**BOISE CITY RIDGE TO RIVERS FY25 Second QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**Tuesday, april 8, 2025**

**8:30 A.M.**

Partners Present: Lisa Duplessie and Doug Holloway (Boise Parks and Recreation); Brent Ralston (Bureau of Land Management); Kevin Kostka (Ada County); Brad Lowe (Idaho Department of Fish and Game); Mike Williamson, Kristyn Stauber, and Jaclyn Mitchell (US Forest Service); David Gordon (Ridge to Rivers); Brenda Hagadorn (Clerk).

**MEETING SUMMARY NOTES:**

1. **FY 2025 3rd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review**

D. Gordon presented and reviewed the FY25 third quarter budget and work plan, highlighting trail maintenance activities, volunteer coordination, and staff allocation across spring projects. There were no questions or comments.

1. **Spring Trail Conditions**

Ridge to River (R2R) partners discussed the impact of seasonal freeze-thaw cycles on trail integrity. Conditions were good after winter. Ongoing challenges included erosion, rutting, and user compliance with closures. R2R crews continue to post weekly Trail Condition Reports. A trail maintenance contract was entered into with Cuddy Mountain Trails again.

1. **Wildlife Management Aarea (WMA) Update – Brad Lowe**

Brad Lowe reported that restoration efforts continue in the WMA, with reseeding and noxious weed control and removal. Collaborative fire mitigation planning was also in progress. The area that reopened over winter was now closed again due to the replacement of powerlines and crossarms by Idaho Power. Temporary roads had been constructed to support the work and trail closures were expected to star May 1, with completion to be done within eight hours and the reopening of the trail to be May 3. Idaho Power caused significant alterations to the W. Highland Valley Trail that would require major repairs.

Wildlife tracking data showed fawn survival was unusually low this year, with a 68% mortality rate—well above the typical 40–46%.

1. **Idaho Power Project**

An update was provided on the powerline upgrade project and its impact on trail access. Coordination efforts focused on ensuring public safety and maintaining access during the utility work. Extensive repairs were needed along the route from Emmett to Mountain Home.

1. **Sideshow Trail #46**

The Sideshow Trail project and had entered the construction phase, with the design finalized in March. The estimated project cost was $146,000 and construction was expected to finish by early June. Access would be via 8th Street, approximately two miles past the Foothills Learning Center and the trail would be wide enough for adaptive riders. Post-construction trends in parking and trail usage would be monitored.

1. **Harris East Trail Connection Project**

This trail connection was progressing with support from Integrated Trail Lab and Hunter Homes. Efforts focused on planning, access, and sustainable design for the future trail corridor.

1. **New Trail Plan Process Discussion**

The timeline for the 10-year 2016 trail plan had almost concluded. Extensive user feedback had been gathered, but only two of the proposed trails had been constructed,largely due to limitations on federal lands and limited ability to acquire private lands in the Foothills. A new trail plan was in discussion, with a focus on how to effectively manage the existing trail system over the next 5 to10 years. The hope was that through this planning process, ebike access across the R2R system would also be decided upon. The plan should meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards to be successful for the two federal partner agencies. Funding, planning, and hiring a contractor was expected for fall of FY27.

1. **Summer Projects**

Upcoming projects include maintenance of all-weather trails, additional trailhead enhancements, and seasonal vegetation management. R2R crews also plan to continue to monitor pilot trail reroutes for effectiveness.

1. **Deer Point Project – USFS**

J. Mitchell presented the Deer Point Forest Stewardship Project, an area surrounding Bogus Basin. The project, led by the U.S. Forest Service, would involve ongoing fuel reduction efforts. The presentation would be distributed to R2R partners for review.

1. **R2R Partner Updates**

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

B. Lowe reported ongoing restoration work and continued coordination on habitat protection efforts.

**Bureau of Land Management**

B. Ralston reported that fire crews were working on identifying fuel break project areas using urban service overlay tools,d. and encouraged outreach to additional agencies. There had been minimal local media coverage of these efforts. An agreement was pending that would involve transferring BLM land for housing development. The overall focus remained on ensuring compliance and promoting stewardship in high-use areas.

**Ada County**

K. Kostka was supporting outreach efforts and coordinating with adjacent property owners for motorized and non-motorized trail usage.

**US Forest Service**

K. Stauber shared that she would be managing wildfire preparedness efforts and supporting partner trail planning.

**City of Boise**

D. Gordon shared that R2R staff were overseeing multiple improvement projects and volunteer engagement efforts.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Partnership, the meeting was adjourned.