



Montana State Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: October 7, 2021

Agenda Item: Ackley Lake State Park Lease Agreement with DNRC

Division: Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Minutes

Background:

Ackley Lake State Park is located approximately 13 miles southwest of Hobson. The park is located on land owned by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) as part of an irrigation reservoir. It is comprised of 250 acres and has 26 campsites and two boat ramps.

Fish Wildlife and Parks have leased the land around Ackley Lake from the DNRC since the 1960s. A few important notes from recent history. In August of 2016 Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) began exploring options to depart Ackley Lake as part of the first phase implementation strategy of the Classification and Prioritization of Park Resources. The public expressed considerable concern over the possible departure of State Parks from the Ackley Lake site and in late 2016, the lease FWP held with the DNRC was renewed through December of 2017. In February of 2017 the lease with FWP was extended for 5 years till 2021.

The Ackley Lake Club (friends' group) proposed developing a boat exclusion area to provide a safe place for swimmers. The DNRC approved the concept and incorporated a 100' x 120' swim area into a revised lease with FWP that would expire at the end of 2024. The lease would continue at no cost to FWP in recognition of FWP's accommodations for public use of the Park. If approved, FWP would be responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the boat exclusion area, including clearly marking the area.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

Regional staff conducted a checklist EA for the extension of the lease and addition of the swim area. Public comment will be taken during the Board meeting on the project.

Alternatives & Analysis:

Alternative 1: Approve signature of the mutually agreed upon lease between FWP and DNRC.

Alternative 2: Do not approve signature of the mutually agreed upon lease between FWP and DNRC.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale:

It is the agency recommendation to approve Alternative 1; signature of the mutually agreed upon lease for Ackley State Park between FWP and DNRC.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Parks and Recreation Board approve the signature of the mutually-agreed upon lease for Ackley State Park between FWP and DNRC.



MONTANA **FWP**