



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 15, 2014

Agenda Item: Draft Strategic Plan

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 1 hour 10 minutes

Background: In December 2013, the Parks Board approved a timeline to for the Parks Division to prepare an updated strategic plan for the park system through a series of public involvement processes, employee input, and board consideration. In January 2014, two surveys were completed for information gathering: a staff survey and a Legislative survey. In February, a Board retreat was conducted to set priorities for the park system, followed by a series of eight community listening sessions held around the state with key stakeholders throughout April. Summaries of the input received were provided at the February 2014 Board retreat and the June 2014 Board meeting.

With the feedback collected throughout this process and following the guidance of the Board, the Parks Division has prepared a draft strategic plan for consideration. The draft plan sets priorities and provides recommendations to guide the park system over the next five years.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Upon tentative approval of the proposed user fees, the Parks Division will solicit public comment for a 30 day period beginning on October 16 and ending on November 14. Public meetings will be held in a TBD format. Following public comment analysis a final strategic plan will be presented at the December Board meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: No alternatives beyond the no action alternative were considered. A strategic plan was chosen as the best course of action based on ongoing challenges in the Division and direction from the Board.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The Parks Division proposes a draft strategic plan for the Board and public consideration. An updated strategy is needed to address the ongoing challenges facing the park system and to provide strategic direction for the next five years. The last strategic plan was completed in 1998.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Board authorize the Parks Division to seek public comment on the draft strategic plan as proposed.