



## ***MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** August 28, 2013

**Agenda Item:** Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and LWCF

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** Informational

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 15 minutes

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**Background:** A condition of administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, every five years Montana must develop a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to guide the management of outdoor recreation resources. The SCORP identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance and challenges facing the state's outdoor recreation and natural resources; evaluates demand for public outdoor recreation preferences; evaluates supply of and demand for outdoor recreation facilities and resources; establishes priorities based on outreach efforts, data research, and relevant plans; coordinates recreation management and planning initiatives with federal programs, and other state, regional, and local plans; and assesses the recreation value of wetlands to identify outdoor recreation opportunities. The 2014-18 SCORP has the following proposed priorities:

1. Improve quality of life for Montanans
2. Sustain the economic vitality of Montana communities
3. Promote stewardship and sustainability
4. Enhance agency coordination, cooperation, and service provision

One historic use of the plan is to prioritize funding to local community recreation projects throughout the state. The plan provides the strategic framework to identify trends and issues, and provide recommendations for outdoor recreation priorities.

The 2014-2018 SCORP serves as a catalyst to coordinate Montana's outdoor recreation and tourism community over the next five years. The SCORP is being prepared in conjunction with an advisory committee consisting of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as organizational partners. In addition to the advisory committee, two surveys have been implemented to gather input from recreation managers and the general public.

As the LWCF Act sunsets in 2015, there will be much discussion of the role of SCORP, the role of LWCF and the value of reauthorizing this federal program. The division will continue to keep you updated and bring forth a draft SCORP plan at the next meeting

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** The Parks Division will be coming forth in October 2013 with a draft for public review and comment.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** N/A

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** N/A

**Proposed Motion:** There is no decision required at this time. This agenda item is informational only.