



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

**Meeting Date:** December 19, 2013

**Agenda Item:** Big Arm State Park Lease Renewal

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** Final

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

**Background:** Big Arm State Park is one of Montana's most popular state parks and offers outstanding opportunities for public camping and access to the west shore of Flathead Lake. The park has averaged 35,000 visitors over the past two years and plays a significant role in generating user fee revenue for the parks division. The park is located on 216.68 acres of State School Trust Land under the jurisdiction of the Montana Department of Natural Resource Conservation (DNRC). Montana State Parks has leased this property from DNRC since 1993 for developed recreation use as part of the state park system. This lease will expire on February 28, 2014. Montana State Parks seeks to renew this lease for a two year period during which time the two agencies will work on a better long-term solution for sustaining this park as an integral part of the state park system.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** The current lease (No. 10058) was adopted by the FWP Commission for a 20-year term in 1993. This proposed action is for a lease renewal with no proposed changes to the terms and conditions, thus no public comment is being solicited beyond this opportunity for public comment.

**Alternatives and Analysis: Alternative # 1:** Renew this lease for a 2-year period with 2% annual fee increases as follows: 2014 fee = \$22,828.35; 2015 fee = \$23,284.92.

**Alternative # 2:** Do not renew the lease, which would result in the loss of highly significant public recreational resource.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** Maintain this state park as a highly significant public recreational resource for the benefit of Montana residents and their guests by renewing this lease for a two-year period.

**Proposed Motion:** I move that Big Arm State Park Lease No. 10058 be renewed with DNRC for two years through February 28, 2016 while the department seeks a better long term solution.