

White Eagle Memorial Preserve

Policy, Practice & Procedures

Our practices are in alignment with the Conservation Burial Grounds guidelines outlined by the Green Burial Council, and designed to steward this native ecosystem.

- **Natural Burial:**

1. No embalming. No concrete or grave liners of any kind.
2. Caskets, if desired, shall be biodegradable, made of locally harvested wood, or cardboard.
3. Shrouds made of biodegradable material can be used. This includes cotton, wool, silk, hemp, and untreated leather.
4. 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 (WEMP)*. 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 grid and location system, stone markers are not required. If desired however, native stone memorials consistent with the geology of the site may be used. We can provide an appropriate stone upon 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. 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.
3. Wood markers should be lie flat to the ground, with natural lines (no rectangles) and stained with a milk-based finish, or unstained.

- **Cremated Remains:**

1. We are able to inter (bury) cremated remains in designated 10 x 10 sites. Our pricing for cremation burial includes the open/close fee. Please refer to our Price Sheet for current pricing information.

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• Burial Sites

1. Burial sites are 20 x 20 feet in size. These 400 square foot sites allow us plenty of room to determine the best placement of the grave in the existing landscape. We do our best to meet your specific wishes, yet grave placement within each site is determined at the discretion of WEMP staff.
2. The 20 acres of *White Eagle* have been gridded with surveyed markers along A-G and 1-12 lines, into a network of “regions”, containing up to 36 sites. Each region has been given the name of a plant or animal species.
3. Site location records are maintained via hard copy files and electronic backup. Your deed will reflect your site location on our grid, ex: A-5 #14.
4. In order to schedule a burial with us you must purchase a site for the deceased, paid in full at or before the time of burial, or contact us regarding an existing deed, and pay the Open/Close fee. Please provide us with the following information before or at the time of the burial:
 - Name of deceased
 - Death Certificate
 - Transit Permit (from County health Dept)
 - Name of Designated Agent handling details of interment
 - 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. We are able to accept up to three cremated remains within each burial site, once a burial has occurred. Please see our price sheet for more information. Individuals wishing to be buried close to one another may purchase adjoining sites.
6. Your Deed reflects your Right to Interment - 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; they 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. WEMP

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will monitor and attend to subsidence over time and encourage the growth of topsoil plants where possible.

9. *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* and trustees, officers, and employees can assume no liability for damage caused by 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.

- **Services:**

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

1. All burial services and visiting vehicles are under the supervision of *White Eagle Memorial Preserve* staff.
2. No public assemblage without written consent of *WEMP*.
3. No more than 8 vehicles allowed out to White Eagle Memorial Preserve. We encourage carpooling from the parking lot at Ekone Ranch.
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 or a visit at *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 Thanksgiving. We will also be open on a "by appointment basis" if possible.

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2. All visitors must check in first at Ekone Ranch Lodge. (www.ekone.org) Visitors shall be respectful of all gravesites 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:** Please see our Price Sheet for information about White Eagle site costs for burial, cremation interment, and current Endowment Care Fund and Open /Close Fees.
 2. **Endowment Care Fund.** By law, a fee of 10% of the purchase price 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.
 3. **Opening and Closing Fees:** This fee is not due until the burial is scheduled and covers the cost of gravesite preparation and burial hosting. It may be paid in advance and held in a Pre-Arrangement Trust with Columbia Bank.
 - **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 welcome family burials where friends and loved ones come to the interment, help carry the deceased to the gravesite, complete their ceremony and honor their loved one by helping to bury and 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. Their receiving fee includes sheltering the remains in refrigeration as long as necessary, and the delivery to *White Eagle Memorial Preserve*. Other services are available as needed. We are glad to provide you with additional contact information. Families may also forgo Funeral Director services and transport the body in a private vehicle.

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Acknowledgement

I, _____, purchaser of site _____,

have read the aforesaid and agree to be bound by the policies, practices and procedures of White Eagle Memorial Preserve as of this date _____.

Please Print: _____

Full Name

Signature