



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: 8/18/16

Agenda Item: First Peoples Buffalo Jump Prairie Dog Mgmt. Plan

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background: Montana State Parks is preparing a draft Prairie Dog Management Plan for First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. The primary purpose of the park is to protect and interpret the nationally significant cultural values of the park as well as its archaeological artifacts. As a National Historic Landmark, First Peoples Buffalo Jump is one of the most significant and largest buffalo jumps in North America and possesses exceptional value in illustrating the heritage of Montana's first peoples.

The black-tailed prairie dog population has been rapidly expanding over the years within the boundaries of First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park and a significant colony exists along the traditional drive lines at the top of the jump. As a result, important archeological artifacts are being disturbed. The primary purpose of this plan is to actively manage the prairie dog populations through appropriate strategies that protect the cultural resources of the park; conserve natural processes and conditions; protect public health, safety, and welfare; and manage park resources in accordance with the park's 2005 Management Plan.

A draft plan will be presented to the board at the December meeting.

Public Involvement Process & Results: A public involvement process is not needed at this time but will be undertaken, upon board approval, once the draft plan is presented to the board.

Alternatives and Analysis: There are no alternatives associated with this informational presentation

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: There are no recommendations associated with this informational presentation

Proposed Motion: There are no motions associated with this informational presentation.