



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: May 27, 2021
Agenda Item: Classification and Investment Strategy Policy Review and Extension
Action Needed: Final
Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 Min

Background: The 2015 Montana State Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan adopted by the Parks and Recreation 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.

A draft policy was presented to the Board at their February 22, 2019 meeting and public comment was taken at the meeting; a 30-day public comment period was solicited March 18, 2019 through April 18, 2019. The final policy was adopted by the Board at their June 20, 2019 meeting and is set to expire June 20, 2021.

At this time, there are no proposed changes to this policy. Upon approval by the Board, the policy will remain in effect for the next two-years, until June 2023, unless a revision needs to be made prior to this time and will brought back to the Board.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Public comment will be taken at this Board meeting.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks recommends the Parks and Recreation Board approve the two-year extension of the Classification and Investment Strategy Policy.

Proposed Motion: I move the Parks and Recreation Board approve the two-year extension of the Classification and Investment Strategy Policy.