BOISE CITY RIDGE TO RIVERS FY22 FOURTH QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022 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); Stephaney Kerley and Everardo Santillan (US Forest Service); David Gordon (Ridge to Rivers); Tina Yonan.

Others Present: None

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES:

A. FY 2022 4th Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

There were no questions or comments on the budget or work plan.

B. Personnel Changes in the Ridge to Rivers Partnership

Adrian Holcomb was the new District Ranger on the Mountain Home District of the Boise National Forest. JW Cleveland was the new recreation person but was unable to attend this meeting.

C. Summer Trail Maintenance Update

Drainage structures that were installed last fall helped significantly with spring maintenance. The rain that Boise received though, created maintenance work for months rather than weeks as anticipated. A Cadbury style bridge was installed on one of the trails because the flow of a stream had changed which damaged the trail.

D. Hawkins Loop Trail Update

Crews were working on the 5.7-mile-long Hawkins Loop Trail and a second contract had been signed with Cuddy Mountain Trail Company. Blasting was avoided because of their equipment.

Ridge to Rivers crews were installing gates, and ride-over styles at five fence crossings on the Hawkins Loop Trail. They would also install a puncheon bridge, a culvert and a turnpike.

One of the challenges crews had, was the tracks cows were leaving on the new trails. However, in the future this shouldn't be a concern as the trails will harden over time.

E. Summer Trail Projects

Crews have put in a short link trail, called the Harrow Trail. It was a half mile long and would provide a 1.5-mile trail experience when combined with portions of the Hawkins Loop Trail on either side of it. This trail wasn't finished yet but intend to give volunteers the opportunity to help finish this trail, which was expected to be completed by mid-September. Trailhead completion date hadn't been determined.

Due to Elk cows and calves in the area it was determined by BLM, the city, and IDFG to extend the closure of this trail to May 1 and require dogs on leash through June 15. Signs will be posted to help educate the public on the requirement.

S. Koberg requested a proof of the signage for Hawkins Loop Trail and asked if staff had seen any use now that the trail was complete, despite the trailhead not being finished.

Due to heavy machinery being used at the trailhead the closure sign for the trail had been left up for public safety.

Hawkins Trail Loop and Harrow Trail would be one-way trails to help with traffic flow along the trails. Signage would be posted.

Crews were working on a bridge in the Lower Hulls Gulch as well as some streamside work. Martha Brabec was working with Boise State University on habitat restoration.

Plans to work on a few smaller projects in the Dry Creek area included adding a couple of single stringer bridges as well as some cribwalls.

There had been a lot of vandalism of trailheads and outhouses. While the Ridge to Rivers team didn't have the manpower to address the graffiti D. Gordon hoped to have the Parks and Recreation team assist more with vandalism in the future.

- S. Koberg asked if the budget supported a new position within Ridge to Rivers to help with vandalism or if this conversation had already been discussed. D. Gordon explained they hoped to create a full-time facilities maintenance position with Ridge to Rivers in the future, however, currently this position splits their time between Foothills Learning Center and Ridge to Rivers.
- S. Koberg asked if they obtained the seasonal staffing that was advertised in the spring. D. Gordon explained they had. Hiring had been slow in the beginning. They may work with contractors in the future to assist in trail maintenance.
- B. Lowe explained Idaho Fish and Game intended to install a CXT by the Archery Range and have a local high school paint a mural on the inside as it seemed to reduce vandalism.

F. Outfitter-Guide Discussion

D. Draheim had been working with a prospective outfitter-guide for UTV rides on the Forest roads. He was looking for someone to work with at the state level for licensing and guides. There could be an influx in commercial use permits in the Foothills for tours and guides.

He also suggested using Elephant Snot to remove graffiti and potentially having volunteers help with graffiti removal.

G. Recent Foothills Fires

Crews had spent a little over a week realigning part of the Polecat Loop Trail following the arson fire that took place.

H. R2R Partner Updates

Ada County

S. Koberg followed up on vandalism stating that Ada County Landfill was happy to help as needed. Ada County would have an open space and trails position opening and would update the partnership when that happens.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

B. Lowe discussed the forecast for elk and deer hunting season.

Bureau of Land Management

D. Draheim mentioned the acquisition near Table Rock.

Work on the all-weather trail for the Oregon Trail was in the works for this winter.

Boise Trail Challenge had around 1,000 participants.

The BLM heavy equipment maintenance team expected to begin work on the 8th Street ATV trailhead in October.

Public Lands Day was September 24. They planned to replace two signs during this time and maintain upper Hulls Gulch Trail.

D. Draheim requested to let him know if crews see any hill climbing at Three Bears so signs may be installed.

V. IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

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