain climbers, trail advocates, spelunkers, mountain bikers and the Recreation Officer. We participate in the Outdoor Recreation Council and have a member on their executive.

Another advocacy success was the shelter at Hale Creek, seen above. In 2006, the Association had to remove the original structure on this site as it was considered unsafe. The Association then advocated for a replacement structure that came to fruition in the fall of 2011. The new shelter is a wonderful example of volunteers working with government to better the recreation experience of thousands of people each year.

We just signed a contract with BC Parks to manage the Cornwall Fire Tower West of Ashcroft. This is a first for us working with BC Parks, in fact, it is a first for any motorized organization to sign a partnership agreement to manage a park asset. The summer of 2017 will see the renovation take place of another wonderful piece of BC's back country and forestry history.

We are developing our new relationship with Thunder Mountain Raceway near Kelowna. We have permission to build a driver training and self-recovery course and use it year over year. We will also pursue resurrecting a mud drag course and look at options for rock crawling and other activities.

The beginnings of motor parks is also forming in Mission where we have permission to move ahead with building a campground and staging lot for trailered vehicles, a driver training and self-recovery course, In the future, other elements like rock crawling and mud drags are not out of the picture.

Thanks for reading and if you have gotten this far, please consider joining the Four Wheel Drive Association of BC.