



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 20, 2018

Agenda Item: Milltown State Park and Bonner Development Group Property Update

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background:

The Bonner Learning Park (BLP), owned by the nonprofit Bonner Development Group (BDG), is a 25-acre parcel along the Clark Fork River, adjacent to Milltown State Park. This park was originally donated by Champion International and developed in the mid-1990s to serve as a small, local park. The park remained open until 2006 when it closed to the public with the advent of the Superfund cleanup construction work. While cleanup work is now complete, public access to the park has been limited with access permitted only to the Bonner School for field trips.

Much of the property is situated on the north side of the Clark Fork River but a corner does extend across the river to the southwest. Existing Milltown State Park properties share both upstream and downstream boundaries with the BLP. The property includes river frontage and several park amenities such as a stone and timber-framed picnic shelter with built-in grill, a vault toilet, a kiosk, a sun dial, a built-in spotting scope, a short trail network and a small space for limited parking.

At their June 15, 2016 meeting, the Board approved the Department to negotiate with BDG to consider the donation of the BLP for inclusion in Milltown State Park. BDG has offered to donate the property to Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) and working with Missoula County, several aspects of the Department's due diligence process have been completed or are currently underway. As snow melts this spring, work will continue in earnest to determine final evaluation steps and an updated timeline. Upon completion of evaluation and due diligence, an Environmental Assessment for the acquisition would be written and distributed for public comment. This information will be compiled and presented to the Board for final action.