



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 18, 2014
Agenda Item: Park Operations
Division: Parks
Action Needed: Informational
Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 minutes

Background: Park operations reports the following highlights over the past few months:

Parks & Recreation Planning: In January the 2014-18 Montana Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was completed. The strategic planning process included a series of nine public focus groups. Work continues on the Fish Creek State Park draft management plan and we are implementing a visitation metrics survey.

Public Safety: The 2013 Montana State Parks Public Safety Report & Incident Summary has been distributed to the Board and key department staff. On April 25th parks staff administered life-saving CPR & AED to a colleague who suffered a heart attack. The response team will be recognized at the August Board meeting.

Proposed Commercial Use ARM Rule: Public comments are being accepted through June 13th. A public hearing was held on June 3rd. A summary of comments will be provided at this meeting.

AmeriCorps Program: Montana State Parks has 18 members serving in all five regions and 14 different locations. We successfully received grant funding in the competitive pool for 2015. Funding will allow the program to add two more members and we have commitment of funding support from TRPHA and the Bannack Association.

Volunteer Program: Parks have been hosting volunteer open houses and training sessions. We have successfully recruited 38 campground hosts for the 2014 peak season.

Interpretation and Education: Very busy school field trip season this spring- we typically reach over 20,000 students annually. On May 13 and 14th we broadcast a series of "Indian Education for All" programs from Chief Plenty Coups State Park reaching 1,074 students in 18 schools across Montana.

Campground Reservation Program: On-line reservations are available at 20 campground parks and 4 day use parks. The reservation program continues to be popular with an 18% increase in facility reservations made from January - April 2014 (3,681 reservations) compared to January - April 2013 (3,113 reservations).

Heritage Resource Program: Madison Buffalo Jump State Park hosted a University of Montana field school for archeology students for two weeks in May, resulting in a number of very significant finds. The University will provide a full report.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Not applicable

Alternatives and Analysis: Not applicable

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: Not applicable

Proposed Motion: Not applicable