



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 17, 2015

Agenda Item: Bicycle Tourism Partnership & MOU

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

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

The Montana Tourism Advisory Council has identified bicycle tourism as a viable tourism market. A study produced by the Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research in 2013 found that cyclists touring in the state spend on average \$75.75/person/per day and stay 8 nights or more. The study also found that cyclists desire better road conditions and more bicycle-friendly campgrounds. Infrastructure improvements are needed to better meet cyclists' needs, expectations, and requirements so they have a safe and memorable experience in Montana. To support the growing demand for bicycle tourism, the Department of Commerce would like to enter into an MOU with Montana State Parks to fund bicycle camping facilities at key State Parks. Initial project sites would include Whitefish Lake State Park, Wayfarers State Park, Placid Lake State Park, and Salmon Lake State Park along the major touring route between Glacier National Park and Missoula.

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

The MOU is in initial discussion, but appropriate public involvement would occur as the development continues.

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

This is informational and no alternatives are provided at this point in time.

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

This is informational and no recommendations are provided at this point in time.

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

This is informational and no proposed motion is provided at this point in time.