



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

**Meeting Date:** April 21, 2016

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

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** Informational

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 20 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 Montana State Parks and Recreation Board passed the Classification and Prioritization Policy in December 2015. In January, the internal Classification Policy Implementation Team was chartered. In March of 2016 the team completed Phase I of the process and drafted recommendations for alternative management strategies for Class 4 Parks. These recommendations will allow for redirection of staff and funding to Class 1a state parks as a means of improving service and stewardship at those sites.

The first phase of the process primarily addressed alternative management strategies for class four parks. Recommendations for these parks include the removal of highway signage, kiosks, and (in some cases) latrines for re-use at other sites. Additionally, opportunities were identified to turn over management of some parks to other agencies. Through these efforts, 1.68 FTE will be reallocated from parks in Class 4 to parks in Class 1. Conversations have begun with other agencies and interested parties as to the impacts of these decisions including how we can.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** The Classification and Prioritization Policy was the subject of a 31 day public comment period prior to its passage. Stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the policy is ongoing.

**Alternatives and Analysis:**

This is informational and no recommendations are provided at this point in time.

**Agency Recommendation and Rationale:**

This is informational and no recommendations are provided at this point in time.

**Proposed Motion:**

Not applicable.