

News Release

River Park at Sun Peak on Hold Pending River Analysis

Required as Result of Oregon U.S. District Court Decision

KETCHUM, Idaho – The proposed River Park at Sun Peak is on hold for approximately 12 months while the Bureau of Land Management conducts a baseline analysis of river flow and existing conditions from the Sawtooth National Recreation Area to Magic Reservoir.

Although a decision by the BLM on Ketchum’s request to create the park had been expected this fall, BLM says it needs the analysis because of a recent U.S. District Court decision on a project in Oregon.

Once the river analysis is completed, the required environmental assessment can be completed.

The BLM will work with the Wood River Land Trust and Trout Unlimited to prepare and fund the analysis. No city funds will be required, City Administrator Suzanne Frick said.

“We learned about the delay on Tuesday and we and our partners are very disappointed,” Jennifer L. Smith, director of parks and recreation, said. “Unfortunately, there is nothing that the city can do about the need for the baseline study other than wait for its completion.”

Questions or concerns should be addressed to Eric Mayes, National Environmental Policy Act specialist with the BLM Boise office. He can be reached at emayes@blm.gov or (208) 373-4050.

River Park at Sun Peak, to be created in partnership with the Wood River Land Trust, would restore wildlife habitat, reduce flooding risk to downstream properties, and allow the creation of a white water park. It would be located along approximately 1,500 feet of the Big Wood River north of Ketchum near Hulen Meadows.



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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, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, 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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