

For immediate release Tuesday, June 22, 2010:

Thank you all for taking the time to view these email updates sent by the CHDA group. We hope this will help clarify the present condition of our beautiful tourism region. The fact is the Cypress Hills are open to visitors, but with some restrictions for the time being. You can tell listeners to check out our main portal website for updates on attractions and road conditions. www.cypresshills.ca
They can call anyone of us with questions or concerns.
AMA has an updated road report for the region that can be checked often daily.
http://www.ama.ab.ca/road_report/Southern.htm

We have 10 members that have reported their conditions. They will follow the list of names below. BarZee B&B gave a verbal message of being open:

1. Eagle Valley Campground - closed right now until further notice
2. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - Saskatchewan - open with some restrictions
3. Cypress Hills Intereprovincial Park - Alberta - open with some restrictions
4. Fort Walsh & Cypress Hills Massacre National Historic Sites - closed until further notice
5. Cypress Hills Vineyard & Winery - reopening June 27 or July 1st
6. Town of Maple Creek - open with restricted restaurant and tourism service
7. TRex Discovery Centre, Eastend Sk - open
8. Elkwater Lake Lodge, Elkwater, Alberta - open
9. Historic Reesor Ranch - open
10. Hidden Valley Ski Hill - under repair for next winter season
11. Bar Zee B&B, Elkwater, Alberta - open

1) Update for Eagle Valley Campground:

Hi, thanks for the phone calls & kind wishes of support & offerings of help. Sorry to hear about so many businesses & homes being damaged & affected in the area. It's so terrible to see all the devastation everywhere. I hope that everyone is able to get back up on their feet soon.

Theresa has said that she is sending some information into the radio stations to let everyone know how things are.

As most of you probably know our valley was filled with water, aprox 30 feet deep & then was spilling over the highway causing the north side to break apart. Early am on Thurs. we asked the campers to move to the top part of the campground where they would be safe. Once the water starting coming it came quickly raising about 1 inch a minute. By the time we could see around on Sat am the valley was completely filled. Very scary for a while thinking my in-laws home was going to slip away into the water, it came about 10 feet from their balcony, & being perched on the hill with the water raging from the spillway around them. We were worried about the soil eroding underneath the hill. Luckily both of our homes are fine & everyone is good.

We are currently not operational. The water did not reach the top portion of the campground, so the buildings & sites are all fine on the upper level. The sites up top do have power. The main shower/washroom building, cottage, & ice cream buildings are still without power & water as it is fed from the valley. Thankfully most of the water has disappeared in the valley. The pump & sewer buildings are still too full of water to assess the extent of the damage as they are closer to the creek. Our cement camp kitchen is destroyed, our cement pump distribution building the roof is off & the pressure tanks are sticking out of the roof & the main electrical is ripped out. One of our bathroom buildings is just gone, toilets, sinks & all. The other cement shower/bathroom buildings from the outside look okay.

Hopefully in the next few days we will know more about the systems & the extent of the damage. Then we will be able to estimate when we will be open again.

Thanks again, hope to see everyone soon.

Rebne & Pernell Lehr
Eagle Valley Park Campground

2) Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - Saskatchewan side

Hi all

Here's the update for Cypress Hills – Saskatchewan

- Centre Block is open with all businesses in operation
- Centre Block campgrounds are open, group campgrounds are open with exception to Sleepy Hollow group campground and Chalet is inaccessible at this time.
- West Block is closed until further notice due to roads into the West Block being inaccessible at this time.
- Hiking Trails are accessible in Centre Block
- Highway #21 from Maple Creek to the Centre Block is open and in good shape for travel at this time
- Highway #21 north of Maple Creek is open
- Highway #21 south of the park is open

Melody Nagel-Hisey

Park Area Naturalist

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

PH 306.662.5420

3) Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - Alberta side:

- All businesses, including accommodation at the Elkwater Lake Lodge, and our Visitor Centre are open.
- Access to the Park is available from the scenic Eagle Butte Road and the 514 Jackpot (12 km of gravel). Hwy 1 from Medicine Hat and Hwy 41 S are now open for local traffic.
- Group camps are open. Campgrounds are currently closed but crews are working hard to have Old Baldy, Lakeview, Beaver Creek and Firerock campgrounds open this week.

-Murray Hill road, Golf Course Road and Willow Creek road are open. Reesor Lake, Battle Creek, Graburn and Ferguson Hill road are currently closed.
-Hiking trails along the lakeshore are open. Additional trails are expected to be open shortly.

Updates are provided three times daily on www.cypresshills.com, Important News and Updates link or you can call our Visitor Centre at (403) 893-3833.

Nicole Lanz
Visitor Centre Coordinator
Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - Alberta

Phone: (403) 893-8909
Cell Phone: (403) 504-6446
Fax: (403) 893-8900
P.O. Box 12 Elkwater, AB T0J 1C0

4) Fort Walsh & Cypress Hills Massacre National Historic Sites

All:

Fort Walsh NHSC will be closed until further notice.

A washed out bridge on Highway #271 and slumping of the Boyd Hill (switch backs) and of the road at the entrance to Fort Walsh NHSC has resulted in the closure.

We will advise you all again as to when we will be re-opening to the public.

Thx!

Royce E. W. Pettyjohn
Site Manager
Fort Walsh & Cypress Hills Massacre National Historic Sites of Canada
Parks Canada Agency
1-306-662-5272

5) Cypress Hills Vineyard & Winery

Good Morning!

Thanks to all for the support. (phone calls, emails etc.) **The Winery is JUST FINE!**
But we have **no access road**. This will be fixed as soon as the creek goes down a little.
Hoping work will start on Thursday or Friday. We may be open as soon as Sunday June 27th. (Yippeee)

On a personal note our own buildings were badly damaged. But we are cleaning up and haven't run out of wine yet!

Marie Bohnet

*Cypress Hills
Vineyard & Winery
Box 122
Maple Creek, SK S0N 1N0
Ph. (306) 662-4100*

"The BEST Afternoon of Your Summer!"

6) Town of Maple Creek, Saskatchewan

Good Morning Everyone,

Thanks for all of the updates. The Maple Creek Visitor Centre is Closed again today. Bailey and myself are helping out at the town office until things slow down. We are directing any visitors to the town office and we can help them out here. The number for the town office is 662-2244 if you need either of us.

Thanks
Amanda and Bailey
Tourism and Economic Development
Town of Maple Creek
P. 306 662-4005
www.maplecreek.ca

7) TRex Discovery Centre, Eastend Saskatchewan

Open. Travel is possible, since a Maple Creek class is heading down here today (in the next few minutes, actually).

Sean.

Sean Bell, MSc
General Manager

T.rex Discovery Centre
Box 646
Eastend SK S0N 0T0
Canada

Tel: 306.295.4144
Fax 306.295.4702
E-mail: seanbell@trexcentre.ca
Website: <http://www.trexcentre.ca/>

8) Elkwater Lake Lodge, Elkwater, Alberta

Thank-you for the update Theresa and Scott glad to hear the Ranch was not affected; the Elkwater Lake Lodge is up and running as well! Please let guests know that if they are looking for a place to stay! For anyone else who was affected please let us know if there is anything we can do!

Best regards,

Janine Melvin

Sales & Marketing Director,

201 South Railway Street SE

Medicine Hat, AB T1A 2V2

Phone: (403) 528-9191

Fax: (403) 526-7689

E-mail: promos@elkwaterlakelodge.com

Website: www.elkwaterlakelodge.com

9) Historic Reesor Ranch

We are open for business. None of our facilities were affected or damaged by the flooding. We have had guests coming and going all through the flooding weekend. Some of the road access routes have been altered, but we are still accessible. Guests just need to contact us for details on routes. Temporary signage will be going up to direct traffic. Thank you!

Theresa and Scott

Historic Reesor Ranch Cypress Hills, Canada
"Cowboy Comfort with Atmosphere and Western Hospitality"
Box 1001 Maple Creek, Sask. Canada S0N 1N0
Ph/Fax 306-662-3498 www.reesorranh.com

10) Hidden Valley Ski Hill, Elkwater, Alberta

Hello All,

I am glad to hear that the Reesor Ranch is up and running with no major damage to report. I hope the rest of you can say the same. As for Hidden Valley ski Resort we were hit hard. Obviously the road closures, media hype and the general rotten weather will not affect our business due to the simple fact that is happening during our off season. The damaged that we incurred is extensive. At this time all the runs have a significant damage due to mud slides. The worst slide is on our Main run. The slide is approximately 810 feet long and 200 feet wide. Two of our Chairlift towers were amongst this slide and were moved approximately 15 feet offline. The spillway for our Snowmaking retention pond also suffered extensive damage during the surge of water that flowed from the south. On Friday night we release the stored water to save the dam from completely being washed away.

On the upside we have all summer to fix the problems. Nothing that money can't fix.(yikes)

Have a great summer everyone, I wish you well.

Cheers

Kevin