

**BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS SECOND QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 8:00 A.M.**

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

Others present: David Corcoran, Ada County Community and Regional Planner; Mitra Mehta-Cooper, Ada County Strategic Planning Manager; Diana Lachiondo, Ada County Commissioner, District 1.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY20 2nd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

No comments were made.

B. Redhawk Trail Update

After re-evaluating the proposed site, it was decided that the trail would not be constructed in the area due to wildlife, soils, topography, aesthetics and costs. There could be an opportunity in the future to connect Avimor through Dry Creek Ranch or other landowners.

C. BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Update

The agency was awaiting a decision from the Interior Board of Land Appeals for the Environmental Assessment (EA) that had been signed in July with regard to the non-motorized land use. A ruling was expected within six to eight months.

D. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Survey

In November, a contract company for the US Army Corps of Engineers worked to clear any unexploded ordinances (UXO) from the proposed Curlew Connection Trail. Approximately three-fourths of the work was completed and no UXO's were found. The company planned to return in March to finish the survey. At that time, a more extensive survey would be performed in lower and mid-Military Reserve areas.

E. Ada County Coordinated Growth Discussion

Commissioner Lachiondo presented on growth in Ada county. In 2000, the population was approximately 300,000. In 2020, the population was expected to increase to approximately 500,000. Ada County's analysis projected that \$320 million would be needed in capital facilities to maintain its current level of service in 2040. However, current population growth had surpassed the 2040 growth projections done by COMPASS. If the county's growth reached its current comprehensive plan build-out, it was projected to cost the county \$700 million. In this scenario, the county's population was estimated to reach 1.5 million people.

Ada County met with the six cities within its boundaries, along with the Ada County Highway District, to address land use development, trail access, growth pressures, services, operations and capital needs for the projected growth.

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Ada County was working with the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) to develop a fiscal impact analysis of its comprehensive plan and the comprehensive plans of the six cities. COMPASS would have the analysis available in the spring, with information on what it would cost to fully develop the plans. The county, cities and other agencies would collaborate on policy changes that may need to occur based on the analyses. Planning and zoning ordinances would help protect open space.

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

BLM planned to have guidance in place for its field staff within the next few weeks based on Secretary Order 3376. The Forest Service and IDFG stated that their policies had not changed, and that E-bikes were allowed on their designated motorized trails. S. Bassista, Outdoor Recreation Planner (BLM), reported that studies showed trail impact from Class 1 E-bike use was similar to that of traditional mountain bikes. Trail designation changes would be subject to a NEPA process. BLM would produce a communication plan and share it with the partners. The partners stated that they wanted policy to be consistent throughout the trail system.

G. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update/Discussion

The MOU had been sent to the partners for review. There was discussion about adding information pertaining to protecting wildlife habitat and natural resource management. Edits and comments were requested by Feb. 21. The city's legal department would produce the final draft.

H. Future Meeting Start Time/Location

After discussion, the partners agreed to move the location of the quarterly meetings to the Boise Depot Meeting Station, located at 2603 W Eastover Terr. The meetings would begin at 8:30 instead of 8 a.m.

I. Spring Open House – Open Space and Trails

Plans for the open house to be held at the Boise Depot were discussed. The event would provide the partners an opportunity to share upcoming projects and answer public questions. B. Shelton would work with the agency partners to select a date in April for the event.

J. R2R Partner Updates

Ada County Parks and Waterways

There were no updates beside the previously noted Redhawk Trail update.

IDFG

There were no updates.

Boise City

To help preserve access to open space and trail systems on a valley wide basis, the city offered to partner with Ada County to produce a document that would serve as a guide for other agencies to utilize.

The city received a grant for \$240,000 from the State of Idaho for invasive mistletoe and beetle infestation treatment at Stack Rock.

The interactive trail map would add features to show trail closures throughout the system. Discussions were taking place with ACPW to develop a plan to connect citizens with updates about trail conditions using text messaging. This opt-in feature could be available next fall.

Over 1,000 people had taken the Happy Trails pledge. The city's Community Engagement Office would provide news about trail closures, map updates and other partner agency information to those who signed the pledge. New R2R hats had been received and proceeds from those sales would benefit the trail fund.

BLM

The Resource Management Plan had been approved and would be available at the end of the month for the start of the 30-day appeal period and the 60-day Governor's Consistency Review. It was expected that the Record of Decision would be signed in early April. If appeals were received, they would be sent to the BLM office in Washington, DC.

The agency had recently filled two positions and several other vacant positions should be filled soon.

Forest Service

Tawnya Brummett was chosen as the new Boise National Forest Supervisor.

The partners discussed the winter access and trailhead parking lot at Stack Rock. It was stated that the NEPA analysis had not considered winter use of the trailhead due to potential wildlife impacts, and that the area had not been chosen for shared stewardship.

No objections were received on the Sinker Creek-Boise Ridge Forest Health Project. A signature on the EA was expected soon.

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

No other discussion was brought before the partners.

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 9:42 a.m.