



News Release

River Park at Sun Peak 60% Design Unveiling ***Public Input Requested for Proposed River Park Design on December 18***

KETCHUM, Idaho (December 9, 2013) – Design concepts for the City of Ketchum’s proposed River Park at Sun Peak, to be located north of the City near Hulen Meadows, will be presented at a meeting Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. at Hemingway Elementary School.

Plans for the park, which would be created in partnership with the Wood River Land Trust and other stakeholders, call for restoration of wildlife habitat, reduction of flooding risk to downstream properties, and creation of a white water park and other recreation enhancements. It would be located on property currently managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

S2o Design and Engineering, a white water park design firm in Lyons, Colo., is at the 60 percent mark of its contract with the City to create design drawings and concepts for the park, said Jennifer L. Smith, Ketchum director of parks and recreation. “We encourage members of the public to give us their comments on the plans created so far,” she added.

The park would offer trails, river and pond access, habitat and riparian restoration, wildlife viewing, dog play areas and white water features along approximately 1,500 feet of the Big Wood River north of Ketchum near Hulen Meadows.

Private donors have raised \$125,000 of the expected total cost of the \$2.3 million project, and are expected to pay the majority of the construction costs. The City hopes to begin construction in 2014 or 2015.

Meanwhile, S2o subcontractor GeoEngineers is working on an environmental assessment for the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The white water portion of the proposed park would increase recreational opportunities in the early spring and summer floating seasons, when tourism revenue in the area traditionally is at a seasonal low. White water parks in other areas have generated more than \$2 million annually in revenue to local businesses, such as restaurants, hotels and sporting goods stores.

The park also would provide a place for novice to expert kayakers to test their water safety skills. Strategically placed features would create a variety of waves during the early spring and summer floating season.

The City applied to the BLM to use the land under the federal Recreation and Public Purposes Act in 2008. Before making a decision, BLM requires a rigorous and detailed analysis of all proposed elements such as drop structures for white water play, habitat restoration elements, pathways, and locations of a foot bridge, accessible fishing structure, restrooms and other amenities.

More information may be found at www.ketchumidaho.org or by calling the Ketchum Parks & Recreation Department at 726-7820.

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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.

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