



## MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

**Meeting Date:** August 20, 2015

**Agenda Item:** Proposed Milltown State Park Land Donation (Acquisition)

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** Tentative

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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

Montana State Parks propose to evaluate the donation of an approximately 10-acre property immediately adjacent to the Milltown State Park at the Confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers in Missoula County. The vacant land, owned by International Paper, is the park's nearest neighbor to the west in the Confluence area. The parcel is located just south of Highway 200 Bonner Interchange off I-90 and is bordered by Juniper Drive to the north and the Clark Fork River to the south. (Legal description is E ½ NE ¼ Sec. 20 T13NR18W). The property includes river frontage and an important access road to the Confluence Area. Previously the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorsed this course of action in 2011.

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

If approved by the Board, and upon completion of all due diligence, an Environmental Assessment on the acquisition would be written and distributed for public comment.

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

**Alternative # 1:** The Department would pursue acquisition of the subject property, thus enabling the core development of Milltown State Park.

**Alternative # 2:** The Department would not accept donation of the land. IP could pursue a buyer or another entity to accept the donation. Montana State Parks would be challenged by access issues and current development plans at the Confluence Area would need to be reassessed.

**Agency Recommendation and Rationale** (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it): Montana State Parks recommends approval by the Board to proceed with the evaluation and possible acquisition of the approximately 10 acres for inclusion in the Milltown State Park.

**Proposed Motion** (Draft language the Board could use to adopt the agency recommendation): "I move that Montana State Parks proceed with the evaluation and possible acquisition of the adjacent approximately 10 acres for inclusion in the Milltown State Park."