



MONTANA **FWP**

MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 19, 2018

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

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Minutes

Background: The Bonner Development Group (BDG) property is a 33.5-acre parcel adjacent to the Milltown site on the north side of the Clark Fork River. The site was originally donated by Champion International and developed into a local park. The site includes a picnic shelter, vault latrine, kiosk, and a short network of trails. The proposed acquisition/donation of this parcel has been presented to the Board on two previous occasions. The first in June 2015, followed by a second presentation in February 2018.

Site access for the public will be walk-in only. Administrative access will be likely for maintenance, weed spraying, latrine pumping, etc. Remaining efforts to be concluded are to secure the necessary access agreements into the site under the railroad and I-90 bridge structures. Additionally, conditions of the railroad access will be the construction of a fall-protection structure and fencing of the railroad right-of-way. The current owner of the parcel has agreed to provide \$75,000 to be used for these efforts.

Public Involvement Process & Results: An Environmental Assessment (EA) was issued for the proposed donation in November, with the public comment ending December 2, 2018. A total of ten comments were received, all supportive of the proposed action.

Alternatives and Analysis: **Alternative #1** – Proceed with conditioned approval of the donation, with the known access agreements and necessary infrastructure upgrades to be concluded prior to finalizing the donation. This includes proceeding with the \$75,000 in private funding provided for the necessary construction improvements. **Alternative #2** – Not proceed with approval of the donation until all donation conditions are completed. This alternative would likely preclude the use of the \$75,000 in private funds to benefit the known access condition costs for the project. **Alternative #3** – not proceed with the proposed donation at this time.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: The Department recommends Alternative #1. Proceed with approval of the donation on the condition that all public access issues, railroad requirements, and similar issues are met prior to the parcel being transferred to the Department.

Proposed Motion: I move the Parks and Recreation Board approve the Department's proposed action to accept the donation of the 33.5-acre parcel, conditioned that the public access issues and related requirements are completed prior to the Department completing the land transaction.