



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 20, 2018

Agenda Item: Holt Property Update

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background:

Travelers' Rest State Park is currently a 65-acre site located in Lolo, Montana. The park is a National Historic Landmark that holds Native American significance, is the only archeologically verified campsite of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and has grown increasingly popular with Lolo residents for day-to-day recreational opportunities.

In Fall of 2015, the family who owns the 20.54 acres immediately adjacent to the park's western boundary approached the division with a desire to sell the parcel for inclusion in the park. An endorsement proposal was presented to the Board at their February 24, 2016 meeting where approval was given to acquire an option to purchase the property. The Department signed a first one-year purchase option September 2, 2016 and extended that option for a second year in 2017 with the current expiration being September 2, 2018.

The location of this parcel immediately adjacent to the park entrance and visitor center makes it a highly visible and significant potential addition to Travelers' Rest State Park. If the division does not consider this acquisition, the land could be sold and because of the lack of zoning, could be used for an array of commercial or industrial activities that may directly affect the aesthetics of the park and/or visitor experience.

The Department conducted an appraisal of the property in December of 2016, with a value assessed at \$940,000. The division has tentatively set aside existing Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) funds for approximately half of that amount with efforts to identify funding for the remaining amount ongoing.