



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 16, 2015

Agenda Item: 2015 Commercial Use Fee Rule - Final

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background: The Commercial Use Fee Rule is a two-year rule established under statutory authority vested with the board that establishes permit fees for commercial activities on state park lands. The current rule adopted by the board in December 2013 will expire this month. That 2013 fee rule included categories and associated fee ranges that are no longer relevant. In addition, a need to simplify existing fee rule categories as well as a need to re-evaluate the existing fee structure has prompted the consideration of modifications to the existing fee rule. The board approved the draft rule for public comment at the October board meeting.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The proposed 2015 Commercial Use Permit Fee Rule was posted for a 30 day public comment period, closing on Friday, November 27, 2015. One public comment was received expressing support for commercial use fees with no additional modifications.

Alternatives and Analysis:

- **Alternative #1:** Approve the 2015 Biennial Commercial Use Fee Rule that incorporates recommended fee changes in order to better align the fee rule with the administrative rule, simplify fee categories, and improve administration of commercial use at State Parks.
- **Alternative #2:** Adopt a Biennial Commercial Use Fee Rule with no modifications. This would maintain the 2013 fee options in place currently, which would not be fully in concert with the existing administrative rule nor would it aid in simplifying fee categories or improve administration of commercial use at State Parks.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: State Park staff recommends the Board adopt the 2015 Commercial Use Permit Fee Rule as proposed. The changes would reduce the number of fee options for some types of commercial use, which would result in a fee system that is more user-friendly for the public, easier to administer for staff, and more applicable to managing commercial use at State Parks. The changes would also better align the administrative rule with the fee rule.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Board adopt the 2015 Commercial Use Permit Fee Rule as amended.