



MONTANA **FWP**

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

**Meeting Date:** June 20, 2019

**Agenda Item:** Classification and Investment Strategy Policy

**Action Needed:** Final

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

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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 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."

A separate analysis of the Division was conducted by the Governor's appointed Parks in Focus Commission in 2018. It 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 revised Board policy for classification and investment strategy for state parks.

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

A draft policy was presented to the Board at the February 22, 2019 meeting. Public comment was taken at the meeting. The Department also conducted a 30-day public comment period, March 18, 2019 through April 18, 2019. Thirteen comments were received; six comments in support, seven comments were outside the scope of the policy and no comments in opposition were received. Comments were incorporated into the final draft.

### **Alternatives and Analysis:**

Alternative #1 - Approve the Draft Policy as written

Alternative# 2 - Amend the Draft policy.

Alternative #3 - Do not approve the Draft Policy

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

The Department recommends Alternative #1. Based on the number of supportive comments received from the public and in-depth Board discussions over the course of the past year, the adoption of this policy will help guide Montana State Parks in a strategic direction moving forward.

**Proposed Motion:** I move the Parks and Recreation Board adopt the Classification and Investment Strategy Policy as presented at today's meeting.