



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 18, 2016

Agenda Item: RTP Grants

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

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

The federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants involves pass-through funds which benefit trail related projects in each state. Each year Montana State Parks solicits and awards \$1.4 - \$1.6 million in RTP funds to sponsors statewide. The annual grant awards typically involve 50 – 60 individual projects. The funds are awarded to projects sponsored by local communities, private clubs and organizations, state entities, and federal agencies. The types of projects are as diverse as the development of new trails, installation of latrine facilities at trailheads, funds for snowmobile trail grooming, and maintenance on existing trails.

For the current grant cycle a total of 79 applications were received requesting \$2.67 million. The applications have been scored, input sought from the State Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), and narrowed to 45 grants for the \$1.435 million available this cycle. Please reference the attached summary of final RTP grants for the current cycle.

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

The public was provided an opportunity to comment on the full list of RTP grants from April 18th through May 20th. Notice was provided via a press release and on the website. One comment letter was received offering constructive comments on six specific projects and other categories of projects in general (the Avalanche Centers, snowmobile trail grooming, and Nordic ski projects).

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

Alt. #1 – award the proposed 45 RTP grants for the current cycle per the scoring and recommendations of the STAC. The total award would be \$1,435,243.

Alt. #2 – not award the RTP funds via the established grant program this cycle.

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

Award the proposed RTP grants as scored and recommended by the STAC to the 45 grant sponsors statewide.

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

I move approval of the 45 Recreational Trails Program grants at a total amount of \$1,435,243 as proposed.