



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 17, 2014

Agenda Item: Strategic Plan - Final

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 1 hour

Background: The final strategic plan is the result of a year-long process that began in December 2013 and included extensive internal and external input throughout the process from Division staff, members of the Legislature, agency partners, user groups, and other stakeholders. The final plan reflects edits from the draft while continuing to set priorities and provide recommendations to guide the park system over the next five years.

Public Involvement Process & Results: At the October 2014 meeting, the Parks Board approved the draft strategic plan for public comment. The Division solicited public comment for a 30 day period beginning on October 21 and ending on November 19. A statewide public meeting was held on October 29, 2014 using teleconference equipment at the Helena headquarters and each of the FWP regional offices. Thirty-one people attended the meeting, in addition to two Parks Board members. In total, 63 public comments were submitted on the draft strategic plan. The breakdown of comments received is as follows: 49 comments from individuals; 9 comments from organizations, user groups, and businesses; 3 comments from agencies; 1 comment from an elected official.

All comments supported the creation of the draft strategic plan to varying degrees. Many had specific comments on the goals and targets, while others had comments on the process and format of the draft plan. A number of comments were directed at specific parks. A public comment summary provides more details on the specific comments themes and discussions. One comment was received requesting an extension of the public comment period. The reason was to allow for more time as the public comment period fell in the middle of hunting season. The Division did not receive any other requests for an extension, and ultimately felt that an extension was not warranted due in order to keep the process on its approved timeline.

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. The Board can approve the final strategic plan or provide additional amendments as appropriate.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The Agency recommends Board approval of the final strategic plan. All public comments received supported the creation of the plan.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Board approve the strategic plan for the Parks Division as proposed.