Boise Open Space - Stack Rock Reserve Recreational Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment

Alternative A – Acquisition of Private Land Parcels
Levy funds for the Open Space Initiative have been used to acquire land in the past, including 840 acres expanding Stack Rock reserve in November of 2017. The 120 acres in this alternative are undeveloped timberland located in Boise County and both parcels are owned by the same entity.

Pros:
- Would add to City owned open space reserves, improve connectivity
- Permanent solution
- Aligns with Open Space objectives
- Protects watershed, wildlife habitat and provides more recreation area

Cons:
- Most expensive
- Voluntary sale
- Lower priority acquisition area

Feasibility Determination
Due to the estimated cost, voluntary sale, and lower priority location, this alternative solution is second-most feasible

Environmental Assessment

Endangered Species
- No endangered species

Threatened Species
- No threatened species

Water Quality
- Top of watershed

Tributaries to Boise River
- Sedimentation, BMP’s for design

No increased pollution
- No adverse effects identified

Recreation and Land Use
- 75 owned / managed
- No lease, Ag, O&G

Trail aligns with goals of City, USF
- No adverse effects

Improvement to recreation
- No adverse health concerns

Hazardous Materials
- No Storage

No Transportation
- Home identified on site visits

No superfund areas near
- No adverse health concerns

Socioeconomics
- No adverse for area

No effects on social groups, minorities, etc.
- No replacement of residents

Environmenal Justice
- No adverse effects to any specific groups

Cost Analysis Alternative A – Acquisition of Private Land Parcels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>$1,053</td>
<td>$197</td>
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Alternative B - Acquisition of Permanent Easement
Easements are rights to access and use land. Easement holders do not actually own the underlying land, but can hold permanent rights to use if granted by the land owner and secured legally. Permanent easements stay effective on the land even if it is sold, so they can be considered an encumbrance to the property owner. The City has acquired easements through donation and purchase for access and recreation in the past, including for the Sweet Connie Trail, which passes through the Daniel’s Creek property, just south of Stack Rock Reserve. The current trail has revocable easement access granted.

Pros:
- Revocable easement could be made permanent
- No new trail impacts to environment
- Inexpensive solution to permanent access

Cons:
- Voluntary sale – encumbers title to land
- Difficult to value
- Trespass issues outside of easement
- Could be impacted by land use changes

Feasibility Determination
Due to the easement encumbrance, voluntary sale, valuation issues, and future trespass issues, this alternative is the least feasible for providing permanent access.

Conclusion
After evaluating the results of the Environmental Assessment, no significant adverse effects were identified to human health or the environment from the proposed recreational trail relocation.

To move forward with this proposed recreational improvement, the Alternative C option should be presented for funding consideration through the Boise Open Space Committee.

Acknowledgements and References
Boise Trail Manager
Boise National Forest Zone 4 Management Plan
City of Boise Open Space Management Plan
Ada County Assessor

Alternative C - Relocation of Trail to US Forest Service Land
Since there is uncertainty in private land transactions, a relocation alternative was established. The US Forest Service owns and manages the land to the south, and improving non-motorized recreation in this area is consistent with their Boise Front Management Plan. This proposed route is approximately 3 miles long, and would be constructed by contractor. This would provide connectivity, access, and future trailhead improvement opportunities.

Feasibility Determination
This alternative is deemed most feasible due to alignment of interagency management plans, low cost of construction and no interaction with private lands. Since this alternative would create a new, relocated trail for recreational access, an Environmental Assessment needs to be completed to evaluate potential adverse impacts to human health and the environment.