



MONTANA **FWP**

## MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

**Meeting Date:** December 19, 2018

**Agenda Item:** Revised Classification Policy

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 Minutes

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**Background:** The 2015 Montana State Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan adopted by the Board directs staff to manage parks and programs in a manner that considers: the allocation of resources; fiscal sustainability; visitor services and experiences; partnerships and engagement; and awareness and outreach.

In 2018, an audit conducted by the Legislative Audit Division included an analysis of steps the Division has taken to develop systems and processes to strategically prioritize and allocate resources. The report includes the recommendation to “Develop and implement a system wide plan for regularly ranking, reviewing and documenting resource allocations for capital projects, and for maintenance and operations of state parks.”

Also, in 2018 a separate analysis of the Division conducted by the Governor's appointed Parks in Focus Commission identified the need to revise the Montana State Parks Classification and Prioritization of Parks Resources policy, adopted in 2015. The Commission recommends that the Division work toward an approach that develops an investment strategy for building a diverse robust and thriving park system. These efforts have led to the development of a revised draft Board policy for the classification of state parks.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results:**

This draft policy has had no public involvement to date. Public comment will be taken at the December 19, 2018 Board meeting. If the Board endorses the draft policy, the Department will conduct a 30-public comment period. Any final adoption will take place at the Board meeting in the spring.

### **Alternatives and Analysis:**

- Alternative #1 - Do not approve the Draft Policy
- Alternative# 2 - Amend the draft policy and put it out for public comment
- Alternative #3 - Endorse the Draft Policy as written and put it out for public comment

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale:**

The Department recommends Alternative #3. Once comments are received the Board can review the document in greater depth with the benefit of public perspective.

**Proposed Motion:** I move the Parks and Recreation Board endorse for public comment, the proposed revised classification policy.