



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

**Meeting Date:** December 16, 2015

**Agenda Item:** Classification and Prioritization Policy - Final

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 minutes

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**Background:** Goal A of the 2015 Strategic 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) Completed a facility condition inventory to better document and quantify the significant maintenance backlog of the park system. These efforts led to the development of a board policy guiding the division to classify and prioritize parks and resources by investing in the most significant, relevant, and accessible sites as a first priority while also building an engaged constituency and developing strategic partnerships.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** The proposed classification policy was posted for a 31-day public comment period, closing on Friday, November 20, 2015. An email was sent to 1,732 recipients inviting public comment. Media coverage about proposed policy was covered during the comment period by the Billings Gazette and the Flathead Beacon. A total of 17 public comments were received, overwhelmingly expressing support for the draft policy direction. Substantive comments were provided with suggested modifications that were integrated into the policy to strengthen the overall direction. No comments were received that opposed the proposed policy direction.

**Alternatives and Analysis:**

- **Alternative #1:** Approve the classification policy as amended that classifies parks and sets the direction for prioritizing resources for the park system that is consistent with the 2015 Strategic Plan.
- **Alternative #2:** Do not adopt the classification policy.

**Agency Recommendation and Rationale:** State Park staff recommends the Board adopt the classification policy as proposed. Classifying and prioritizing significant, relevant, and accessible parks is the overarching goal in the 2015 Strategic Plan. The proposed policy sets the direction for implementation of the Strategic Plan and ensures that the Park Division continues to move forward with the direction established by the Board in the plan.

**Proposed Motion:** I move that the Board adopt the Classification and Prioritization Policy as amended.