



STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD FWP PROPOSAL & INFORMATION SHEET

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Meeting Date: May 20, 2024

Agenda Item: 2024-26 Biennial Rule for Smith River State Park and River Corridor

Action Needed: Consideration of Adoption of 2024-26 Biennial Rule for Smith River State Park

Time Needed on Agenda: 10 Minutes

Background: After taking public comment and integrating the 2022 revisions to the Smith River State Park and River Corridor Recreation Management Plan of 2009, the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board (board) took action in May 2022 to adopt the 2022-24 biennial rule for the Smith River State Park and River Corridor. That biennial rule is now expiring and a new biennial rule for 2024-26 needs to be adopted. There are no substantial changes between the current 2022-24 biennial rule and the proposed 2024-26 biennial rule. The proposed changes are as follows:

- Updated references to the newer Public Use ARMs (12.12.101 et seq.) and the new Smith River Permit ARMs (12.3.650 and 651) that were adopted after the board's adoption of the current biennial rule.
- Updated language changes for consistency with current FWP structure and the new ARMs.
- A correction to the language in Section IX(G) to reflect past and current practice regarding the number of commercial launches allowed on certain days.

Public Involvement Process: In addition to the comments received and considered by FWP as part of the 2022 update to the Smith River State Park and River Corridor Recreation Management Plan, the board received and considered public comment in the spring of 2022 before its adoption of the current 2022-24 biennial rule.

As noted above, no substantial changes are being proposed in the new Biennial Rule. However, public comment will be accepted and considered as part of the board's consideration of the proposed new Biennial Rule at the Board's May 20 meeting.

Alternatives & Analysis:

Alternative A: No Action – The current biennial rule will expire in May 2024. In that event, there will be no rule structure in place relating to items in the current biennial rule. This includes fee requirements, food storage regulations, and waste pack-out requirements.

Alternative B: Proposed Action – Adoption of the proposed 2024-26 biennial rule will continue the rule structure in place for use of the Smith River State Park and River Corridor.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends Alternative B to ensure rules remain in place to manage Smith River State Park and River Corridor.

Proposed Motion: I move the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board approve the adoption of the 2024-2026 Biennial Rule for the Smith River State Park and River Corridor as proposed by FWP staff and as contained in the agenda materials.