

Montana State Parks and Recreation Board Policy



Classification and Investment Strategy		
Chair Approval	Effective Date	Review Date

Board Policy

Strategic allocation and investment of resources to manage Montana State Parks and provide high-quality visitor experiences will be accomplished through a systematic approach aligned with state statute, rule, policy, planning, and evaluation.

Purpose

Montana is a place where people have abundant opportunities to connect with outstanding state parks that define our state and where a responsive and relevant Parks Division has the capacity and public support it needs to ensure that park resources and experiences remain an essential part of Montana's culture, economy, and high quality of life.

The Montana State Parks and Recreation Division must develop and implement strategies for the investment of human and fiscal resources across the park system to deliver high-quality experiences to our visitors while protecting and maintaining the public resources in our care.

By identifying the types of state parks resources the division manages and the public's desire to experience those resources, the division can better align management objectives and develop investment strategies to provide a range of quality visitor experiences across the system.

Directives

The Montana State Parks and Recreation Board directs the division to use the following guiding principles to evaluate and revise the parks classification and prioritization criteria in order to guide management and investment strategies for all of Montana's State Parks.

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1. Develop service-level designations which will be used to categorize the types of service visitors can expect at any given state park. Service-level groups will also provide management direction and guide park managers toward greater consistency and targeted investment partnerships.
2. Group parks in a way that reflects the primary visitor experience offered at each park: Natural, Heritage, and Recreation.
3. Establish criteria that will help prioritize how human and fiscal resources are allocated to and invested in park resource protection and management while continually striving to ensure and improve positive visitor experiences across all service-level designations and experience categories.
4. Establish methods to receive internal and external feedback, assess conditions, and identify where adjustments in classification may be needed.
5. Establish performance measures and evaluation tools that will track progress and identify gaps where work is necessary to address unmet resource needs, visitor satisfaction, and interest in creating new or improved visitor experiences.
6. Use planning tools to develop strategies to meet unmet needs, engage constituents, and build partnerships.

Authority/Reference

23-1-101, MCA, State Parks Purpose
23-1-102, MCA, Powers and Duties of the Department
23-1-111, MCA, Powers and Duties of the Board
23-1-127, MCA, Maintenance Priority