



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 14, 2016

Agenda Item: Classification and Prioritization Update

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background: Goal A of the 2015 Strategic Plan requires that the division manage significant, relevant and accessible parks in a manner that is consistent with available resources. As part of meeting that goal, the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board passed the Classification and Prioritization Policy in December 2015. In January, the internal Classification Policy Implementation Team was chartered. In April, 2016 staff reported to the board Phase I of the process and drafted recommendations for alternative management strategies for Class 4 Parks. In June, we reported that we have begun to implement the Classification Policy and were beginning to communicate with stakeholders. The August board meeting was filled with concerned citizens and elected officials regarding Ackley Lake.

Staff has met with USFS and DNRC to discuss Painted Rocks. Judith Basin County Commissioners joined the division in forming a committee to formally discuss Ackley and will be coming forth in February with recommendations on that site as directed by the park board in August. In Garfield County the ballot initiative for the county to formally consider operating Hell Creek failed. The county continues to talk with us about the future of the park while we have committed to improving the fish cleaning station and have to improve the water cistern. Finally, staff has also been working to improve class 1A parks in numerous ways including engagement with communities like Glendive.

We have completed internal redirection analysis and anticipate we will redirect 2.17 FTE to class 1 parks from class 3 parks next fiscal year. This will improve customer service through maintenance and management at select sites.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The Strategic Plan was subject to numerous public engagement opportunities including a legislative survey and listening sessions statewide. Stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the policy is active and ongoing as evidenced by staff reporting at each board meeting and through public meetings and consistent outreach.

Alternatives and Analysis:

This is informational and no recommendations are provided at this point in time.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale:

This is informational and no recommendations are provided at this point in time.

Proposed Motion:

Not applicable.

