



MONTANA **FWP**

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

Meeting Date: December 19, 2018
Agenda Item: Parks in Focus Commission Recommendations
Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 Minutes

Background: The Parks in Focus (PIF) Commission was created in January 2018 by Governor Steve Bullock to strengthen Montana's state parks system and to ensure the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has the resources, capacity, and expertise to implement the Montana State Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. The Commission consists of 12 volunteer professionals with backgrounds in business, local government, education, tourism, and healthcare.

The first of four Commission meetings was held in Three Forks in February. The second meeting was held in Kalispell in April. The third meeting was in Glendive in September. This meeting at First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park near Great Falls is the final meeting of the Parks in Focus Commission.

The Commission is tasked with providing recommendations to the Governor, state legislature, and FWP on three strategies that emerged from the State Parks strategic planning effort: growing strategic partnerships, building an engaged constituency, and diversifying revenue.

The Commission held final deliberations and approved the final recommendations report at the December 14th meeting held at First People's Buffalo Jump. The recommendations provide four overarching goals with an established implementation strategy to set our path forward. They include:

- Recommendation 1: Accelerate Fish, Wildlife and Parks Transformation
- Recommendation 2: Strengthen the Internal Capability of Parks Division
- Recommendation 3: Develop Strong Partnerships and Constituency
- Recommendation 4: Increase Funding for the Future

The recommendations lay out a strategic roadmap to achieve four goals that can make this vision a reality:

- *The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks is a unified agency, with aligned vision, mission, and programming and a bench of strong leaders.*
- *The Parks Division has clear strategic priorities, efficient management systems, sufficient staffing, and strong internal capability.*
- *The Parks Division has a strong partnership culture, with partners significantly leveraging division capacity to improve the state park experience and a broad set of advocates promoting and championing the benefits of parks and recreation.*
- *The Parks Division utilizes short, medium, and long-term funding strategies to stabilize, lay the foundation, and build now for the future state parks system Montanans deserve.*

Public Involvement Process & Results: The Parks in Focus Commission solicited a 30-day public comment period and allowed public comment at all meetings. Public comment will also be taken at this Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Proposed Motion: I move the Parks and Recreation Board endorse the Parks in Focus Recommendations.