



## City of Ketchum

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA MEMO

Meeting Date: December 15, 2025 Staff Member/Dept: Jade Riley - Administration

Agenda Item: Recommendation to approve Phase Two scope of work of the Urban Avalanche Analysis.

#### Recommended Motion:

"I move to approve a 50% cost share (PO 26072) with Blaine County for Phase 2 of the Urban Avalanche Analysis conducted by Avalanche Risk Solutions."

#### Reasons for Recommendation:

- The City of Ketchum and surrounding areas have had conflicts with avalanches well back into the days of active mining at the end of the 19th century. Large avalanche cycles at lower elevations have seemingly increased in frequency in the past 20 years as urban development and infrastructure have also increasingly encroached into avalanche terrain. Mid-winter and late winter rain events have also become more common as the earth's climate warms. Wildfires have changed the landscape to a large degree around Sun Valley and have influenced the anchoring of the snowpack, not to mention its resilience to warming events. Overall, it appears that the risk of avalanches impacting the residents and visitors to Ketchum has significantly increased in the 21st Century.
- Phase 1 deliverables received:
  - GIS shape files, occurrence database, atlases, hazard index, summarization report of methods, results and recommendations
- Phase 2 scope includes:
  - Creation of Avalanche Management Plan / commission structure
  - Urban forecasting program structure
  - Temporary and permanent mitigation measures (optional but recommended)
- This final phase will equip emergency managers with tools that will better help predict and plan for avalanche risks and make more informed decisions regarding evacuations and repopulation decisions after an evacuation.

#### Sustainability Impact:

None

#### Financial Impact:

None OR Adequate funds exist in account:	A splitting of costs with Blaine County results in \$21,945.50, allocated from the General Fund Contingency account.
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#### Attachments:

1. Phase 2 budget/scope

2. Purchase Order 26072

Avalanche Risk Solutions – Wood River Avalanche Study  
Phase 2 Budget – Revised December 9, 2025

**Labor Sub-Total: \$42,080**

Task	Task Description	Task Cost	Task Details
1	Avalanche Management Plan / Avalanche Commission Structure	\$16,500	Working with City of Ketchum and Blaine County for county-wide avalanche response plan with decision-trees and avalanche commission composition and structure. Models drawn from European analogs.
2	Urban Forecasting Program Structure	\$11,550	Hazard and Awareness messaging content alternatives and distribution network for messages to different stake holders and risk owners. Decision trees for Urban Avalanche Advisories, Watches and Warnings. De-escalation and de mobilization protocols.
3	Temporary and Permanent Mitigation Measures - Rough costs and prioritization.	\$6,880	RACS or SZ fencing for Titus Ridge and Permanent Measures for Dollar/ Creekside/Della/Gimlet
4	Report Editing	\$2,400	Final Review and Formatting
5	Senior Consultant - Advise/Review	\$3,440	
6	Travel Time - half rate	\$1,360	For 2 separate trips Victor-Ketchum

**Expenses** \$1,761 Two round-trips Victor, ID to Ketchum, Idaho including two nights of lodging per trip and per-diem for meals, adjusted for insurance cost. One trip for discussion of plans with emergency managers and one trip for presentation of findings.

**Phase 2 Grand Total \$43,891**

**NOTE:** This list of tasks for Phase 2 is pared down from the previous version. We strongly recommend tasks 1 and 2. Task 3 is optional and may be deleted.

Cost without task 3 = \$37,011

The original list of tasks (several versions ago) involved refining the avalanche frequencies and runout polygons for the 152 named avalanche paths within the study. This work would be best performed by Bruce Smith of Alpine Enterprises LLC. We think that it should be contracted directly with Alpine Enterprises LLC. That avoids the markup ARS would need to charge for the increased gross revenue would have on our insurance premium.

A scope of work can be provided separately for the Atlas/GIS work, should that work need to be performed.

**Deadline:**

As this is going before the Ketchum City Council in the heart of the winter season (when most of the parties concerned have other obligations) the deadline is set further out than it would be otherwise.

- Semi-final draft for review by all concerned parties - four months from the date of contract signing.
- Final draft submittal - five months from the date of contract signing.



## CITY OF KETCHUM

PO BOX 2315 \* 191 5TH ST. \* KETCHUM, ID 83340  
Administration 208-726-3841 (fax) 208-726-8234

## PURCHASE ORDER

BUDGETED ITEM?  Yes  No

PURCHASE ORDER - NUMBER: 26072

To:	Ship to:
6446 AVALANCHE RISK SOLUTIONS PO BOX 8106 ALTA UT 84092	CITY OF KETCHUM PO BOX 2315 KETCHUM ID 83340

P. O. Date	Created By	Requested By	Department	Req Number	Terms
12/10/2025	CCHING	CCHING			

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total
1.00	Avalanche Risk Solutions – Wood River Avalanche 01-4193-9930	21,945.50	21,945.50
	SHIPPING & HANDLING		0.00
	TOTAL PO AMOUNT		21,945.50

Authorized Signature