



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 24, 2016

Agenda Item: Capital Over \$5,000

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Approval

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

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

Per the Parks and Recreation Board Policy adopted in December 2013, Board approval is required for unanticipated funding commitments exceeding \$5,000 within the Parks Capital Program. For this meeting, there is one project in the initial stage which has not been previously approved by the Board.

To provide improved bike camping opportunities in State Park sites, the Department of Commerce has provided a funding commitment of \$200,000. The sites selected for the initial bike camping installations are; Whitefish Lake, Wayfarers, Placid Lake, and Salmon Lake State Parks. The project will involve a design effort for each location. Features will include a covered shelter for misc. bike repairs, electricity for phone charging and related needs, bear-proof food storage lockers, a fire ring, picnic tables, and a minimally developed group camping area.

The initial phase of the project will involve four locations in areas where bike touring is popular and use is increasing. In the future, it's likely that the project will provide bike camping improvements at additional Parks in other areas of Montana.

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

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was issued for public comment in early January, with a closing date of February 5, 2016. A total of 70 comments were received, all in support of the proposed project. The number of comments and overwhelming public support of the proposed project are noteworthy.

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

Alt. #1 – approval of the proposed capital funding expenditure for the bike camp improvements project as outlined above.

Alt. #2 – modified approval for the expenditure of the capital funds in some manner for the proposed project.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it): It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed expenditure for the bike camp project.

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

I move to approve the funding for bike camp improvements at four initial State Park sites as proposed.