



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 24, 2016

Agenda Item: Senate Bill 3 heritage report

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Executive Summary of Senate Bill 3 (SB3) Report on State Park Heritage Resources

Montana State Parks (MSP) manages over 223 archaeological and historical sites throughout the state of Montana. Approximately 60 percent of its heritage resources are prehistoric archaeological sites while 40 percent are historic in origin. Thirty-two sites are either eligible or listed in the National Register of Historic Places or are National Historic Landmarks. Heritage sites include seven National Historic Landmarks (NHL), nine sites that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and 16 sites that have been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Of the 32 listed or eligible sites that MSP manages, 22 are historic and 10 are prehistoric. Historic sites include buildings and structures (including Bannack which contains over 85 individual buildings), landscape features noted by the Lewis and Clark expedition, a historic fort, historic campsites, and one battlefield. Prehistoric sites include campsites, cave sites, buffalo jumps and pictograph/petroglyph sites.

Of the sites FWP reported on for SB3 requirements, 18 maintain a satisfactory status, 11 are listed in a watch status, and three are in a threatened status. In terms of overall site integrity and condition for FWP heritage resources, 14 of the 32 sites are in good condition, 13 sites are in fair condition, and five sites are in poor condition.

The stewardship efforts of FWP including interpretation, site monitoring, site maintenance, marketing and site administration activities are detailed in our SB3 report. Site condition and status are summarized in table 1 which is attached. Cost specific information on stewardship activities is included in the attached table 2. Individual site condition and integrity forms for state parks were submitted to the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). In total, in 2014 and 2015 MSP spent \$2,159,806 on maintenance and stewardship efforts in our significant heritage state parks.

