



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 18, 2014

Agenda Item: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grants – award of 2014 projects

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background (Brief description of the issue, decision to be made, history, etc.):

The federal RTP grant program involves trail-related projects in Montana. Each year Montana solicits and awards \$1.4 - \$1.6 million in RTP funds to sponsors statewide. The annual grant awards typically involve approximately 50-60 individual projects. The grants are awarded to trail projects sponsored by local communities, private clubs and organizations, state entities, and federal agencies. The types of projects are as diverse as the development of new trails, installation of latrine facilities at trailheads, snowmobile trail grooming, and heavy maintenance on existing trails.

For the current grant cycle a total of 89 applications were received totaling \$3.94 million. The applications have been scored, input sought from the citizens State Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), and narrowed to 58 grants for the \$1.6 million currently available. Please reference the attached summary of final RTP grants for the current cycle.

Public Involvement Process & Results (Brief description of the type of public involvement and summary of what we heard from the public):

The public was provided an opportunity to comment on the full list of RTP grants beginning in mid April. Notice was provided via press releases and on the website. In addition to written or phoned in comments, the public was able to provide comments via the website features. A total of 27 public comments were received at the close of the public comment period on May 21, 2014.

Alternatives and Analysis (Brief description of alternative solutions with analysis of the pros and cons of each):

Alt. #1 – award the recommended 58 RTP grants for the current cycle per the scoring and recommendations of the citizens STAC. The total award amount would be \$1.6 million.

Alt. #2 – not award the RTP funds via the established grant program this cycle.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it):

Award the proposed RTP grants as scored and recommended by the citizen STAC to the 58 grant sponsors statewide.

Proposed Motion (Draft language the Board could use to adopt the agency recommendation):

I move to concur with the department's approval of the Recreational Trails Program grants for 2014.