

## GUIDELINES FOR BURIAL

~ White Eagle Memorial Preserve at Ekone Ranch ~ Sacred Earth Foundation 501©3 ~  
PRACTICES ~ POLICIES ~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, bamboo, or willow. Cardboard caskets are ok as well.
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, made of all natural materials, and blend into the surrounding environment.
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 are generally discouraged. If used, they should lie flat to the ground, with natural lines (no rectangles) and stained with a milk-based finish, or unstained.

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- **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. Cremated remains need to be buried in a biodegradable container.

- **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 and dimensions of their burial container
  - **Dispensation Authorization/Burial Transit Permit (County Clerk)**
  - Name of Designated Agent handling details of interment
  - Time and date of burial interment, and number of people attending
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 rights to another person but we do not issue refunds on site sales, except in cases where burial is not possible, in which case we will work with your designated Power of Attorney to restore pre-payment to your estate.

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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 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 living at Ekone Ranch may traverse the *White Eagle Memorial Preserve*.

- **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. We limit the number of burial guests to 75 – large gatherings on this land are challenging.
4. Discharging of firearms during any ceremony is not allowed, with the exception of military honor guard services.
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. If access is possible but the earth is too frozen to dig a pre-chosen grave place, we reserve the right to use one of our winter burial pre-prepared places instead. 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.

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### Visitation:

1. Due to the wild and sensitive nature of this land, and other ongoing programming at Ekone Ranch, we request that you call or email ahead, and make arrangements for a guided tour or a visit at *White Eagle Memorial Preserve*. We will also be open on a “by appointment basis” if possible.
2. All visitors must check in first at Ekone Ranch Lodge. ([www.ekone.org](http://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, cremated remains burial, 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.

### • Family Burial:

1. While we are able to accommodate **Direct Burial**, when the remains come to us with no family members present and we provide all the needed services and take care to honor the deceased during the interment, 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.
2. Remains may be delivered to a funeral home familiar with natural burial near the decedent, or to Columbia Hills Memorial Chapel in nearby Goldendale, WA prior to the burial. We are glad to provide you with additional contact information. Families may also forgo Funeral Director care or driving services and transport the body in a private vehicle.