

BOISE CITY RIDGE TO RIVERS FY25 SECOND QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025
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 and Kevin Kostka (Ada County); Brad Lowe (Idaho Department of Fish and Game); Kristyn Stauber (US Forest Service); David Gordon (Ridge to Rivers); Brenda Hagadorn (Clerk).

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES:

A. FY 2025 2nd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

D. Gordon reviewed the proposed FY25 2nd Quarter Budget and Work Plan. There were no questions or comments.

B. Winter Trail Conditions

The current trails were frozen. This included all weather trails. This was expected to change significantly with rain and warmer temperatures. Crews were monitoring conditions daily and working on educating the public. Good feedback had been provided on the daily trail updates.

C. Winter Projects

Harrison Hollow had gotten the most attention with the popularity of the new all-weather loop. Due to the incredibly high amount of off-leash dog traffic, there was great concern over whether regrowth would occur in the spoils spread adjacent to the new trail. Phase 1 of the rehabilitation project was to fence of the entire area with signage added, and to designate it On-leash until revegetation efforts were successful. Weather permitting, crews would begin hydroseeding the area.

A series of stone steps would be installed off of the Grove Loop down to Hulls Gulch Creek for directed access to the stream for FLC student groups. The pedestrian bridge at the far end of Lower Hulls Gulch would also be replaced.

Crews were building their own utility trailer while repairing an existing one.

Trail assessments were being done daily by crews.

D. Idaho Power Project

Idaho Power would be working on installing steel towers from Emmett to Mountain Home for fire mitigation. Communicating with Idaho Power to stay informed of the work that was being done had been challenging of late. Communication is critical as there will be work related trail closures at times, as well the need to do as little resource damage as possible.

E. Trail 4 and Trail 6 Management

Both Trail 4 and Trail 6 had long stretches of severely eroded tread that needed relocation. Representatives from the BLM and the Forest Service were contacted regarding this problem last summer. R2R, BLM and USFS visited the trails to assess the issues and discussed options for future management. Management of Trail 4 above the Fat Tire Trail junction

and Trail 6 in its entirety would be taken on by BLM and USFS moving forward. Both would still be signed and depicted on maps as Ridge to Rivers trails, but staff would no longer be charged with managing them. Staff put BLM and USFS in touch with IDPR motorized trail program crew to assist with future maintenance.

F. Summer Staffing

Job openings for for three nine-month positions and one summer seasonal trail staff had been advertised. The pay rate remained unchanged, which made it increasingly difficult to retain seasonal employees. This situation created challenges for full-time crew members, who had to dedicate time to train new staff.

G. Summer Projects

Summer projects are yet to be finalized. Kemper Ridge Trail will receive mitigation via straw bale placements and drains, from R2R along with City Restoration Ecologist Martha Brabec to deal with extensive erosion due to the trail's unsustainable location.

H. 8th Street Purpose Built Trail Update

Only two proposals were initially received, with only one deemed valid (the second not having a current Idaho Public Works License). As a result, the project was put out to bid again. The bid process could result in a delay of up to one year for the project.

I. R2R Partner Updates

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

B. Lowe reported that a closed area near the archery range and the top of Lucky Peak that had been breached by three teenagers which led to a life flight rescue. Other incidents included an ATV rollover, and a fire truck that became stuck while responding to the incident.

Bureau of Land Management

B. Ralston provided numerous updates including information on multi-jurisdictional areas, and a 30-acre property acquisition near the Rocky Canyon area, for which funding was still pending.

No hiring was planned for the foreseeable future.

A proposal in the unexploded ordnance (UXO) area would establish fuel breaks to support fire entry and was currently in the discovery phase. D. Gordon shared that a crew member had discovered two ordnance fragments while constructing the Curlew Connection Trail, however no additional fragments had been found since.

The 8th Street gate had only been compromised once so far this year. D. Draheim discussed the gate's accessibility for search and rescue operations and how the site would be accessed if necessary.

Ada County

K. Kostka explained that this was the first year that he would be part of hiring summer positions which were expected to be posted soon. He asked that D. Gordon share the onboarding process used.

S. Koberg anticipated that there would be continued communication with Idaho Power during the power line replacement project. He shared that his team was focused on refining internal departmental processes and strengthening partnerships to guide their direction moving forward.

US Forest Service

K. Stauber shared that they would be hiring for one position.

City of Boise

Hunter Homes had been working with a contractor on the City required Harris East Trail project, which was designed to link Peace Valley Overlook to Homestead Trail. However, the contractor withdrew from the project. The Curlew Connection Trail was completed on November 1 but had to be closed shortly after opening due to wet winter conditions. Positive feedback had been received before its closure.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

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