



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 6, 2017

Agenda Item: Parks Fee Rule

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 min.

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

The Biennial Fee Rule is a two-year rule which establishes recreational use fees for the state park system. At the April 2017 Board meeting a revised Rule with several minor edits was approved as a 'tentative' and released for public comment. The proposed revisions included; \$1/\$2 increases in the backcountry camping fees, a \$10 pet fee, wording changes concerning peak season dates, and removal of the exemption of the entrance fee for a non-resident participating in commercial activity.

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

The proposed Rule was posted for public comment for a 30-day period following the April Board meeting. A total of three comments were received. Two public comments generally voiced opposition or concern over increasing fees in general and were not specific to the proposed Rule changes. One internal comment pointed out a technical concern regarding changes that might be made to peak season dates at individual parks and complications it may have for the public utilizing the campsite reservation program and planning for dates up to 9 months in the future.

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

Alt. #1 – approval of the Parks Fee Rule as proposed and issued for public comment at the April Board meeting.

Alt. #2 – not approve the Parks Fee Rule as proposed; possibly modify the Rule as a condition of approval.

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

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed Parks Fee Rule as issued as a 'tentative' in April.

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

I move to approve the Parks Division's 2018/2019 Fee Rule with the revisions as a 'final', incorporating the revisions proposed.