

BOISE CITY RIDGE TO RIVERS FY22 FOURTH QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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); Ann Moser (Idaho Department of Fish and Game); J.W. Cleveland (US Forest Service); David Gordon (Ridge to Rivers); Tina Yonan.

Others Present: None

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES:

A. FY 2023 1st Quarter Budget and Work Plan review

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

B. Hawkins Trail/Trailhead Update

Ridge to Rivers planned to have the trailhead paved in November. The Hawkins Trail Loop would close in December and reopen on May 1st. Hawkins Loop Trail would open about a month after most trails due to nearby elk beds.

C. UXO Project Update (BLM/City staff)

Flags were set as a sampling protocol which was confusing for the public so signs were placed for educational purposes. BLM expressed that firefighting had been a concern of theirs. More conversations needed to take place to further discuss potentially dangerous obstacles.

D. Fall Survey/Open House

The Ridge to River's Trail Survey received 2,455 responses to date and the survey would close on October 31. The Open House was a moderate success with positive comments made from members of the public. E-Bike feedback was discussed at the Open House.

The group discussed their experiences and policies surrounding e-bike usage. Seeing a significant growth in e-bike users the group discussed the need to look into options to enforce e-bike usage on trails.

E. Further Discussion on Outfitter-Guide/Special Use Permitting (Dave Draheim lead)

D. Draheim explained the steps for special use permitting for UTV's and competitive biking, suggesting that e-bikes could potentially be permitted in a similar manner. The partnership discussed shuttle permitting amongst each agency. D. Gordon explained it was beneficial to require permits for Ridge to Rivers as it would be an opportunity to communicate with the shuttle operators.

F. Fall Trail Projects Update

Trail crews were working on a variety of projects along Dry Creek and in the Hillside to Hollow Reserve – primarily related to tread stabilization. The hope was that Hawkins Loop Trail could be constructed this fall before the snow flies.

G. Cartwright Ridge Trail

A reroute of Cartwright Ridge Trail would begin next week. Crews would construct the reroute with volunteer assistance. The remaining section from the reroute out to Pierce Park Road, would be maintained with the city's mini-excavator to determine whether further reroutes were necessary.

H. Table Rock Area Trails Discussion

Table Rock Sandstone requested assistance from Ridge to Rivers to close social trails that lead toward their quarry from Table Rock Quarry Trail #17. Staff would close these using fencing, signage and rock placement.

I. Accessible Trails Expansion 2023

The city through a contract with Cuddy Mountain Trails, would construct approximately .4-miles of trail in the Lower Halls Gulch Reserve in April, 2023 to allow The Grove Trail to become The Grove Loop Trail, and provide an expanded accessible trail opportunity. Crews would also realign and all-weather a section of Red Winged Blackbird Trail to further expand accessible trail opportunities.

J. Annual Maintenance Contract Discussion

D. Gordon mentioned the need to explore the possibility of utilizing an annual trail maintenance contract with a qualified contractor to assist with spring trail maintenance needs. With the expansion of the trail system and increasing large weather events, current staffing cannot keep up with maintenance needs.

K. R2R Partner Updates

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

A. Moser explained that although their officers could ticket e-bikes, their officers weren't on the trails often to ticket. All trails and roads on the Boise River WMA require dogs to be on leash from Nov 16 – April 30, to protect wintering deer and elk. Trails include the Ridge to Rivers trails on the BRWMA - Homestead, West Highland Valley, and Cobb trails. Roads closed to motorized vehicles during the winter, but open to hikers and bikers, include East Highland Valley, Shaw Mountain Road, and the Lucky Peak Trail.

The exception is hunting dogs actively hunting during an open season; upland game bird season is open until January 31.

A. Moser also gave an update on the Homestead Fire and some rehab would be done in this area. Road improvements for Highland Valley Road were discussed.

Bureau of Land Management

BLM had been doing some land acquisitions in the Foothills which included 275 acres in Harris Ranch near Table Rock. BLM had also been approached by the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley regarding a 320 acre parcel they were purchasing. There was also a 30-acre land donation as well as a land exchange proposal that would need to be discussed. The grant agreement with BLM and Ridge to Rivers would need to be updated this year.

Ada County

S. Koberg explained that Davey Brown, the new trail crew member for Ada County, attended the open house. They were still looking to fill another position for open space and trails. At the beginning of each fiscal year, a request is done to provide Ridge to Rivers with \$42,000 for the year. S. Koberg was curious to see the financials to find out more about the financial needs and whether they were at a good level within the partnership. The budgeted amount remained the same for the past nine years and there are more trails and more use so if this amount needs to be revisited, he may be able to budget more in the next fiscal year.

US Forest Service

J. Cleveland explained that the regional US Forester visited the open house and was here to check out different projects. The forester had asked J. Cleveland how much they contributed to Ridge to Rivers which was a very small amount. He explained that she felt more could be contributed to the partnership and did not care about the ratio of miles that were maintained. This had been unofficial but he would be following up on this to see if there could be more funding. J. Cleveland had only been in this position for a little over six months, but would make this a priority. He did circle back to discuss maintenance of 8th Street, particularly where the along the road it became the US Forest Service property to maintain.

V. IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

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