

**BOISE CITY RIDGE TO RIVERS FY24 SECOND QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING**  
**BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024**  
**8:30 A.M.**

Partners Present: Lisa Duplessie and Doug Holloway (Boise Parks and Recreation); Brent Ralston and Dave Draheim (Bureau of Land Management); Scott Koberg (Ada County); Brad Lowe (Idaho Department of Fish and Game); J.W. Cleveland (US Forest Service); David Gordon (Ridge to Rivers); Joey Eckles (Clerk).

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**MEETING SUMMARY NOTES:**

- A. FY 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review**  
D. Gordon reviewed the proposed FY24 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget and Work Plan. There were no questions or comments on the budget or work plan.
- B. Fall Survey Results**  
The Ridge to River's (R2R) Trail Survey received very positive support and feedback overall. The biggest takeaways were: 90% supported closures for maintenance and strong support for rerouting sections to preserve and sustain trail conditions.
- C. Winter Trail Conditions**  
The current conditions were good due to snow cover and cool temperatures. These were expected to change significantly as temperatures warmed and rain came into the area. Crews were monitoring conditions daily across the system.
- D. New Winter Trail Closures**  
Crews were closing additional trails in the Boise Foothills to prevent long-term damage due to persistent use under wet and muddy conditions. This action was taken in part due to the strong support gathered in the recent survey.
- E. Harrison Hollow Loop All-weather and Accessibility Project**  
There was funding for converting and lengthening the singletrack portion of Harrison Hollow Loop Trail into a longer all-weather opportunity in conjunction with the Harrison Hollow Trail. The trail would either be 48 or 60 inches in width. This project would not be fully ADA accessible but would have access components for all. E-bike discussions were not taking place this early on in the project.
- F. Spring Trail Maintenance Contract**  
A spring trail maintenance contract would be awarded again this year. Cuddy Mountain would be the primary contractor, with Red Mountain Trails to assist when needed.
- G. Curlew Connect Trail Construction Contract**  
BLM gave concurrence to Ridge to Rivers and the City of Boise to move forward with construction of the Curlew Connection Trail. The trail had been halted for 4 years due to NEPA decision appeal. In that time, the flagging has disappeared as a result of sheep, weather and likely human interference. As such the route will

need to be re-surveyed and another UXO clearance survey will need to take place. Crews were hopeful that the Army Corps of Engineers could do the clearance, but R2R had funds available if needed. If everything went as planned, staff anticipated a late fall 2024 completion date.

**H. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Purpose Built Bike Trail Project**

This approximately 1.7-mile trail would descend from Corrals Trail between Bob's Trail and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Road, terminating at the flood-retention dam on lower Bob's trail. Riders could loop back up via the gravel dam access road and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Road. Staff hoped to acquire a grant due to the anticipated costs as this would be a design/build by an outside contractor. This covered multi-jurisdictional property lines.

**I. RTP Grant for Power Buggy**

R2R was looking to acquire a grant for a power buggy to complete various trail work (such as all-weather mix application). Currently, staff rented a trail buggy each time, so having one in-house would be a cost-benefit for the future. After a cost-share program, the trail buggy was estimated to be in the \$24k range. An announcement was expected to be made in July.

**J. R2R Partner Updates**

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

B. Lowe mentioned that roads were closed since November 15 for the winter. The new SH-21 overpass was working well and there hadn't been any deer crossing casualties since installation. He also shared wildlife mapping visuals that could be beneficial for future R2R trail closures during winter months.

**Bureau of Land Management**

D. Dreheim and B. Ralston provided numerous updates to the partners. Some included multi-jurisdictional areas, a property they were set to close on near Avimor (320 acres), new internal approval processes, and an upcoming State Office detail that B. Ralston would be on.

**Ada County**

S. Koberg informed partners that they continued to work as a partnership to produce all-weather trail loops and that communication had been pivotal for the public. They mentioned that SWIMBA's proposed trail ride did not merit a permit as it was not a one-time event.

**US Forest Service**

J. Cleveland mentioned proposals for toilet services and various snow groomings. Their department was changing new hire policies, how they sort new applicants and benefits for seasonal employees. They were also dealing with various special use trail requests.

**City of Boise**

D. Gordon explained that they explored adding trail cattle guards adjacent to Foothills gates, to allow challenged athletes to negotiate those locations more easily, however unfortunately determined that the gate locations did not allow for the extra width necessary to install the cattle guards while still maintaining the vehicle and person gates.

**V. IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:**

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