



MONTANA **FWP**

MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 22, 2019
Agenda Item: Classification and Investment Strategy Policy
Action Needed: Proposed
Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 60 Minutes

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 Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Park's 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 was conducted by the Governor's appointed Parks in Focus Commission which they identified the need to revise the Montana State Parks Classification and Prioritization of Parks Resources policy, adopted in 2015. The Commission recommended 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 new draft Board policy for classification and investment strategy for state parks.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

This draft policy has had no public involvement to date. Public comment will be taken at the February 22, 2019 Board teleconference 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 - Endorse the Draft Policy as written and put it out for public comment
- Alternative# 2 - Amend the draft policy and put it out for public comment
- Alternative #3 - Do not approve the Draft Policy

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

The Department recommends Alternative #1. 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 draft Classification and Investment Strategy Policy.