



# MONTANA STATE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** Dec. 19, 2023

**Agenda Item:** State parks where trapping is allowed

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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**Background:** At its August 2023 meeting, the board authorized FWP to file an administrative rule notice with the Montana secretary of state to establish consolidated public use rules for all department lands (state parks, fishing access sites, wildlife management areas, wildlife habitat protection areas, and fisheries conservation areas). The proposed final adoption notice includes language stating that trapping is prohibited in state parks unless authorized by the board, and that written authorization from the department is required prior to trapping at a state park where trapping is allowed. If the board finalizes that rule language at its Dec. 19 meeting, the department will propose at the same meeting that the board approve trapping at three state parks where trapping already occurs as follows:

- Thompson Chain of Lakes State Park – limited to sets for beaver and muskrat below the water surface only
- Missouri Headwaters State Park – limited to sets for beaver and muskrat below the water surface only
- Fish Creek State Park - subject to the current trapping regulations in that area

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** Public comment will be taken through the board website in advance of the Dec. 19 meeting as well as during the meeting.

**Analysis & Alternatives:**

Alternative A: Adopt as final the proposal to allow trapping at Thompson Chain of Lakes, Missouri Headwaters, and Fish Creek state parks as described above.

Alternative B: Decide not to adopt the proposal to allow trapping at Thompson Chain of Lakes, Missouri Headwaters, and Fish Creek state parks. Trapping opportunities at these three parks would no longer exist.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** FWP recommends the board adopt as final the proposal to allow trapping at Thompson Chain of Lakes, Missouri Headwaters, and Fish Creek state parks as described above to preserve existing trapping opportunity at these three sites as it does not interfere with other uses of the sites during the trapping season.

**Proposed Motion:** I move the State Parks and Recreation Board adopt as final the proposal to allow trapping at Thompson Chain of Lakes, Missouri Headwaters, and Fish Creek state parks, as described.

PO Comm Ed

DO SPU

smc Legal