



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 20, 2017

Agenda Item: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grants Approval

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

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

The federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants involves pass-through funds which benefit trail related projects in each state. Each year Montana State Parks solicits and awards \$1.4 - \$1.6 million in RTP funds to sponsors statewide. The annual grant awards typically involve 50 – 60 individual projects. The funds are awarded to projects sponsored by local communities, private clubs and organizations, state entities, and federal agencies. The types of projects are as diverse as the development of new trails, installation of latrine facilities at trailheads, funds for snowmobile trail grooming, and maintenance on existing trails.

For the current grant cycle, a total of 69 applications were received requesting over \$2.6 million. The applications have been scored, input sought from the State Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), and narrowed to 54 grants for the \$1.67 million available this cycle. Please reference the attached summary of proposed RTP grants.

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

The public was provided an opportunity to comment on the full list of RTP grants from February 16th through March 16th. Notice was provided via a press release and on the website. One comment letter was received offering constructive comments on one specific project and 163 public comments were received for other categories of projects in general (primarily a Missoula project, MTB Missoula and Nordic ski projects).

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

Alt. #1 – award the proposed 54 RTP grants for the current cycle per the scoring and recommendations of the citizens STAC. The total award would be \$1,663,853.

Alt. #2 – not award the RTP funds via the established grant program this cycle.

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

Award the proposed RTP grants as scored and recommended by the STAC to the 54 grant sponsors statewide.

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

I concur with the Parks Division's recommendation to award the 54 RTP grants for the current year's cycle.