

White Eagle Memorial Preserve

Policy, Practice & Procedures

Our practices are in alignment with the guidelines for conservation burial grounds established by the Green Burial Council, a nationally recognized independent, tax-exempt, nonprofit organization representing over 300 approved providers.

- **Natural Burial:**

1. No embalming.
2. Caskets, if desired, shall be biodegradable, made of locally harvested wood or cardboard. Shrouds made of biodegradable material can be used.
3. No concrete vaults or grave liners of any kind.
4. Native species that have to be removed for interment shall be replanted and nourished. Families may assist in grave plantings which must be native seed or plant stock appropriate for the location as determined by *White Eagle Memorial Preserve*. Families will not prune, "weed" or otherwise harm native plants on or near the gravesite. No artificial flowers, vases, statues, or other manufactured decorations are allowed. Any "grace adornments" must be biodegradable and made of ALL natural materials.
5. Families may not create a trail to the grave site or disturb surrounding landscape in anyway. In the case of large tree blow-down, staff should be notified. Picking wildflowers is prohibited.

- **Monuments:**

1. Because of our specialized grid and location system, stone markers are not required. If desired however, stone memorials may be used and must be of native stone and consistent with the geology of the site. We can provide an appropriate stone on request. Stones brought from the outside must be approved prior to placement and must be no bigger than any stone within 50 feet of the grave.
2. In general, stones should be flat to the ground. Carvings or artwork other than names and dates must be approved by the White Eagle staff. Families may not gather rocks from other areas of the preserve. No construction of stone piles please. In some cases, to create a more natural look, more than one stone can be used to create a monument, but such a marker must be pre-approved.

- **Cremated Remains:**

1. If you are interested in the burial of cremated remains, or wish to have ashes scattered, please contact us for details. Our pricing ranges from \$250

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to \$500 and we will work with you to tailor the process and fulfill your desired result.

- **Burial Sites**

1. Burial sites are 20 x 20 feet in size, the largest of any in the nation. We believe these spacious 400 square foot sites are ideal to protect the wildness and diversity already existing in the Preserve and allow us plenty of room to determine the correct placement of the grave between existing landscape features.
2. The 20 acres of *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* have been gridded with surveyed markers into a network of “regions” each containing up to 36 sites. Each region has been given a name of a plant or animal species, i.e., cougar, golden eagle, lupine, dragonfly, etc.
3. Location of graves will be kept in “low tech” manner via our special grid system. We will also log in GPS coordinates for each site.
4. In order to schedule a burial with us you must purchase a site for the deceased unless the deceased has already purchased one. Please provide us with the following information for our records on or before the time of the burial:
 - Name of deceased
 - Age of deceased including birth date if know
 - Date of death and cause of death
 - Time and date of interment
 - If the deceased is not an adult, the names of his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s)
5. Only one person may be buried in each gravesite. However, since our sites are so large, individuals wishing to be buried close to one another may purchase additional adjoining sites and arrange for the burials in such a way as to leave much of the total combined ground space open and wild.
6. You may transfer your site to another person. If you purchase a site for yourself but, upon death, are buried elsewhere, then your site passes to your descendants or those named in your will.
7. Trails or temporary access lanes may traverse a corner of a burial site though will never traverse an actual grave.
8. In this relatively dry region, graves may take many years to settle back to the original ground level and sometimes they will settle unevenly. All

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graves will be monitored over time for the best ecological “fit” for native plants and the local environment.

9. *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* and trustees, officers, employees and agents assume no liability for damage, mental anguish, or loss caused by vandalism or other acts beyond its control.
10. On occasion, horses belonging to Sacred Earth Foundation and living at Ekone Ranch may traverse the *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* as it is an unfenced section of an 800 acre spring and fall open range.

- **Funerals:**

Funerals must be completed by 4 p.m. so we have sufficient time to properly close the grave and remove equipment. Families may help close the grave if they wish. We will supply the shovels and rakes.

1. All funerals and vehicles will be under the control of *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* stewards and staff.
2. There will be no public assemblage without written consent of *White Eagle Memorial Preserve*.
3. No more than 8 vehicles will be allowed out to *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* for a funeral service. If driving out, transporting as many folks as possible is highly encouraged as the land is a very sensitive and wild area.
4. Discharging of firearms during any ceremony is not allowed.
5. *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* is at 2500 feet elevation. There will be times in winter where access will not be possible due to heavy snow or mud. The Preserve will be closed during these times. In regions where frozen ground and snow create serious access issues, it is a common practice to hold a body in refrigeration until weather and conditions allow. Columbia Hills Funeral home in nearby Goldendale is available for this purpose. We are glad to give you their contact information.

- **Visitation:**

1. Due to the wild and sensitive nature of this land, we request that you call us and make arrangements for a guided tour of *White Eagle Memorial Preserve*. To those whose loved one's are buried here, we are officially open for visitation during daylight hours on the first weekend of every month, plus Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, All Soul's Day and the

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Thanksgiving holiday weekend. We will also be open on a “by appointment basis” to honor your special needs and request.

2. All visitors must check in first at Ekone Ranch Lodge. Visitors shall be respectful of all grave sites while walking around the preserve and must stay on trails when walking in the surrounding region. Pets must be kept leashed and in control at all times.
- **Costs:**
 1. **Sites:** Each 20-ft x 20-ft gravesite sells for \$2500. If you purchase two or more sites, you get a 10% discount on the second site. We encourage folks to buy sites as an important part of estate and end of life planning. This allows for family and caregivers to have copies of the "Deed for Interment Rights" which you receive with your completed purchase.
 2. **Endowment Care Fund.** By law, a fee of 10% of the purchase price, (\$250 currently), must be collected at the time of purchase for the Endowment Care Fund. This fund insures the long-term care, protection and maintenance of *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* into the future. The principal is inviolate. Interest can be drawn by *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* for various maintenance and restoration needs and requirements. In the State of Washington, an initial deposit of \$25,000 had to be made to create the Endowment Care Fund in or to be licensed. This protection helps to secure the long term operation of the cemetery.
 3. **Opening and Closing Fees:** There is currently a \$600 fee for the opening and closing of each grave. This fee is not due until the burial is scheduled.
 4. **Cremated Remains:** If you are interested in the burial of cremated remains, or wish to have ashes scattered, please contact us for details. Our pricing ranges from \$250 to \$500 and we will work with you to tailor the process and fulfill your desired result.
 5. **Child burial:** Since Ekone Ranch through *Sacred Earth Foundation* has been running summer and horse camps for children for nearly 30 years, we wish to offer free burials for children under 12 to especially honor their lives.
 - **Direct Burial vs. Family Burial:**
 1. A **Direct Burial** occurs is when the remains come to us with no family members present. We provide all the needed services and take care to honor the deceased during the interment.
 2. A Family Burial is when there are at least two family members present to assist in the burial who wish to help carry the coffin to the grave site. We especially

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welcome family burials where friends and loved ones come to the interment, help carry the deceased to the gravesite, complete their own ceremony and honor the life of the loved one as they commit the body's return to the earth.

3. Remains may be delivered to nearby Columbia Hills Memorial Chapel in Goldendale prior to the burial. There is a receiving fee which they charge, of \$1450. This fee includes their holding the remains in refrigeration as long as necessary, and the delivery of the remains to *White Eagle Memorial Preserve*. Other services are available as needed. We are glad to provide you with their contact information.

Acknowledgement

I, _____, site owner of _____,

have read the aforesaid and agree to be bound by the policies and procedures of

White Eagle Memorial Preserve.

Please Print: _____

Full Name

Date _____

Signature