



# Challis Community Trails Action Plan

*A project of the Challis Trails Committee; National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; and local citizens*

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### *Technical Assistance*



The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program provided two years of planning assistance to the Trails Committee.

The following groups, government agencies, and organizations were involved in developing this plan:

- Bureau of Land Management, Challis Field Office
- Challis Area Chamber of Commerce
- Challis Arts Council
- Challis Area Health Clinic
- City of Challis
- Custer Economic Development Association
- Garden Creek Farms
- Idaho Parks and Recreation- Eastern Idaho Motorized Recreation Division
- Idaho Parks and Recreation- Land of the Yankee Fork State Park
- Living Waters Ranch
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
- Salmon- Challis National Forest, Challis- Yankee Fork Ranger District
- Salmon Idaho Mountain Bike Association and The Hub Bike Store
- The Bent Rod Outdoors
- The Tea Cup Café
- Youth Employment Program (Y.E.P.)

The Challis Community Trails Action Plan summarizes the committee’s recommendations for future development of the trail systems in and around the town of Challis. This is a conceptual plan in which none of the proposed ideas have been approved for funding or construction. The plan represents a foundation for how the community can begin to work towards the vision and goals developed during this planning process.



## ***Introduction: Background and History***

The City of Challis, population 1,056, is the County Seat for three million acre Custer County, Idaho. Adjacent to some of the largest tracts of public land (approximately five million acres) in the lower 48, Challis is uniquely situated to be a base for year-round outdoor recreation opportunities. The town is bordered by the Salmon River of No Return, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an Idaho State Park, and US Forest Service (USFS) lands.

The town sits at an elevation of 5,253 feet with a surrounding landscape of sagebrush-steppe plant communities in the foothills that lead to semi-arid forests. The Challis volcanic geologic formations are an outstanding colorful feature of the city. The viewshed of the trails network is unrivaled, providing picturesque views of the surrounding mountain ranges. Recreation activities in the area include hiking, fishing, rafting, paddling, camping, backpacking, wild horse viewing, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, rock hounding, OHV riding, motorcycle riding, scenic driving, hunting, photography, and exploring the wilderness areas.

The community currently provides numerous recreational opportunities for locals and visitors alike. The city boasts a golf course, walking trails, children's fishing pond, skate-park, and unparalleled access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Though there is excellent infrastructure currently in place, there are gaps in system connections and pieces missing within the trail network that leave the existing system difficult to negotiate. Connecting the recreational trails systems that lie outside of the City to the trails that are existing and desired within town is important from health/ wellness, recreational, and tourism aspects.

Many rural Idaho communities have been faced with the challenge of developing alternative economic activities to supplement those centered on historical uses, such as mining and timber. The city of Challis has the potential to further develop recreational tourism as one economic development alternative. The community is interested in increasing recreational opportunities and tourism, attracting potential investors, and enhancing the quality of life by creating a community trails system.

The Challis Trails Committee (CTC) came together to develop this plan with technical assistance and support from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. The CTC worked closely with the community as well as multiple agencies and organizations to develop the vision, goals, and concepts that are described in this plan.

### ***The Need for a Community Trails Plan***

The purpose of this planning effort is to enhance and develop the community trails within Challis and connect them to a regional multi-use trails system on surrounding public lands. The improved trail network will provide an increased recreational opportunity for residents and visitors of the Challis area.

Thoughtful design and development of a connected and integrated community trail system will provide increased outdoor recreation opportunities and health and wellness benefits for Challis citizens

of all ages as well as visitors. A trail system that goes from our backyard to the backcountry will connect to the vast network of over 400 miles of multiple-use and cooperatively managed trails surrounding Challis. Defining and signing the trail system will increase the trail experience, trail sustainability, reduce potential user conflict, and reduce the number of informal/ unauthorized trails that impact treasured natural resources.

As recreation becomes a more important and popular avenue for economic development in the State of Idaho, there is a need to take a holistic view of how the current and future residents of Challis would like to respond to potential growth in the area. With a comprehensive look at the trail systems and desires of the community now, the City and residents will be better prepared for future development opportunities.

### **Building on Past Planning Efforts**

The Challis Trails Committee is building on past planning efforts from around the community. These efforts inform and support the Trails Action Plan:

- Community Vision– April 27, 2009 designed by over 150 community members during a community workshop sponsored by the Custer Economic Development Association
  - “Challis is a progressive, cohesive and positive, family- oriented community, centered around hard- working neighborly people. Youth and seniors are supported and empowered by the strength of the local community. The Community Center is a hub for cultural and entertainment events where everybody can be engaged with the community, and we draw in people from the surrounding communities.

We have a self- sustaining, diverse economy - reaching into our backcountry. We have created innovative entrepreneurial opportunities anchored in traditional agricultural and natural resource- based industries, while accessing new niche markets for high value-added food products. New businesses focus on alternative and renewable energy, and our tourism sector nurtures a small-town atmosphere and makes good use of our public lands. We have modern infrastructure that supports telecommuters who are linked into the world.”

- The Challis Area Recreation Map

- The Challis Area Recreation Map was produced by the Challis Area Chamber of Commerce in 2013, sponsored in part by the Custer Economic Development Association. The map creation was a collaborative effort that utilized GIS data provided by the US Forest Service and the BLM. It offers visitors to the area a functional map of trails and popular sites in the area.



- Challis Regional Map- Challis Area Chamber of Commerce

**“A small town with a Big Heart!”**- The Challis Regional Map touts Challis as the ideal base camp for recreating in the vast acreage of Custer County, with Challis as the “Wilderness Gateway”.

- Both the Challis Area Recreation Map and the Challis Regional Map are available to the public at area stores and agencies.



- Bureau of Land Management: Resource Management Plan and Travel Management Plan
  - The Challis Field Office Resource Management Plan, signed and implemented in 1999, speaks specifically to trails in a few instances.
    - Recreation Opportunities and Visitor Use, Goal # 3:
      - Provide recreation opportunities for unstructured outdoor experiences, trails (e.g. hiking, horseback riding, bicycling), recreational mineral collecting, and OHV use.
    - Transportation, Goal #1:
      - Consistent with other resource objectives and values, provide an adequate road and trail system on the Challis Resource Area’s public lands to (a) satisfy the public need for recreation, commodity



production, access and safety, and (b) facilitate management of BLM resources and programs.

- The Challis Field Office Travel Management Plan, signed and implemented in 2008, speaks even further about specific trail developments and sections of trail outlined in this plan.
  - A non-motorized path will be constructed on public lands from the Challis Golf Course to the Land of the Yankee Fork Visitor Center.
  - Mountain bike trails will be designated and constructed on public lands near the Challis Golf Course.
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation: Land of the Yankee Fork State Park
  - Mission: to improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship.
  - The park will work with federal partners to develop enhanced trail opportunities, particularly for motorized recreationists, including the development of looped trails from existing routes, providing staging areas and trailheads, upgrading the signing on trails and creating passport-like opportunities for trails. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will work to maintain existing access to public land and look for opportunities to increase it. Connecting trails from Challis to Bayhorse are critical for local economic development, encouraging overnight stays in town and the purchase of meals and recreational gear at local businesses.
- River management plans
  - The Upper Salmon River Boating Guide was produced in 2018 as the result of a collaborative effort between Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the USFS, and the BLM. The guide is intended to help river users navigate the Salmon River and learn about the natural wonders along this unique river corridor. It covers the Upper Salmon river stretches from Stanley to North Fork, approximately 150 river miles.
    - <https://www.blm.gov/documents/idaho/public-room/guidebook/media-center-public-room-idaho-upper-salmon-boater-guide>
- United States Forest Service: Challis National Forest Land Resource Management Plan (1987)
  - The Forest Service is committed to supporting local communities through resource conservation work, employment and training opportunities, rural community planning development and technical forestry assistance.
  - To the extent possible, National Forest Trails will be maintained at levels sufficient to meet safety needs and provide quality recreational experiences for the public. Trails will generally be maintained as resources, funding and staff become available. Existing trailheads will be maintained at an acceptable level.

### **The Planning Process**

Brainstorming sessions with local trail enthusiasts from multiple backgrounds revealed a strong grassroots interest in developing a trails plan for the community. In 2017, the City of Challis and the Challis Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, applied to the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service for trail planning assistance. Assistance was awarded in

October 2017, and an NPS community planner was assigned to the project to help with organizational development, community outreach, and formulation of the plan.

A core planning team (Challis City Mayor, BLM recreation planner, NPS community planner) met from October to December to shape project goals and help put together a steering committee for guiding the planning process. The first full committee meeting kicked off in January of 2018.

The Challis Trails Committee, with help from the National Park Service, worked first to outline the vision, mission, and goals of the group. From there, a work plan was created. The committee met once a month for a year and a half to develop the trails plan. Additional steps in the trails planning process included an inventory of existing trails and trails data; community outreach events to garner support and input; recommendations for old and new trails; draft plan production; endorsements and revisions from key stakeholders; and publication of the final plan.

This completed trails plan will be available as a tool to help inform public decisions for the community, in addition to providing a foundation for obtaining funding and grant opportunities to implement priorities and recommendations.



## ***Regional Connections in the Upper Salmon River Valley***

The Salmon River is the connecting and defining feature of the landscape in the project area. Two National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Parks and Recreation, and Idaho Fish and Game provide a myriad of recreation opportunities in the valley and surrounding mountains.

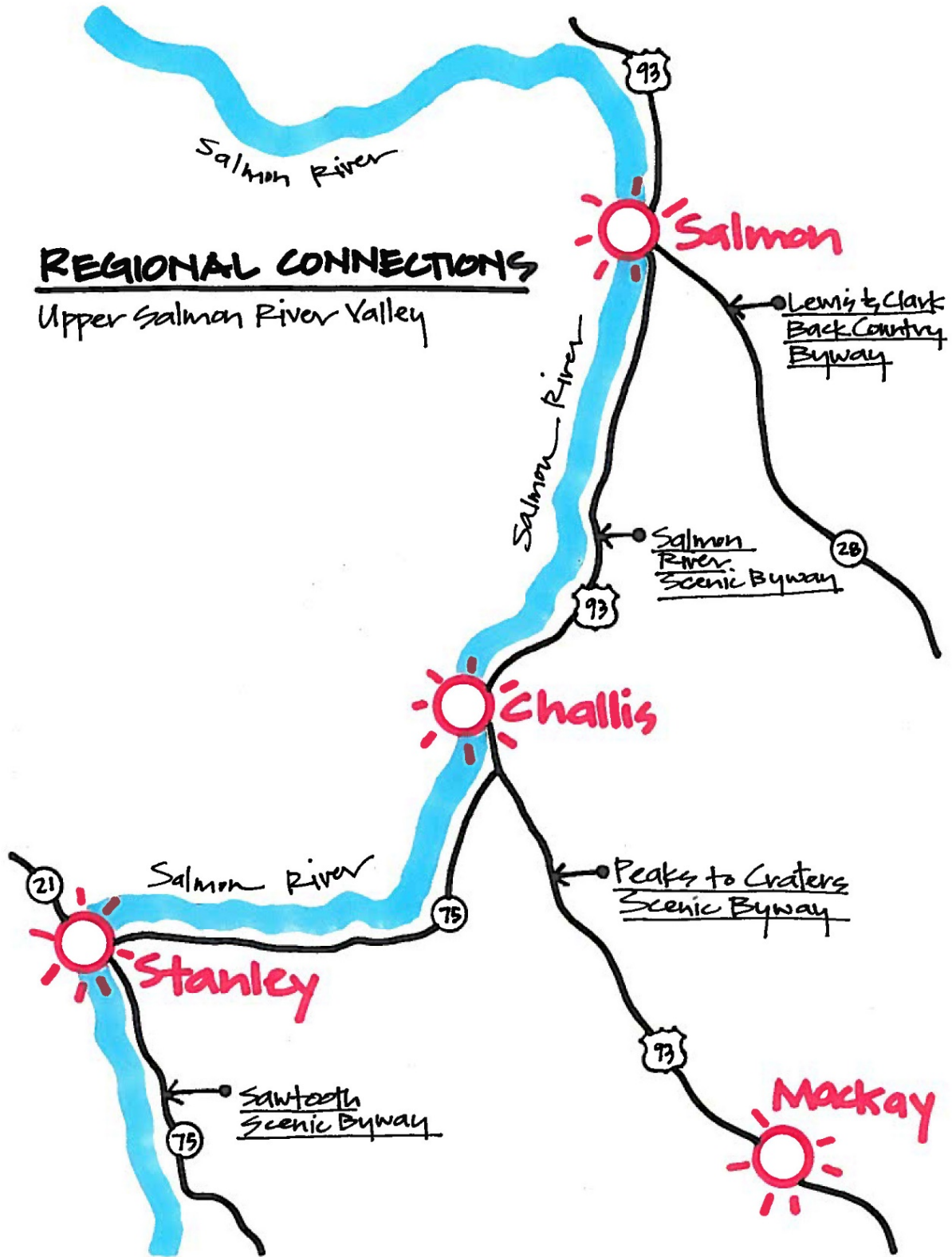


Highway 75 and Highway 93 follow the river closely, linking the communities of Stanley, Challis, and Salmon. This entire stretch of highway is part of the Salmon River Scenic Byway that begins in Stanley and ends at the Montana state line. This scenic byway serves as a community connector and small town promoter. A second scenic byway, the Peaks to Craters Scenic Byway ends at the town of Challis after following Highway 93 from the Arco area near Craters of the Moon National Monument.


The communities of Challis, Mackay and Salmon have the highest number of residents in the area and are well suited to serve as centers for information and access to recreation on public lands. Salmon began their trails planning effort in 2012 with the formation of the 2 L's Trails Group. The Salmon Valley Trails Action Plan, last updated in 2017, was created through a collaborative effort between local trail advocates, federal land management agency staff, and non-profit entities. Representatives from the 2 L's group participated on the Challis Trails Committee to share lessons learned, key trail concepts and to promote collaboration between Challis and Salmon trail system planning with a future vision of even bigger regional trail connections within the Upper Salmon River Corridor. Additionally there are many trails in the Mackay area that are used by residents and visitors alike. There is an emphasis on motorized trails, specifically ATV/UTVs, though the committee has heard from the public about a desire to see more mountain bike and hiking trails. People have also expressed an interest to build on a past effort that attempted to connect the Challis area trails with those in Mackay, creating a through-corridor for off-road vehicle traffic between the two towns. In past years, the Rally in the Pines ATV/UTV event, a gathering of over 3,000 people, took place in Mackay. The event is currently held in the Salmon area.

Recreation in and around Challis currently seems to attract a user group coming from nearby towns. Stanley is a popular recreation destination for the larger cities of Ketchum and Boise and it might be anticipated that recreationists will continue to expand out along the Salmon River Scenic Byway toward the Challis area. Approximately 45% of our community questionnaire respondents reside in the Challis and the greater Round Valley area, with the remainder residing across the state of Idaho and other neighboring states. Of Idaho residents, 60% of questionnaire respondents were from a zip code within the eastern/ central portion of the state.

According to a Forbes business report, Boise, Idaho was the fastest growing city in the United States in 2017. These numbers are based on population, employment, wages and home values. Challis sits approximately 4 hours from this growing metropolis. This Trails Plan will address the growth of the recreation and tourism industry before much of this expansion happens to the city. This will allow residents of the community to decide on their vision in advance of such growth.



## **Challis Community Trails Vision & Goals**



*The vision of the Challis Community Trails Action Plan is to develop a network of community trails that connects popular destination in Challis with parks and trails on the surrounding public lands.*

### **MISSION**

To involve the Challis community in the development of a long-range trails plan and actions that will create a connected system of trails in and around Challis.

### **GOALS**

- Connect destinations within the community, such as the park, schools, health centers, and golf course.
- Link community trails to nearby public lands and the Salmon River.
- Provide safe and legal pathway connections and highway crossings for walkers and bicyclists.
- Encourage healthy lifestyles by increasing opportunities for people of all ages to get outside and be active on trails.
- Involve key trail partners and the community in planning and building the trail system.
- Engage youth in helping to plan and maintain the trails.
- Boost economic development in the area with new business opportunities that support the trail system.
- Promote respect for private property and public lands adjacent to the trails.
- Develop near- and long-term partnership strategies for funding, building and maintaining trails.

## ***Community Outreach & Involvement***

Community involvement in the trails planning process was integral to the effort and will continue to be essential in the adaptive use of this plan. Residents and visitors to the Challis area provided invaluable input to the plan development. This input occurred during monthly public trails meetings, a two-day Trails Summit event, voluntary participation in a questionnaire created by the committee, and other outreach opportunities that presented throughout the planning process.

### ***The Challis Trails Committee***

The Challis Trails Committee was created under the guidance of the steering committee comprised of the City of Challis, the Challis BLM Field Office, and the National Park Service community planner from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. The committee was formed by reaching out to representatives of the diverse interests and stakeholder groups of the community. Anyone in the community was and is welcome to participate at any time throughout the planning process. Membership on the committee is voluntary, though necessary to keep the process and implementation moving forward.

The monthly meetings were scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month, with consistent and regular attendance from members. The committee worked together to accomplish the goals and tasks outlined in the work plan that included community outreach/ events, trail recommendations and research, and plan drafting.

### ***The Trails Summit/ Health Fair Event***

The Trails Summit Event was scheduled in coordination with the annual Challis Health Fair, the first week of May 2018. This event was the first large outreach opportunity for the planning process. The coordination effort with the Challis Health Fair ensured the success of the event, as the Health Fair is extremely well attended in the community. As one main goal of the trails planning effort is to encourage healthy lifestyles by increasing opportunities for people of all ages to get outside and be active on trails, the two events fit well together.

The free Trails Summit event consisted of one full morning of open house/open forum style community involvement, where the public was able to come and go learning about the plan background and process, viewing various partner booths and providing inputs at a mapping station. All comments and questions were captured for later analysis and review, to be included within this planning document.



During the open house, a Trails Art Contest was sponsored by the Challis Arts Council, Trail Mix snacks were provided, activities for kids included the “Paint a Walking Stick” station, the Idaho Parks and Recreation ATV simulator, electronic (e-bike), mountain bike, and dirt bike demonstrations, and the Youth Employment Program showcased their Trails Trailer. Participants also had a chance to take the Challis Community Trails Questionnaire (see below).

In the afternoon, a working presentation session was held with information presented by the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) on “Better Living through Trails” and how to build a sustainable trail, as well as lessons learned from other areas near Challis, like Croy Canyon in Ketchum, Idaho.

The second day of the event was held in conjunction with the Challis Health Fair with a “Walk for Health with a Health Care Provider” guided walk as well as a 5K Fun Run. The Trails Committee hosted a booth that provided another opportunity for community members to complete the questionnaire in-person and ask questions of the committee members about the planning process.



**Challis Community Trails Questionnaire**

The questionnaire was drafted by the steering committee and edited by the trails committee. It was created using the survey platform, SurveyMonkey. The questionnaire was advertised numerous times and presented for in-person completion at many outreach events throughout the summer 2018 season. Flyers were hung about town with the link, and stickers with the link were placed on all city water bills for the month of August. The questionnaire was available to take from April- August 2018. The questionnaire was distributed to all Challis Community residents via a weblink on their City water bill. The trails committee used trail and community events to collect additional responses from the public throughout the questionnaire timeframe. There were 437 responses to the questionnaire, providing valuable inputs to the planning process.

**Other Input & Outreach Opportunities**

**Local Press-** The trails committee worked closely with the Challis Messenger to promote trail planning events, provide opportunities for community input and describe the planning effort.

**River of No Return Endurance Race-** The annual River of No Return Endurance run was held mid-June in 2018 and provided a valuable opportunity to gain feedback from close to 400 trail users of a certain demographic. The endurance run is a competitive race that draws both big-name endurance runners as well as family groups of runners. The trails committee provided a brief half-sheet of paper in each registered runner’s goodie bag. A number of racers completed the questionnaire.



**Ride the Bayhorse/ KLIM Dirt Days-** The annual Ride the Bayhorse event sponsored by the Land of The Yankee Fork State Park provided a chance to participate in a trails-based event. The trails committee attended the Ice Cream Social providing attendees with a chance to take the questionnaire in-person and participated in the guided ATV ride on the Lombard Trail. In addition to the annual ATV/ UTV event, the gear company KLIM, out of Rexburg, Idaho, sponsored a multi-day guided single-track and motorcycle event. Many of those participants provided input for the trails questionnaire as well.

#MerrellMagic

Backpacker Magazine and Merrell Shoes brought a little “trail magic to the Foothills Trails in September 2018 with a surprise Lemonade Stand!

#ChallisTrails



**Youth Engagement**

The Challis Community Trails Questionnaire showed that over 250 of the respondents have youth between the ages of 0-19 living in their households. The Trails Action Plan seeks to engage these youth by providing opportunities to get outside and be active on the community’s trails. Over 90% of participants in the trails questionnaire agreed or strongly agreed that trails provide ways for kids to be active and research shows that “play” in any form is crucial to the well-being and positive development of youth in a community. Additionally, the youth of Challis and the surrounding areas can provide support for the future sustainability of the trail systems through outreach and engagement, trail development, and trail maintenance. It will be essential to continue to involve youth of the area and to maintain a presence within the school systems of the region. In addition to the specific programs described below, the high school cross country, track, and bicycle clubs frequently use area trails for competitive events and general practice. It is important to continue having this quality access to outdoor sports opportunities as well as alternatives to traditional high school sports.

**Youth Employment Program (Y.E.P.)** - The Challis Trails Committee has worked closely with the Youth Employment Program of Salmon, Idaho. Y.E.P. employs between 14-25 area youth throughout the summer months to work on various trail maintenance projects with the US Forest Service and the BLM. This program provides varying levels of job and personal skills trainings that can help with gaining future employment. Additionally, the program exposes youth to the variety of jobs available to them upon graduation and provides valuable work-place contacts and networking opportunities at a local level.

A student from the Challis High School, employed by Y.E.P and the BLM, was part of the planning process. The student employee sat on and participated in committee discussions and draft development, helped with the success of the Trails Summit outreach event, and provided many hours of support. Additionally, Y.E.P. provided donated print materials and items for the raffle at the Trails Summit. Y.E.P. will be able to provide trail-building support in future implementation efforts. Y.E.P. is partnering with the US Forest Service on a new endeavor called the Adopt-A-Trail program that will further support the engagement of youth in the area by benefiting safe access to public lands and protecting surrounding resources.

**Natural Resources Day, Challis Elementary School-** Members of the trails committee presented at the Challis Elementary School’s annual Natural Resources- Day event. The trails committee hosted a segment devoted to trails artwork and exploring what the idea of a trail meant to the individual. Students had the opportunity to create a trail on paper using found materials and other fun craft supplies. This event reached close to 100 students, with a very positive response to the project.



# Challis Community Trails Benefits and Opportunities

## Economic

Challis is located in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District for Idaho, where outdoor recreation is a powerful economic driver. Camping, trails sports, and fishing are the most popular outdoor activities in this region (OIA, 2018). Residents of this district spend over \$2.36 billion dollars on outdoor recreation each year, while out-of-state visitors spend just a little more at \$2.94 billion dollars. The recreation industry provides for 78,000 jobs across the state of Idaho.

Custer County is home to the largest wilderness area in the lower 48: The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, as well as the Jim McClure- Jerry Peak Wilderness and the Cecil D. Andrus- White Clouds Wilderness. Challis is situated on the famed Salmon River of No Return and surrounded by the majestic Sawtooth, White Cloud, Boulder, Lemhi and Lost River mountain ranges. This includes the state’s highest peak, Mount Borah. The Land of the Yankee Fork State Park also contributes to the abundant recreation opportunities in the area.

“There was a huge sense of pride of living in Challis and all the hikers made it apparent they couldn’t see living anywhere else after finding this place. Small, quaint and undiscovered to the mainstream, they feel lucky.”  
~ Gary, Backpacker Magazine

Recreation and tourism development can contribute to the well-being of local residents, increase local employment and wage levels, and improve education and health (USDA, 2005). Many rural communities across the country have begun promoting recreation opportunities as a way to boost the local economy and bring economic sustainability back to their areas. Towns like Challis that have in the past relied on a natural resource based economy, see that recreation and recreation-based tourism are a natural extension of their culture and custom. Residents of rural communities can benefit from this component of a new natural resource economy that encourages community resilience (Hibbard and Lurie, 2013). Approximately 80% of respondents to the Challis Trails Questionnaire agreed or strongly agreed that trails in the Challis area would boost economic development for businesses. Additionally, 75% of respondents felt that area trails enhanced social interaction and community building.

Challis industries are anchored in the abundant natural resources, agriculture and wildlife of the area, as well as a tourism sector that taps into the rich mining and ranching heritage. This resonates with the old frontier lifestyle of the area while nurturing a small-town atmosphere and entrepreneurial spirit in a recreational and sportsman’s paradise.

Recreation infrastructure in Challis and the public lands surrounding the community is largely in place. There are gaps and areas that need to be connected which will be outlined in this action plan but the area is already well-known for a multitude of recreation opportunities. These include the Lombard Trail, one of the top motorized recreation trails in the state and a favorite of questionnaire respondents, which begins at the Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center and crosses over both BLM and Forest

Service lands before ending at the historic mining town of Bayhorse. This trail connects to many miles of rideable ATV, UTV, and motorcycle opportunities. Additionally, the town of Challis boasts one of the longest nine-hole golf courses in Idaho that includes a public walking path encompassing the entire course. This paved and accessible pathway connects the walkable town streets to BLM hiking and mountain biking trails. There are numerous competitive events that center around the area trails and bring money into the local economy, including the River of No Return Endurance Race, Ride the Bayhorse and the KLIM Dirt Days. In fact, when asked during the questionnaire what recreational opportunities would bring visitors to Challis, over 70% of respondents said that they desired more recreation-based events including competitive runs, off-road single track motorcycles rides, and OHV rides (question 13).

The partnerships created through the Challis Trails Committee have developed based on long-standing relationships between all agencies, entities, and organizations in the community. Community members in a rural town often wear many “hats” and that is evident in the roles that members of the committee serve. It is the hope of the committee that these partnerships continue to adapt to growth and change in the future economic development of Challis. An emphasis on recreational trail development can help support this. The Challis Trails Action Plan will provide community members with a framework for how the vision of growth and development can be addressed and sustained in the way that residents desire.

### **Health & Wellness/Physical Activity**

Challis is a community surrounded by accessible public lands where residents and visitors to the valley can venture onto the trails. Promoting an active lifestyle that includes time outside, walking, hiking, jogging and biking will increase the overall health of the community. Over 30% of the American population doesn't exercise at all and 69% of Americans are overweight or obese. The cost of cardiovascular disease and stroke in the US is \$329 billion per year with 1 in 3 American adults suffering from heart disease or strokes.

Part of the answer to these problems is living a healthy lifestyle which includes daily exercise. The benefits of biking, walking or running include preventing or improving chronic health conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, arthritis and depression. It improves balance and coordination as well as muscle tone and bone health. It has also been shown to counteract the effects of the obesity genes, decrease sweet cravings, reduce the risk of cancers and boost the immune system in fighting off the flu and cold viruses.

By making it easier for people to walk around town and access the public lands directly from town, it encourages the regular use of the trails. Making the trails a system for various modes of transportation and skill levels will encourage people of all ages and abilities to find a form of exercise to fit their needs and improve the overall health of the community.

The Challis Community Trails Questionnaire showed that over 90% of the questionnaire participants feel that trails are a good way to get exercise and the same number thought that trails were helpful in reducing stress and improving mental well-being.

### **Alternative Transportation and Access to Public Lands**

Trails can offer a pleasant and efficient way to get around. Alternative transportation opportunities are an important benefit of a more developed in-town trail network. Approximately 55% of questionnaire respondents agreed or strongly agreed that trails provided a good alternative to cars. Trails used for alternative transportation provide access and a greater level of connectivity to public lands surrounding the community. The multiple-use emphasis of the community trails around Challis help to enhance access for all user groups.

People taking the questionnaire stated that there is limited trail head access (17%), they had to travel too far to access trails (45%), or that they did not know where the trails were because there was not enough information out there or they are new to town. The trail heads and information center outlined within this plan will aid community members and visitors to the area in accessing existing and future trail developments.

### **Becoming a Trail Town**

A Trail Town is a destination along a long-distance trail, or an information center for a large system of trails. Successful trail towns meet the needs of both residents and visitors. They have vibrant downtowns, pedestrian friendly streets, plenty of parking, safe routes to schools, and good wayfinding and information centers that orient people of all ages and abilities to the surrounding trails.

Located in the center of the Upper Salmon River Valley between Stanley and Salmon—and surrounded by public lands and a wide choice of trail types--Challis is an ideal Trail Town. Challis has the potential to provide access to an increasingly interconnected network of multi-use trails.

The Challis Community Trails Committee believes that trails should be an integral and important part of the community, with safe streets for walking, bicycling, walking dogs, pushing strollers and generally “getting around town.” We know that visitors also want to venture off the trails to enjoy the scenery, services, and heritage of this unique community.

In developing this trails plan, the committee looked for opportunities to make connections to regional long-distance trails, close gaps on existing trails, and consider new types of trails—like mountain bike trails and a water trail. Ideally the Challis trail system should provide trails for multiple and specific uses, different experience levels, and little conflict among trail users.

### **Adopting and Incorporating the Trails Plan**

The Challis Trails Committee will work with city and county official to move towards officially incorporating the trails plan into any existing or future travel or transportation plans. This will help to anticipate and address future needs within the city and the county. It will be essential that the trails plan

compliments and fits with any existing plans. This will also hold true for city parks and recreation planning efforts.

Cooperation with private landowners influenced or impacted by trails in the Challis area will also be imperative to the success of the trails system as a whole. It will be the goal of the trails committee to actively involve interested landowners and community members at all stages of trail planning and development. Community by-in for this trails plan will ensure its future and sustainability.



## ***Actions & Priorities for the Community Trails System***

### **Challis Community Trails Branding**

A trail system map will be essential in helping to brand the Challis Community Trails. A map of where users can access trails and travel from town to their desired recreation areas was a main focus at the beginning of the trails planning process. Businesses in town are frequently asked for an orientation map, and this will be a high priority for the trails committee. As mentioned, the larger foundation map has been created by the Challis Chamber and partners. This map is one of many that will serve the public to locate their out-of-town destination trails. A map for trails within the town that combines safe routes to businesses, the Challis Walking Path, the Golf Course Trail, etc. will greatly benefit both residents and visitors to town.

The development of a logo to help brand the Challis Community Trails will be helpful in promoting the trail opportunities available in the area. A logo can help unify the trails effort and create a visual cue for recreationists when they come to our trails town. The development of a logo will be a high priority for the trails planning effort and could be realized by various routes including contracting with a graphic designer or an in-house production. The committee will look into grants to help develop a professional logo.

Trail signage is a key to navigating trails in unfamiliar terrain and also serves to reinforce/ reassure positive behavior. Trail signage will be reflective of existing trail and road signing on the surrounding lands (federally and state signed systems) to provide for consistency in interpretation and avoid confusion. They will be carsonite and as a minimum will be labeled with trail names and authorized uses. Grants will also be pursued for this.

Kiosks associated with the project will all be very similar (to each other) with respect to design and information presented. Included will be an overall system map of trails with a “you are here” designation for orientation. Other, or alternate, Trailhead Locations should be identified. Individual trail information included on the map might be terrain, trail names, trail rating (easy, intermediate, advanced), trail length and types of travel permitted (motorized, non-motorized, etc). Other information

### *Action Priorities:*



Green- Immediate Actions: these trails or actions are ready to be implemented within the next one to two years.



Yellow- Near Term Actions: these trails or action will require funding or access and could be implemented within 1-10 years



Red- Long Term Actions: these trails or actions may take longer to implement, 10-20 years or longer.

As funding potential for any project arises, priorities and needs will be re-evaluated by the current Challis Trails Committee members. This priority rating system will help maintain focus for trails development and action implementation and allow accomplishments to occur as resources allow.

on Kiosks may include sponsoring government and private entities as well as trail and trail system rules and emergency contact numbers.

Strategies for outreach and promotion will need further development. Questionnaire results indicate that recreationists in the area get information through a variety of formats, relying heavily on friends (65%), the internet (55%), and federal agencies such as the Forest Service and BLM. Approximately 65% of respondents said that a map is their main source of information, emphasizing the importance of an overall system map to distribute to trail users. The trails committee will work with local, regional, and state tourism avenues to distribute the recreation opportunities available in the area. This will help brand the city of Challis as a “trails town”, or an area where people can go to get to the center of a large network of multiple use trails and find the information that they need to have a quality recreation experience. Websites will be developed that promote the varied outdoor activities available here year-round.

### **Challis Community Trails Sustainability**

Ongoing support and participation by Challis community members and the surrounding area is critical to the success and vitality of the Challis Community Trails Action Plan. To keep the public informed of trail happenings and any new updates, the Challis Trails Committee will publish news releases, post information to the City of Challis and Challis Chamber webpages, in addition to continued meetings throughout the year. It is the goal of the committee to host the Trails Summit annually, in conjunction with the Challis Health Fair. This will provide an opportunity to spotlight trails and trail developments. This could also be an opportunity to hold volunteer trail maintenance or construction days, trail etiquette forums (Leave No Trace demonstrations), etc. Other events and activities will be held to provide local citizens with more information about the trails network, as well as to present them with opportunities to participate in its development and maintenance.

Trail Maintenance will ultimately remain the responsibility of the land manager (i.e. BLM, USFS, IDPR, City of Challis, etc). The Trails Committee will endeavor to assist the respective land managers by identifying potential partners and assisting/ leading in the preparation of funding and grant requests that will support maintenance and/ or construction of trails. The Committee may also assist in developing and organizing a volunteer network to perform basic trail maintenance and construction.

Collaboration with other regional trail groups, outfitters, non-profit organizations, and other agencies will be essential to the sustainability of the Challis Community Trails. The Salmon Idaho Mountain Bike Association (SIMBA) has expressed their desire to expand their area of influence and include the greater Salmon River Valley area towns (like Challis). This organization should be recognized as a volunteer resource to assist with recommended management and maintenance of the Challis trail system. Local volunteers can participate individually or through association with SIMBA or another group. Youth groups will continue to play a large role in the development and maintenance of area trails. This can be accomplished through cooperation with federal and state land management agencies for on the ground work.

It will be important for the Challis Trails Committee to continue into the future in order to maintain the sustainability and forward momentum of trails development and planning. This could be accomplished by moving the committee under the umbrella of an existing non-profit group, creating a new non-profit, a friends group, or continuing on as an ad-hoc coalition. The voice of the trails system will need to be carried forward through some avenue. This will be important to provide opportunities to apply for various grants or other funding opportunities that might not be available to federal agencies involved in the trails plan.

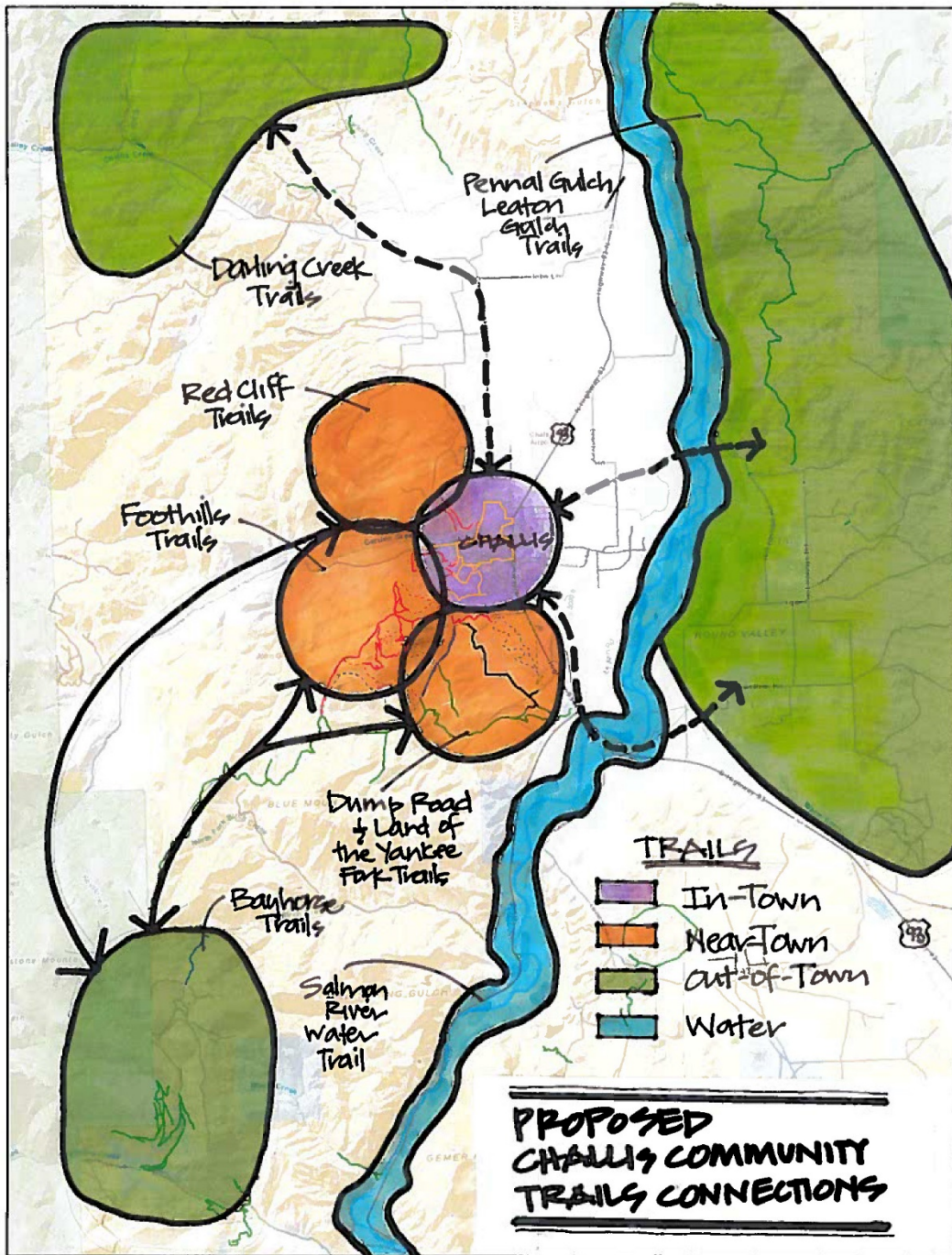
Funding is critical to the success of this trails plan. It is the specific goal of the trails committee to secure trail funds through means other than local taxes or fees at trailheads or on the trails. There are a variety of funding and grant opportunities available for projects at the local, state, and federal levels. Grant programs that focus on community development and sustainability, health and wellness, youth involvement, and transportation infrastructure will be especially important to this effort. Local businesses and organizations will also be approached for contributions to the trails through “sponsorships” or other means. Grants and funding will be sought on an as-needed basis to complete the various priorities and phases of the Trails Plan.

The Challis Trails Committee understands and recognizes that the development of trails and systems outlined in this plan will occur incrementally, as opportunity and funding are available. It is important to start implementation early to show action and process on this plan. This will help build community support, garner future funding possibilities and continue the momentum created by the committee. Trail benefits will be recognized sooner if early action items can be accomplished upon completion of this plan. The plan outlined here is adaptive and should be reviewed annually.

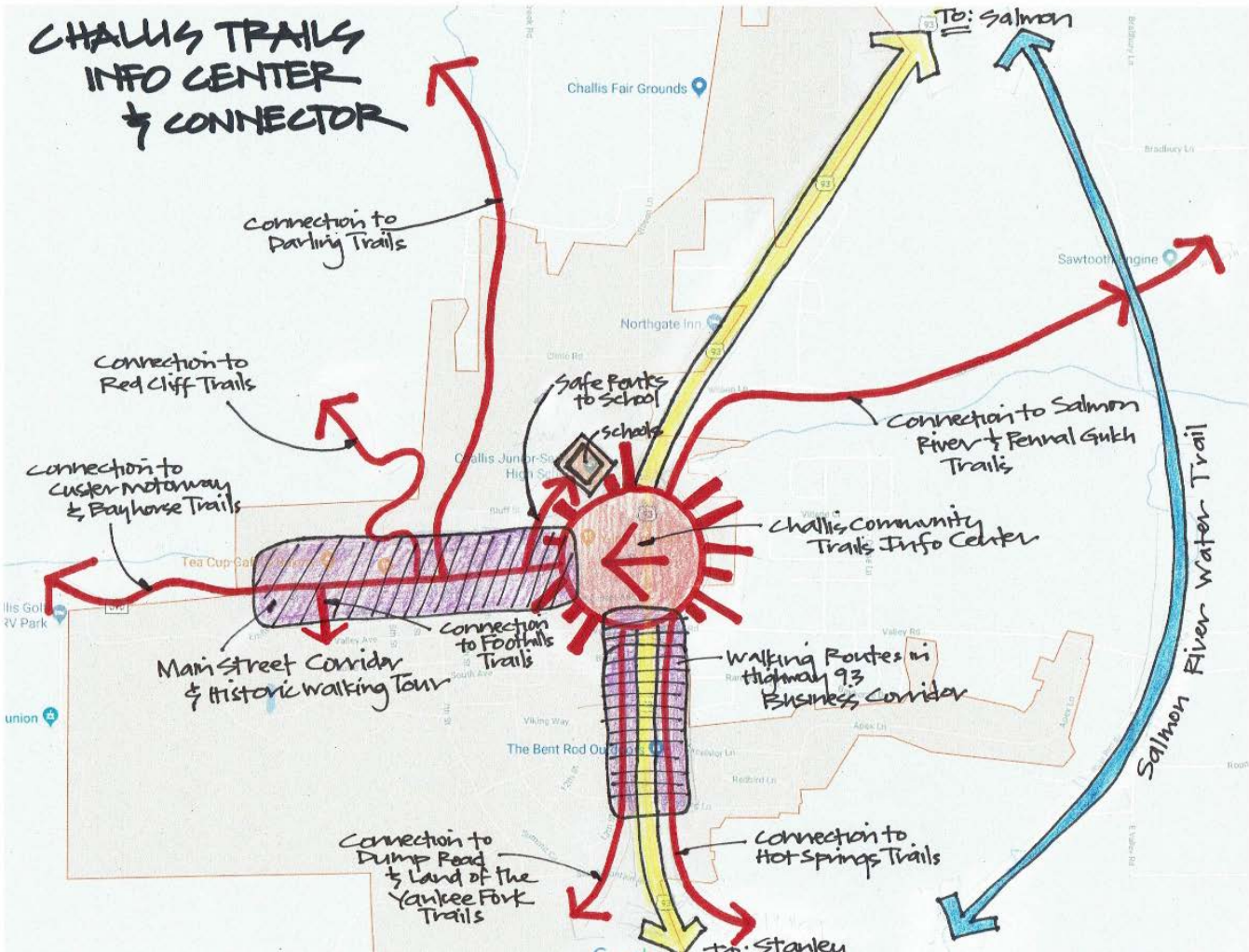


**Challis Community Trails Connections**

The map below shows the Challis Trails Town concept for an integrated trail system based around Challis as a center and connector for in-town, near-town and out-of-town trails.



**★ Challis Community Trails Information Center and Connector**



- Create a central trail information center at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 93 on city park land located on both sides of the Y intersection at the bottom of Main Street; existing amenities at the park include parking, picnic tables/shelters, interpretive panels, a *Welcome to Challis* sign, mature trees, manicured grass, and ample parking opportunity.
- Develop a comprehensive site plan for the new Trails Info Center that considers pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow, and includes potential new trailhead features/amenities such as delineated parking spaces that accommodate all vehicle types (i.e. passenger, truck and trailer, camper trailer), universally accessible restrooms, potable water, additional picnic tables/benches, etc.

- Incorporate the design for new sidewalks extending from current end-points at Y-intersection that continue west along Main Street and south along both sides of Highway 93 to create safe routes to schools and pedestrian-friendly, barrier-free access to businesses.
- Create trail connections from the Info Center that link to the Land of the Yankee Fork Trail, Hot Springs Trails, and Salmon River Water Trail.
- Create a large information kiosk as a central feature of the site that showcases Challis Community Trail opportunities and access, including:
  - Location/ orientation map
  - Trail Access Options including: In-Town trailheads, Near-Town trailheads, Out-of-Town Trail access points, Water Trail access sites
  - Trail map/ brochure box
  - Map/contact information for other sources of trail information in town: USFS, BLM, LOYF Visitor Center, City Hall, Chamber of Commerce, other businesses
  - Other town information

**Trailhead Locations**

- In addition to the central “hub”, additional trailhead locations will be incorporated to facilitate access to the trail system from multiple locations. This will make access to trails more readily available for users in (and out) of town and allow them to get onto their trails of interest.
- Develop an integrated system of trail heads to support the multiple-use and specialized trails proposed in the trails plan.
- Develop standardized trail maps for each location, providing wayfinding information in town and on maps, brochures and websites that helps people easily find the trails they want to use.



**★ Challis Info Center (TH#1; proposed)**


- Accesses Main Street Corridor, Highway 93 Business Corridor, LOYF
- Restroom potential
- Picnic tables and shade shelters present
- Parking for 20 cars, no trailers
- Trail system info/signage needed. Interpretive panels about town/ area history

**Challis Walking Trails (TH #2)**

- Accesses Eagle View, Foothills Trails, Challis Walking Trail, Highway 93 Business Corridor, Main Street Corridor
- Parking for 3-6 cars
- Trail signage/kiosk

 **Blue Mountain/Fishing Pond (TH #3)**

- Accesses Fishing Pond, Golf Course, Blue Mountain, Foothills Trails, Challis Walking Trails
- Vault toilet available
- Parking for 30 cars
- Trail signage/kiosk present

 **Foothills (TH #4; proposed)**

- Accesses Eagle View, Foothills Trails
- Restroom potential
- Parking for 50 potential cars
- Trail signage/kiosk potential

**Dump Road TH (remove)**

- This existing undeveloped trail head will be replaced with the proposed Foothills Trailhead (#3)

**Buffalo Jump (TH#5)**

- Accesses Eagle View, Lombard Trails
- Trail system info/signage

**Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center (TH #6)**

- Accesses Lombard, Challis Info Center Trails
- Restrooms available for Idaho State Park pass holders (pass available for purchase on-site, one day or annual)
- Parking for cars
- Trail signage/kiosk present
- Dump station

**Challis Bridge Day Use Area (TH #7)**

- Accesses Salmon River Water Trail and BLM ATV/UTV/ Motorcycle practice arena and motorized interpretive trail
- Vault toilet available
- Parking for 15 cars and trailers
- Developed boat ramp
- Trail signage/kiosk present; see page 42 for other water trail access sites (trail heads)

**Red Cliffs Trailhead (TH #8; proposed)**

- Need to develop an access along Challis Creek Road near Main Street and access uptown along 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to allow loop hikes and to encourage walking and possibly mountain biking access to the trails in the cliffs area north of town.
- Look at state grant money available for developing public access trailheads to the BLM lands in this area.



**In-Town Trails** (purple) are generally located within the town of Challis, including a portion of the area east of Highway 93. The Trail Information Center is also located within this bubble.

**Near-Town Trails** (orange) are located just outside the community of Challis, around the outside edge of the In-Town trails, and directly connected to them. The three distinct areas include Red Cliff Trails; Foothills Trails; and Dump Road & Land of the Yankee Fork Trails. There are many existing trails in the Near-Town areas, and the trails plan recommends more connections and potential new trails. The Red Cliffs Trails area has been identified as offering future opportunities for development with respect to trails for all types and levels of users. At this time, these opportunities are currently limited until a public point of access can be secured.

**Out-of-Town Trails** (green) are located furthest away from the town center. The three distinct areas include the Darling Creek trail system; the Pennal/ Leaton Gulch trail system; and the Bayhorse trail system. These areas represent the places we would like to create and foster more connections to from the Challis Trail Town center. A majority of the trails in these Out-of-Town areas are motorized trails that support both motorcycle single track and ATV/UTV use. Also included in this section is the area above the Hot Springs and around Leaton Gulch and extending east above the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Corrals, which offers numerous multiple use trails that are open much of the year due to the southern exposure. These trails offer spectacular views of the Challis volcanics, the Lost River Range and the Round Valley. Developing easy access to this area via a multiple use trail from town, crossing the Salmon River to the Hot Springs housing development would add a large area to the trails system that can be accessed from town.

**Salmon River Water Trail** (blue) depicts a proposed 49-mile water trail between Clayton and Ellis, primarily for non-motorized water craft. Challis residents and visitors are increasingly asking where they can get on the Salmon River near Challis for water recreation. Designation of a water trail is one way to bring recreation providers and outfitters together to provide information about access sites, experience levels, water conditions, river etiquette and respect for private lands—among many other things. The water trail has been divided into five smaller reaches (sections) of varying lengths. Adding a water trail to the Challis Trail Town concept further diversifies the kind of trail experiences and support the city and trail partners can provide for everyone.

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*The maps in the following sections show the existing and proposed trails that were analyzed and carried forward as part of this planning process. The areas identified as proposed trails are not formally designated and have not been through any planning process other than the effort of this committee. They represent the potential opportunities identified through public comments and the trails questionnaire. Additional maps represent the specific trails within each outlined area. The trails listed on the map correspond to the trails outlined in the following text.*

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## ***Actions & Priorities for Individual Trails***



### **Trail and Use Types**

#### **City Walking**

City walking paths are any routes found within the City limits. They can be paved sidewalks, a soft-surface gravel path, or a roadway. They are suitable for all levels of walking and follow the topography of town, which can be sloping or hilly in some areas. The trails committee is proposing further development of walking opportunities within the city to create more access to businesses, schools, health centers, and area parks. All user levels.

#### **City Bicycling/E-Biking**

Biking within the city is defined by the roadways and pathways accessible to a non-motorized bicycle or an electronic bicycle. This includes any road in the city, as well as the Challis Golf Course pathway. Though electronic bikes (e-bikes) are fairly new, the Trails Committee would like to offer opportunities for people to use their e-bikes around town. Specific regulations for these types of motorized bicycles will be discussed in the future.

#### **Single Track Non-motorized**

There are many miles of single-track mountain bike trails that are adjacent to the Challis Golf Course path. These trails area defined within the Foothills Near-Town trails area. Additionally, mountain bikes can be used on any other trail or roadway as desired. Hiking is encouraged on many trails in town and out of town. Equestrian use is currently allowed on all trails in and around town. There may be opportunity to increase access to trails for this user group if the desire arises within the community.

#### **Single Track Motorized**

The City of Challis allows motorcycle use within town. There are currently a few trails in the Near-Town trails areas that are designated as single-track motorized and the trails committee is proposing additional trails available for this type of use.

#### **50" or Less Motorized**

Atvs and UTVs are included in this category of use. Motorized trails are designated by the land management agency where they reside. There are numerous motorized trails in and around Challis. The City of Challis allows motorized off-road vehicles within city limits. The trails committee would like to provide more opportunities for this type of recreation use.

#### **Water Trail**

A water trail is a water route that connects access points and destinations on the water that are suitable for human-powered boats like canoes, rafts, paddleboards and kayaks, as well as for recreational motorized watercraft. Water trail amenities include launch and landing sites and facilities; picnic and day-use areas, and sometimes camping areas. The trails committee is proposing promoting and enhancing a water trail on the Salmon River between Clayton and Ellis.

# CHALLIS IN-TOWN TRAILS

## Existing

Trail Name: **Historic Challis Walking Tour**  
Trail Beginning/End/Total Length: Variable walking routes along city sidewalks and streets, with a total of 54 cultural/historical sites

Trail Access Location(s): Main Street  
Trail Surface: Concrete sidewalks, paved and gravel streets

Trail Grade: flat to sloping  
Type(s) of Use: walking, strolling, bicycling  
General experience level: generally easy (some uneven surfaces and curbs)



Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail:  
Consider updating the current walking guide publication (produced by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the North Custer County Historical Society and Challis Area Chamber of Commerce) and reformatting as a color booklet and web document available on city and trail partner websites. This walking tour could be complemented with other in-town walking routes highlighting topics such as tree/plant types/identification; art and garden design; and other themes/stories unique to Challis.

Trail Name: **Challis Walking Path/ Blue Mountain Walking Trail**

Trail Beginning/End: Begins on Highway 93 at the Challis Trails Trailhead (#2), ends at the Blue Mountain Fishing Pond Trailhead (#3)

Total Length: 1.0 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Anywhere in town along the trail, including 7<sup>th</sup> Street Access, 10<sup>th</sup> Street Access

Trail Surface: gravel/ roadway

Trail Grade: ~2-6%

Type(s) of Use: walking, strolling, bicycling

General experience level: Beginner



Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add kiosk with trail information, signs from town, proposed development of more walking paths/ sidewalks across Highway 93 to access Round Valley housing developments, safe crossing of Highway needed. Proposed development of picnic/ rest area on the Peck’s Hill vantage area with trail developments to location (city owned property). Proposed developments of walking path access to the Red Cliffs proposed trails (access needed).

## *Action Priorities:*



**Green-** Immediate Actions: these trails or actions are ready to be implemented within the next one to two years.



**Yellow-** Near Term Actions: these trails or action will require funding or access and could be implemented within 1-10 years



**Red-** Long Term Actions: these trails or actions may take longer to implement, 10-20 years or longer.

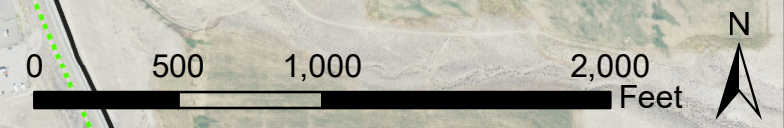
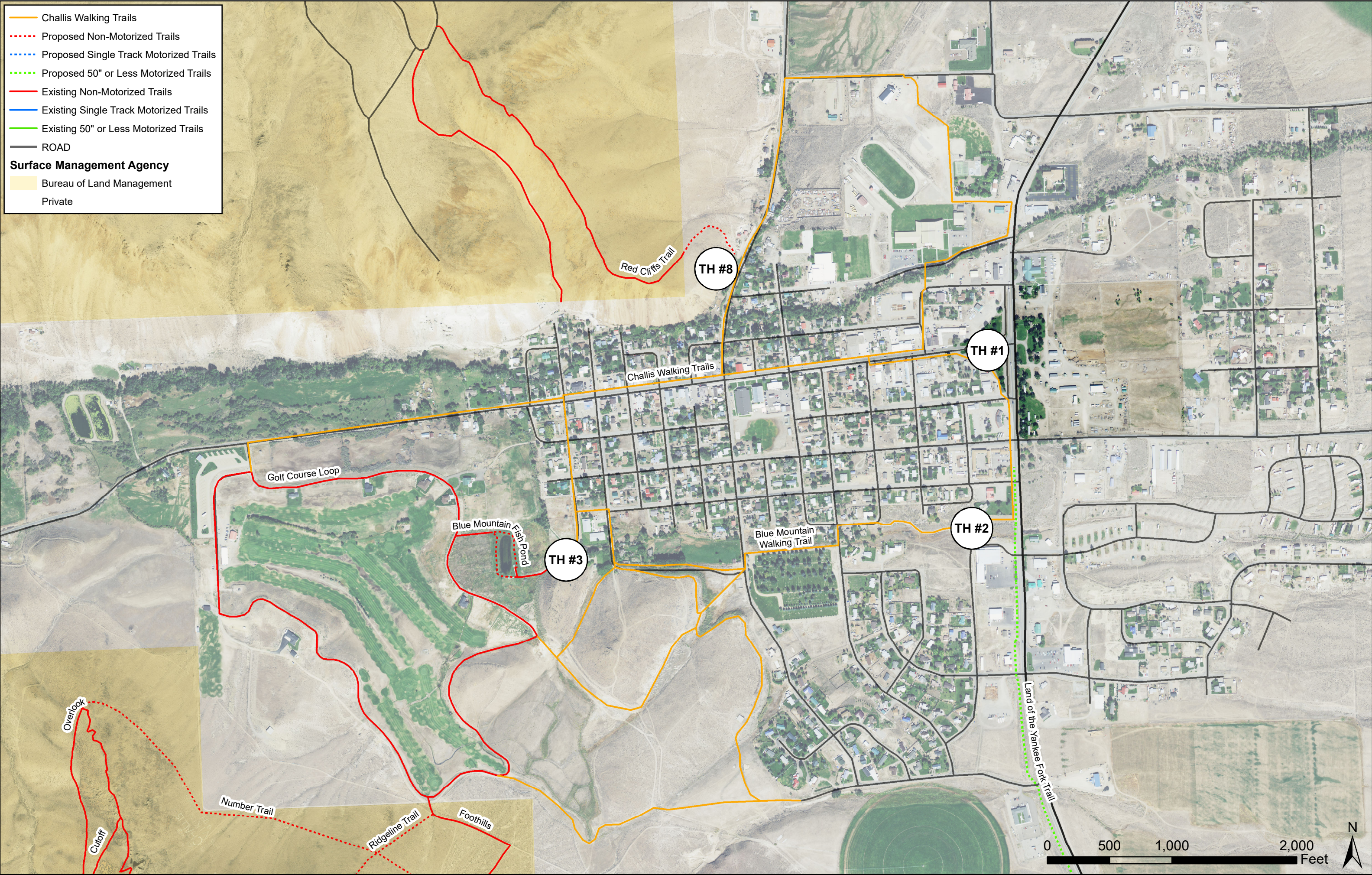
As funding potential for any project arises, priorities and needs will be re-evaluated by the current Challis Trails Committee members. This priority rating system will help maintain focus for trails development and action implementation and allow accomplishments to occur as resources allow.



- Challis Walking Trails
- - - Proposed Non-Motorized Trails
- - - Proposed Single Track Motorized Trails
- - - Proposed 50" or Less Motorized Trails
- Existing Non-Motorized Trails
- Existing Single Track Motorized Trails
- Existing 50" or Less Motorized Trails
- ROAD

**Surface Management Agency**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private





**Trail Name: Golf Course Loop**

**Trail Beginning/End:** driving range parking/junction with Emily Lane/ Golf Course Road, Blue Mountain Fishing Pond Trailhead (#3)

**Total Length:** 1.9 mi

**Trail Access Location(s):** Golf Course Parking area, Blue Mountain Fishing Pond Trailhead

**Trail Surface:** paved pathway and roadway

**Trail Grade:** ~2-6%

**Type(s) of Use:** walking, strolling, bicycling

**General experience level:** Beginner

★ **Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail:** Add kiosk with trail information, signs from town, continue paved section around the Blue Mountain Fishing Pond with access to Emily Lane to accommodate strollers or wheelchairs.

**Trail Name: Safe Routes to Schools, Park, Health Center**

**Trail Beginning/End/Total Length:** Variable walking routes along city sidewalks and streets, access across Garden Creek via improved foot bridge

**Trail Access Location(s):** Main Street or anywhere in town on West side of highway

**Trail Surface:** Concrete sidewalks, paved and gravel streets

**Trail Grade:** flat to sloping

**Type(s) of Use:** walking, strolling, bicycling

**General experience level:** generally easy (some uneven surfaces and curbs)

★ **Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail:** Suggest sidewalks along Highway 93 to accommodate safe travel route from Main Street to Challis School roads and to City Park with access to playground, skatepark, ball fields, and Challis Area Health Center. Could be accomplished with short sidewalk along highway and continued access through the Challis Community Center property. The route could also be accomplished with the installation of a larger gate and/ or paved sidewalk on the school property.



**Proposed**

**Trail Name: Sidewalks and Bike Routes**

**Trail Beginning/End/Total Length:** Variable walking routes along city sidewalks and streets

**Trail Access Location(s):** anywhere in town

**Trail Surface:** Concrete sidewalks, paved and gravel streets

**Trail Grade:** flat to sloping

**Type(s) of Use:** walking, strolling, bicycling

**General experience level:** generally easy (some uneven surfaces and curbs)

★ **Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail:** sidewalks connecting the Main Street corridor with the Businesses along Highway 93 Corridor.

**Trail Name: Main Street/ Info Center to Highway 93 Business Corridor**

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Trail Beginning/End/Total Length: Variable walking routes along city sidewalks and streets

Trail Access Location(s): anywhere in town

Trail Surface: Concrete sidewalks, paved and gravel streets

Trail Grade: flat to sloping

Type(s) of Use: walking, strolling, bicycling

General experience level: generally easy (some uneven surfaces and curbs)



Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add sidewalk connections from the Main Street Business Corridor to the Highway 93 Business Corridor. Safe crosswalks/ routes to get across Highway 93 to access grocery stores, retail stores, brewery, etc. Safe crossing from Round Valley Housing Development area to Main Street and businesses. Approximately 0.50 miles of new sidewalk needed along southeast side of Highway from Info Center (opposite side from ATV/ UTV dirt pathway). Approximately 0.25 miles of new sidewalk needed along northwest side of Highway from Info Center to create safe access to schools, city park, Farmer's Market, Community Center, etc.

**Trail Name: School Campus to Red Cliff Trailhead**

Trail Beginning/End/Total Length: High school campus/ proposed Red Cliff Trailhead (#8) on Challis Creek Road, approximately 0.5 miles

Trail Access Location(s): High school or elementary school, Red Cliff Trailhead

Trail Grade: flat to sloping

Trail Surface: Concrete sidewalks, paved and gravel streets

Type(s) of Use: walking, strolling, bicycling, running

General experience level: generally easy (some uneven surfaces and curbs)



Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Develop route to allow safe access to proposed Red Cliff Trailhead on Challis Creek Road where the cross country team could train for their events.

**Trail Name: Senior Center Walk**

Trail Beginning/End/Total Length: Variable walking routes along city sidewalks and streets

Trail Access Location(s): Sidewalk along Clinic Road that would safely connect the Assisted Living Center, the Health Clinic, Community Center and the Senior Center on Challis Creek Road at the top of Clinic Road hill.

Trail Grade: flat to sloping

Trail Surface: Concrete sidewalks, paved and gravel streets

Type(s) of Use: walking, strolling, bicycling, wheel chair access

General experience level: generally easy (some uneven surfaces and curbs)



Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: paved and delineated sidewalk or off-the-road pathway, safety designations throughout area, slow speed limits posted as needed, etc. Legal access across existing properties if desired. Benches along route, trees planted.

## ★ RED CLIFF NEAR-TOWN TRAILS

### Proposed

The community would like to see expanded motorized and non-motorized opportunities in the Red Cliffs area northwest of town. There are numerous historic routes and animal trails that could be utilized for a quality hiking or mountain biking experience. Access to these trails is not legally possible or feasible from in-town at this time. Additionally, there are no connections that exist at this time to existing designated motorized trails.

Trail Name: **Red Cliff Trail Loop**

Trail Beginning/End: Begin at the spring on Challis Creek Rd/ end at 2nd Street

Total Length: approximately 2 miles

Trail Access Location(s): Spring on Challis Creek Rd (no legal access at this time), Trail access on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (no legal access at this time)

Trail Grade: Steep to ridge then gradual ridge walk and steep down

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: All levels.

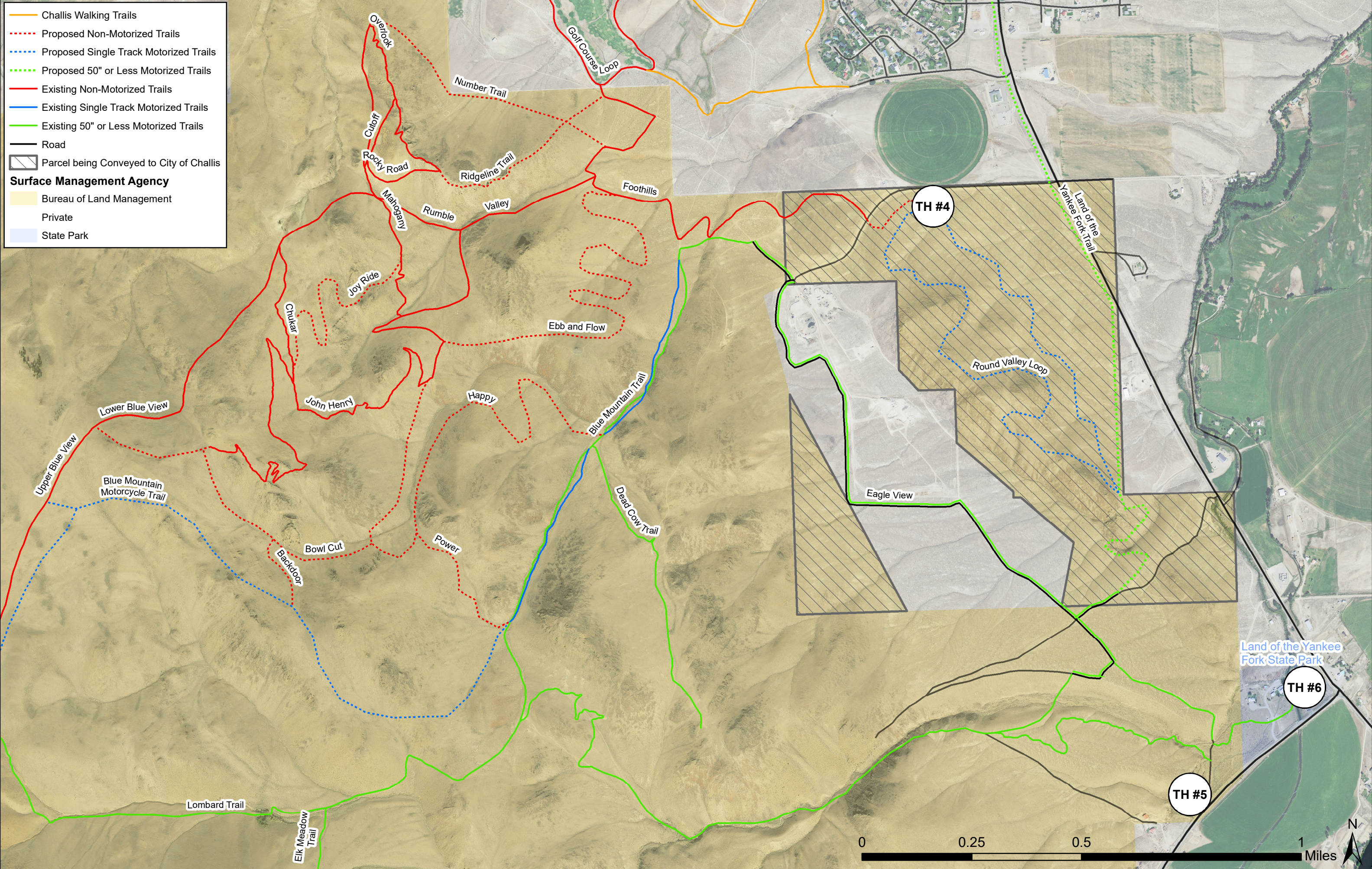
Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Develop strategies for providing legal access from town. Develop a trailhead along Challis Creek road to make safe, easy access for the cross country team and forest service training runs as well as walkers and hikers right from town. Another access point potential is coming down onto the northeast side of town; this would allow for a loop trail with easy access



- Challis Walking Trails
- - - Proposed Non-Motorized Trails
- - - Proposed Single Track Motorized Trails
- - - Proposed 50" or Less Motorized Trails
- Existing Non-Motorized Trails
- Existing Single Track Motorized Trails
- Existing 50" or Less Motorized Trails
- Road
- Parcel being Conveyed to City of Challis

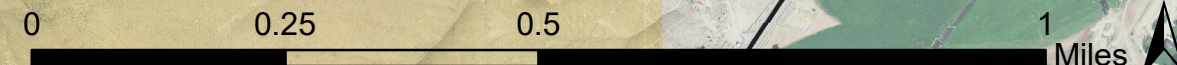
**Surface Management Agency**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State Park



**Surface Management Agency**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State Park



Map labels include trail names: Overlook, Golf Course Loop, Number Trail, Ridgeline Trail, Foothills, Valley, Rumble, Mahogany, Rocky Road, Cutoff, Joy Ride, Ebb and Flow, Happy, Blue Mountain Trail, Dead Cow Trail, Power, Bowl Cut, Backdoor, John Henry, Lower Blue View, Upper Blue View, Blue Mountain Motorcycle Trail, Lombard Trail, Elk Meadow Trail, Eagle View, Round Valley Loop, Yankee Fork Trail, and Land of the Yankee Fork State Park.

Parcel labels: TH #4, TH #5, TH #6.



## **FOOTHILLS NEAR-TOWN TRAILS**

### **Existing**

Trail Name: **Valley**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Foothills Trail/Jct with Mahogany Trail

Total Length: 0.6 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course or Dump Road parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 12%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: intermediate

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage. Improve drainage along length of trail. Re-align the upper half of the trail between the jct with Mahogany trail and the rock feature to decrease grade and take advantage of terrain and slope. This will moderate the climb and descent and make it more rideable/ hikeable.

Trail Name: **Foothills Trail**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Challis Golf Path/Jct with Dump Rd

Total Length: 1.25 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Challis Golf Course and Dump Rd parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 4%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Beginner

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage, Improve drainage

Trail Name: **John Henry**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Valley/Jct with Blue View incomplete

Total Length: 1.84 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course and Dump Road Parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 8%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Intermediate

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage. Improve trail clearances by selective trail widening. Continue trail construction to jct with Blue View (currently stops approx ¼ mile short) of connecting)

Trail Name: **Mahogany**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Valley trail/Jct with Overlook Trail

Total Length: 0.33 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course and Dump Rd parking areas

Trail Surface: natural



Trail Grade: 3%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage. Selective brushing and widening.

Trail Name: **Rumble**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Valley Trail/Jct with Mahogany Trail

Total Length: 0.21 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course and Dump Rd parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 15%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage. Limited trail clearance (brushing). Improve trail tread on upper end (near junction with Mahogany Trail)

Trail Name: **Overlook**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Mahogany Trail/ends at overlook

Total Length: 0.77 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course and Dump Rd parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: up to 12%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage

Trail Name: **Rocky Road**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Overlook Trail/ ends at overlook

Total Length: 0.3 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course and Dump Rd parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 8%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage.

Trail Name: **Lower Blue View**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Upper Blue View/Jct with Mahogany Trail

Total Length: 0.93 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course and Dump Rd parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 15%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage. Improve drainage. Selective trail widening. Complete connection to Chukar Trail

Trail Name: **Upper Blue View**

Trail Beginning/End: jct with Lombard tr/jct with Lower Blue View

Total Length: 0.75 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course parking, Dump Rd parking, LOYF parking

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 5%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Intermediate

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage. Complete connection to upper end of John Henry Trail.

Trail Name: **Chukar**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with John Henry Tr/ Jct with Lower Blue View tr incomplete

Total Length: 0.34 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course Parking, Dump Rd Parking

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 7%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Intermediate

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage. Complete end of trail to connect to Lower Blue View

## **Proposed**

Trail Name: **Back Door**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Lombard Trail/Jct with Upper Blue View incomplete

Total Length: 0.2 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course Parking, Dump Rd Parking, LOYF parking

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 9%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: Add signage. Complete connection to Upper Blue View. Trail widening and clearing. Improve drainage.

Trail Name: **Bowl Cut**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with John Henry or Blue View/ Jct with Happy Trail

Total Length: 0.5 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course, Dump Rd or LOYF parking

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: up to 13%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: New Construction, Layout and construct

Trail Name: **Happy**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with John Henry/ Jct with Blue Mtn

Total Length: 1.5 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course, Dump Rd, LOYF parking

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 4-8%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Intermediate (possibly beginner)

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: New construction. Design, layout and construction

Trail Name: **Power**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Happy/ Jct with Lombard

Total Length: 0.4 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course, Dump Rd, LOYF parking

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: up to 10%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: New Construction. Design, layout and construct

Trail Name: **Ebb and Flow**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with John Henry/ Jct with Foothills Trail

Total Length: 1.5 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course, Dump Rd parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 4-6%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Beginner

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: New Construction. Design, layout and construct.

Trail Name: **Joy Ride**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Chukar/ Jct with Mahogany

Total Length: 0.75 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Golf Course and Dump Rd parking

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: up to 13%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Intermediate

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: New Trail. Design, layout and construct.

## **DUMP ROAD & LAND OF THE YANKEE FORK NEAR-TOWN TRAILS**

### **Existing**

**Trail Name: Eagle View**

**Trail Beginning/End: Foothills Trailhead (#3), LOYF Trail**

**Total Length: 1.5 mi**

**Trail Access Location(s): Foothills Trailhead, Bison Jump Trailhead, LOYF Interpretive Center**

**Trail Surface: natural, gravel roadway**

**Trail Grade: flat to sloping**

**Type(s) of Use: Two Track Motorized**

**General experience level: beginner**

**Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: signage, kiosk information at trailheads**

**Trail Name: Lombard Trail**

**Trail Beginning/End: LOYF Interpretive Center, ends at the Bayhorse Ghost Town Site**

**Total Length: ~ 9.0 mi**

**Trail Access Location(s): Foothills Trailhead or LOYF Interpretive Center**

**Trail Surface: natural**

**Trail Grade: 2-10%**

**Type(s) of Use: 50" or Less Motorized**

**General experience level: beginner, intermediate**

**Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: none**

**Trail Name: Blue Mountain Trail (ATV)**

**Trail Beginning/End: Foothills Trailhead**

**Total Length: 1.5 mi**

**Trail Access Location(s): Foothills Trailhead, Lombard Trail cut-off**

**Trail Surface: natural**

**Trail Grade: 2-6%**

**Type(s) of Use: 50" or Less Motorized**

**General experience level: beginner, intermediate**

**Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: maintenance as needed, consistent signage, kiosks**

**Trail Name: Blue Mountain Trail (Singletrack)**

**Trail Beginning/End: Foothills Trailhead**

**Total Length: ~ 1 mi**

**Trail Access Location(s): Foothills Trailhead, Lombard Trail cut-off**

**Trail Surface: natural**

**Trail Grade: 2-6%**

**Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized**

**General experience level: beginner, intermediate**

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: connect this existing trail with proposed new single-track motorcycle trail to connect further up the Lombard Trail

Trail Name: **Dead Cow Trail**

Trail Beginning/End: Off of the Blue Mountain ATV Trail

Total Length: 0.75 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Blue Mountain ATV Trail

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: sloping to steep

Type(s) of Use: 50" or Less Motorized

General experience level: beginner, intermediate, advanced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: signage, overlook bench or interpretive panel

Trail Name: **Elk Meadows**

Trail Beginning/End: Off of the Lombard Trail

Total Length: 0.7 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Lombard Trail

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: steep, ridgeline

Type(s) of Use: 50" or Less Motorized

General experience level: advanced (motorized)

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: signage, overlook bench or interpretive panel

## **Proposed**

Trail Name: **Round Valley View Singletrack (loop)**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Dump Rd/ Jct with LOYF Trail

Total Length: 2.25 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Dump Rd and LOYF parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 4-8%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Beginner

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: New construction. Design, layout and construction.

Trail Name: **Land of the Yankee Fork Trail**

Trail Beginning/End: Information Center in Town, Land of the Yankee Fork

Total Length: 2.5 mi

Trail Access Location(s): LOYF, Info Center, anywhere in town along Highway 93, Foothills Trailhead

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 2-4%

Type(s) of Use: 50" or Less Motorized, with emphasis on motorized safe access from town to LOYF

General experience level: beginner

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: create designated trail for motorized access from town center to the LOYF trail access points. Include new trail developed through new City lands near Foothills Trailhead, provide access off of the Highway, around gravel pit, and connecting with existing roads above LOFY.

Trail Name: **Blue Mountain Trail (Singletrack connector)/ North Lombard Bypass**

Trail Beginning/End: Jct with Blue View (Upper)/ Jct with Blue Mountain ATV Trail

Total Length: 1.5 mi

Trail Access Location(s): Dump Rd and LOYF parking areas

Trail Surface: natural

Trail Grade: 4-8%

Type(s) of Use: Single Track Non-motorized

General experience level: Intermediate/ Advnaced

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: New construction. Design, layout and construction.



Trail Name: **Hot Springs Subdivision to Challis Connection Trail**

Trail Beginning/End: Begin within the Hot Springs housing subdivision (Round Valley East) and connect across Highway 93 to the trail that begins at the Land of the Yankee Fork and connect to the info center in town

Total Length: ~5.0 mi

Trail Access Location(s): anywhere along the main Hot Springs Road

Trail Grade: gradual

Type(s) of Use: All: motorized, non-motorized, alternative transportation

General experience level: All levels

Trail Improvements or Proposed New Trail: need legal and safe access across Highway 93 near Salmon River Bridge, bicycle lane/ shoulder along Highway. Potential to connect in with proposed Land of the Yankee Fork Trail.

## OUT-OF-TOWN TRAILS

### Bayhorse Trails

Trails in the Bayhorse area provide many opportunities for motorized and non-motorized recreation. The Bayhorse Trail system links the city of Challis to the Bayhorse Ghost town via the Lombard ATV Trail. Rustic Forest Service campgrounds are available at both Big Bayhorse Lake and Little Bayhorse Lake.

### Darling Creek Trails

Trails in the Darling Creek area provide a wide variety of motorized and non-motorized multiple use experiences that are conveniently located in close proximity to the town of Challis. The Darling Creek area provides a ready opportunity to look at trail development or enhancement in areas that are managed by both Forest Service and BLM. The area already contains several single track trails that are extremely popular with motorized and non-motorized users. These include Pats Creek, Eddy Basin and Darling Creek Trails. In addition these trails provide access to those in the West Fork of Morgan Creek and the Morgan Creek area in general, another desirable and sought-after recreation destination.

### Pennal/ Leaton Gulch Trails

Due to the southern exposure and relatively gentle terrain, this area provides a great opportunity to develop trails for all user groups (single track and double track). The area from Pennal Gulch through Leaton and as far southeast as Lime Gulch should be evaluated for development of trail opportunities for all user groups and recreation types. Based on the questionnaire results, there is a strong desire in the community for an increased amount of motorized opportunities and an extended season for these opportunities to take place. The Pennal/ Leaton Gulch area could provide this. Numerous people mentioned this area specifically as their favorite trail system in the “near Challis” area. Expanding opportunities to access these trails may require amending current Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management travel plans.



## SALMON RIVER WATER TRAIL (Proposed)

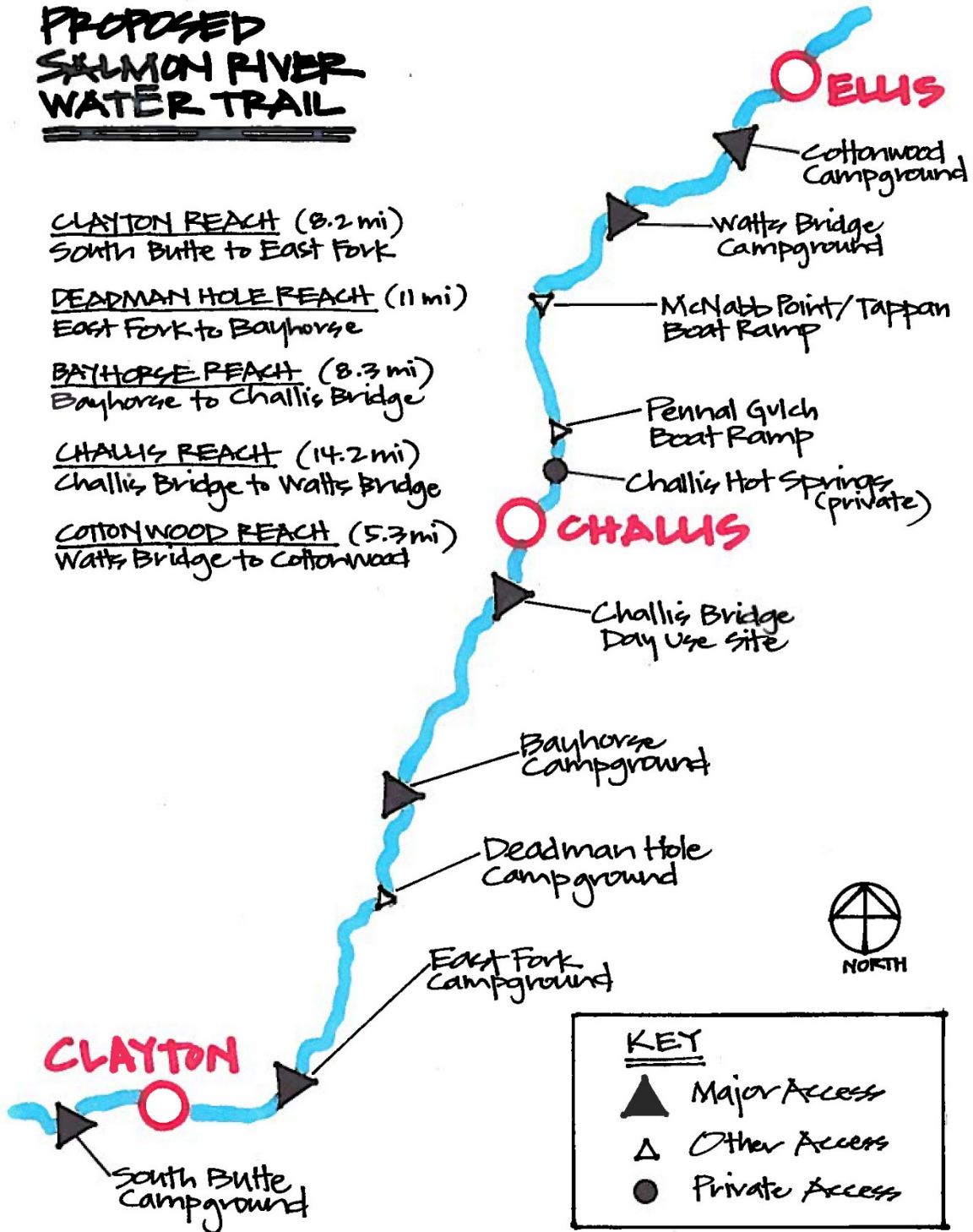
The Trails Committee recommends designating a 47-mile stretch of the Salmon River as a water trail. Five consecutive reaches (sections) are proposed, along with additional access sites within most of the reaches, allowing for shorter day-use experiences. The questionnaire results reported that approximately 26% of respondents enjoy using a water trail, and 18% would like to see more water trail opportunities. Campgrounds along the water trail also make it possible for multiple overnight excursions. The information below for each reach was pulled from three current brochures targeted at slightly different audiences: BLM's Upper Salmon River Boating Guide (East-Central Idaho); Idaho Fish & Game's Upper Salmon River Steelhead Angling Pocket Guide; and Bent Rod Outdoors' Salmon River Float Guide.

### **Water Trail Recommendations**

- Form a Salmon River Water Trail planning committee made up of diverse interests in the river corridor that includes land managers, tribal interests, site owners, businesses, outfitters, citizen advocates, paddling groups, etc. This will be essential for trail collaboration and addressing everything needed to support and promote the water trail, potentially including:
  - trail inventory/outreach to landowners
  - maps/brochures/website info
  - official designation & celebration
  - signage
  - access site improvements or additions
  - use conflicts
  - safety messaging/coordination with law enforcement/ classes via IDPR
  - cultural, historical, & natural resource interpretive info/displays
  - shoreline restoration recommendations
  - stewardship volunteers/river ranger or ambassador program
  - outreach and promotion
  - interface with school curriculums/programs/youth engagement projects
  - summer paddling events; etc.



# PROPOSED SALMON RIVER WATER TRAIL



### **Clayton Reach: South Butte to East Fork**

Total River Miles: 8.2

Beginning Access Site: Idaho Fish & Game boat ramp at South Butte Boat Launch. Access site, no camping at this site.

Ending Access Site: Undeveloped boat ramp across the bridge from East Fork BLM Campground. Tent camping available at town lower sites right on the river. Toilet and other facilities present.

Other launch/landing sites: Access to Clayton from landing site below the town park and old mill site. Can visit the museum, stores and bar in Clayton.

Water Surface: Flat water with multiple riffles, especially at low water (Class 1)

Type(s) of Use: Rafting, kayaking, canoeing

General experience level: some experience helpful for reading the water (novice to experienced)

Reach/Access Improvements: Develop primitive campsite at the South Butte launch site for multi-day trips. Develop the landing site at Clayton. Look at possible camping there to bring tourists to the museum, stores and bar.

Cautions/Hazards: Down trees especially after high run of and braiding of channel in spots.

### **Deadman Hole Reach: East Fork to Bayhorse**

Total River Miles: 11

Beginning Access Site: Undeveloped boat ramp across the bridge from East Fork BLM Campground, river left. Two campsites on the river at the East Fork Campground, river right.

Ending Access Site: BLM boat ramp at Bayhorse Campground, river right.

Other launch/landing sites: Possible primitive campsite on BLM land, river left, approximately .5 miles below East Fork Campground.

--Deadman Hole: BLM boat ramp at Deadman Hole Campground; 7.4 miles downriver, river right.

Water Surface: Flat water with multiple riffles especially at low water, some braiding of the river at low water (Class 1 and 2)

Types of Use: Rafting, kayaking, canoeing

General experience level: some experience helpful for reading the water (novice to experienced)

Reach/Access Improvements: Need to improve the boat launch at East Fork Bridge. Make campsites more easily accessible at Deadman's Hole for river floaters. Better no to have to carry all their camping gear a long way from landing site.

Cautions/Hazards:

--Diversion Dam river right, approx. 2 miles downriver (from East Fork campground); watch for rocks coming out from right bank, stay to the left. Rapid classes change depending upon water levels.

--Diversion Dam river right, approx. 11 miles downriver (from East Fork campground); watch for rocks coming out from right bank, stay river left.

### **Bayhorse Reach: Bayhorse to Challis**

Total River Miles: 8.3

Beginning Access Site: BLM boat ramp at Bayhorse Campground, river right.

Ending Access Site: BLM boat ramp at Challis Bridge Day Use Site, river right.

Other launch/landing sites: undeveloped launch site at Highway 75 bridge crossing approximately 1 mile downstream from Bayhorse on river right. Put in just above series of Class 2 rapids.

Water Surface: Series of **Class 2** rapids beginning 1 mile below Bayhorse Campground, some braiding also occurs. Multiple riffles.

Types of Use: Rafting, kayaking, canoeing

General experience level: **Moderate experience** advised due to technical nature of rapids and diversion dam taking off in rapids. Rock dodging and navigating required.

Reach/Access Improvements: Improve access at Highway 75 bridge and Birch Creek to allow for easily repeatable run through the rapid section of the river close to town. Campsites at Challis Bridge for multi-day floaters.

Cautions/Hazards:

- Series of Class 2 rapids, approx. 2 miles downriver (from Bayhorse campground)
- Diversion Dam river right, approx. 3 miles downriver (from Bayhorse campground); Need to stay river left which leads through the rapids of this section. Diversion dam appears as more placid water on the right but leads to spillway at the end. Water level can increase hazards.
- Diversion Dam river left, approx. 6 miles downriver (from Bayhorse campground; stay river right).

### **Challis Reach: Challis to Watts**

Total River Miles: 14.2

Beginning Access Site: BLM boat ramp at Challis Bridge Day Use Site

Ending Access Site: Idaho Fish & Game boat ramp at Watts Bridge BLM campground

Other launch/landing sites:

- Challis Hot Springs: private boat ramp; approx. 4 miles downriver (from Challis Bridge)
- Primitive campsite on BLM land river right, approx.. 0.5 mi downstream from Hot Springs
- Pennal Gulch: Idaho Fish & Game undeveloped ramp; 6.4 miles downriver (from Challis Bridge)
- Tappan/McNabb Point: undeveloped ramp; 10 miles downriver (from Challis Bridge)

Water Surface: Flat water with multiple riffles especially at low water, some braiding of the river at low water (**Class 1 and 2**) Sharp bends in the river around the Hot Springs area with multiple braided channels and large numbers of down trees make this stretch more technical.

Types of Use: Rafting, kayaking, canoeing

General experience level: some experience helpful for reading the water (**intermediate to experienced**)

Reach/Access Improvements: Campsites at Challis Bridge Day Use Area for multi-day float trips.

Improved access at McNabb point. Some clearing of trees around the turns at the Hot Springs. Possible campsite for multi-day float trips at Pennal Gulch.

Cautions/Hazards:

- Diversion Dam river right, approx. 3 miles downriver (from Challis Bridge); stay left.
- Diversion Dam river left, approx. 6 miles downriver (from Challis Bridge); stay right.
- Launching at the Challis Hot Springs for a small fee at this time. Camping, which includes the use of the hot springs and boat launch is possible. The lands at the hot springs may need some improvements. It is a difficult section approaching the hot springs with some sharp turns and multiple braids from log jams along the river.
- Access to Pennal Gulch from the highway is through private land; the gate may be locked from sunset to sunrise.

--Use caution and watch for down or partially submerged cottonwood trees on this reach. Multiple sharp bends make reading the water difficult and some channels get choked with downed trees.

**Cottonwood Reach: Watts to Cottonwood**

Total River Miles: 5.3

Beginning Access Site: Idaho Fish & Game boat ramp at Watts Bridge Campground

Ending Access Site: Cottonwood Campground

Other launch/landing sites: primitive campsite on a large island 0.5 miles downstream from Watts Bridge offers sandy beaches, cottonwood forest, views of river otters and bighorn sheep. Need to keep the island on your right.

Water Surface: multiple riffles with fair amount of braiding (Class 1)

Types of Use: Rafting, kayaking, canoeing

General experience level:(novice to experienced)

Reach/Access Improvements: Campsite close to landing site at Watts Bridge for multi-day float trips.

Cautions/Hazards: Need to stay left of the large island below Watts Bridge since the right channel is often blocked by trees that cannot be seen from the beginning of this section.



## APPENDIX

### CHALLIS COMMUNITY TRAILS QUESTIONNAIRE & RESULTS

#### Challis Community Trails Questionnaire

The City of Challis and the Bureau of Land Management are partnering, with assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, to develop a Community Trails Plan for the Challis Area. A steering committee representing diverse trail and community interests is helping us achieve this goal.

Your answers to the following questions will provide vital information input to be used in the planning process for the Trails Plan. Please encourage your friends and family to participate, too, so we can collect lots of feedback.

This Questionnaire is open until August 31, 2018. Thank you for your time!

1. Where do you live?
  - a. Challis area (within city limits)
  - b. Round Valley (west of the Salmon River)
  - c. Round Valley (east of the Salmon River)
  - d. Ellis/ Pahsimeroi
  - e. Clayton
  - f. Mackay
  - g. Stanley
  - h. Other (please enter zip code)
2. How many people in your household (counting yourself) are in the following categories?
  - a. Under age 10
  - b. 10-19
  - c. 20-24
  - d. 25-34
  - e. 35-44
  - f. 45-54
  - g. 55-64
  - h. 65-74
  - i. 75 or older
3. What is your gender?
  - a. Male
  - b. Female
4. Where do you currently get information about trail opportunities? (Check all that apply)
  - a. Apps (like Trails Forks, Strava, etc.)
  - b. Friends

- c. Internet (websites, facebook, etc.)
  - d. Newspapers/ Books
  - e. Maps
  - f. US Forest Service
  - g. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - h. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)
  - i. List other resources below, and any further details about the above answers (ie: which apps, websites, etc. do you use for trail info)
5. What trail activities does your family participate in?
- a. Walk/hike
  - b. Run
  - c. Bicycle
  - d. Mountain bike
  - e. Equestrian
  - f. Motorcycle/ single track motorized
  - g. Four-wheel drive vehicle
  - h. Off-highway vehicle (ATV/ UTV)
  - i. Ski
  - j. Snowshoe
  - k. Boat, canoe, kayak (on waterway routes)
  - l. Other (please specify)
6. What kind of trail experiences do you enjoy? (Check all that apply)
- a. Loop trails
  - b. One-way trails
  - c. Flat trails
  - d. Trails that link one trail system with another (such as BLM and Land of the Yankee Fork State Park, etc.)
  - e. Trails that connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, stores and businesses
  - f. Trails that provide picnic spots
  - g. Trails along rivers, creeks and lakes
  - h. Trails with scenic vistas
  - i. Interpretive trails
  - j. Trails for skill-building
  - k. Fitness trails (with exercise stations)
  - l. Water trails (for paddling, rowing, fishing, etc.)
  - m. Other (please specify)
7. Please rate how often you (and your family) use trails in the Challis Area for the reasons listed below (often, sometimes, never):
- a. Recreation/ exercise
  - b. Commuting to work or school
  - c. Getting around town/ running errands
  - d. Getting out of town for an outdoor adventure
  - e. Other (please specify)
8. Please rate each of the following statements: Trails in the Challis Area....

- a. Increase our community's general quality of life
  - b. Are a good way to get exercise
  - c. Enhance social interaction and community building
  - d. Area a good alternative to cars
  - e. Reduce stress and improve mental well-being
  - f. Are a good way to connect to our outdoor environment
  - g. Provide ways for kids to be active
  - h. Boost economic development for businesses
  - i. Increase home values when located near residences
9. What is your favorite trail or trail system in the Challis Area?
10. If your family has not used trails in the Challis Area within the past 5 years, please indicate why. (Choose all that apply)
- a. I have to travel too far to get to them
  - b. There is limited trail head access (not enough places to get on the trail; not enough parking, etc.)
  - c. I have safety concerns about using the trails (uneven grade, conflict of use, types of users, etc.)
  - d. The trails are not easy to use (they are too steep or used mostly by "expert" hikers, bikers, riders, etc.)
  - e. The trails do not go where I want to go
  - f. I'm not able to walk or bike (due to health concerns)
  - g. I'm not interested in walking or biking
  - h. Other (please specify)
11. What kinds of trails would you like to see more of in the Challis Area? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Soft-surface hiking and running trails
  - b. Backcountry trails
  - c. Mountain bike trails
  - d. Mountain bike skill-building trails
  - e. Paved pathways (like at the City Park and Blue Mountain Kids Fishing Pond)
  - f. Bikeways on roads
  - g. Sidewalks next to roads in town
  - h. Equestrian trails
  - i. Motorcycle/ off-road single tracks
  - j. Motorcycle/ off-road single skill-building racks
  - k. Off-road vehicle tracks (ATV, UTV)
  - l. Water trails (water routes for boats, kayaks, canoes)
  - m. Other (please specify)
12. What suggestions for changes to the trail system around Challis would encourage your family to use trails more often? (Check all that apply)
- a. Locate trails near my neighborhood
  - b. Make the trails safer and easier to use
  - c. Pave more pathways in town
  - d. Create more places to get on the trails
  - e. Build a mountain bike skills park

- f. Build a motorcycle/ single-track motorized skills park
  - g. Create a regular guided walking program
  - h. Set a schedule for trail rides
  - i. Develop new trails or expand existing trails around the city
  - j. Develop new trails or expand existing trails around the county
  - k. Other (please specify)
13. If you do not live in the Challis area, what recreational opportunities would bring you to Challis?
- a. More recreation-based events (competitive runs, off-road single track motorcycle rides, OHV rides, etc.)
  - b. A mountain bike skills park
  - c. A motorcycle/ single track motorized skills park
  - d. More restaurants
  - e. More retail shopping opportunities
  - f. Lodging accommodations that provided recreation equipment rentals
  - g. What else? (please specify)
14. Please tell us what your personal “Dream Trail” or “most desired trail” would be:
15. Please provide any ideas, comments and concerns you may have about trails in the Challis Area:
16. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please provide your contact information below (optional). We respect your privacy and will not share your information with anyone.
17. Would you be willing to volunteer to help maintain trails or build new trails in the Challis Area? (If yes, please be sure to fill in your contact info above)
18. If you are interested in volunteering, what are your areas of interest or special skills?
- a. Trail planning
  - b. Designing skill building trails
  - c. Trail construction
  - d. Community outreach/ public involvement (newsletters, social media, communications)
  - e. Event planning
  - f. Leading guided walks or rides
  - g. Fundraising
  - h. Volunteer coordination
  - i. other