



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 21, 2016
Agenda Item: Public Use Rules - Final
Division: Parks
Action Needed: Approval
Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 Minutes

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

Last April the Division presented an informational item to the Board regarding the Division's plan to update its public use administrative rules. These rules, which guide the public's use of state parks, are out of date, most of them having been drafted in 1988.

A team consisting of several parks staff from around the state met on an almost weekly basis throughout the busy summer months and well into the fall. As part of the process, team members redrafted and updated the existing rules. In addition, they also identified new rules to address new park uses or management concerns. The new rules cover a variety of areas, including providing for civil parking violations, geocaches, drones and other recreational aircraft, hunting in state parks, and expulsion.

The team sought input from other divisions within FWP and incorporated many of those suggestions. It also circulated the draft rules within the Division for additional feedback. As a final step in the process, the draft rules will also be sent to the Department of Public Health and Human Services, per statutory requirements.

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

The proposed 2015 Commercial Use Permit Fee Rule was posted for a 28-day public comment period, closing on Friday, April 15, 2016. Many comments focused on the Geocache rule (requesting removal of the time limit on caches and the prohibition on leaving money in caches). Other comments focused on: hunting, littering, human waste, leash rules, fishing, general support for the rules, and opposition to having many rules.

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

The Board can adopt the rules as final or not adopt them.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it):

The Department recommends the Board adopt the rules as final.

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

I move that the board adopt the public use rules as final.