



## News Release

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### **Review Contractor for River Park Chosen** *BLM takes next step in approval process*

**KETCHUM, Idaho (July 24, 2013)** – Plans for Ketchum’s proposed River Park at Sun Peak took another step forward this week with the selection of the Fort Collins, Colo., office of AECOM to review an environmental assessment of the project for the Bureau of Land Management.

The firm was selected by and works directly for BLM and replaces a staff team that normally would review the environmental assessment. Recent staff and budget cuts have left BLM unable to perform the work itself. The city of Ketchum and the Wood River Land Trust, which are eager to see the project move ahead, are reimbursing BLM for the cost of the review, said Jennifer L Smith, Ketchum parks and recreation director.

The city has asked the BLM for permission to use approximately 316 acres of federal property, including a parcel north of the city near the Hulen Meadows subdivision, for conservation and recreation enhancements. Plans include restoration of degraded portions of the Big Wood River and adjacent wildlife habitat and recreational lands, as well as creation of a white water park and a municipal well. Completion of the park also will reduce the possibility of downstream flooding in Ketchum.

GeoEngineers, a Seattle firm and subcontractor to S2o Design and Engineering, a Lyons, Colo. firm is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the two parcels of land under the BLM’s Recreation and Public Purposes Act which allows for management transference of federal property to local governments under strict guidelines. Federal law requires both the environmental assessment and review before the BLM can give the city the right to use the land for a park.

The city reports that BLM expects to take public comment on the proposed land conveyance within the next few months.

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#### **About the City of Ketchum**

The City of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The City of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the City of Ketchum, visit [www.ketchumidaho.org](http://www.ketchumidaho.org).

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