



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 20, 2018
Agenda Item: 2018-2019 Heritage Resources Strategic Plan
Action Needed: Informational
Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20-30 Minutes

Background: In February 2017, the Parks Board approved the Heritage Resources Strategic Plan for 2017-2024. The plan outlines tasks to be completed each of the seven years. For 2017-2019, there are nine work items slated for completion. These items, the costs associated with them, and internal staff's ability to complete them will be addressed.

Heritage plan tasks for 2017 include the establishment of a Heritage Leadership Team which was created at the end of 2017. Tasks for 2018 include holding an annual heritage meeting with all heritage park managers, completing emergency protocols for Class 1 and 2 heritage parks, and establishing protocols so that artifacts can be safely and securely displayed in state park visitor centers. These tasks can be successfully accomplished by internal staff.

Two of the five tasks for 2019 are complex and include comprehensive data analysis that requires the assistance of consultants to be successfully achieved. These more complex tasks include a status audit of all heritage site data (over 220 sites) and consolidating artifact collection data into a centralized PastPerfect Software platform. Remaining tasks for 2019 including developing alternative management strategies for Class 4 heritage parks, developing stronger heritage skills recruitment criteria for heritage park managers, and establishing lending agreements with curation centers to facilitate artifact displays in our visitor centers.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Heritage resources touch a diverse group of stakeholders, and stakeholder engagement was a key component of developing the heritage plan. Key points of engagement throughout included: Informational email; online forum; website resources (ongoing); survey on program and processes; stakeholder workshop; and public review of the Draft Heritage Resources Strategic Plan (December 2016). All outreach was geared toward obtaining feedback on the types of tasks and priorities the heritage program should focus and on are reflected in the task list for each of the seven years targeted by the plan.

Alternatives and Analysis: State parks can identify certain tasks outlined in the heritage plan that we cannot accomplish due to cost or because it is too time consuming for heritage staff to complete.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The Final Heritage Resource Plan was approved by the Board. Completing the plan tasks outlined for 2018-2019 will involve funding to hire consultants for specific tasks. Information presented provides rationale for what can be completed in-house and the estimated consultant costs for outside services needed. Montana State Parks recommends the Board support working toward completing our outlined plan tasks and in hiring consultants as needed for more complex and time-consuming efforts.