



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 19, 2015

Agenda Item: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grants – award of 2015 projects

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Concurrence

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

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

The federal Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant program involves pass-through funds which benefit trail-related projects in each state. Each year Montana awards approximately \$1.5 million in funds to sponsors statewide. The annual grant awards typically involve approximately 55- 65 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 maintenance of existing trails (urban and backcountry).

For the current grant cycle a total of 89 applications were received totaling approximately \$3.3 million. The applications have been scored, input sought from the citizens State Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), and narrowed to 60 grants for the \$~1.5 million in federal funds anticipated. Currently, approximately \$1.0 million in funding has been approved and available for Montana's program. The remaining ~\$500,000 is likely to become available within the next few months. Please reference the attached summary of proposed RTP grant projects 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 the 89 RTP grant applications during a 30-day public comment period which concluded May 10, 2015. Notices were 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. A total of 11 public comments were received, all supporting individual grant applications submitted this cycle.

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

Alt. #1 – contingent upon receipt of federal funding for the program, award the recommended 60 RTP grants for the current cycle per the scoring and recommendations of the citizens STAC. The total amount would be approximately \$1.5 million, depending on the final funding release in the upcoming months.

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 60 grant sponsors statewide, contingent on receipt of federal funding.

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

I move that the Board concur with the agency decision to award up to \$1.5 million in anticipated RTP grant funds to the 60 scored and ranked applicants, contingent on receipt of full federal funding for the program.