



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 14, 2016

Agenda Item: Little Bitterroot Lake Lions Camp Cooperative Management Agreement

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background: The 37 acre Bitterroot Lake Lions Camp is located on Little Bitterroot Lake in Flathead County approximately 20 miles east of Kalispell. The camp consists of an historic lodge constructed in the late 1940's and a small campground. In 1938 the National Youth Administration (NYA) made a request to the Montana State Forester of the Department of State Lands (DSL) and the State Land Board for the development and operation of "A Campsite for a vocational training and recreation for the youth of Montana". Since DSL did not administer recreational facilities, a permanent easement was issued to the State Parks Director of the State of Montana to fulfill this commitment. In 1947, due to a lack of operating funds, The Montana State Parks Commission Authorized the development of cooperative management agreement with Lions Club of Kalispell for operations of the site, and it has been operated under a series of renewed management agreements ever since. The current agreement expires on December 31, 2016. The proposal before the board is a five year renewal of the Cooperative Management Agreement between the Lions Club and FWP. Under this agreement, the Lions are responsible for all financial liabilities associated with the operations and management of the camp. The camp provides public camping, public rentals of the lodge, and numerous youth camp activities coordinated by the Lions. The club is permitted to charge user fees, and those fees are used to cover operating expenses, staffing, and other Lions Club activities.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Alternative 1: Approve renewal of the Cooperative Management Agreement. This alternative will allow public access to continue to be provided to Little Bitterroot Lake at this site, and the long tradition of youth activities at this historic camp will be maintained.

Alternative 2: Do not approve renewal of the Cooperative Management Agreement. If the agreement is not renewed and the If the terms of 1938 easement are not satisfied, the site would revert to Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, unless MSP agreed to operate the camp.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: Because of the importance this site plays in providing public recreational at Little Bitterroot Lake, and because of the long standing relationship with the Lions Club, the agency recommends reauthorization of the Cooperative Management Agreement.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Board approve the five-year Cooperative Management Agreement for between the Park Division of FWP and the Lions Club for the operation and management of Bitterroot Lions Camp