



City of Ketchum
City Hall

September 29, 2020

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors
City of Ketchum
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

**Recommendation to Authorize the Mayor to Sign
a Land Permission Letter for Legends and Lore Marker**

Recommendation and Summary

Staff is recommending the Council provide authorization to the Mayor to sign a land permission letter for the Legends & Lore Marker.

"I move to authorize Mayor Bradshaw to sign a land permission letter for the Legends & Lore Marker.

The reasons for the recommendation are as follows:

- William G. Pomeroy Foundation is offering a grant to provide signage for local folklore.
- The Legends & Lore Marker will represent the arborglyphs located in nearby aspen groves.
- The grant application deadline is October 2.

Introduction and History

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation Grant is being submitted by Trailing of the Sheep Cultural Heritage Center. Individuals from The Community Library, who manage the Ski and Heritage Museum, have worked with Trailing of the Sheep and city staff to select a location for the sign in Forest Service Park and approve the language being placed on the sign. The selected location is next to the entrance of the main museum building at the park. The Ski and Heritage Museum will exhibit historical information on the Basque movement of sheep through the valley and the arborglyphs that were left behind by the herders and ranchers. There are various locations throughout the state where arborglyphs are found. Nearby, they are in the aspen groves at Fox Creek, Adams Gulch and on many other hiking trails leading from residential areas to forest land.

Analysis

The arborglyphs are carvings in the bark of aspen trees and are found throughout the Western United States. They were made by shepherders, many who were Basque and Irish American. Markings include names, dates, hometowns, art, soccer teams, animals, fishing boats, poems, and churches or farmhouses from the Basque country. They are often found near campsites or rest stops where the herders would spend the hottest hours of the day. Herders often returned to the same places over the years and updated the trees they had signed. For the first carving, many used a Spanish or Basque spelling and a European date format. Later carvings were Americanized, showing that some herders changed the date format and how they spelled their names.

The Legends and Lore markers are 18" x 32" cast aluminum with a 7' aluminum pole. They allow 5 lines of text with 27 characters per line. The title and body of the marker will read:

THE ARBORGlyphS

The shepherd carvings
in the bark of Aspen trees
are living Idaho history
and feature names, dates,
art and poems.

Sustainability Impact

There is no sustainability impact.

Financial Requirement/Impact

There is no financial impact. The grant, if received, will cover the cost of the marker, pole and shipping. Trailing of the Sheep will cover all costs associated with the installation.

Attachments:

- Arborglyph Photo
- Letter of Support



City of Ketchum

September 29, 2020

William G. Pomeroy Foundation
492 E. Brighton Avenue
Syracuse., NY 13210

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Ketchum is the owner of the property at 180 First Street East (Forest Service Park) in Ketchum, Idaho. The City grants permission to Trailing of the Sheep Cultural Heritage, LLC to install a Legends & Lore marker on this property in the event they receive funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

Sincerely,

Neil Bradshaw
Mayor

