



City of Ketchum

## News Release

October 29, 2014

### Ketchum Hires New Planning and Building Department Director

KETCHUM, Idaho — Micah Austin, now Hailey community development director, will become Ketchum's director of the planning and building department on January 5, 2014.

"We have started to implement the goals of the new comprehensive plan, such as attracting clean industries and more affordable and diverse housing," Mayor Nina Jonas said. "His knowledge of economic development and of Southern Idaho will be a major asset to the city."

Austin joined the Hailey staff in 2012 after working as Community Development Director in Jerome for over three years. Before coming to Idaho, he worked as a park ranger, mayor's assistant and city planner in Indiana and Kentucky. He learned Russian while serving on an LDS mission in Minsk, Belarus and in Moscow, Russia.

"In 1996, I rode my mountain bike through Ketchum on my way to Spokane. Since then, I have wanted to return and become a part of the Ketchum community," Austin said. "I am looking forward to launching an exciting new chapter of service for Ketchum."

He holds a bachelor's degree from Utah State University and a master's of public administration degree from Indiana University-Bloomington, where he completed a capstone project on the future of electricity.

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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](http://www.ketchumidaho.org).

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