### City of Kootenai PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES ADOPTION OF 2019 APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

**DATE**: August 22, 2018 **TIME**: 6:00 p.m.

<u>Members Present</u>: Mayor Lewis, Councilman Schock, Councilman Macha, and Councilwoman Bauer via phone presence, Councilman Sundquist was not present.

Staff Present: City Clerk/Treasurer, Ronda L. Whittaker

Others Present: Jeremy Grimm, Program Officer for LOR Foundation and Megan Lawson, Ph.D.

A. Public Hearing - Mayor Lewis opened the public hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Reopen 2018 Appropriations at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call:

Councilman Sundquist – Not Present Councilwoman Bauer – AYE Councilman Macha – AYE Councilman Schock – AYE

Mayor Lewis asked the attendees to turn off their cell phones and advised that if any had signed up to speak, time limit may be imposed. She asked if anyone had signed up to speak. Ronda stated that no one had signed up to speak. She asked the Clerk if proper notice had been given. The Clerk reported that it had. She asked if any of the council members had a conflict of interest with the public hearing. None were reported. She then asked for the presentation by applicant.

- 1. **Presentation by APPLICANT** The City's Clerk/Treasure, Ronda L. Whittaker stated that the City had received additional funds that had not been appropriated and she felt it necessary to open the 2018 appropriations.
- 2. Staff Report No Reports were given.
- 3. Public Testimony In favor of application None
- 4. Public Testimony Neither for or against None
- 5. Public Testimony Opposed to application None
- 6. Rebuttal by Applicant -Councilwoman Bauer clarified that we are opening the budget for 2018. Councilwoman Bauer, "I have a question; I just wanted to just clear this up, so we are re-opening the budget for the \$74,000 back in for the FY 2017/18 correct?" Ronda corrected her stating that the amount was \$76,000 and confirmed her understanding. Councilwoman Bauer, "the Ordinance Number 222 should defray the necessary expenses and liabilities for 2018, but in our earlier conversation, Ronda you said that this money would not even be used until the year FY2020 which we have not even planned for?" Ronda, "we have to open the budget to put in these funds because we have received the funds and we have to let the public know that as we received the funds and we have to offset by the expenses, so we put that offset into the future or a non-categorized budget line and that is just a budget line, but we have to put them into our budget. We will not see the effects of the additional funds until we get our finals in the year of 2019, well I will have the exacts for 2018 probably in October or November when we close out the year and that will be calculated as what we will be able to carry over in the next budget." Councilwoman Bauer, can we use this carryover to offset the taxes?" Ronda, "No." Councilwoman Bauer, "so it's for necessary expenses?" Ronda, "it's because we received more money, so we have to let the public know that we received more money." Councilwoman Bauer, "but don't we have to spend it in the current fiscal year?" Ronda, "we could spend it in this fiscal year if we had a project that was coming up that we had to pay for right now; we could use those funds right now if the ordinance was passed

City of Kootenai Public Hearing Minutes to Consider Re-opening the 2018 Appropriations and to Adopt the Annual Appropriations for FY2019 Page 1 of 5

tonight. We would be able to use those funds if we had a project happening, but we don't and we are not going to have one in this next month." Councilwoman Bauer, "are we going to have to open the budget again next year to keep carryover to future." Ronda, "we may have to; we will have to continue to open our budget if we don't expend our appropriations and we receive more money we are always going to have to open our budget. One of the reasons for this is because of the big building boom that the City was having and it is really, really hard to calculate. You just throw a number out there of what you think is going to come in and then, wow, we have received way more than we thought was going to come in. I mean not only do we have the Seven Sisters project it was coming in from a building spurt from everywhere, everyone just decided to start building onto their homes and building decks, so it wasn't just Seven Sisters it was within the whole community needing to have building permits for their projects. Those funds just come in we can't really calculate. We try to and we try to be conservative because what if the development went in and you projected that you would get 52 building permits estimated at \$2,500 apiece and then the developer decided that they were not going to develop this year or start building this year and you didn't get those funds. So we try to be really lenient when we propose the revenues that may come in from building permits. It's a good thing that we have to open up our budget because we received more money it is not good to have to open the budget because we have spent more money and we have to pull funds from a money market or whatever." Councilwoman Bauer, "but it says right here that we are opening it for necessary expenses and liabilities and there aren't any necessary expenses or liabilities we are just reopening it because it's in there." Mayor, there is a line item for future expenditures." Councilman Schock, "my understanding, from the last workshop, is we have to take money in for building permits; there are engineer fees, city planner fees, etc. all that is going to be an expense higher than what we were planning, so some or most of it will be expended before the end of the project." Mayor asked if there was any further discussion. Councilwoman Bauer stated she had no more to add. Ronda, "I am sorry that it seems so confusing. Maybe this next year you could come to the L-2 training that is provided by the County just for your own information so that you could maybe get a little bit more of an understanding as to how this procedure goes." Councilwoman Bauer agreed and asked that when Ronda gets legal advisement from our attorney that it be forwarded to her so that she could see the statute, which will help her understand it and keep it together. Ronda stated that she also received guidance from the Association of Idaho Cities, she has a lot of guidance and felt confident about that guidance.

7. Closure - Mayor Lewis closed the public hearing at 6:16 p.m.

Deliberation to consider reopening the 2018 Appropriations— Mayor asked if there was further discussion. There was none. Mayor Lewis asked for a motion for the City to adopt the Ordinance to reopen the 2018 Appropriations as provided, Councilman Schock made a motion to place the proposed ordinance relating to amending the 2018 Appropriations on its first and only reading by title only, while under suspension of the rules, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Macha; roll call vote:

Councilman Sundquist – Not Present
Councilwoman Bauer – NAY

Councilman Macha – AYE
Councilman Schock – AYE

Ronda stated that we did not have a quorum at this point. Councilwoman disagreed. Councilman Schock stated that we did not have a consensus. At this point, it was advised that the City put aside the Ordinance to address Councilwoman Bauer's concerns with a legal opinion.

B. Public Hearing - Mayor Lewis opened the public hearing to Consider FY 2019
 Appropriations Ordinance at 6:16 p.m.
 Roll Call:

Councilman Sundquist – Not Present Councilwoman Bauer – AYE Councilman Macha – AYE Councilman Schock – AYE

City of Kootenai Public Hearing Minutes to Consider Re-opening the 2018 Appropriations and to Adopt the Annual Appropriations for FY2019 Page 2 of 5

Mayor Lewis asked the attendees to turn off their cell phones and advised that if any had signed up to speak, time limit may be imposed. She asked if anyone had signed up to speak. Ronda stated that no one had signed up to speak. She asked the Clerk if proper notice had been given. The Clerk reported that it had. She asked if any of the council members had a conflict of interest with the public hearing. None were reported. She then asked for presentation by applicant.

- 8. Presentation by APPLICANT The City's Clerk/Treasure, Ronda L. Whittaker stated that the City had had two workshops prior to the Public Hearing going over the City's budget line by line with a lot of conversation. She stated that before them were the calculations that come from those workshops. She stated that she had given Council a copy of the L-2 worksheet which is how the taxes are calculated. She explained that the market value of City properties are used which is given to us by the County which seems to be delivered at the very last minute so it is hard during the workshops to really calculate that. She said that we get preliminary figures to work with but that the finals are what is used. She calculated the correct numbers and had send it to the County Assessor to make sure that the correct figures were used and stated that he had stated that all was accurate. She advised that the Assessor is who the City will send the final L-2 to certify the taxes. She stated that she does that every year in advance to make sure all is correct. She advised that the calculation provided that the City will receive \$50,601 in property taxes but that she only calculated \$50,000 within the City's Budget as some people may not pay their taxes. She advised that she had taken the City's Engineer and Planner's advise to consider revising the revenues and expenses of building permits and subdivisions.
- 9. Staff Report No Reports were given.
- 10. Public Testimony In favor of application None
- 11. Public Testimony Neither for or against None
- **12.** Public Testimony Opposed to application None
- 13. Rebuttal by Applicant Councilwoman Bauer, "a couple of months ago they discussed adding in some money to provide City Code Books for Council members who would like them and we kind of glossed over that and it seems like I am the only Council Member who is interested in having one so is there any way we could add another \$100 to the Budget to accommodate that." Mayor, "no, we cannot at this time as we have had our Budget workshops and if you remember a resident of the City did not like that expense at all and this can be brought up at another Council Meeting. We have already set the Budget, we can't add any more to it now it's already been published." Ronda asked Mayor if she could speak. Mayor approved. Ronda explained that when we go through the budget workshop line by line those are just a guidance of how the City would like to spend their money and how much comes in. The Ordinance is just the bottom line and is what is published of our budget that really matters and we have to just make sure that we do not go over that budget or we have open the budget and put more in or if we receive more money we have to open the budget and let the public know that we have received more money. So you don't have to add more money, you would just have to take it from another budget line item. Councilwoman Bauer, "could make a motion to pass the City's Appropriations with a condition that a line item be added for Code Books." Ronda explained that the worksheet was only for the City to direct how it wants to spend its revenues and that the Ordinance gives the bottom line revenues and expenditures, it does not address the worksheet budget line items. Mayor stated that it would have to be brought up at another Council meeting to move forward if that is what Council wants. We can't change the budget now after we have already had it published. Mayor asked if there was any other discussion. There was none.
- 14. Closure Mayor Lewis closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

**Deliberation to consider reopening the 2018 Appropriations**—There was no other discussion. Mayor Lewis asked for a motion for the City to adopt the FY2019 Appropriations Ordinance as provided, **Councilman Schock made a motion to place the proposed ordinance relating to the** City of Kootenai Public Hearing Minutes to Consider Re-opening the 2018 Appropriations and to Adopt the Annual Appropriations for FY2019 Page 3 of 5

Annual Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2018 on its first and only reading by title only, while under suspension of the rules, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Macha; roll call vote:

Councilman Sundquist – Not Present
Councilwan Bauer – NAY
Councilman Schock – AYE
Councilman Schock – AYE

Ronda, "with all respect Grace we have to pass the budget tonight. Your \$100 question doesn't have anything to do with the bottom line of the Budget. We have to certify our L-2 with the County in a week from now, which does not give the City time to have another Public Hearing to pass its Appropriations. We have had two budget workshops to go over these things. Like I said, your issue can be addressed at this September Council meeting if you would like to have it on the Agenda and you can ask for that "juggle" of the line items on the Budget. It will not affect the bottom line of the budgeted Appropriations. I respectfully ask if you could please consider another motion. Councilwoman Bauer, "could I make an amendment to the motion. It would be the same bottom line it would be to just switch one line item to another." Ronda stated that did not have anything to do with the Budget. Mayor stated that they basically approved the Budget at the last workshop lines as it was and if there were anything to be addressed it should have come before now. Ronda, "but really Grace respectfully we really need to pass this Ordinance now. Your request does not affect the bottom line of the Budget it just doesn't." Mayor agreed. Ronda, "besides that we are putting; we have plenty of money to work with. So I would respectfully ask that you consider your request at the September Council Meeting; have it on the Agenda for discussion and decision and again I respectfully ask if you could consider a second motion. Councilwoman Bauer, I have privately asked for one and was told that I had to pay for it myself." Ronda, "Grace this doesn't have anything to do with passing the Budget." Grace agreed. Ronda, so your argument .. Councilwoman Bauer, "look, we are going down a rabbit trail." Mayor, "it was brought up to Council after Cis made that one remark." Councilwoman Bauer, "I just realized that we could not make adjustment to the line items or the budget on the last day." Ronda, "because the line items do not have anything to do with the bottom line of the Budget; your request does not have anything to do with the bottom line of the budget. The budget is as it is going to be as it is stated the general funds will be \$225,024 and the street funds will be \$100,210 with a total balance of \$325,234 and if you want to bring to Council that you want to change a lien item that is fine; actually you can ask that it come out of this budget since we have not over expended our budget, so you can consider that?" Councilwoman Bauer agreed. A second motion was asked for. Mayor Lewis then asked for a re-motion to consider the FY2019 Appropriations Ordinance. Councilman Schock made a motion to place the proposed ordinance relating to the Annual Appropriations for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018 on its first and only reading by title only, while under suspension of the rules, 2nd by Councilman Macha; roll call vote:

Councilman Sundquist – Not Present
Councilwoman Bauer – AYE
Councilman Schock – AYE
Councilman Schock – AYE

Mayor Lewis asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance. The City's Clerk, Ronda L. Whittaker read the ordinance title.

Mayor Lewis asked for a motion to pass the ordinance.

Councilman Schock made a motion to pass the ordinance relating to the Annual Appropriations beginning October 1, 2018 and to direct the City Clerk to assign the appropriate ordinance number and publish the ordinance by summary only. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Macha; roll call vote:

Councilman Sundquist – Not Present
Councilwoman Bauer – AYE
Councilman Schock – AYE
Councilman Schock – AYE

City of Kootenai Public Hearing Minutes to Consider Re-opening the 2018 Appropriations and to Adopt the Annual Appropriations for FY2019 Page 4 of 5

C. Presentation - Megan Lawson, PhD. - The economic impact of trails in and around the Greater Sandpoint Area. Jeremy Grimm began his introduction stating that he was with the LOR Foundation whose goal is to support rural communities of the Rocky Mountains to improve livability in many ways. He advised that LOR has funded a portion of the Pend Oreille Bay Trail and the Chamber of Commerce and Bonner County Trail mix have been very involved and interested in trails for the community and asked for some research. He advised that LOR had then hired Megan who has been doing research in Bonner County for about 5 years and has collected data addressing as to what other communities are doing and what the costs and benefits of trails, are to rural areas. Megan Lawson explained that she is an economist with Headwaters Economics specializing non-profit research organization doing work in land use, non-market valuation, and statistical models for policy analysis. He went on to explain that her research areas include recreation, ecosystem services, climate adaptation, and demographic and economic trends. She stated that Headwaters was based out of Helena Montana. Megan went on to summarize the attached presentation. Ronda stated that the City did have within their Comprehensive Plan an importance of connectivity and also had a mobility plan in place. She also stated that Mayor Lewis had been working with the City's Planner and Engineer as to how we could utilize the City's wetlands as a potential area trail/walkway/Nordic trail of some sort. Ronda stated that the research here would give factual information to help Council to make a solid decision. She stated that the City had Council such as Councilwoman Bauer who was great at fine tuning and reading the fine print and challenging things, and Councilman Schock who is an Engineer and future Council members who will have questions and will be able to use the research to make solid decisions. Councilwoman Bauer asked if the \$750,000 estimate for further developing of Bonner County trails was a yearly projection. She stated that it was just a little confusing. Was it a projection for Cities or for City and Rural connectivity to the cities. Megan stated that the figures were annual figures; she used a range average. Councilwoman Bauer asked what would be the upkeep for projected trails. Jeremy advised that Councilwoman Bauer go to the Bonner County Trails Plan site to seek more information. Grace asked how the project would be funded. Was it just between the Counties and Cities and land owners and how much will property taxes would be increased. Jeremy stated that things hadn't gotten that far. The momentum of the County Trail Mix had subsided. They need a champion to get things moving. He was hoping the study would help the community to get excited about trails again. He stated that a good way for a City to generate funds for trails may be by implementing impact fees. There were no further questions or discussion.

### Adjournment:

Mayor Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Submitted by:

Ronda L. Whittaker/City Clerk

# **Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet**

DATE: August 22, 2018

Ordinance to Reopen 2018 Appropriations and to Consider FY 2019 TIME: 6:00pm

Hearing for: Appropriations Ordinance

Name	WEDGE GETTING	Meigh Lawson	Ċ						
Address	PRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF STREET	SOS N MONTEMBER THE BOBE MENT							
Phone									
Opposed									
Neutral	X	$\times$							
In Favor Of									

### ORDINANCE NO. 222

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KOOTENAI, IDAHO, AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 218 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2017, APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES THAT ARE TO BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF KOOTENAI, IDAHO IN THE SUM OF \$76,000; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE UPON PUBLICATION.

<u>Section 1</u>. That Ordinance No. 218, the appropriations ordinance of the city of Kootenai, Idaho, for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2017, be and the same is hereby amended as follows:

That the revenue for fiscal year 2018 increase \$76,000 in the general fund from \$174,020 to \$250,020 and that the same amount, \$76,000 is appropriated from the general fund to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the city of Kootenai, Bonner County, Idaho.

<u>Section 2</u>. Tax Levy unaffected. That the tax levy established for the city of Kootenai for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018, shall be unaffected by this ordinance.

<u>Section 3</u>. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

<u>Section 4.</u> This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage, approval and publication in one issue of the Bonner County Daily Bee, a newspaper of general circulation in the city of Kootenai, and the official newspaper of said City.

PASSED under suspension of the rules upon which a roll call vote was taken and duly enacted an ordinance of the city of Kootenai, Bonner County, Idaho at a convened meeting of the Kootenai City Council held on the 22nd day of August, 2018.

ATTEST:	Nancy Lewis, Mayor	
Ronda L. Whittaker, City Clerk	5	

### ORDINANCE NO. <u>223</u> Fiscal Year 2019

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KOOTENAI, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, ENTITLED "THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2018; APPROPRIATING \$325,234 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF KOOTENAI, IDAHO, FOR SAID YEAR PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF IDAHO CODE; LEVYING A SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN SAID CITY FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATION IS MADE; AND, PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOOTENAI, BONNER COUNTY:

<u>SECTION 1.00</u>: The sum of \$325,234 being and is hereby appropriated to defray the necessary and proper expenses and liabilities of the City of Kootenai, Bonner County, Idaho, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018.

SECTION 2.00: The objects and purposes for which such appropriations are made are as follows:

### **ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:**

### General Administration:

Wages and Benefits Other Government Expense Capital Expenditures

TOTAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATION ......\$ 225,024

### Streets:

Street Labor, Materials Other Street Expense

TOTAL STREET FUND EXPENSE...... \$ 100,210

TOTAL EXPENDITURES – ALL FUNDS ......\$ 325,234

SECTION 3.00: That a general tax levy to yield \$50,601 on all taxable property within the City of Kootenai be levied in an amount allowed by law for the general purposes for said City, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018.

SECTION 4.00: The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5.00: This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage, approval and publication according to law.

Passed under suspension of the rules upon which a roll call vote was taken and duly enacted as an Ordinance of the City of Kootenai, Idaho, at a special session of the City Council of the City of Kootenai held on August 22, 2018.

Nancy Lewis

Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronda L. Whittaker

City Clerk / Treasurer

### SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 223

The city of Kootenai, Bonner County, Idaho, hereby gives notice of the adoption of Kootenai Ordinance No. 223 an ordinance entitled the annual appropriation ordinance for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018, appropriating the sum of \$325,234 to defray the expenses and liabilities of the city of Kootenai for said fiscal year, authorizing a levy of a sufficient tax upon the taxable property and specifying the objects and purposes for which said appropriations are made and providing that the Ordinance be effective upon the publication of this Summary.

That a general tax levy to yield \$50,601 on all taxable property within the city of Kootenai be levied in an amount allowed by law for the general purposes for said City, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018.

The full text of the summarized Ordinance No. 223 is available at Kootenai City Hall, 204 Spokane St., Kootenai, Idaho, in the office of the City Clerk.

Ronda L. Whittaker, City Clerk

### STATEMENT OF LEGAL ADVISER

I, Stephen Snedden, am a legal advis examined the attached summary of Kootena Appropriations Ordinance, and find it to be ordinance which provides adequate notice to	a true and complete summary of said
	Stephen Snedden, City Attorney
Date	

## Economic Diversification and Outdoor Recreation in Bonner County

August 2018

Improving economic diversification and outdoor recreation in Bonner County will bring new spending and jobs to the community.

- Bonner County's economy is uniquely diverse for a rural community. Its quality of life—including summer and winter recreation—helps recruit and keep employees in manufacturing, aerospace, and technology and other sectors.
- \* Further developing the area's trail system would likely bring between \$750,000 and \$4.5 million in new spending by visitors to the county, supporting between 12 and 72 jobs.
- Other communities in the region have found that building trail networks that preserve local landscapes and serve local needs with trailheads close to town can have a secondary benefit of attracting visitors and new spending.



Bonner County is a rural county in northern Idaho, characterized by its vibrant small towns and rural countryside and its mountains, lakes, and rivers. Sandpoint, the county seat, is known in the region and beyond as a tourist and retirement destination, located between Lake Pend d'Oreille and Schweitzer Mountain Resort ski area.

What is less well known are the diverse aspects of the region's economy built on innovative businesses in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and software.

This <u>report explores</u> how investments in trails and outdoor recreation could contribute to Bonner County and particularly its ongoing efforts to sustain a diverse rural economy through a strong tourism sector, which in turn fuels the area's ability to recruit and retain businesses and skilled employees.

Local businesses are competing against other small towns and large areas for small-business owners and skilled employees, and Bonner County's amenities help provide a competitive edge.

## Economic Diversification and Outdoor Recreation in Bonner County

Bonner County is well-suited to further leverage its outdoor recreation economy—fueled by both summer and winter recreation—into a more robust economic engine. The region already has a strong tourism economy that provides the infrastructure, marketing, and reputation needed to fuel trail-based economic tourism.

Research has shown that a well-developed trail system can result in new jobs and income, higher property values, improved public health, and improved quality of life and community identity.

We estimate that further developing Bonner County's trails would likely result in \$750,000 to \$4.5 million in new annual spending by visitors to the area. This spending would support between 12 and 72 jobs and \$254,000 and \$1.6 million in labor income each year.

Economic Impacts Resulting from Investments in Trails in Bonner County, ID (2017\$)

Impact	Current ec	onomic activity		onomic activity, v estimate*	New economic activity, high estimate*	
	Jobs	Labor Income	Jobs	Labor Income	Jobs	Labor Incon
Direct Effect	39.4	\$836,387	9.4	\$197,803	58.1	\$1,233.51
Indirect Effect	-5	\$133,343	1.1	\$28,993	7.4	\$196.65
Induced Effect	4.5	\$116,058	1	\$27,140	6.6	\$171.10
Total Effect	48.8	\$1,085,787	11.6	\$253,937	72.0	\$1,601,34

<sup>\*</sup> Low estimate assumes a 24% increase in miles of trails and number of visitors. High estimate assumes 38,000 visitors coming to Bonner County to use trails.

Our interviews with business leaders highlighted the recruitment value of the area's high quality of life—including outdoor recreation and a close-knit community. These factors help to attract entrepreneurs and business owners to the area, many of whom first visited Bonner County as tourists.

Building trails does not guarantee economic activity. Bonner County already has tourism-related infrastructure like lodging, restaurants, gear shops, and charter fishing and guide services, but the area would have to further invest in marketing itself and making connections between trailheads and towns (e.g., shuttle services) to encourage spending by visitors. Existing services like the SPOT bus or the Selkirk Recreation District shuttle could provide a foundation for connecting trail users to towns.

The communities of Whitefish, Montana and the Methow Valley in Washington demonstrate that trail networks built with local needs in mind—such as trailheads close to town, funding that relies more on visitors than locals, and preserving working landscapes—result in trail networks championed by local residents that also bring in outside users who generate substantial spending that supports the local economy.

Unlike these communities, Bonner County does not have a single, unified organization that can champion the shared vision of multiple stakeholders.

The <u>Bonner County Trails Plan</u> contains a shared vision of priority trail connections and networks, but without one entity to drive the efforts, it will be difficult to make strategic and well-coordinated progress. In Whitefish and the Methow Valley, the trails organization provided credibility for this strategic vision to the community, landowners, and funding entities.

Several bright spots demonstrate strong momentum to improve access to trails in the community, including Gold Hill, Syringa Trails and Pine Street Woods, and the Sand Creek Watershed. These projects highlight the potential for partnerships between non-profit organizations, state and federal land agencies, and private landowners.

### **RESOURCES**

**Report: Bonner County Economic Diversification** 

**Bonner County's Resilient Economy** 

**Trails Valued Across Bonner County** 

**Trails Benefits Library** 

**Trails Research Listing** 

**Economic Profile System** 

Share

Topics: Local Studies, Trails & Pathways

Author: Megan Lawson, Ph.D. 406.570.7475 or megan@headwaterseconomics.org

Similar Research:

### Bonner County, Idaho's



Resilient Economy

Survey Finds Trails Valued



Across Bonner County

Trails Research and Searchable



Benefits Library

Whitelish

Columbia Falls

Estimating Trail Use