



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: September 17, 2020
Agenda Item: Update on State Parks Planning Efforts
Action Needed: Informational
Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 minutes

Background:

Beginning last fall, Division staff began to identify and implement an approach for updating the Montana State Parks' Division 2015-20 strategic plan, *Charting a New Tomorrow*. Two key factors that informed the approach included: recognizing the plan had been developed in a different environment than where the Division currently stands; and, that there is high value in taking into consideration other recently-issued plans and reports related to outdoor recreation and the Division's work such as Montana's Statewide Outdoor Recreation Report (SCORP) and the Parks in Focus report *A New Day for Montana State Parks*.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

We aimed to gather a wide diversity of perspectives from individuals who in the past had not been given opportunities to weigh in. This included assembling a 15-member Advisory Committee comprised mostly of FWP staff from across Divisions and with key regional representation. We also developed a 12-member Sounding Board which consisted of experts and constituents from various sectors with whom we often intersect: tourism, public health, tribal affairs, transportation, academia, the Montana State Park Foundation, Governor's Office of Outdoor recreation, to name a handful. The careful review of outdoor recreation plans, reports and documents and the many goals and recommendations has offered up to us a clean slate to 'think forward' about the state park system of the future.