



# STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD FWP PROPOSAL & INFORMATION SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** Dec. 20, 2024

**Agenda Item:** 2024 Public Use Rules Deviations

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda:** 10 Minutes

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**Background:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Fish and Game Commission, and the State Parks and Recreation Board adopted a consolidated set of administrative rules for all recreation and conservation properties administered by MFWP (ARM 12.12.101-140). The rules apply to fishing access sites (FAS), wildlife management areas (WMA), state parks, and other FWP-owned public-use sites. At the August 2024 meeting, the board approved a list of deviations from the administrative rules for State Parks. FWP missed bringing a few deviations to the board for their approval. Unless otherwise noted as new, these additional deviations continue the current management practice at the identified parks. The proposed deviations are in reference to the following administrative rules:

- ARM 12.12.109 Food Storage
- ARM 12.12.112 Livestock
- ARM 12.12.113 Weapons
- ARM 12.12.114 Hunting and Trapping

FWP proposes the adoption of these deviations to the administrative rules for one year, to be reviewed annually.

**Public Involvement Process:** The public use rules complied with the Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA) process in 2023. The MAPA process included a robust public comment process, including over a month to provide public comment on the proposed rules. In 2024, the initial proposed deviations to the public use rules were posted and public comment was received through the August board meeting. The department will also solicit public comment on these proposed deviations prior to the December board meeting. Comments on these proposed deviations will be posted online and provided to board members prior to the meeting.

**Alternatives & Analysis:**

The additional rule deviations that FWP proposes for the board to approve have been supported by both the current and past State Parks Boards. The proposed changes are listed with their explanation and justification in the attached spreadsheet. In general, the proposed deviations accommodate unique local circumstances.

For the additional deviations, the board may adopt, modify, or reject any one or all of the proposals. The board has three alternatives: 1) to approve none of the additional deviations; 2) to approve some of the additional deviations and deny the remainder; or 3) to approve all of the proposed additional deviations.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** FWP recommends the approval of all the additional deviations as presented.



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**Proposed Motion:** I move the State Parks & Recreation Board approve the additional administrative rule deviations as presented by the department.