



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 hunting is prohibited

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

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 rules include language stating that state parks are open to all commission-established hunting seasons unless prohibited by the board. If the board finalizes that rule language at its Dec. 19 meeting, then the department will propose at the same meeting that the board adopt a list of state parks where hunting would be prohibited based on site-specific conditions related to public safety, including size of the property and proximity to park users and facilities. The proposed list of 32 state parks where hunting would be prohibited includes:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Anaconda Smelter Stack | Les Mason | Pictograph Cave |
| Bannack | Lewis and Clark Caverns (eastern half) | Placid Lake |
| Big Arm | Logan | Salmon Lake |
| Black Sandy | Lone Pine | Somers Beach |
| Chief Plenty Coups | Lost Creek | Spring Meadow Lake |
| Clark's Lookout | Makoshika (Caines Coulee and area between road switchbacks and Radio Hill when road is open to vehicle travel) | Thompson Falls |
| Elkhorn | Miles City Train Depot | Travelers Rest |
| Finley Point | Milltown | Wayfarers |
| Fort Owen | Painted Rocks | West Shore |
| Frenchtown Pond | | Whitefish Lake |
| Granite | | Wild Horse Island |
| Greycliff Prairie Dog Town | | Yellow Bay |
| Lake Elmo | | |

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 proposed list of state parks where hunting would be prohibited.

Alternative B: Decide not to adopt the proposed list of state parks where hunting would be prohibited. All state parks would be open to all commission established hunting seasons.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends the board adopt as final the proposed list of state parks where hunting would be prohibited due to public safety concerns, including size of the property and proximity to park users and facilities, that cannot be mitigated effectively through special restrictions on hunting.

Proposed Motion: I move the State Parks and Recreation Board adopt as final the proposed list of state parks where hunting would be prohibited.