



## MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

**Meeting Date:** February 16, 2017

**Agenda Item:** Revision to Parks Board Lands Policy

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 20 min.

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

The Parks and Recreation Board “Acquisition and/or Transfer of Interests in Land” Policy was finalized and adopted in August 2015. At the December 2016 Board meeting an amendment was proposed to strengthen the policy discussion concerning possible public perceptions concerning ‘closing parks’. The Board requested that staff modify the existing Policy to add stronger language to clarify their position on the issue.

The proposed modification to the existing Policy will be discussed at the Board meeting. The added/modified clarification language is included in #5 at the end of the document.

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

An opportunity for public comment will be provided at the scheduled Board meeting. Given the limited scope and effect of the proposed modification, no formal public comment period is necessary or planned concerning the proposed minor policy adjustment.

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

Alt. #1 – approval of the Policy modification as proposed.

Alt. #2 – modification of the draft Policy based upon Board discussion at the scheduled meeting.

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

It is recommended that the Board approve a Policy adjustment to clarify its’ position and intent concerning exiting public recreational lands remaining available to the public.

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

I move to approve the Parks Board “Acquisition and/or Transfer of Interests in Land” Policy to clarify the Board’s intent that no existing lands will become unavailable for public recreational use.