



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

**Meeting Date:** 2/16/17

**Agenda Item:** Ackley Lake Transition Team Update

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** No action/ Informational

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 Minutes

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**Background:** The classification of state parks was directed by the Montana State Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 in an effort to prioritize the Park's Division most significant sites, resources, and programs and manage them in a manner that is consistent with available resources. Part of this process includes the potential transfer of Class 4 sites to other management entities. Ackley Lake is one of the sites considered appropriate for a transfer of management. In August, the lease State Parks held with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) was renewed through December of 2017. The public expressed considerable concern over the departure of State Parks from the Ackley Lake site. In August of 2016 the Parks Board requested that a transition team be organized by State Parks to consider and explore various options that will maintain public access at Ackley Lake

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** A Board of Directors has since been organized and 3 meetings have been held in Stanford. Board members include representatives from State Parks, the Fisheries division, DNRC, Judith Basin and Fergus Counties, Ackley Water Users, tourism and chamber of commerce, and local business. At the first meeting on November 15, officers were elected and discussions begun on the costs associated with maintaining and managing recreation/camping facilities at Ackley. The next two meetings continued and expounded on these discussions. We are now in the process of developing management options and what will be necessary to carry these out.

The team has made considerable progress with this effort. The group is positive and optimistic that we will develop and implement a solution that will keep Ackley open for recreation to the public and allow for the departure of Parks from the site including an exploration of a recreation district managed by Judith Basin and Fergus counties. The team has agreed to meet every month until we have reached that goal.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** N/A

**Agency Recommendation and Rationale:** N/A

**Proposed Motion:** N/A