



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015

Agenda Item: Draft Classification and Prioritization Policy

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 60 minutes

Background:

With passage of the Strategic plan the board directed the division to move forward with implementation. Goal A of that plan required that the division manage significant, relevant and accessible parks in a manner that is consistent with available resources. As part of meeting that goal, the division has: 1) Prioritized parks through a classification process, 2) Established staffing standards through a peer analysis to understand staffing needs, and 3) Is completing a facility condition inventory to better document and quantify the significant maintenance backlog of the park system.

These efforts have led to the development of a draft board policy guiding the division to serve visitors and manage sites in a manner consistent with available fiscal and staff resources by investing in the most significant and relevant sites as a first priority while also communicating with the public to build an engaged constituency and develop strategic partnerships.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

This draft policy has had no public involvement to date. If the board endorses the draft policy for public comment, the division will begin to receive public comment on the policy as part of preparing a final policy for the board's consideration in December.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Alt. #1 – Do not approve the draft policy.

Alt. #2 – Amend the draft policy and put it out for public comment.

Alt. #3 – Endorse the draft policy as written and put it out for public comment.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale:

Endorse the draft policy as written for public comment. Once comments are received the board can review the document in greater depth with the benefit of public perspective and reject or endorse with amendments in December.

Proposed Motion:

I endorse the draft policy and direct the department to solicit public comment for consideration of a final policy in December.