



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 15, 2016

Agenda Item: Makoshika Lake Naming

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background (Brief description of the issue, decision to be made, history, etc.): In 2015, a previously undetected lake was discovered in Makoshika State Park. The lake was formed by a massive, 50 foot landslide that has been collecting rain and snow runoff over the last few years. Aerial photographs of the park show that the lake did exist prior to June 2014.

The lake is approximately 28 yards wide and 200 yards long, with a maximum depth of 5.3 feet and is located one mile east of the park road on a line running roughly southeast from the group use shelter. Reaching the lake is a strenuous, difficult hike. This area of the park sees very limited visitation, as noted by a newly formed lake being undetected for two or more years.

When the lake was first discovered, concerns of a flash flood and it's affects to the Town of Glendive were raised, in the case of a large rain event and the dam failing to adequately hold back the lake. To address public concern, State Parks staff contacted the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Water Resources Division to have the landslide inspected by a dam expert and to determine the risk level to the Town of Glendive and to Makoshika State Park. After inspection, it was determined that the dam hazard was insignificant and that there was no risk of a catastrophic event.

In January of 2016, the Glendive Ranger Review approached Montana State Parks about having a lake "naming" contest, to give the newly formed lake an official name. This prompted Parks staffs to research what naming policies are in place for naming park features. It was discovered that current naming policies do not cover the unique situation of naming a newly formed land feature, which was created naturally. Having the lake named in a contest would raise awareness for Makoshika State Park and its array of unique backcountry experiences that the park offers.

Public Involvement Process & Results (Brief description of the type of public involvement and summary of what we heard from the public): Informational item – not applicable

Alternatives and Analysis (Brief description of alternative solutions with analysis of the pros and cons of each): Informational item – not applicable

Agency Recommendation and Rationale (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it): Informational item – not applicable

Proposed Motion (Draft language the Board could use to adopt the agency recommendation):
Informational item – not applicable