

2009 Castle Hiking Schedule

The hikes are free. Please let your friends know, and bring them along to introduce them to the area. Be prepared for mountain weather conditions, and to be flexible due to bear encounters, trail closures, or poor weather. Please leave your dogs at home.

Please confirm the hike meeting time and place with the hike coordinator directly prior to the weekend.

Once all dates are confirmed, the full hiking schedule will be posted on the CCWC website.

May 16, Bellevue Ridge

Jay Allen (403-628-3048)

Spring warm-up, with exploration and interpretation of local mining history in the Crowsnest Pass, as well as visiting the Eagle migration observation site at the south end of the Livingstone Range.

Elevation gain: 600 ft.

Time: 5-6 hrs.

Meet: Bellevue Ice Cream Shop, 9 a.m.

May 23, After CCWC AGM

James Tweedie (403-628-2422)

Afternoon hike along the Castle River between the Castle Bridge and the falls.

Meet: Castle Bridge Recreation Area, 3 p.m.

May 24, (Sunday), Antelope Butte

Patricia Wagenaar (403-627-2095)

Find early spring flowers and spot migrant songbirds and raptors. Stunning panoramic views into the Whaleback to the north, the Livingstone Range and the Oldman to the west, the Castle to the south, and the Porcupine Hills to the east.

Elevation gain: 600 ft.

Time: 6 hrs.

Meet: Junction of Hwys 22 and 3 at 9 a.m.

May 30, West Castle Valley

Dave McNeill (403-627-3476)

This hike follows the cross-country ski trail through a rich riparian forest along the valley floor and lower slopes of the West Castle Valley from the Syncline Group Camp to the West Castle Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Despite its proximity to the highway corridor to Castle Mountain Resort, the area remains a significant and secluded stretch of productive wilderness.

Elevation gain: Negligible.

Time: 5-6 hrs.

Meet: Beaver Mines Store at 9:30 a.m.

June 6, Table Mountain

Wendy Ryan (403-627-4106)

As part of the Ed Gregor Memorial Day, Wendy will lead a hike and restoration workday in partnership with the Buffalo Runners and Black Horn Runners from the Piikani Nation. If coming to help restore the trail, bring tools and gloves or they can be provided with notice. Will split into 2 working groups.

Meet: 8:00 a.m. for breakfast at the SRD building in Blairmore **OR** 10:30 a.m. at the Beaver Mines Store.

June 13, Mt. Backus

Wendy Ryan (403-627-4106) & Patricia Wagenaar (403-627-2095)

Explore the gentle foothills northwest of Beaver Mines from the Screwdriver Creek drainage over into the Castle River. This is a critical wintering area for elk and deer, and valuable spring and fall range for bears. Abundant spring flowers.

Elevation gain: 600 ft.

Time: 6 hrs.

Meet: Beaver Mines Store, 9 a.m.

June 20, Big Sage Natural Area

Reg Ernst (403-381-0528)

Join professional botanist, Reg Ernst, to explore the area's variety of plants, including some rare species—notably the largest Alberta population of Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). Visit the newly found Western Red Cedars and two lovely huge Cottonwood Trees. More energetic hikers can join Wendy Ryan (403-627-4106) on the higher elevation trail back towards Beaver Mines Lake.

Elevation gain: Optional.

Time: 7 hrs.

Meet: Beaver Mines Store at 9 a.m.

June 27, Butcher Canyon

James Tweedie (403-628-2422)

Explore one of the least-visited Front Range Canyons. Trail passes Shell Canada's Waterton-12 wellsite, currently under their first serious reclamation experiment for abandoned wellsites in the Front Range Canyons. Expect some bushwhacking towards the head of the valley. Bring your mountain bike.

Elevation gain: 600 ft.

Time: 7 hrs.

Meet: Hwy 6/Shell Waterton Plant Junction at 9 a.m.

July 4, Victoria Peak

Klaus Jericho (403-327-4062)

Revisit, at higher elevations, the flowers that you may have missed earlier this spring. Awesome panorama of the Front Range Ridges, Castle Peak and the Great Divide and the opportunity for viewing Bighorns up close. Bring your mountain bike.

Elevation gain: 1,500 ft.

Time: 7 hrs.

Meet: Shell Field Station in Pincher Canyon at 9 a.m. (Directions from Klaus)

July 11, Castle Peak

To be confirmed.

July 17, (Friday), Table Mountain to South Castle Valley

James Tweedie (403-628-2422)

A strenuous full-day hike up the Table Mountain trail from Beaver Mines Lake, over the high plateau of Whistler Ridge, descending into the South Castle Valley through the Big Sagebrush Natural Area to the Grizzly Lake trailhead. Optional overnight camp to join Grizzly Lake hike.

Elevation gain: > 2,000 ft.

Length: > 12 kms.

Time: 8 hrs. minimum.

Meet: Beaver Mines Store, 8:30 a.m.

July 18-19, Grizzly Lake (overnight)

Wendy Ryan (403-627-4106)

Fording the South Castle River at knee-to-thigh height, travel on a good trail, about 5-6 hours hiking the first day. Camp at the high-alpine meadow of Ruby Lake, visiting Grizzly Lake. Return on the same trail. Moderate Hike. River Crossings: bring river shoes.

Meet: Overnight at the trail head and the South Castle River after the Table Mt hike the day before or Beaver Mines Store at 8 a.m.

July 25, McCarty Lake

Tim Grier (403-563-4644)

Experience williwaws in Alberta as the winds off the Great Divide descend on this remote lake at the head of the Carbondale.

Elevation gain: 800 ft.

Time: 8 hrs.

Meet: Beaver Mines Store at 9 a.m.

Aug 1, Suicide Creek/Syncline Pass

Tim Grier (403-563-4644) & Bree Stefanson-Korobanik (403-627-5702)

The chance to explore a beautiful and secluded valley close to Castle Mountain Resort that is off-limits to any motorized use. Good habitat for bighorn sheep and mountain goats on the surrounding ridges.

Elevation gain: 1000 ft.

Time: 8 hrs.

Meet: Beaver Mines Store at 9 a.m.

Aug 8-9, Rainy Ridge (overnight)

Bree Stefanson-Korobanik (403-627-5702)

Hike over Middle Kootenay Pass and Rainy Ridge, visit Middle Pass Lakes (3), Rainy Ridge Lake, West Castle Falls. Moderate to difficult hike.

Time: 6 hrs. each day.

Meet: Castle Mountain Resort at 9 a.m.

Aug 22, "Promised Land"

Jay Allen (403-628-3048)

The "Promised Land" is a large, high, rock plateau between Andy Good, Coultard, and Ptolemy Mountains, west of the Crowsnest Pass, outside the Castle drainage. If there is time, we may look into Gargantua Cave. This is a very strenuous hike! There are nine stream crossings, so bring river shoes.

Elevation gain: 1000 metres.

Time: Dawn to dusk.

Meet: Large parking lot off of Hwy 3 at Crowsnest Lake, 7:30 a.m.

Yet to be confirmed:

Aug 29, Blue Lake

Sept 5, South Fork Lakes

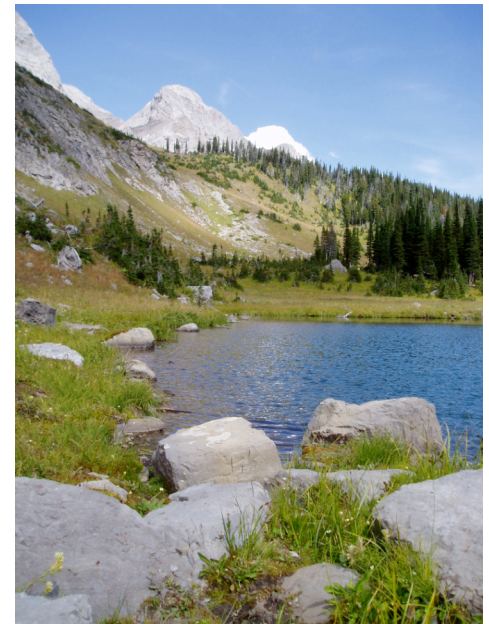
The Castle-Crown Wilderness
Coalition

403-627-5059

office@ccwc.ab.ca

Hike the Castle Wilderness

Summer 2009



CASTLE-CROWN WILDERNESS COALITION

Box 2621, Pincher Creek, AB, T0K 1W0, Canada (403)627-5059 office@ccwc.ab.ca