



Community Listening Sessions

April 21 – May 1, 2014

**Appendix
Outcomes by Question**

This document contains the full responses from the community listening sessions, held by Montana State Parks from April 21-May 2, 2014.

The responses are presented by question and community. Responses were transcribed into digital format as closely as possible from written comment cards collected at each session.

Community Listening Sessions:

Glasgow (Cottonwood Inn) – April 21

Glendive (Dawson Community College) – April 22

Billings (Pictograph Cave State Park) – April 23

Kalispell (Lone Pine State Park) – April 28

Missoula (Travelers' Rest State Park) – April 29

Whitehall (Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park) – April 30

Helena (Carroll College) – May 1

Great Falls (First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park) – May 1

Prepared by MSU Local Government Center for

Montana State Parks, a Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

A. What words/attributes come to mind when you see this logo or hear/see the name “Montana State Parks”?

Glasgow

- Pride
- No Money/Under Funded
- Mountains
- Water/Trees
- Public Recreation
- Lack in NE MT
- Lack of representation in NE Montana and the “Hi-Line”.

Glendive

NONE

Billings

- State lands set aside for public use and engagement.
- Our important places!
- Wildlife, families, natural, interpretive activities, special places.
- Fully tax payer supported recreation- birding, camping, hiking, relaxing, safe for animals, people, open to the public.
- Worthwhile experience.

Kalispell

- Enjoyment
- Mountains, Rivers, Valleys
- Engage
- Family
- Exercise
- Floating
- Fun
- Nature
- Family Enjoyment
- Beauty

Missoula

- Preservation, local history.
- Preservation, interpretation.
- Camping, history, interpretation.
- History, camping, hiking.
- Access, camping, fun.
- Camping and lakes.
- Camping with family.
- Camping, recreation.

- Cultural heritage, recreation.
- Public recreation space for fun.
- Recreation, outdoors fun!
- Wide open spaces, outdoor recreation.
- State offered recreation to multiple diverse users, and their representation.
- Responsibility!
- Gotta go.
- Explore more.

L&C Caverns

- Exciting recreational opportunities; wildlife habitat.
- Birds and wildlife.
- Tourism, recreation.
- Outdoor recreation, history.
- History, preservation, state pride.
- Our MT heritage.
- Family, hiking
- Open spaces, exploration.
- Public spaces, camping, free experiences.
- Involvement, interpretation, stewardship.
- Conservation, environment.
- I wish it were more aligned with the MT tourism brand – otherwise... resident, primitive.

Helena

- Who can use them? All users!
- Diversity.
- Outdoors.
- Outdoors, accessibility.
- Outdoors, family.
- Family, outdoors.
- Outdoor recreation, programs, stewardship.
- Recreation.
- Intimate recreation experience, Montana made.
- Mikoshika, awesome.

Great Falls

NONE

B. What words/attributes do you think “Montana State Parks” should represent?

Glasgow

- Outstanding
- Affordable
- Quality, Scenery, History
- The things Montana has to offer
- Outdoor recreation opportunities, from hunting, fishing, to float trips to land access.
- Public recreation opportunities, access to resources
- Public access
- Represent and available to all Montanans
- Lack of Park in NE MT
- Lack of in NE MT
- ALL of MONTANA
- Parks throughout Montana

Glendive

NONE

Billings

- Recreation
- Self-Sustaining
- Priceless
- Good birding, camping, hiking, wildflowers, quiet and tranquil, clean water and a safe environment for animals and people.

Kalispell

- Affordable
- Affordable
- Legacy
- Accesses
- Protected, Public & Space
- Nature
- Safe
- Maintain Space
- More Trails
- More Trails

Missoula

- Archeology, history and historical preservation.
- Archeology, history, preservation and interpretation.
- Outdoors, recreation.
- Recreation as it applies to all sectors – economy, health, trails, etc.; economic development.
- Recreation and education.

- Family recreation.
- Recreation, camping, outdoors, biking, hiking.
- Recreation, history, science.
- Recreation, public service.
- Recreation, outdoor fun!
- Safe recreation.
- Robust outdoor recreation, discovery, learning opportunities.
- Recreation, education, exploration.
- Recreation opportunities for multiple diverse user groups.
- Opportunities.
- Experience, outdoor accessibility, great times.
- Camping, education, history, access.
- Access for all, Montana heritage.
- Wild, scenic, fun.

L&C Caverns

- Recreation, trails!
- Recreation, fun, kids, camping.
- Unique outdoor experiences, outdoor recreation, unique spaces, places worth seeing.
- Adventures, outdoor recreation, family/friends, explore.
- Adventure, fun.
- Fun.
- For the enjoyment of the people.
- Stewardship, interpretation.
- Unique ecology, habitat, trails for hiking, history, interpretation.
- Great interpretation!
- Natural and cultural heritage, education.
- Education – fireside chats like Yellowstone; getting kids and families outdoors.
- Water, boating, best campgrounds!

Helena

- Education, “hands-on”.
- Family time outdoors.
- Public history, outdoors.
- Fun, outdoors, healthy.
- Opportunities, treasure.
- Adventure.
- Interpreting heritage, recreation.
- Heritage, experience.

Great Falls

NONE

Clicker Questions

	Positive/Very Effective	Somewhat Positive/Effective	Not Effective	Not Sure
C. What is your current view of Montana State Parks?	4	6	1	0
	4	2	0	0
	9	5	0	1
	9	2	0	0
	10	14	1	1
	10	8	1	0
	9	5	1	0
	5	2	0	0
Total	60	44	4	2
	Positive/Very Effective	Somewhat Positive/Effective	Not Effective	Not Sure
D. How do you perceive the current effectiveness of Montana State Parks in interacting with Families and youth?	0	8	2	1
	0	5	1	0
	2	13	0	1
	8	2	0	1
	5	14	0	7
	3	11	1	2
	3	8	0	4
	1	5	0	0
Total	22	66	4	16
	Positive/Very Effective	Somewhat Positive/Effective	Not Effective	Not Sure
E. How do you perceive the current effectiveness of Montana State Parks in engaging local communities?	0	2	8	1
	0	3	3	0
	0	11	3	2
	1	5	2	2
	2	8	8	8
	2	9	5	3
	2	4	5	5
	2	4	1	0
Total	9	46	35	21
	Positive/Very	Somewhat	Not	Not Sure

	Effective	Positive/ Effective	Effective	
How do you perceive the current effectiveness of Montana State Parks in supporting state and local economies?	1	4	5	1
	2	3	1	0
	3	11	0	1
	4	4	0	2
	4	15	5	2
	2	14	3	0
	2	9	2	1
	4	2	0	0
Total	22	62	16	7

F. What, within the State Parks system and recreation programs, is most compelling and valuable to you? (Yellow Card)

Glasgow

- The resources - maintain in perpetuity for all MT citizens and for visitors too
 - Places
 - Experiences
 - Opportunities
- Appreciate the diversity that State Parks provide. Specifically:
 - Historical
 - Water-based recreation
 - Natural areas
- Protecting natural resources with public use
- Share the beauty of MT with the rest of the country
- Should be a memorable and positive experience
- Opportunities
- Public access to recreation opportunities
- Compelling – affordable for all
- Valuable diverse recreation opportunities
- Affordable access to all across the state for recreation activities especially camping and picnicking
- Appropriate economic benefits that are provided to local communities through free and/or reasonably affordable family oriented recreation opportunities
- Additional revenue streams
- Appreciate the State Parks Division administration of the Trails Program

Glendive

- Wildlife – Scenic – Solitude
 - To me – maybe not the best thing for everyone and not the best for attracting people to the park – today

- The Land – The opportunities available
- Providing camping/hiking opportunities for outdoor recreation
- Using the parks as a learning tool for the youth of the state
 - Geology
 - Dinosaurs
 - Wildlife
 - Vegetation
 - Campfire programs
- Public access to unique properties
- Preservation of unique places for posterity
- Gives all people an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and appreciate MT heritage
- The potential for future benefit to all the people of Montana
- Financial benefit to the communities

Billings

- A place for family activities outdoors, the number that are close enough to be accessible.
- Places to gather with friends, family and visitors to share our state's history and natural beauty, places of quiet solitude and historical reflection.
- Historical and physical preservation, preservation of sites, etc.
- Natural resources, historic places, the variety of parks and recreational opportunities.
- The beauty of the state parks.
- Historical importance, conservation, educational, something for everyone.
- Historic information/ environment, diversity, natural landscapes
- History interpretation and conservation.
- Access to historic and natural environment
- History, variety- each park offers something different
- Compelling and valuable to the local population, the education and enjoyment of young people.
- A safe place to bird watch and enjoy nature with my grandkids, enjoy history, peace and tranquility are essential.
- Affordable outdoor recreation, something for everyone, largely accessible, sense of pride showing what Montana has to offer.
- New experiences.
- Ability to learn about human and natural history.
- Diversity, natural landscapes, historical preservation, access, interaction of people within the parks.
- Opportunities for family friendly activities, stewardship of quality Montana landscapes, diverse activities.
- Improves access to and appreciation of Montana's best natural and historical landmarks.
- Compelling, opportunities across Montana, somewhat diverse.
- Connection to place including natural and human history, reservation of unique/ important sites, open and public spaces, education opportunities.

Kalispell

- Education/Interpretative
- Affordable/Access/Reservation
- Protected/Scenic

- Access to water and other lands around the State
- Trails and funding of trails is imperative
- License plate fee is great – not a barrier to anyone
- Preserve and promotion of MT natural & cultural heritage
- RTP Grant
- Fees collected though auto registration
- Trails on Lone Pine
- Access to Flathead Lake, i.e. Warfarin
- Accessibility/preservation for future to natural and cultural locations
- Hiking and camping opportunities
- Access to Lakes
- Trails, active outdoor opportunities
- Water, public access to water, camping, reasonable camping sites
- Public access to Montana’s treasures
- Safe managed (even minimally) recreation experience
- Education about place
- Serving as an “outdoor-way” for kids & families to experience MT
- Preservation, promotion & funding of Montana’s natural heritage
- Funding system = good
- Scenic
- Availability
- Quality
- Enjoyable
- Protected public space
- Affordable recreation
- Educational opportunity
- Engaging young people (and adults) in outdoor activities and natural world
- Economic asset
- Interpretive possibilities in each State Park
- Camp Hosts
- The ability to make access to the resources within the State Park System accessible to the public equitably (fairly) & affordably

Missoula

- Makes accessing the outdoors for those who are not serious outdoor adventurers much easier; personal touch of camp hosts and interpreters.
- Diverse recreational opportunities/access; interact with history to increase knowledge; cultural.
- Access to water-based camping.
- Water-based park, access to lakes; “islands in time” (not a lot of change/development); integrity of natural, historical, cultural places.
- Opportunities to visit new areas of the state by camping and exploring mountain bike trails in the parks and surrounding areas.

- Resource to the public which adds to Federal portfolio; added value through history, archeology, paleo, etc.; adds resource to tourism; adds potential health benefit; addresses “local” needs; goes good with historical function.
- Places to recreate and explore that maintain some natural integrity.
- Engaging youth in the outdoors; stewardship projects to preserve our parks; outdoor recreation opportunities!
- Opportunities for families to engage with one another outside – outside the house, outside the WiFi network, outside their routine lives; taking care of Montana’s past, present and future (tying them together).
- Opportunities for families to experience the outdoors through camping and outdoor education; RTP program – finding trail projects for local communities; building the next generation of stewards.
- The opportunity to spend time with friends and family in Montana State Parks, camping, hiking and spending time; incubator for connection to the outdoors, safe and accessible; Recreational Trails Program; wildlife preservation and habitat; education!!; building the next generation of stewards.
- Recreational Trails Program; having public space for recreation and cultural and historic preservation and interpretation; places for families, youth and people of all ages and interests to be in community; incubator for connection to the outdoors, safe and accessible; camping experiences; wildlife, bird watching = habitat protection; education for habitat = stewards.
- Visitor services outreach, to and for Montana residents; how can visitors access state park offerings?
- State parks – able to enjoy parks programs.
- LWCF – RTP; diversity of values served by state parks – they fill an important niche not filled by other agencies and programs; a lot of responsibility.
- Value of state park system extends beyond the 54 state parks, so does the responsibility; trail systems, connectivity for recreation; economic development; wildlife and natural resources conservation.
- Protection and preservation and interpretation of historical and paleontological/archeological resources.
- Preserving/accessing unique Montana heritage sites; added value!
- Education/interpretation; cultural heritage; sense of place and community.
- Historical/cultural sites, e.g. L&C Caverns, Bannack; State parks w/wo camping
- Historical preservation and heritage.
- Historic properties; taking care of the history of Montana’s original inhabitants as well as the trappers, homesteaders.
- Sense of history; understanding historical events and lifeways; interaction with built environment and cultural landscapes.
- The interpretive information; historical science – the narrative of the place.
- Interaction/collaboration with other land management agencies, privately conserved land and open space to work strategically on issues.
- As of right now – nothing! Talk about recreation yet no one is talking about motorized use or benefits from families riding together.

L&C Caverns

- Most compelling and valuable to me personally is the availability of the parks to all with diverse recreational opportunities; professionally is the great educational services it provides to schools at no cost.
- Professionally – partnership and providing consistent and compatible recreation opportunities; personally – continue to provide quality recreation opportunities.

- Opportunities for Montanans to recreate – Tongue River, Mokoshika – fishing, biking, camping; mostly rustic, not KOA style, not National Park style; cheap entertainment – it’s Montanans that pay to register their cars – keep MT parks for Montanans; window into that part of Montana where each park is located.
- Heritage; natural resources; developed recreational opportunities; families, school groups, community groups.
- Natural environment – the land and wildlife; cultural heritage – the history; interpretation and education programs for individuals, families and schools.
- I can combine two of my personal favorite interests: outdoor recreation and history by visiting the many state parks that are in our area; most valuable to me is the fun family experience we have at the park.
- Hiking/biking trail system; history and heritage, tourism; MT branding – nature – stories; excellent job and visitor satisfaction even though little funding (budget); park diversity and uniqueness.
- Diversity of parks relating to history/geology/natural features; the grant programs are valuable but underfunded. Grants provide opportunity to highlight specific projects/areas to improve facilities.
- Grant programs provide operational funds for trail maintenance and snowmobile trail grooming; preservation of historical properties.
- Beautiful scenery; best campgrounds – developed (when you camp for more than 3 days it is nice to have showers/bathrooms, i.e. Placid Lake, Lewis & Clark Caverns, Cooney); enjoy education and interpretive self-guides; partnerships developed through grant programs.
- Interpretation/education within state parks – what is out there, what is the history; connection to local community (jobs, pride in the resource, sense of place).
- History of the park and preservation; trails grants; land and water grants.
- Land Water Conservation fund; trail program; historic preservation.
- Historical interpretation and preservation; safeguarding what we have, i.e. fire prevention; Bannack in particular – fire is the biggest threat. It is a matter of time before a serious fire happens and that threat needs to be minimized.
- Trail based recreation; historical preservation; campgrounds; Montana pride.
- Preservation of unique natural spaces and the ability to visit them.
- Provide healthy recreational options to public; preserves some historic areas and items.
- Using the RTP and L&W Conservation Program; interaction with the State Park in our area; economic value of the park to our community.
- Recreational trails program; multi-use non-motorized trails that are built to be safe and sustainable; trails for different skill levels (and kids).
- Compelling – great natural resource sites; site views; education; “rustic style,” “economic”; Valuable – outdoor MT locations near populations; multiple functions at sites.

Helena

- Access to outdoors, beautiful recreation; TRL program; diversity of programs; affordable; Veteran Group.
- Outdoor experiences, healthy experiences; encouraging a conservation ethic; diverse experiences; accessibility; affordability; Recreational Trail Program. (Will there be a comprehensive review of the current system? Should all 54 sites be State Parks? Should some parks be developed in a different way?)
- Encourages family into outdoors and away from technology; amenities i.e. hot showers, wood for sale; various rec opportunities – hike, fish, flora and fauna; accessibility for those with disabilities and seniors.
- Introducing youth and adults to the outdoors in a safe environment; promoting stewardship of our state’s natural resources; providing schools an outdoor classroom.
- Experience nature – hike; cultural preservation; pretty scenery; destination when traveling.

- Affordable access to incredible beauty and recreation; state parks are such a deal! Diversity.
- Diverse outdoor options.
- Diversity (in terms of both resources and users); outdoor recreation; resource protection; education; economic development.
- Trails, quick recreation.
- Educational programs; OMV, handicap hunting areas – how about handicap rec programs (kayaking, fishing, hunting, etc.)
- Preservation of heritage sites; connection to natural places; free and accessible to all Montanans.
- Programs; cultural resources; recreational opportunities; tell the story of why the park was created and why this park matters.
- Program awareness to encourage children and instill outdoor values (groups/families); accessible for all users. What defines a State Park? Know where parks are located? What’s available?
- OHV – funding source – training youth, but of little development of possibilities! We need to develop motorized parks and commercial.

Great Falls

- Smaller parks accessible to folks in the region to enjoy without great travel distance – family friendly, less expensive. Larger draw of Glacier and Yellowstone brings folks from all over the country – even world – into the state; they get a taste of what we have and may return.
- Accessibility; heritage and history of Montana; family participation; protect for future generations; underfunding; proud stewardship; very inexpensive.
- State Park system is authentic Montana – protection and interpretation of these valuable resources, both natural and cultural, is most valuable and compelling.
- FWP combines preservation of historical/cultural resources, conservation of natural assets and places for management of diverse wildlife in a single agency. Parks provides for preservation, recreation, and public education in a setting of integrity. Greatest value to me personally is identification and protection of cultural resources.
- Recreation programs – OHV, RTP and snowmobile. State Parks has an incredible opportunity to provide high quality recreation opportunities, motorized and non-motorized, on state and federal lands. The programs can have huge impacts on quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic sustainability. Need to develop strong partnerships with federal partners and others.
- Provides a central location for group related activities; provides opportunities for the community to get closer to wildlife and habitat around the city/region; provides the community with an outside vs. inside option for fitness and/or recreation; easily accessible and allow exposure to MT history.
- The Department is unique within recreation; provides in its representation an integration of the Montana public in partnership with federal and private recreation providers.

G. If you were to make recommendations to the State Parks Board and the Legislature, what would you suggest changing about the State Park system? (Purple)

Glasgow

- Cooperation/consolidation with other land resources agencies
- Improved public education/interpretive signage
- Additional revenue streams/adequate funding
- Being able to fully fund the existing parks to fulfill infrastructure backlog/maintenance needs, as well as bringing visitor services up to standard at all existing parks
- Reprioritize the existing funding of the Statewide State Park Program where monies and State Parks programs are distributed throughout the state . . . including lower populated areas.
- Increase funding in a stable secure way that is not vulnerable to each legislative session
- As stated in the slide presentation, the State Park system provides a positive economic benefit to the state and communities. Why are general funds not part of the funding equation? Investing in these parks/facilities could provide even generate economic benefit.
- Park locations equitably spread across the State.
- Represent all of Montana not just the mountains
- Not only additional State Parks in NE MT and the HI-Line, but staff representation
- More funding
- Create more parks in NE MT

Glendive

- Give the Board authority to provide better accommodations to the visitors
- Provide more visitor's centers and other park amenities
- Provide better infrastructure
 - Roads
 - Trails
 - Other uses
- Provide improved funding sources to develop parks
- Obtain secure finding for operations & maintenance
- Consider consolidating like-minded properties with single agencies
 - Heritage commission
 - Historical society
 - DNRC
 - FWP
- Be self-sustaining
- Keep all resources on the table
- Think outside the box
- Think marketing – competition
- Need vision/mission statement
- Consider each local park
- Listen and consider what the local communities want for their park – especially “Friends Groups”

- To help Parks raise more revenue for developing infrastructure within the parks and preserve what is already there.
- Make investments necessary to attract more visitors/market State Parks more

Billings

- Separate from fish and game commission, putting it into a different state department (maybe natural resources), coordinate gift shop/ snack for vendors.
- Recommend finding funding sources for park maintenance and operation ie: park vendor/ operations with state oversight and control.
- Better funding for the state park system, making a clean break from fish and wildlife.
- To shore more support/ respect importance to state park by legislating more funding, perhaps less state parks or limit the number of parks unless they can be adequately funded.
- Establish an adequate and sustainable funding source, convey/ articulate value of our park system, more robust social media presence.
- More state funding, district agency earmark, Montana waterway program, tourism.
- More funding available, somehow more and better information to the public/ chamber.
- Have a more consistent and progressive revenue stream to ensure proper maintenance and future expansion
- Funding- establish long term funds, increase coordination with university system regarding science, history, etc., identify more community and regional partnerships.
- More collaboration with other organizations doing interpretation and education work. More money!
- Collaborate public/ private partnerships (especially in interpretation and education), consistent revenue stream, measure economic impacts, measure quality of park and its effectiveness.
- Upgrading some that need it, keeping some primitive involving tourism outreach where appropriate (as market for funding).
- More opportunities in eastern and northern Montana, place based advertising, increased trail systems, publicity and knowledge for those trails, marketing to wider demographics.
- Develop a Montana waterway program, develop more destination parks, straighten out the conflict at DNRC, incorporate Virginia and Nevada Cities into state parks- more robust programs for staff, license fees on R.V's, more community based programs- friends groups- education- colleges, more trail programs.
- Add a couple state parks in Blaine and Philips County.
- Increase the vehicle registration fee in order to update and maintain and improve our state parks, increase funding from the Fish and Wildlife pot of money, promote the parks/ improve visibility.
- Advertising the needs of north and eastern Montana, find the beauty in grassland landscapes, Lake Elmo, Picto and other parks around Billings need campgrounds, advertise and promote state parks, fund O&M of existing parks- provide opportunities for summer interns for high schools/ college students, we need a local sales tax option (Legislature), need a policy on park acquisition.
- Consider the historical resources at fishing accesses as potential interpretation sites.
- Take money from funding from hunt/ fish licenses, tax recreation refund, more access to historical finds, add more state parks.
- Evaluate any and all opportunities for residents and out-of-state visitors who have a large impact on Montana's economy, directly and indirectly, evaluate each park for effectiveness- short term and long term, revenue, informative brochures at rest stops.

Kalispell

- Dedicated public safety/law enforcement program
- Capital funding to keep parks adequate operating funds sustainably through sensible private partnerships & philanthropy (Friends of the Groups)
- Marketing not sure average Montanans know the differences/opportunities between State/Fed/Private opportunities
- Research how to increase funding & personnel
 - For example how do other states function
- Legislature – funding for parks needs to be increased - find new sources
- Parks for underserved parts of state – where there are none
- Consider no fees for out of state users
- Consider a “Friends Group” for each park to help raise money
- Reduce the number of regulations by 10%
- Encourage compliance through education and “soft” visitor contacts, write tickets as a last resort
- Encourage responsible pet usage – leash free dog parts
- Protect the resource – bear proof garbage – patrol for weeds
- Encourage use - don’t limit. Example Smith River – more campsites
- Funding
- Visibility/branding
- Park enforcement – safety & conflict vs. warden
- Access
- Expand the parks system to increase access and availability for future generations
- Increase funding & revenue for the Park System
- Consider increasing capacity in heavily used parks
- Bring back the printed directory of State Parks
- More focus on education and cultural issues and development
- “That which we understand we value and preserve”
- Publicity – to increase awareness of needs and resources available
- Find ways to increase budget so resources can increase
- Reservation system
- Reservations/Capacity – demand exceed capacity
 - Extend park system to meet demand
 - Increase public awareness to support additional revenue and build partnerships

Missoula

- Add winter ice recreation; develop “health and exercise” program; expand historical education – more interaction with OPI, more online materials; separate agency?
- Expand recreational and education programs and opportunities in winter and summer; more secure funding.
- The more education, the better – it instills an early appreciation of parks in people, and means they will (hopefully) stay involved, and bring their families to the park someday; more initiatives to get communities involved, reach people on a local level; online materials; separate agency?; state parks and local agencies.

- State parks need to connect with local city recreation agencies (provide opportunities for more “community” style recreation); connectivity between trails – including private/public, city/state, federal land (bike trails, hiking, river trails); more “multiple” use trails (mountain bikes, horses, etc.); connect with MTRPA when going to the Legislature – more advocacy in groups; conservation fees? or annual pass?
- Find a way to enhance public funding beyond the opt-in vehicle registration fee; work to tell your story – why are you relevant to all Montanans? (I know, but does everyone?); work with tourism industry to tell story beyond state lines; campfire lectures in state park camping areas – education .
- Broaden the funding sources (opt-out – does it occur more with the mail-in / in office procedure?); create partnerships for support from private and public groups.
- Secure stable and effective funding source; make “Parks” a separate agency as “Fish and Wildlife” dominate the image and culture of the agency.
- More stable funding for operations and maintenance as well as infrastructure improvement and development; balanced and broad-based access and programs for motorized/non-motorized as well as adult and youth programs and recreation opportunities.
- Consider including more motorized opportunities – as opportunities for access to public lands have decreased, I would like to see preserved access for continued motorized access for future generations (this is the one user group that has not been included in state parks); more stable funding.
- Opening up state parks to motorized use; also budget parks better – RTP monies can be used not only for walk paths but also to create motorized trails within the park system; parks board and legislature need to remember that this was to create a parks and recreation board!
- State Park Board is small with huge regions – I would suggest engaging an advisory committee or expanded stakeholder group for each region that enables more engagement with key decision makers and potential partners and funders (tourism, TBIDs, health); Legislature – the value of state parks is just the tip of the iceberg. A sustainable funding mechanism is necessary. Commission a study of other state park systems to find a best fit for consistent revenue source. Think out-of-state visitors like bed or resort tax, state park annual visitor pass, etc.
- I see a need for a state conference of all local/state organizations with specific problems or interests; network.
- Partnerships; fund it – maintenance; protect and preserve it; connect it with other historic and recreation opportunities through marketing; orchestrate a coalition/unified voice of friends of parks at legislature (advocacy); use Youth Conservation Corp model – connect youth to land to provide some work force, they will advocate as adults.
- Create an educational summer work program for high schools (YCC); money for maintenance, for interpretation, for appropriate facilities, for educational connections to schools.
- Embrace or work with organizations who share similar missions to make greater use of parks; broaden educational efforts through existing groups and programs where missions overlap.
- Build connections among public and private sectors to increase visibility and foster partnerships; allocate General Fund monies.
- Connecting with local communities and organizations; generating revenue while preserving parks – look at other states.
- Continue to develop trail systems in the state parks that are open to as many user groups as possible; partner with adjoining land holders to extend these trails beyond the park boundaries.
- Ensure conservation of natural values (wildlife habitat and water quality) when developing parks – wildlife and fisheries biologists must be consulted when developing parks; propose sustainable funding (other

funding tool like vehicle registration fee); revenue generation shouldn't compromise natural values; could some counties or tribes take over management of some sites? i.e. Council Grove to CSKT?

- Allow state parks to unburden themselves from properties that require resources but are of lesser public value – streamlining.
- Get a larger piece of the state financial pie – need more funding!; more maintenance on historic properties; “Parks” possibly become its own entity; organize a “Friends of State Parks.”
- Funding; separate agency from FW; improve staffing consistency by reducing turnover and improving training for seasonal employees; increased staffing and programming to better serve and engage all Montanans; better communication so that Montanans understand the value of their parks – promote ownership and stewardship.
- It's our heritage, begin funding from the General Fund; expand youth education programs; increase education offerings for all visitors; make visitors Champions of MT State Parks.
- Separate “Parks” from “Fish and Wildlife” and secure a reliable revenue stream (General Fund?); don't try to sell dinosaur fossils to pay for park operations – in other words, understand the intrinsic value of each park unit before making suggestions to secure funding for specific units.
- Modernize State Park campgrounds; better define criteria for RTP administration; more youth education and programs; more stable funding source.
- Reduce number of non-essential parks to around 35-40 parks; match \$6 fee from General Fund (Legislative bill); improve staffing, education and maintenance.
- More open hours; what kind of state park - camping; reservations program; what is a park; what is a recreation.
- Get in the philanthropy business at a professional level – same as other professions (planning, recreation, management, etc.); not a panacea but leaving money on the table.

L&C Caverns

- Improve funding (salary) for AmeriCorps volunteers to increase number of students going to state parks, gaining experience and ultimately working in the system; increase number of positions within each park – increase cost of visiting park (or create cost) to make this happen; Dillon Trail Pass – sticker/button campaign: you are part of something bigger.
- Enhance operation and maintenance budget, add additional recreation program personnel; Preservation – add money for historic and cultural resources; Education – create a school promotional education program for all 5th graders; Promotion – create regular/recurring resources for facility renovations; Partners – partner with local government park & rec.
- Don't be all things to all people – tier the parks for how they're operated, get allies and focus there (would Dillon pay a buck? Somehow?); Do involve local governments and local economies for funding ideas; Do increase river frontage sites as in rivers as trails, connection campsites; Parks board should be like a young man at the dance – find someone who wants to dance and dance with them.
- If FW&P wants to sell the two properties in Bozeman, give us some lead time; yearly user stickers for bikes/non-motorized users.
- Increase emphasis on “land stewardship” (preserve for future), especially Parks functions separately from Fish/Wildlife; increase community outreach, connect with councils, get Friends of the ___ park; land stewardship; funding – the State legislature should fund Montana's heritage.
- More partnership opportunities with local communities around state parks (communication); re-evaluate geographic locations vs. number of users – is there the political will to sell a park – use that money to purchase a different park; better signage; fund through the General fund; market in-state and out-of-

state; run the parks more like a business; split off from F&W; charge a small fee for biking/hiking or using trails.

- Perhaps bring local entities, industries, county governments, etc. together and have them work in more of a unified process, streamline and work together.
- Closer cooperation with local museums; state cooperating associations (Bannack Association); creative funding methods and ideas; more PR in the communities regarding parks and their themes, goals, events – PR spots on the radio, historical talks on radio, at service organizations such as Kiwanis, newspaper articles on a regular basis; prison trustee inmates in Parks for cleanup, maintenance.
- Manage the recreational programs more as a business; increase variety of camping; brand and advertise system more; focus more on full service or valuable historic parks and less on secondary important parks; increase gift funding; split Park system from Fish & Wildlife (investigate idea).
- Divert monies collected from State bed tax to State Parks system – Legislature; increase advertising to system – Park Board.
- More adequate funding sources (consistent); better programs and marketing to brand State Parks – history, recreation; more diverse programs to broaden SP audience; encourage partnerships and buy in from local communities; consider separating Parks division from FWP so that each area can give appropriate focus to their priorities.
- Fund with portion of State General fund; increase marketing, both in-state and out-of-state, particularly as it pertains to the high quality outdoor recreation opportunities and state parks; continue focus on families; branding; increase partnerships with local communities.
- Funding – State Parks need to be better funded and have a means of funding that is stable, reliable and simple; maintain quality staff – do more to retain the people that make state parks great; citizen funding initiatives; preservation of features – losing something really special; weed control – frustration for neighbors; facility improvement – use is only going to increase; community involvement - how can “neighbor communities” participate; parks contribute to local economies; marketing – let people know about parks!; friends groups; State Park trail pass (bikes).
- Funding – annual budget allocations: one suggestion would be to change the OHV and snowmobile registration to annual registrations and use some of those annual fees to contribute to the RTP program; could do something similar with boats and vessels to provide some annual funding to maintain and develop boating facilities; community engagement – Friends groups; provide a range of opportunities within the park system and make sure they are communicated to the public; separate FW from Parks.
- Increase operational funding budgets – weed control, facilities improvements, preservation of features; use will increase into the future; quality staff retention; marketing/outreach; “Friends of the Park”.
- Change the funding system to allow General funds to be used for State Parks infrastructure, marketing and programs by making it an annually funded budget for those specific needs; Friends of the Park groups.
- Recognize importance of State Park system to local and state economy – too often recreation and state parks are seen as “nice to do” but natural resource development is more important → not true, need to change philosophy of legislature (educate); develop long term funding source that keeps up with inflation and spreads cost to all users (e.g. out-of-state through gas taxes or something similar); preserve the past; aging community - facilities need to meet those people to get visitors to Montana (e.g. showers, electricity).
- Allowing State Parks that offer camping to modernize their facilities – add electric hook-up, offer hot showers – people will stay longer and hopefully spend money.
- Additional funding mechanisms (long-term) to increase the parks budget or increase the motor vehicle fee – use visitation statistics to back up; more recreational trails (non-motorized) to enhance the health of

Montanans (and kids) – to build trails, use local advocates (friends of parks) and add more diversity of trails (easy to difficult); enhanced interpretive activities (especially for kids) – historic and nature-based; trail fees? donation boxes in more places.

- Consider creative ways to generate income (jewelry, concessions); would love to see improved State funding to parks – long term funding source like the license plate fees; expand the Kids in the Parks partnership with Montana Conservation Corps – way to engage local youth in appreciating the value of State Parks; Friends – develop a Friends of the MT State Parks group – outside of government to encourage community support and philanthropy; Legislative funding – Bottle Bill funds conservation/recreation in California, statewide levy funds in Colorado; tiered levels of services at various parks.
- Legislative – find ways to improve funding! Board – expand trail systems using local advocates – bike clubs, trail running groups, hiking clubs (use these groups to help maintain these trail systems); offer different levels of trail difficulty; park-specific local “Friends of...”, non-profit; State Parks trail pass - \$.
- Create a permanent funding source for State Park that would allow the parks to improve and grow into other areas of the state – take some pride in the parks! Make park improvements to better engage youth and families; address “Nature deficit disorder”.

Helena

- Nothing, it’s awesome!! Campaign – where Parks gets it funding from; more incorporation of stewardship and conservation – Example: Instead of just posting signs to clean up after your pet, give the reason why it’s important; Don’t handle turtles. Why? Legislature needs to give them general funds or increase licensing; recognize the contributions that hunters/anglers have made and continue to make towards the conservation of our fish and wildlife.
- The legislature should fund state parks with general fund – current funding is ridiculous – MT has some of the country’s best natural resources – we should be putting more money into them, promoting them more, giving people more reasons to go, they’d spend more money, bring in more out-of-staters, etc.; Diversity – parks that offer different experiences – quiet commune with nature, handicap accessible, cultural resource, preservation and interpretation.
- Ranking system for parks based on recreation activities to establish an understanding of the different park types (criteria); make funding decision based on above; fees for launching boats (possibly built into licensing of boat); fees for outside of state bicyclists and hikers.
- Invest in our heritage assets; dramatically improve stewardship of cultural sites; management decisions should prioritize core values and significance of each park; develop criteria and priorities for acquisition and de-accession of parks; more cultural and Native American staff people.
- Set criteria for what parks should be and prioritize; focus on product not corporate sponsorship and marketing; improve signage; increase emphasis on cultural, tell the stories, programs.
- Should do audit of Parks – can some parks be transferred or eliminated, develop criteria and priorities; honor the historic nature of area, core values; improve stewardship of cultural sites; boat licensing/launch fee.
- Reassess/reevaluate what constitutes a park; licensing fees of large (powerful) boats; develop criteria on determining sites; prioritize “A, B, C” of parks; promote park with signage, mapping; collaborate; pursue recycling fee through legislation on aluminum, glass, plastic; maintenance – sign replacement, trash cans.
- Redefine “Parks” – develop, preserve, determine function and collaborate with other entities.
- Assess if all State Parks should be State Parks; establish State Parks in north central part of MT; are there parameters for what makes a State Park? Ensure all State Parks have accessibility, walking/biking paths, or

opportunities for physical activity; assess geographically who is opting out of vehicle registrations – is it where there are no parks? Can education be done to increase the %?

- A comprehensive review of State Parks to determine viability of all 54 sites. What should or should not be in the SP system? Should some sites be developed or interpreted in a different, more meaningful way? System should be evaluated on merit first and money second.
- Greater geographical diversity (more parks in eastern MT, Rocky Mountain front, etc.); more effective integration and cooperation with other FWP programs; greater diversity of trail opportunities (e.g. rail trails, water trails, motorized); continuing expanding focus on getting kids outdoors.
- Provide funding from general fund through Legislature; reservation system – make more accessible to older computer systems; does any of the \$10 fee from reservation system come into State Parks system/budget?
- Fund the program! → so can extend the season, adequately maintain and staff, better signage; add fee to RV registration.
- Expanding camping area, include RV dumps, primitive to hook-ups; revenue stream – RV include in vehicle registration; fees to launch boats, fees to TRL decal; interpretive signage.
- Don't take on any new parks without ongoing funding to support it; signage on the significance of parks; funding for infrastructure – roads, restrooms, etc.

Great Falls

- Integrate local school education programs with State Park experiences; determine clear mission related to Park development; organize department goals with integrated mission objectives; facilitate stable funding – consider public recreation as an essential public service, not optional.
- Look at possible partnerships that can leverage limited resources; explore ways to enhance recreational opportunities by coordinating rec program funding – Lincoln, MT trail system is an example; use OHV, Snow, RTP to implement system; look for ways for parks to self-fund or increase funding.
- Since the creation of the newly formed Park Board, emphasize to the public that this is a new direction under different management than the previous FWP model, describe the funding challenges, and underscore the need for more funding for maintenance and interpretation.
- A more stable funding system to enable: better resource protection, interpretation/ public education; separate State Parks board was a great first step.
- Don't be afraid to increase the opt-in \$ amount on vehicle registration – it is such a good deal and so easy to support; educate the public more – prior to this move – within the regions.
- Keep it in FWP – 1965; more funding; presentation for legislators; park logo for \$10 like “Get Lost” Montana sticker; NHC's.
- Need to greatly enhance the public awareness of the state parks – specifically: their locations, amenities available, history, difficulties facing the Park system, volunteer opportunities; increase awareness of State Park needs to local and state businesses to enhance partnership opportunities; better public awareness regarding park difficulties and struggles and have the public share concerns with their local legislators/representatives to push changes in funding/support from state government.

H. What experiences/services/ opportunities/programs should we consider enhancing within the State Parks system? (Green)

Glasgow

- The MT State Park system needs to provide staffed State Parks Division offices in NE MT and the Hi-Line. This would provide a more equal opportunity for the citizens to take advantage of the various programs and grants that the Division provides, i.e. provide the public in Region 6 with “one stop shopping”
- Improve infrastructure for
 - Good access
 - Constituent facilities at a “medium” level (some high level some mid level)
- How do you pay for more services/opportunities, etc.
- Education for kids/young adults
- Improve/increase relationships with neighbors and communities and county leadership
- Training for employees.
- Educate the workers to know the park and the area
- Engage the local/regional communities in the services, opportunities, programs offered at the individual State Parks
- Fund fully to the extent for which the parks was established
- Evaluate each park for additional opportunities that they may offer
- Before starting new experiences/services/opportunities, consider finishing/fixing/finalizing what already exists.
- Lodging/canoe rentals
- Interpretive signage
- Visiting education programs

Glendive

- More camping facilities
- Quality
- More water recreation
- More enhancements of historic sites
 - Development of kiosks and historic sites
- More hiking trails and opportunities
- More places for off highway vehicles and snowmobiles
- More of everything else people like to do outdoors
- Concessions
 - Rental equipment
 - Cabins/Yurts
- Experiences
 - Hiking/biking trails
- Services
 - Camping
 - Guided walks
 - Restrooms
 - Concessions

- Opportunities
 - Concerts
 - Festivals
- Programs
 - Campfire talks
 - Day camps
 - Weekend/overnight camps
- Supply & Demand – allow vendors to capitalize on unique opportunities each park offers. Park get a percentage of vendor sales. Keep revenue where it was generated
- Teepee village in Makoshika State Park
- More work to improve wildlife habitat
- Partnerships with gateway communities for festivals/events
 - Both invest, organize, market, both benefit
- Zoning within parks. Allow certain activities within certain zones.

Billings

- Interaction events, trails should be improved, community involvement should be expanded.
- Develop more modern facilities, better trail/road signs, more interpretation, more “friends” groups.
- Better signing for visitor information.
- More hiking opportunities, community involvement is good but could be better, more interpretive “events” as opposed to “day-to-day.”
- Family and youth educational programs, more vendors/ services in some state parks, recreational beginner opportunities for the person who doesn’t do it often.
- Enhance the number of collaborations with schools, connecting the parks in history, science, health and recreation.
- Enhance awareness of E.S.O at all or selected locations on a measureable scale.
- Increase number of visitor centers, overnight camping and facilities (water, restrooms) and trails.
- Accessible trails for bird watchers, many of whom are seniors, astronomy nights using amateur astrologists (clubs or individuals) to provide experienced reviews.
- Public awareness, simple marketing (ie: rest areas), enhance existing parks with multi-use opportunities, chicken or the egg?- funding allows programs or programs could increase funding.
- Opportunities, multi-use opportunities, evaluate, brochures, etc.
- Campgrounds east of the Divide (combine with FAS in a formal manner), night programs (if you had campgrounds)- for living history, etc., family focused opportunities ie: your kid knows more about state parks than you do (due to school programs).
- Public awareness ie: marketing.
- So much that could be done that won’t be done without greater funding and personnel resources so 1) focus on basic signage maintenance and facilities 2) passive interpretation 3) programs.
- Programs to tie academic credit (higher education) to research or other activities in parks, experiences that include sounds, services- strong online presence by availability by interaction without being at a park, tie fitness and health initiatives to parks (5k, 10k, etc. and also a revenue generator).
- Emphasize education, relate to history, natural science and archaeology at specific parks.
- Enhancing archaeological experience, bike access, site interpretation, plants.
- Add some science based programs (outdoor classroom learning), volunteer programs, add some historical based programs (walking tour experiences).

- Continue to improve site interpretation, provide for better training of staff- interpretive workshops.

Kalispell

- Partnerships with cities town and counties to have build/maintain Parks
- Comprehensive, connected trail system
- Diverse range of outdoor experiences
- More partnerships for biking fishing, hiking programs (value added concessions)
- Interpretive & educational signage – trail info
- Youth and family friendly opportunities for under used parks (Lone Pine is an example of good opportunities)
- Better partnerships with people & parks collaboration with local groups to get things done
- Access for non-boat owners to Wild Horse Island
- Promote nature appreciation thru interpretive & experiential programs
- Sideline benefits: physical exercise & build constituency
- Education – Lone Pine is a good example with interpretive trails, experience
- Dedicated friends group for funding and educational program
- Reduce regulation
- Youth engagement
- Education on balance overall law enforcement vs. teachable moment – ticket and turn off vs. engagement & support
- Engaging the public – philanthropy leads to engagement & ownership at local level
- Branding
- Partnerships on trails
- Provide for responsible pet usage – leash free
- Access Wild Horse State Park – boat concession, maybe with CSK Tribe
- Build relationships and collaborate with other groups i.e. user education, local governments, Rotary, Flathead County FUCC, MCC
- Collaborate with local schools at the high school level recreation outdoor opportunities, cultural value, community value
- Improve reservation system
- Educational programs for visitors to our area (children)
- Sales of items that will financially support the park system
- Education of public – awareness so they will financially support system more
- Enhance camping and recreational services and opportunities by creating additional state parks
- Availability and access
- Educational opportunities especially for kids, focus on experiential
- Increase public information about park system, budget and challenges
- Interpretive displays and resources
- Conservation programs
- More designated swim areas
- Fish awareness, i.e. species in designated body of water and suggested fishing tackle for nonresidents

Missoula

- Education and health opportunities; partners – volunteerism, potential funding, advertising state parks with national parks.
- Expand season of operations; explore integrating state university systems into planning efforts in forestry, interpretation; coordinate/combine advertising with federal parks; iPhone app.
- Experiences – mountain biking, ranger series for communities to learn about historic, cultural info, events tied to S.P. history, assets; Services – camping: hiker/biker sites for non-motorized visitors, showers with no RVs campers nearby, ADA access; Programs – keep going with the youth and education programs, Native American connections; each State park (or many depending upon assets) have unique attributes – inventory and catalogue these to build programs that can be hosted across the system; use social media – Twitter, InstaGram, Pinterst – to build community and support (an app = \$\$).
- Children’s education and involvement (create future stewards and advocates); iPhone application for tours at cultural historical parks.
- Cultural story on wireless to let people connect and hear stories on smart phones, etc.; more connection to Native stories/tribes.
- Educational: OPI – IEHA – STEM, coordination of curriculum; narration of the Parks – interpretive people – iPhones – technology; training for interpreters.
- X-country skiing, winter (ice) recreation, more year round activities; volunteer guides, more “guided” nature walks for ADA access.
- Better overall maintenance with added ADA access in all parks; consider public/private partnership ventures such as concessionaire services; additional guide services/programs for historical heritage sites.
- More highly trained visitor services personnel: law enforcement, maintenance, information desk, environmental educators, concessionaires, interpreters; enhance communication skills of employees.
- Increase park staff with year-round positions and knowledge of the park to share with visitors; historical landmarks and information; community involvement in nearby parks; education wherever possible; summer programs; things like the “Planet Earth” series; increased technology; ADA efforts.
- Expand volunteer opportunities in cultural parks.
- Self-serving programs to promote park appreciation and to encourage family recreation, travel and exploration; Conservation Corps style efforts, youth leadership building that celebrates local history; educational partnerships with local and regional nonprofits in environmental or outdoor education.
- Youth Conservation Corps for State Parks.
- Youth
- Mountain biking opportunities (look at Dead Horse State Park in UT); community focal areas – can State Parks become more of a “community center” for some places? Ex: become a place for youth day camps, swimming/boating camp at F’town pond; festivals, special events, etc.
- Educational programs – partnerships with schools and communities; year-round – encouraging 12 months of usage rather than seasonal only; community connections – what makes this place important within its community? Develop a sense of ownership among neighbors.
- Public education; more communication between the state parks and their surrounding communities; work with other state/federal agencies?? State parks and MT heritage commission?
- Fee based programs – market rate professionally offered by NP partners to pay for interpretive experiences; also, at the community level, develop local programs that meet local interests, economic development and tourism; this would require staff to engage more in their communities – i.e. more staffing hours; connecting with visitors so that an ongoing dialogue can be maintained at market rate expectations.

- There should be education trails, motorized trails; State parks should have potable water for recreationists camp sites; could include OHV safety training areas to help educate both riders and non-motorized users; could create good sustainable trails for bike use as well; year round access to parks.
- Opportunities for motorized uses including camping; improved youth programs; improved RTP grant administration.
- Offer diverse recreation access and opportunities; volunteer participation in operations; user groups to volunteer time/energy in maintenance and fund-raising to support same; at this time no motorized recreation opportunities at State Parks; year round access – frustrating to find areas closed after September.
- Opportunities for multiple types of user groups – mtn. bikes, hiking, skiing, running, viewing, fishing; camping – developed and undeveloped; internships for UM students; trails – connect them with municipal/county/federal.
- Does FWP have enough land to encourage guide use? Different types of parks – cultural (Buffalo Jump), multiple use (Fish Creek).
- Trails – recreation as appropriate, while also focusing on conservation values when those should be prioritized.
- Overnight camping facilities in proximity to major Montana cities; trails that are specifically built for mountain biking and other trails that are open to mountain bikes.
- Trail connections to other trail systems (like Travelers Rest being part of State Route to School); any expansion of services should not be focused on revenue generation alone, i.e. installing a water slide in Lewis and Clark Caverns might bring in money but would not be appropriate for caverns; fee-based programs (that aren't too expensive for citizens and are simple to administer).
- Engaging families and youth; connecting with communities; paid educational events, interpretive walks (fee-based programs); camping – more access.
- Natural resource interpretation tours (eco-tourism aspects of parks); community connections or opportunities – communication on program availability.

L&C Caverns

- Weekly programs with different themes such as astronomy, archaeology, geology, photography, history themes, fly fishing; more tours – Bannack Mill Tours, mine tours; organized dinners/picnics – Dutch oven cooking, sourdough pancakes; students doing responsible research.
- Volunteer service pays for trails maintenance; fireside/campground education events in the evenings; special events to draw large crowds – Bannack Days, Lewis & Clark Centennial); increased trails at Parks; move to make State Parks more open in winter months.
- Outdoor recreation opportunities; outdoor education offerings – learn to fly fish, nature education / local flora and fauna, nature photography; family activities; camping.
- More historical interpretation of events that have occurred within the Parks.
- Interpretation – for all ages; education – for schools, K-12 and college; ecotourism – wildlife watching, guided walks; coordinate with universities for research opportunities, undergrad and grad, and internships.
- Heritage programs (interpretive) education; trails (recreation); river access – lake access; “safe” outdoor experience – ease into the outdoors; partnerships (private, volunteers, etc.)
- Family educational opportunities; special yearly events (Bannack Days); night options (Nevada City's Candlelight Tour); use of local naturalists, experts, story tellers.

- Camping, biking, hiking, boating – quality and diversity of each; education programs (both historic and environmental).
- More family friendly trails; longer and better designed trails; higher quality camping; tie trails to adjacent public lands.
- Additional recreational multi-use trails (hiking and biking) – again, to help with enhancing Montanans’ and visitors’ health as well as to have fun and learn about ecology; kid’s activities – immerse kids in natural world by them having fun outside; interpretive enhancement (unique stories) – outdoor education; use local volunteers more effectively to build trails for example; partnership opportunities – local governments too.
- Family recreation experience; partnering with other entities to broaden the experience – i.e. Museums to Parks: Children’s museum to a nature/history walk in a nearby State Park.
- Utilize volunteer groups more; better designed trails.
- Offer better services at campgrounds; school programs for field trips; encourage State Parks managers to establish partnerships with local government (city and county and federal) and industry.
- Services need to be updated in parks – paved campground trails (kids on bikes, people with disabilities), showers, flush toilets, electric hook-ups, garbage collection, etc.; assess all use of parks – provide balanced service; make parks user friendly to all generations.
- Rustic “pull-off” camping RV (self-contained) only; mountain biking; fishing access; “river trails” where the rivers connect to river accessible campsites across the Jefferson, Missouri, Yellowstone in particular – treat them like you treat the lakes.
- Marketing – each park offers different opportunities; educational entertainment; look beyond the state boundaries and to the future; year-round opportunities.
- I do not even know what many of the parks provide, so I think communicating/marketing existing opportunities is most important; outdoor education; volunteer/community engagement.
- Signage; working with affinity groups to make State Parks part of a tour itinerary (especially historic); mobile apps (walk through Bannack and know what the heck you are looking at); the preservation of the resource should be as valuable as the customer experience – people want experiences they cannot get where they come from; brand with the state of Montana.
- Signage – leading up to parks (surrounding communities), as well as within the parks; experience-based programs – historical, education, artistic, etc.; increase mobile (social media) app considerations – virtual experiences; recreation focused marketing and promotion; partnership with affinity groups, or private sector tour groups, that would build a State Park experience into a “pre-packaged” Montana tour/visit/experience.

Helena

- Trails for walking/biking; all parks should be accessible via bike/foot and safe; Spring Meadow should allow bicycling; update signage – especially way-finding signs; create “themed” marketing literature, e.g. all the lake parks are in one brochure and marketed to entice people to go to other parks of similar interest, historical parks, scenic parks, etc.; support bicycling and tourists through no turn-away policy.
- Trail systems improved and advertised; camping for bike tourists – a growing part of economy; connect parks or show connection for bike tourist and autos; create a Bike Tour d’ Parks.
- Recreational trails/hikes – with interpreters, multigenerational; skill-building camps – teach camping, hiking, survival skills; measured trails (mileage markers) so can use for trailsRx.

- Programs after work/school hours – better for school kids and working parents; separation of motorized and non-motorized trail systems; more bicycle/hiker camping sites (no camper turned away at every park – it it's not already a policy).
- Youth education/interpretation; cabins; more diverse trail opportunities (include water trails).
- Youth/kids programs/experiences after working hours or to the schools; outreach to show what is available; passport book for state parks.
- RV dumps; evening programs – partner with MHS or local historical societies; kid – SR camps; youth events; tribes partnerships.
- Partnerships with independent state and local groups; engagement of tribes and tribal culture – people and programs; research and document national significance of parks like Madison and Ulm Pishkun, Big Spring, Council Grove; enhance visitor experience of cultural parks.
- Historic preservation; ranger-led programs; more interpretive signage; more promotional/interpretive literature distribution statewide; Native American involvement in interpretation.
- Volunteers, interpretation, overall programming, cooperative with communities, group campsites; consistent updates in timely manner – currently the marketing and updates suck, totally late and worthless; stop ads and actually communicate with people.
- Identify each park's significance, i.e. cultural, etc.; improve current amenities – longer availability times for firewood, ice, etc.; use volunteers from local community for improvements – perhaps designate local sites for local users.
- Evaluate funding structure and state's participation; heritage interpretation signage and programming; evaluate accessibility (ADA); tie parks together with "Tours" trail.
- Large sites reservation, sites for school aged children (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts); interpretive speakers at those sites; promote senior programs – walking, flower identification; partner with other stakeholders to promote recreational tie to other facilities (MSU – 4H program).
- Stewardship and conservation – Example: signage should explain why behind a park rule, "Pick up after your pets." Why – run-off into nearby waters, others recreating, nitrogen overload causing pollution. "Hands off turtles." Why? "Leave no trace." Why, why, why? More ranger-led programs or interpretive programs from community members.
- We need to address historical roots development instead of site purchase! Let's benefit from much history instead of some! Open state lands to state users rather than private leavers!

Great Falls

- Maps and brochures within each region readily available (comes with your newspaper), TV ads; any time there is a local interest story in the N.P. connect it with a brief story about the state parks in that area; education of youth.
- Experiences – leaving everyone with wanting more and visiting other parks; services – electricity hook-ups when applicable, more camp sites; opportunities – enhancing what parks have to offer.
- Consider evaluating current states: where are we? What experiences/opportunities/ programs could be developed that are missing in the current system? Opportunities exist for additional parks. Education!
- Interpretation/education – some sites doing well, others have opportunities. Capitalize on opportunities for added interpretation/education, interactive experiences for generations coming up. Maintenance – services need additional emphasis (and funding). Emphasis on integrity is essential; applies equally to cultural/recreational/scenic.

- Educational events by park officials to increase public awareness and understanding of natural events within the park; increase public awareness of local events within the Park system; provide opportunities for the public to provide assistance to park upkeep/ restoration etc.
- Diversify funding for Parks; improve funding to self-funded programs like RTP, OHV, snowmobile (gas tax increases %, reciprocity); partner with NGO.
- Create an integrated, powerful vision for the State Parks system; We are Montana Parks (all the leisure NPs, FS, BLM, strategically supported by the Montana Parks system); MT Parks, “connecting people to places”.

I. What strategies should the State Parks Board and State Legislature consider pursuing to sustain the State Parks system and increase public investment over the next 10 years? (Prioritized by number of votes)

Questions	Glasgow	Glendive	Billings	Kalispell	Missoula	L&C Cavern	Helena	Great Falls	Total	Average
Develop new revenue streams	10	2	6	7	13	8	9	5	60	7.5
Pursue more public-private partnerships and private contracts	7	3	7	2	17	11	7	2	56	7
Address the backlog of capital maintenance needs	2	2	4	4	15	2	10	5	44	5.5
Pursue state general fund allocation	3	0	7	4	9	9	3	2	37	4.625
Reduce the size of the State Parks system by selling, transferring, or donating lands that do not meet the mission of the system	12	1	3	3	7	6	3	1	36	4.5
Increase vehicle registration fee (currently \$6)	1	1	3	2	8	9	4	3	31	3.875
Establish more state parks, particularly in areas (geographic and/or park type) which are not well served/represented at present	15	1	3	2	2	1	4	1	29	3.625
Increase park user fees, like camping fees, permitting fees, etc.	1	4	5	3	4	4	2	5	28	3.5
Improve current parks with better amenities, like electrical hook-ups, showers, signage etc.	1	2	10	0	6	7	2	0	28	3.5

J. Comments & Actions for Strategies (White Card):

Glasgow

- Reducing Parks – we believe to distribute the current MT State Park budget more evenly and equally geographically throughout the State, the State Park System needs to reprioritize the existing –current budgeting and distribution of Parks staff.
- Increase Revenue – Park sponsorships (non-corporate). Cultivate more “Friends of the Park” groups
- Increase &/or add State General Fund dollars to budget
- Decrease the number of parks that don’t fit the mission
- Establish more parks based on the “definition” of State Parks and uniqueness of that type of public access and availability of those opportunities in the area (within 100 miles)
- State Park Trail across the state. Such as Birding Trail & Micro Brew Trail
- To establish more parks “geographically-equal”, we suggest:
 - Provide State Parks staff representation within Region 6. This full-time or part-time employee could provide the public of NE MT and the Hi-Line the opportunities that the State Parks Program can provide. This Park employee would assist the public in searching and pursuing potential State Parks.
- Revenues: Special oil impact funding for Eastern MT.
- Make schools pay for educational services at State Parks
- Contact maintenance for other agencies with campgrounds/rec areas.
- Develop interlocal agreements between agencies to secure amenities for a State Park. Recruit volunteer support to maintain
- Visitors seek out State Parks when traveling in other States. MT needs to have better presence in NE MT to participate in the national brand associated with State Parks System
- Develop a Parks App or Game like Farmville but for State Parks. This could generate revenue and teach youth about the State Parks System
- Review and pursue the implementation of the NE Park Committee’s recommendations from 2001-02.
- Increase camping opportunities through collaboration with other state and federal agencies
- Funding from vehicle registration is collected in NE MT but no benefit from State Parks in Region

Glendive

- Variable rates and fees
- Create a rate structure based on campsite location and approximation to main park amenity
- Fees change based on season and holidays
- Consider supply and demand as well as affordability

Billings

- Increase out of state fees
- Tax Pipelines
- Tax Refund Check off
- Increase vendors
- Make a clean break from FWP
- “Incorporate Trail” system that connects parks.
 - Trails connecting parks by type and value

- Physical trails
- Improve signage for State Parks
- Market more to the tourists
- Increase fees for RV/RV Tag
- Improve marketing
 - Good for health
 - Value of recreational dollars spent in state and communities
 - Traveffect.com
- Regional Tourism board collaborate with State Parks
- Enhance compliance of vehicle registration
- View MT rivers as an asset
 - Manage rivers in State as a system for recreation
 - MT Recreation Waterway System/Program
- Selective Sales Tax on all new firearms purchased in state
- MT Conservation Corps Trail Building
- Enhance Philanthropy and Donations
 - Organize “Friends” groups for parks to raise funds and help state with planning and volunteering
- Target Canadians
 - Tourism
 - Philanthropy

Kalispell

- Start an auxiliary organization for State Parks in an area or even one park (local emotional connection) similar to national park model to raise funds for capital improvements.
- Increase park user fees based on demand: peak times, popular sites, etc.
- Crowd funding?? Are there ways a well-orchestrated effort could be used for a public project?
- What can be done during long periods of non or limited use (off season) to generate revenue?
- Market directly to the 23% of license plate “non-compliant” individuals. Sell the parks system\$20 is cheap when you other option is spending the night in the Walmart parking lot
- Sell or use private contracts to divest of unprofitable parks. Do not open new parks in areas where demand will be low and therefore unprofitable. Must run more like a business.
- New revenue streams- concessions, general funding allocation, grants, philanthropy
- Backlog of Maintenance needs – philanthropy, partnerships
- Pursue partnerships – philanthropy, friends groups, concessions
- Develop new revenue – partnerships, concessions, grants & contracts, philanthropy, increase fees, tax from general funds, retail gift stores
- Develop “friends” program that can develop PAC to engage at the legislature level
- Engage outdoor company partnerships that directly benefit from parks use on a local and national level
- Develop seasonal revenue streams
- I would study the National Park System and utilize their knowledge of creating revenue streams, i.e. merchandise sales, licensing & vendors, etc. Not to reinvent the wheel
- Create a plan to generate revenue through permits to private businesses, increase revenue for the entire area by drawing more users from out of state
- I would consider selling or minimally maintaining low draw interest areas and expand or purchasing new high draw potential revenue generating areas

- Change the “State Park” label for sites not fulfilling the State Park mission. Therefore, using more public/private partnerships/contracts to fund those sites.
- Designate/“earmark” certain fees directly to maintenance issues.
- Solicit a “citizen work day” for labor or maintenance needs

Missoula

- Concessions – private.
- Concessionaires in parks selling food, etc.; tour group leaders – tour groups; food, camping etc. increased permitting; foundations – friends groups; natural park model; new revenue streams; public/private partnerships; battle for a dedicated funding source from the state legislature.
- Can parks utilize more (or any) concessionaires to provide amenities or other experiences; maybe require a MT driver’s license instead of MT license plate to waive fee; require a State Park use fee; eliminate the license opt out.
- Public/private partnerships – concessionaires (food, camping, lodging), tour group companies; Develop new revenue stream – permitting (admin cost?), foundations (Friends groups i.e. American State; develop Parks Foundations programs with grants, corporate support, bonds); Maintenance needs – prioritize, find a major donor to help conquer backlog.
- Concessionaires in state parks – selling food, souvenirs, etc.; tour group leaders/companies; build cabins, people pay to stay in them; more permitting; foundations; development programs – grants, corporate support.
- More federal grant dollars to address short-term capital needs; cost-sharing partnerships among agencies and corporations; concessionaires; planned giving/Parks foundation.
- Identify specific O&M needs for each park, prioritize needs and request specific funding; identify O&M needs during acquisition and development and ensure funding is tied to purchase.
- New revenue streams – grant requests from national foundations; public/private partnerships – concessionaires at campgrounds (space rental, profit sharing); backlog of capital maintenance needs – ask for one-time legislative funding for upgrades.
- Develop new revenue streams, commercial sponsorships.
- Develop new revenue streams – charge more fees for users; pursue more public/private contracts – what can be accomplished by the private sector that is now in the public sector; address the backlog of capital maintenance.
- Develop new revenue streams – fundraising events at park, non-opt out vehicle registration; private/public partnerships – trail events to maintain park (National Trails Day, National Public Lands Day); maintenance backlog – Friends of parks generate revenue.
- Develop new revenue streams – promote use of parks for special events during advertising efforts; develop more public/private partnerships – offer opportunities for private vendors to set up temporary/permanent businesses in parks (food vendors at Frenchtown Pond).
- Montana State Parks must live within their means, just as citizens and other government agencies must do; more revenue may not be possible; make license fee mandatory, increase as necessary; personally not a fan of public/private partnerships – no foundation funding!!; Review and reduce number of State Parks.
- User fees are low – raise vehicle registration fee; charge higher fees at park – pay to play; conservation license; regional license/pass that is interagency; Xanterra – parks may not be big enough, but something like Caverns might benefit from private.

- Make the voluntary park fee mandatory; find volunteers to help with maintenance and repairs; reduce the number of State Parks – sell the land at the current land value and use that money to fund the other parks.
- More private/public partnerships; Adopt a Park or portion of park; grant funding for specific or special areas; I am not a fan of “private” contracts, i.e. the concessionaire of the Nat. Park system. Money is lost, based on the bids at TR, not sure about private vs. state; eliminate opt out; revenue stream – increase share of bed tax; for the extremely expensive maintenance issue – special allocation from the legislature – a large pot of money quarterly or \$10 million.
- Adopt a Park Project Program, i.e. NWE lights in L&C Caverns; statewide advocacy groups with a State Park Foundation – grant program for projects; develop a State Park passport program; charge for boat decal (at least cost); eliminate opt out.
- Make \$6 fee mandatory; public announcement for partnerships/volunteers; partnership fundraisers; announce projects and solicit for donations to meet required maintenance projects, partners to do fund raisers for these projects; increase fee to areas and have extra go toward additional costs.
- Develop state wide community foundations/endowments for state parks with public evaluation; look at DOT federal dollars for historic tourism/dedicated; raise the percentage from the State Bed Tax; get rid of permanent licensing so fees can be collected; eliminate opt out; raise the license amount to \$10.
- For each park, explore services needed that could be provided by State Parks of SP/private sector – firewood bunches, ice, guide services, black/grey water dumping, water (fresh and potable), etc.

L&C Caverns

- Can the State Parks Board be creative with funding – like cities and towns did with the Mill Levy freeze in 1999?
- Public/private partnerships: Friends groups, university partnerships, partner with environmental organizations such as Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited; increase vehicle fees - \$10! State General funds: the state should fund its heritage.
- Partnerships – outreach, find out what people want; make sure partnerships aren’t one-sided and favor both private and public equally; General Fund Allocation – bypass the legislature; do an initiative to set aside “x” number of mills; Vehicle registration fee – give authority to parks board (like all other fees).
- Pursue more public/private partnerships and private contracts; pursue state General Fund allocation, possible using part of 3% from tourism that goes into General Fund; develop new revenue streams – sales tax in which some goes to parks.
- Public/private partnerships and engage communities in their surrounding state parks – encourage collaborative marketing and promotion; State General Fund allocation – make a case (through research?) for the economic value of parks to MT communities; increase vehicle registration fee (seems obvious).
- Partner with local business to help with infrastructure issues; partner with local businesses to provide outdoor recreation and education opportunities; lobby legislature to support operation and maintenance or only capital improvements if more palatable.
- Vehicle fee comes from State Board fee rather than Legislative; pursue the partnerships with better communicated goals and objectives.
- Get rid of lands that do not meet the mission of the system (Clark’s Lookout); pursue private/public partnerships – cooperating associations (friends groups); increase vehicle registration fee (to \$10 mandatory).

- Increase vehicle registration fee! Lobby the legislature – use stats of increased visitation to spell out need (or take this out of legislative control); develop new revenue streams – foundation → grants, donation boxes for bikers/hikers at trail heads for more trails; increase park use fees – camping, permitting, boating, hiking/biking.
- As a university regent and mayor, I will fight against General Fund money for Parks – local government, education, don't have money to give up; private bike guides and other guiding opportunities; user tags for recreation; camping for self-contained (real basic spots).
- Funding - create a 501-type foundation and aggressively market it; involve private businesses by offering opportunities to market selected products/services to park visitors.
- Community outreach and education will help entities understand how they might develop viable partnerships; for presenting an argument for funds from the General fund and for increasing vehicle registration fee, tout the economic impact for local, regional, and statewide and appeal to the “emotional” importance of the parks to the state’s residents – we all live here, work here and play here.
- Pay to Play trail pass; online petition to legislature; sell the idea of upping the vehicle tax by promoting the fact that state parks are free to residents.
- Find a sponsor to introduce legislation to pass a bill allocating some general funding; sell the idea through improved health, money saved in health costs. Montana should take great pride in its public lands; recognize the economic benefit from a strong park system to our nearby communities.
- Change rules for contracting with concessionaires, privatize some functions; develop large constituency – legislators listen to voters; friends groups, supporters, etc., and get organized; private donations.

Helena

- Revenue streams – reallocate existing revenues.
- Reallocate existing resources for all three.
- Reallocate existing funds to better use! Share needs to minimize waste! Review and remove poorly run programs!
- Recycle fee for revenue stream; improve signage of parks to increase visitation, e.g. put symbols on signs to demonstrate which activities are offered at that park; partnerships for advertising – tourism, local organizations.
- Oil and gas severance tax; higher non-resident fees; more General Fund portion of Bed Tax goes to Parks.
- Pursue additional funding; deposit fees for aluminum, glass and plastic; recycle cans at parks for recycling – volunteers; oil industry.
- Partner with relevant non-profits; focus on product, not marketing – put the money into product consistently; oil and gas severance tax as revenue source.
- Foundations – grants for specific projects; RVs added as light registration vehicle fee.
- Better advertise for activities at specific parks on Hwy signs; Legislature should analyze economic benefits of increased General Fund allocation.

Great Falls

- Authorize bond funding for park maintenance, backed by General Fund if necessary.
- New revenue streams – foundations, bonding, endowment.
- Establish an endowment fund in the Montana Community foundation; educate public regarding state parks problem; additional support from state tourism and Cultural Trust.

- Partner with “Made in Montana” within your enterprise funding; create incentives for philanthropy – naming opportunities, deferring taxes, charitable deductions; increase check-off amounts (or include) parks on state income tax forms; CTEP funding for selected parks.
- Develop partnerships with NGO’s federal agencies, others; look for opportunities to leverage recreation program monies; end reciprocity for OHV/snowmobile decals.
- Public and private connections; bumper sticker for sale; improving park amenities and small fees to use them; see what other state parks are doing that works and maybe we could implement.
- Educate businesses about the significance of park usage and local and state spending/income as well as the support of local jobs; if the parks go away so will dollars (in terms of spending) and potential loss of jobs – we want them to invest in the system that brings them business.

K. What can you as partners do to support the State Parks system? (BLUE)

Glasgow

- We can encourage our legislators to provide general fund allocation to State Parks
- Partners – Advocate legislation
- Volunteer
- Legislature work with State & Local areas in funding State Parks
- We can eliminate the tourists and local residents as to the programs Parks and overall opportunities the MT State Parks program can provide to them
- Help solve the funding issue
- Help solve the funding issue
- Buy State Parks license plates!
- Let people know about State Park System

Glendive

- City has done what we can to enhance access to Makoshika. Will continue to work with the State Parks by providing necessary services & access
- Community outreach – more volunteers
- Join a friends group
- Keep communication lines open between friends & the Board

Billings

- Museums and cultural community partners can promote state parks for what they are- outdoor classrooms that extend and highlight learning.
- Help interpret natural landscapes to enhance understanding of each park.
- Keep my head in the state park game with my grandkids.
- Letters to legislators/ governor urging financial support, organize “friends of” groups for nearby state parks to increase support and enthusiasm as well as raise funds.
- Best way to connect me through the grapevine, great program for kids.
- Pay the \$6 on our car! Visit parks! Talk to legislators, volunteer at the parks.
- Work to develop partnership/ collaboration with diverse groups to grow awareness and support of overall program.

- Connecting with private, interpretive educational organizations with similar goals/ programs, helping with professional development of interpretive and educational staff, strategizing on state wide efforts to enhance nature oriented education.
- Our Montana already supports state parks with the pocket ranger.
- Support legislative or other initiatives that would benefit from public advocacy.
- Run for state legislature; continue to research the economic benefits, benchmark against regional states.
- Volunteer, use parks.

Kalispell

- At chambers & VIC's
 - We convey info to residents and visitors about parks,
 - In person
 - In marketing efforts
 - Help plan itineraries
 - Suggest activities
 - Collect info from park users and provide to Park staff
 - Help lobby for increased funding
- I think you are already do a lot of things already to connect with people. Good website, etc.
- Advocate for funding- spread good will – enjoy our parks and help other to take advantage for them
- Advocate, support, visit, share with others the value, the experience
- I can engage and educate others at the local level to educate and teach what our local parks have to offer

Missoula

- Share the message that State Parks are essential to our experience as Montanans but aren't supported through our tax dollars; tell our great state parks stories and encourage others to visit; add our voices to an advocacy movement for State Parks.
- As an educational organization we can continue to introduce kids and families to State Parks to build connections and appreciation.
- Continue to seek out opportunities for inter-agency partnerships to support each agency's mission; look for areas of overlap between counties and State Parks – are there places to consolidate efforts?
- We can keep abreast of what is needed from you to succeed!
- We can continue to provide reasonable rates to collect good, scientifically sound research and data for you; we can supply students as volunteers and interns; we can partner on large initiatives and help advocate.
- Continue to meet regularly with local State Parks staff and partner when possible, i.e. access to Milltown Park.
- We can create a non-profit cultural advocacy group.
- Opt to pay into the fee somehow; use the State Parks and pay fee; volunteer. My organization (Adventure Cycling) can partner with State Parks on tourism and telling the story (we are very communication oriented with a magazine, website, blog and social media); we can partner by helping advocate for State Parks to leaders, politicians, decision makers, for funding; we can help connect MSPs to philanthropy corporate supporters and potential private partners.
- Visit the parks; spread the word about the parks; recreate, and encourage others to recreate in the parks; encourage community involvement in the parks; explore private funding sources for parks.
- Offer opportunities for specific user groups to raise funds for projects that will benefit them the most.

- Help with volunteer activities.
- I would volunteer time each month and donate funds to parks that offered interests to me.
- Stay engaged! Walk the walk! Volunteer and support!
- Stay involved and support Friends groups, meet and communicate regularly; give me a smart phone application to tour State Parks that also allows (for a fee) entry to all State Parks and campgrounds.
- Work for you to communicate parks issues in my local community; be welcomed to volunteer to put together meaningful, sophisticated volunteer efforts – not an auction or being an interpreter – although these are needed; citizens have bigger skills they're willing to contribute.
- Learn more about available opportunities and take advantage of what is out our back door.
- Help find other appropriate owners or managers for State Parks that don't need to remain in the system.
- Give me a park that includes OHV trails and I'll tell the world.
- Support private concessionaires.
- Maintain and build new trail systems; educational events for all – Leave No Trace, How To classes; building passion for outdoor recreation; stewardship.

L&C Caverns

- Lobby the legislature with group from all 54 state parks; if they won't lobby for their park – close it.
- Lobby the legislature – use statistics they can relate to; continue the great work with the Office of Tourism re: branding, marketing; help get local support for park improvements (i.e. trails – building and enhancing); use volunteer groups as partners!
- Promote State Parks more; offer more literature; link from website; utilize for events; communicate with Park Managers about ideas or opportunities we see at particular sites.
- Communicate within circle of influence the importance of parks; visit more state parks; coordinate with state parks on volunteer service days like National Public Lands Day or National Trails Day.
- Communicate – email, social media, outreach meetings (share what we think and ideas); tell all about it – city meetings, boards, guest editorials in papers; visit parks and participate in them.
- We as partners could support better if we stay informed of issues and needs – then we could lobby on park's behalf; social media.
- From universities – provide educational opportunities, provide student researcher and interns; as an individual – work with parks for educational programs.
- As UMW faculty member teaching/training students in an interpretation program, perhaps we can better collaborate to utilize student energy to support park mission?
- Be more active on boards (friends group) and ask the staff what you could do (the staff should be able to provide answers); lobby our legislature for adequate park funding.
- I can get involved in Friends Groups, look at ways of being a “park philanthropist” both in monetary and volunteerism terms.
- Volunteer; show up at legislature; donate money.
- Organize volunteers to improve trail systems.
- Organize volunteer efforts; participate in planning; use the parks; help create a donation box for specific amenities.
- Develop a relationship with our local state representative and senator.
- I can use them in my RV or fishing or bicycling; I will testify to a \$10 checkoff.
- Visit the parks! Support legislation that provides more funding to the parks; elect legislators that support parks and recreation.

- Visit State Parks more – consider State Parks when making recreation or “staycation” plans in MT; share experiences with others (word of mouth on experience); when appropriate, support SP on a legislative level, locally and on a state level.

Helena

- Be involved in developing PSAs to educate MT residents about State Park issues.
- Cooperative relationship on interpretive planning and heritage development projects.
- Collaboration between MDT and State Parks on “bike map” to show parks as destinations but ensure parks allow bikes and always enable camping (even if park is full).
- Collaborations project – non-motorized with motorized for the good of the whole! Work to change image of agency!
- Promote within networks at grass roots levels.
- Weekly articles in community newspapers; grass roots campaign.
- Electronic parks newsletter that goes out periodically to supporters.
- Provide relevant information; sharing areas where we can work together/collaborate.
- Word of mouth; attend programs; encourage legislators.
- MHS – support interpretation and programming; provide expertise for curation or interpretation; co-promote events and programs.
- Donate money to a private, not-for-profit support organization; volunteer time; enjoy the parks; encourage others to enjoy the parks.
- Health Depts. (local and state) – we can promote the parks as important to the health of the family and individuals, i.e. trail use, stress reduction, fun.
- Keep us updated on progress via email (or follow-up calls/meetings); let us know if we need to write letters of support or visit with legislators.

Great Falls

- Keep involved – get the message out; legislation.
- Spread the word; advocate for parks; lobby.
- Speak to constituents about information presented; contact legislators when and if appropriate.
- Give us some solid concepts that we can use to generate bills for the legislature.
- Work in legislature to improve funding for OHV program.
- Educate our participants about the significance of the State Parks as it relates to the ability to provide our events; provide info to participants on our website/Facebook and in swag bags; consider adding a small fee to our registration fees and donate back to the State Parks.
- Using the model of the Missouri-Madison River Fund, authorize a revolving fund, the revenue from which is eligible to be matched by funds other than those from State general funds; granted annually through a competitive application process.

L. What can we at Montana State Parks do to connect with you? (Salmon)

Glasgow

- Tiered vehicle registration support. Example: Provide a \$10 option and give the fee payer a “State Parks” window decal
- More community outreach

- More equal distribution of resources and attention
- State Parks can reach out to local communities for support in partnerships
- Provide State Park staff representation in Region 6
- Appreciate & understand the concerns of NE Montana and the need for parks representation here. . . .
- Parks representation & representatives are more accessible to public in NE MT
 - Out of sight /out of mind is in effect now

Glendive

- Keep up the marketing to emphasize the use of State Parks & great value they provide to local communities and tourism
- This meeting was a good start
- I enjoyed meeting & discussion things with the board
- Offer a unique experience I can get anywhere else

Billings

- Involve with public and professional communities in field research, other forms of research. State parks have world class historic and archaeological resources. Actually involving the public in research directed by professionals would certainly create a sense of investment in state parks. Such research should not be restricted to universities but should be open to local professionals coordinated by parks. Parks historic and archaeological resources could actually generate revenues through charging people for research opportunities.
- Parks can connect better with local museums and cultural institutions.
- Provide better amenities, enhance existing parks.
- Better map and booklet, presenting all parks in one.
- Have a spot on your website that deals with policy and advocacy issues.
- Promoting MEEA to schools, teachers and other contacts related to our shared mission. Strategizing on state wide efforts to enhance nature oriented education.
- Advisory committees (community input is good), set up partnership membership cards- donations for this- different levels.
- Just keep us in the loop on issues and developments, don't blind side.
- Communicate!
- Repeat focus groups every year or two.
- Perhaps journalists and photo contests, more media coverage, connect with Montana Arts Council, free lance.
- Increase science focus.

Kalispell

- Continue work session like these to help us stay informed and ask for input
- Use the State Parks. Teach our children about the value of our State Park system. Tell others about the beauty of the parks and what they have to offer. The more support you have the more funding you will have
- Educate for park needs. Continue to improve programs
- Educate us on how we can help

- Most state parks get the majority of use 3 months a year? Explore way to utilize and market resources during other months.

Missoula

- Highlight parks that currently offer mountain biking opportunities on your website.
- Email newsletter of upcoming events at parks; more campsites/locations at parks (more parks with camping); accessible trails – ADA, mountain bike, hiking, horseback.
- PSAs, social media, etc. to tell stories of State Parks success; be a daily presence in our lives through social media; offer new programs and renew old favorites to engage families; promote a positive message about State Parks, but ask for our help in specific ways.
- Continue funding programs such as RTP (as federal dollars allow); take leadership role on working with smaller communities on best practices for recreational management.
- My email is jean@nyeimage.com.
- Be involved in our parks and trails conversation; identify connections.
- Collaborate – a two-way street!; convene a state wide citizens conference to form a citizens coalition.
- Continue to collaborate with local community efforts as much as possible; keep staff out in the public so the community is familiar with them.
- To connect with me – I’m good; to connect with my organization (Adventure Cycling) State Parks can work toward better camping and services for bicycle tourism (see our Best Practices report) and connect with similar partners like Bike Walk MT and local trail and bike organizations.
- Produce more media on the parks and why they are great – videos, movies, articles, presentations; try to gain private funding; fix the technical updates that need to happen in the park; create more campgrounds accessible to visitors; raise the \$6 vehicle fee! Even just to \$10.
- Have more meetings but less writing; need to be able as a group to discuss ideas and learn from one another.
- More focus groups.
- Involve user groups – I am in several; ask for our help so we can develop ownership and pride in our state.
- Create a reliable system to “push/pull” information within and without the organization; you are making huge strides but everyone can do better with communication.
- Recognize that development to meet the needs of some may be more impactful, expensive and unnecessary than lighter development to meet the simpler needs of many.
- Tell the story of all trails supported by RTP; it’s an amazing system that touches thousands of lives in Montana every day.
- Improve RTP administration; quit whining about funding!!
- Quit coming to us every 10 years or when you need us and get busy with a serious, feasible plan for civic/public engagement.
- Every spring I have 20+ students who need summer jobs; more full time jobs for my graduates.

L&C Caverns

- State Parks need to get the message out to users. Social media is the best way to engage – especially with younger users.
- Social media interactions (just followed you on Twitter); hold more meetings like this – communicating funding information; advertise more events to draw folks to parks – service days, geocaching; have Parks Board advertise meetings and rotate locations so community members can attend.

- Have the State Parks Board meet in the small communities that are close to State Parks.
- Parks already does a good job; have more local meetings for the public to voice their ideas for better/newer management.
- Doing a good job; keep up the outreach; keep thinking out of the box.
- I think MT State Parks does an excellent job of reaching out to the public – it will get even better with the new Board; Montanans love our parks and would be willing, I think, to pay additional taxes or fees to enhance them.
- MSP should have “town hall” type meetings and allow public input as they begin to put down policies and budget options; from a marketing perspective, put some messaging out that will attract me to the parks – tell me why I should go there – tell me the story!
- Keep in touch, not just when it looks like there’s trouble; go to neighboring communities and try to involve them (and then really listen to them); invite your staff – value your good people working for you (don’t just say it, show it), these people are your best ambassadors to communities, public, legislature, etc.
- Keep us informed of proposals in a timely basis – very important during legislative sessions.
- Develop mailing list (email) and keep up with developments.
- Email me; stay connected to local governments; be like the cowboys at the Saturday night dance – find partners and dance with them; a better map that is linkable; prioritize the parks for Montanans.
- Better advertising about parks!
- Reach out to volunteer groups.
- Reach out about opportunities where we can assist in promotion; inquire about partnership opportunities; promote (or continue to) other local opportunities outside the Park.
- Facilitate the development of a “Friends of the Park” throughout the state for each park.
- Better statewide outreach and branding for opportunities within State Parks; marketing in MT communities, promote special events.
- Provide education opportunities that engage communities; go into communities with history or ecology programs based on topics from the parks.

Helena

- Keep people informed, i.e. quarterly email newsletter.
- Electronic newsletter to supporters.
- Keep us updated on progress.
- Parks can keep in touch via email regarding recreational opportunities – sites, programs.
- Continue to communicate ideas, research and statistics.
- More timely information; more accurate and relevant info on Facebook and elsewhere; better websites; more accountability.
- Media campaign partnered with statewide and localized stakeholders; Facebook.
- Highlight one state park each week of the year; have info available about other specific state parks at each park.
- Stay open to collaborative relationships.
- State Parks just did outdoor recreation strategic plan, now they should formulate a heritage stewardship strategic plan.
- Find an easily accessible place to buy SP merchandise (caps, etc.).
- Use other state agencies handouts as education accessories for State Parks, i.e. weeds and plant field identification guides from Ag service available at park sites.

- I liked this meeting but feel Board should address need for improvement instead of purchase!

Great Falls

- Communicate wherever and whenever possible.
- Keep us informed and updated on progress; more meetings before the session starts.
- Simply keep us informed; please share results
- Provide opportunities to sit down with local and state players to provide input and concerns (like tonight); provide surveys to local interest groups to distribute to their participants to stay in touch with various groups and needs, requests, recommendations, etc.
- Reach out to recreation organizations.