



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

**Meeting Date:** February 16, 2016

**Agenda Item:** Final Heritage Resources Strategic Plan

**Division:** Parks

**Action Needed:** Approval

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 20 minutes

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

In December 2016, the Parks Board approved the release of the Draft Heritage Resources Strategic Plan for a 30-day public review. The *Montana State Parks 2015-2020 Strategic Plan* calls for the development of a heritage resource strategy to address the unique management challenges and opportunities of heritage resource sites within our state park system. The Draft Heritage Resources Strategic Plan synthesizes the results of the heritage planning process and associated meetings and sets a direction for heritage resource program priorities outlined in five goals (A-E) that state parks will work to achieve over the next seven years (2017-2024).

**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 was a key component of the entire planning process. Key points of engagement throughout included: Informational email (June); online forum (July); website resources (ongoing); survey on program and processes (July); stakeholder workshop (September); and public review of the Draft Heritage Resources Strategic Plan (December).

The draft plan was released for a 30-day public review period, which closed on January 18, 2017, from which 17 comments were received. These came from seven individuals, five organizations and user groups, and from five agency officials. All comments were supportive of the draft plan and the commitment of state parks to protect and effectively manage heritage properties. Comments received were specific to the various goals and to specific parks, the classification process, artifact collection management, tribal involvement, and partnership engagement and opportunities.

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

**Alternative 1:** Do not approve the Final Heritage Resources Plan.

**Alternative 2:** Approve the Final Heritage Resources Strategic Plan.

**Agency Recommendation and Rationale** (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it): Approval and implementation of the Final Heritage Resource Plan is an important element in achieving the goals laid out in the *Montana State Parks 2015-2020 Strategic Plan*. Therefore, Montana State Parks recommends approval of Alternative 2.

**Proposed Motion** (Draft language the Board could use to adopt the agency recommendation): I move that the Board approve the Final Heritage Resources Strategic Plan and authorize the State Parks Division to implement the goals set forth in this document within the proposed timeline.