



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 20, 2016

Agenda Item: Heritage Resource Strategic Plan

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background (Brief description of the issue, decision to be made, history, etc.): The *Montana State Parks 2015-2020 Strategic Plan* calls for the development of a system-wide heritage resource strategy to address the unique management challenges and opportunities of heritage resource sites. The heritage resources strategic plan is proposed to address the following:

- (1) Evaluate strengths, challenges and options of the heritage resource program and its existing capacity, including program structure, data collection and management, heritage resource training and staff needs, interpretation, funding, and partnerships.
- (2) Assess and prioritize the most critical heritage resource needs and issues in state parks consistent with the park classification system.
- (3) Develop direction for heritage resource program priorities for management across the park system as well as recommendations for improving statewide coordination and management.

Public Involvement Process & Results (Brief description of the type of public involvement and summary of what we heard from the public): Heritage resources touch a diverse group of stakeholders, and stakeholder engagement has been a key component of this planning process. Key points of engagement have included: Informational email (June); online forum (ongoing); website resources (ongoing); survey on program and processes (July); and stakeholder workshop (September).

Alternatives and Analysis (Brief description of alternative solutions with analysis of the pros and cons of each): Staff is currently developing a draft plan and strategic direction which will be coming before the Board in December.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it): This item is informational only.

Proposed Motion (Draft language the Board could use to adopt the agency recommendation): This item is informational only.