



City of Ketchum

News Release
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City Receives Grant to Improve River Access

American Rivers Awards \$14,900 to City, ICL

KETCHUM, Idaho — The city of Ketchum, in partnership with the Idaho Conservation League, has received a \$14,900 grant from American Rivers to improve public access to the Big Wood River.

The Connecting Communities to Rivers grant program received more than 50 applications. The Happy Trails Project is one of seven selected grantees.

The “Happy Trails” project will improve trails and riverside conditions, remove noxious weeds, add signage, mark parking areas and reroute unsustainable trails. Funds will also be used to create a map of river access points that will be distributed at local recreational businesses and public events.

There are 16 Big Wood River access points within city limits, including some easements that cross privately owned land. Only a few are marked with signs and some of the trails are overgrown with vegetation. “This makes it difficult for people to know where they can access the river,” said Robyn Mattison, public works director/city engineer.

The Idaho Conservation League will work with the city to generate support from local businesses, facilitate volunteer opportunities, and raise awareness among its member base and with the general community. The hope is that some of the trail maintenance can be accomplished through 40 hours of volunteer work

“We believe that it is very important to connect the community with valuable public assets like the Big Wood River,” Betsy Mizell, community engagement associate said.

“People across the Intermountain West have a strong history of commitment to the open spaces and river sanctuaries surrounding their communities, and Ketchum is certainly no different. The Connecting Communities to Rivers grant program will help to further the stewardship, connection, and preservation of their cherished Big Wood River and surrounding river access,” says Fay Augustyn of American Rivers. “We are thrilled to partner with the city of Ketchum and ICL on this project.”

Map design will start immediately and work on the trails will begin as soon as weather permits in the spring.

“We are very appreciative of this grant and of the cooperation from the Idaho Conservation League,” Mayor Nina Jonas said. “The fantastic public lands, river and resources that surround Ketchum define our way of life.”

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About American Rivers

American Rivers, formed in 1973, works to protect wild rivers, restores damaged rivers and conserves clean water.

About the Idaho Conservation League

Since 1973, the Idaho Conservation League has been Idaho's voice for clean water, clean air and wild places—values that are the foundation for Idaho's extraordinary quality of life. The Idaho Conservation League works to protect these values through public education, outreach, advocacy and policy development.

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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