



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 20, 2015

Agenda Item: Hell Creek State Park – draft Master Site/Management Plan

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 minutes

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

In late 2014 a Master Site/Management Planning (MS/MP) process was initiated for this important state park located on Fort Peck Reservoir. A Billings-based private consultant was retained for the project. The consultant team review included visits to the site, interactions with state park staff at all levels, as well as with the on-site concessionaire at the park.

The draft MS/MP document provides background on park issues from both the management and infrastructure side. The draft Plan identifies infrastructure, code compliance, and site capacity issues to be addressed. The draft Plan also defines management issues such as maintenance needs, the concession operation, and other factors directly related to the public's use of the site as part of complying with the departments lease with the Corps of Engineers and the division's commitment to provide safety and service.

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

Several opportunities were made available to the public to provide opinions regarding the needs at Hell Creek State Park. Two public meetings were held in Billings and Jordan in April 2015. Over 100 people attended those meetings. In addition, the public could provide written and oral comments to Park staff and provide comments through the Montana State Parks website. The consultant also received written comments directly via email and through phone conversations.

Following discussion and the proposed tentative approval by the Board, the draft MS/MP would be issued for public review and comment. This public comment period would be for a minimum of 30-days, with the results reported to the Board at the scheduled October meeting.

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

Alt. #1 – issue the draft Hell Creek State Park Master Site/Management Plan for public review.

Alt. #2 – not issue the draft Hell Creek State Park Master Site Plan/Management Plan for public review at this time.

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

Issue the draft MS/MP for public comment. The results of the public comments and input would be presented to the Board at the scheduled October meeting.

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

I move to provide tentative approval to proceed with public comment of the draft Hell Creek State Park Master Site and Management Plan.