



Special Session Meeting Notice of the Blaine County Recreation District Board of Directors

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Special Session Time: 10:00AM

Place: BCRD Conference Room

Agenda of the Special Session of the Board of Directors

1. Upper Big Wood Vegetation Management Project: authorize submission of BCRD's public position to U.S. Forest Service's Forest Supervisor and Sawtooth National Recreation Area Acting Area Ranger prior to an anticipated final decision in late June. (ACTION ITEM)
2. Quigley Trails Park Enhancement Project. (ACTION ITEM)
3. Executive Session per Idaho Statute to discuss board governance 74-206(a).

Participation Information:

Anyone needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the Blaine County Recreation District at (208) 578-2273

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Meeting ID: 242 818 828 082 664

Passcode: v97Vb6L9



Michael Fuller, Acting Area Ranger
USFS Sawtooth National Recreation Area
442 Ranger Station Road
Stanley, Idaho 83278

AQUATICS

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
& SPORTS

May 13, 2026

ADULT FITNESS
& SPORTS

Dear Mr. Fuller,

SUMMER TRAILS

WINTER TRAILS

GALENA LODGE

The Upper Big Wood River area is one of the most heavily used and beloved recreational landscapes in Central Idaho. Each year, tens of thousands of visits are made to the trails, Galena Lodge, and terrain that define this area – a testament to the extraordinary value this forest holds for our community and the region. It is precisely because of this value that Blaine County Recreation District (BCRD) urges the US Forest Service to ensure the Upper Big Wood Vegetation Management Project is developed through a more thorough public engagement process and on-the-ground collaboration with BCRD staff before any final decision is made on the Finding of Applicability and No Extraordinary Circumstance.

BCRD has enjoyed a decades-long and productive partnership with the USFS Sawtooth National Recreation Area (Sawtooth NRA). Each winter we groom approximately 160 kilometers of Nordic and snowshoe trails from Sawtooth NRA headquarters to Galena Lodge, have constructed over 60 miles of single-track trail in the Upper Big Wood watershed, maintain the entire length of the Harriman Trail, and have collaborated with Sawtooth NRA to add additional forest amenities like parking lots at popular trailhead. Our concessionaire operates BCRD's Galena Lodge – providing a restaurant, overnight yurts, a rental shop, and outdoor recreation programs for all ages. These assets represent decades of shared investment by BCRD, the USFS, and the communities we serve.

The proposed project area encompasses nearly all these assets. Commercial timber harvest, mastication, and fuels treatments within this footprint have the potential to disrupt trail access and groomed surfaces, interfere with Galena Lodge operations, and impact the visitor experience during and after treatment. Specific concerns include the timing and impacts to operations relative to our Nordic grooming season, temporary summer trail closures, re-routes, and trail reconstruction, haul equipment across trail corridors, and the long-term scenic impacts in a landscape where the visitor experience depends heavily on forest character. We do not raise these concerns to oppose the project; we raise them because we believe addressing them prior to a final decision will lead to better outcomes for everyone.

BCRD strongly supports the USFS goal, as stated in the Proposed Action, to improve forest health, reduce hazardous fuels, and restore historic forest conditions and ecosystem diversity. The threats described in the proposal, dwarf mistletoe infestations, beetle and budworm pressure, decades of fire suppression, are real and urgent, and we recognize that inaction carries its own significant risks. A healthy, resilient forest is the foundation on which all recreational use of this landscape depends. We want this project to succeed.

For that reason, we respectfully request that the USFS delay your decision to allow time for three things to occur:

- Coordinate joint field visits between USFS and BCRD staff to assess treatment impacts on specific trails and facility infrastructure.
- Collaborate on the development of mitigation measures prior to any final decision.
- Implement robust public engagement processes that reflect the scale and significance of this project.

We would welcome the opportunity to be included as a cooperating partner in the NEPA process and participate in site visits where relevant.

BCRD stands ready to be an active partner – helping communicate with the public, providing on-the-ground perspective, and working alongside USFS staff to ensure this project achieves its goals while protecting the recreational resources the public depends on. We are grateful for what we have built together with the USFS in the Sawtooth NRA, and we look forward to continuing that partnership through this important and complex project.

Sincerely,
BCRD Board of Directors

Mat Hall

Mary Fauth

Jane Lopez

Cc: Casey Johnson, Sawtooth National Forest, Forest Supervisor



To: BCRD Board of Directors

From: BCRD Staff

Date: May 12, 2026

Re: Quigley Trails Park — Field Enhancement Project: Request for Board Approval

Background

BCRD has owned the Quigley Trails Park (QTP) property since 2017 and has created amenities to enhance recreational opportunities for our community. In 2018, BCRD opened QTP to the public with 20 kilometers of Nordic skiing trails. In 2019, BCRD built the Quigley Loop Trail. In 2021, a bike park was added, featuring two pump tracks, three jump lines, and three flow trails.

Continuing this history of investment, BCRD staff are now proposing to develop the “arena” area of the park into a quality grass surface. This enhancement would create new opportunities for sports programming and add valuable open park space for the community.

Project Overview

The proposed Field Enhancement Project will improve BCRD’s ability to deliver youth sports programming, make the site more welcoming and enjoyable for the public, and lay the groundwork for future improvements to the property, including permanent restrooms and a building with programmable indoor spaces.

Work is proposed to begin in June 2026, with project completion anticipated in late September or early October 2026, subject to weather conditions. To protect the investment and allow the turf to establish properly, the fields will not be open for public use until late summer 2027. BCRD will develop public communications materials to keep the community informed of any disruptions or access restrictions during construction.

Exhibits A and B show the project site plan and associated budget. Staff are proposing to use revenue from existing operating reserves if necessary. We anticipate raising money through private donations and grant sources to offset the cost of the project.

Why Now?

Demand for athletic fields in our community has grown over the years peaking each spring and fall. BCRD currently has no fields of its own that it can reliably program. We depend entirely on fields managed by the Blaine County School District (BCSD) and the Cities of Bellevue, Hailey, and Ketchum — an arrangement that creates scheduling conflicts and, in some cases, directly limits our ability to run youth sports programs.

The urgency has increased. Beginning last year, BCSD started requiring us to pay rent for any use of school district fields, adding an estimated \$20,000 or more in annual costs with no long-term guarantee of access. Investing in our own fields at Quigley would help reduce our reliance on BCSD, redirect those rental dollars toward BCRD-owned infrastructure, and give staff the scheduling flexibility to build a more consistent, high-quality programming calendar for the community.

Ongoing Maintenance Costs

Maintaining grass fields to a quality standard is estimated to cost approximately \$15,000 – \$20,000 per year. These costs will cover routine turf care including mowing, irrigation maintenance, fertilization, aeration, and seasonal repairs. This new expense will incorporate these ongoing operating expenses into future annual budget planning to ensure the long-term quality of the property.

Board Action: Approve the implementation of the Quigley Trails Park Field Enhancement Project as presented, with a total estimated budget of \$354,450 funded through the Quigley Fund (\$53,000) and the General Fund (\$301,450).

Exhibit A: Project Site Plan



Exhibit B: Project Budget

Description	Amount
EXPENSES	
Property Enhancements	
Boundary Fencing	\$12,500
Subtotal	\$12,500
Initial Site Preparation	
Scraping and leveling (~58,900 sq. ft.)	\$25,800
Hauling of unusable topsoil and debris	\$18,000
Dump fees	\$6,000
New topsoil – minimum 4-inch depth	\$39,150
Field preparation for irrigation upgrades	\$11,000
Subtotal	\$99,950
Final Field Preparation	
Grading and topsoil spreading	\$70,000
Subtotal	\$70,000
Field Enhancement	
Irrigation upgrades	\$19,000
Sodding (~70,000 sq. ft.)	\$80,000
Subtotal	\$99,000
Field Amenities	
Soccer goals and nets	\$30,000
Robotic line painter	\$38,000
Miscellaneous equipment	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$73,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$354,450

REVENUE	
Quigley Fund	\$53,000
General Fund	\$301,450
TOTAL REVENUE	\$354,450

