

**BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS FIRST QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 8:00 A.M.**

Partners present: Sara Arkle, Bonnie Shelton and Doug Holloway, Boise City Parks and Recreation (City); Brent Ralston and David Draheim, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks and Waterways (Ada County); Stephaney Kerley, Boise National Forest Service (Forest Service); Krista Biorn, Bill Bosworth and Brad Compton, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG); David Gordon, Ridge to Rivers (R2R). Brenda Reynolds, minutes recorder.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:10am.

II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY20 1st Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

The agency partners had been asked to update any changes to their revenue contributions. The Heritage Trust Fund contained an \$84,000 balance with a portion of those funds designated to the Curlew Connection.

B. Late Summer/Fall Trail Projects

a. Peggy's Ford

Last quarter, plans were to install a puncheon bridge over Daniels Creek. When the area was inspected in August, it was decided to stone armor the ford instead.

b. Lower Halls Gulch Bridge Replacement

Crews replaced an older puncheon bridge on the trail with a narrower and more aesthetically pleasing one.

c. 5-Mile Puncheon/Turnpike

A puncheon bridge was installed on a trail ford that had not previously been bridged. Approximately 100-feet of turnpike was installed in the area, improving riparian health and the trail user's experience.

d. Freestone Bridge

In Military Reserve, a puncheon bridge was installed at the Freestone Trailhead for a seasonal stream crossing. The work was completed mid-October.

e. Mountain Cove All-Weather Trail

The approximately one-mile long all-weather trail had been completed. Over 60 volunteers helped with the project. The all-weather application was kept to the original width of the trail. Because of its enhanced accessibility, the trail would be added to the Accessible Trail list.

f. Trail Etiquette Awareness

Volunteers and staff had worked at various trailheads to promote trail etiquette. Pete Ritter, the R2R Lead Trail Ranger, coordinated the project with assistance from the Southwest Idaho Mountain Bike Association. The effort was part of the Happy Trails campaign.

C. Freddie's Stack Rock Trail Extension Project

This 3.4-mile extension was one of the year's largest projects and was completed last quarter. It went over budget by approximately \$4,400, which was paid out of the Heritage Trust Fund account. The final cost was \$83,901. Cuddy Mountain Trail Company was the contractor and coordinated with the Forest Service for blasting projects. The late spring weather created some delays, but the extension was completed ahead of schedule. The trail opening had been shared on social media, and the online interactive map would be updated with the trail extension.

D. Fall Trail Maintenance Plans

Crews had inspected most of the trails in the system and made plans to perform maintenance where needed before the winter weather. Signage would be installed with information about trail-use when muddy.

There was discussion regarding the shuttle vendors and their users' impact on the trail system. An evaluation by the Forest Service determined that due to the reported user-numbers, the shuttle services would not be required to obtain a permit. Staff would follow-up with the vendors regarding the services they provided. Trail etiquette and user information had been shared with the vendors to pass along to their shuttle patrons.

E. BLM NEPA Update

The BLM had signed two Environmental Assessments (EA) decisions in July. The Ada County Fish and Wildlife League appealed both of those decisions and requested a stay, which went to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). IBLA ruled on the stay in favor of BLM. The motorized appeal was dropped, and work on the motorized trails and the Cartwright Trailhead expansion could still begin. It could take IBLA up to 24 months to respond to the non-motorized appeal.

Red Hawk Trail, which as currently proposed would cross onto BLM land, could be affected by the decision of the non-motorized appeal. Work on the Hawkins Loop Trail project would be postponed until the final decision.

The Army Corps of Engineers had a project planned at Lucky Peak Reservoir and had provided a scoping document for comment. One of the options for the trail delineation would cross BLM land for approximately one-mile, so an environmental assessment and an opportunity for public comment would ensue if that route was chosen.

F. Department of Interior (DOI) E-Bike Re-Classification

Secretary's Order 3376 was signed on Aug. 29 and directs e-bike policy on land managed by BLM. The partners discussed creating a policy that would be consistent throughout the trail system. The US Department of Agriculture had provided direction to the Forest Service and their land. There was discussion about increased e-bike usage on the trails and how that might cause further divide among trail user types, and also cause the need for additional trail maintenance. One-way traffic, single-use, and multi-use trail options were discussed.

G. Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) Survey

Efforts had continued for the proposed Curlew Connection Trail with work going forward to design and pin flag it. The Army Corps of Engineers would survey the trail beginning the first week of November.

H. 2020 Trail Projects

The contract for the Curlew Connection was amended for work to be completed within 90-days of the notice to proceed.

Funding was in place for the Redhawk Trail construction to proceed with the design and bid process. The trail would be on BLM land for approximately ¼ mile.

Hawkins Trail could be designed early spring, however the work would be delayed until the final EA decision. Part of the funding would be sought through a grant process, with the remaining from the Heritage Trust Fund.

Trail 4 and Trail 6 would be re-routed with a closure to the existing trails and re-seeding of those areas. Work would be completed by a contractor. The new trail sections were planned to be 50-inches wide as opposed to the usual 36-inch width. Maintenance was scheduled for the remainder of Trails 4 and 6. A \$22,000 grant from the Idaho Off-Road Motor Vehicle Fund was obtained and would cover repairs to the dips and improvements to the tread over approximately 2,000-feet of the trail.

Other trail projects would be forthcoming as the fiscal year progressed.

I. Ridge to Rivers Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update

The partnership MOU would expire on July 31, 2020. Ridge to Rivers staff requested a first review and response from agency partners by Dec. 15. The Forest Service office commented on address and phone number changes. Their office had requested to be the last agency to sign the MOU because of its five-year policy for MOU signatures.

J. Ridge to Rivers Trail Systems Map Update

Ridge to Rivers and BLM staff met early-October to discuss updating the GIS trail data and map. There were comments about the City assuming the responsibility of the GIS data and artistic renderings for the map. The data and map would be updated with any new trail information after the agency partners had a chance to review and respond. The current hardcopy map was from 2017. The new map should be printed in February and available in the spring.

K. Bike Club Trail Use

Ridge to Rivers staff had met with Eddie Fryer, the Idaho Interscholastic Cycling League Director, to discuss the impact of the high school bike teams using the trail system. It was suggested that each team should post their meet locations on a City managed Community Calendar to allow other users to know which trails would be used for team rides

L. R2R Partner Updates

Ada County

An event race in September at the Ada County Eagle Bike Park went onto the adjoining trail system, so Ada County had requested that the City of Eagle submit event routes to them for approval, prior to the permit being granted by the City. Ada County would generate approved and suggested routes within the bike park for future events.

IDFG

A meeting had been scheduled for the following day at the new IDFG Regional office with agency partners to discuss wildlife conservation and habitat protection.

Boise City

The City had accepted a 75-acre land donation near the Piece Park site. The family that made the donation wanted the land to be used as a wildlife habitat. There were currently no plans to construct a trail or provide public access.

The Albertson Family Foundation Bike Park was scheduled to open in the fall and recruitment had begun for a site-dedicated full-time position.

BLM

The Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement had been scheduled for review with a record of decision expected in March.

Forest Service

The Forest Service hired a recreation planner for the Idaho City and Mountain Home Ranger District. The Bogus Basin Forest Health Project was underway. Illegal logging had been sighted in the Sinker Creek area. A request had been made to report any logging taking place outside the ski area.

M. Opportunity for questions from Non-partner agency meeting attendees

No other attendees were present.

III. Adjournment

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Partnership at the time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42am.