MT SCORP

Facility and Natural Resource Recreation Area Needs: Facility Manager Responses 2012

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this study was to understand the quantity and quality of outdoor recreation facilities and areas and the future recreation needs from the perspective of managers. To assess recreation needs, a survey of local, state, federal, school, and tribal managers was conducted in the fall of 2012. A total of 396 managers were contacted via email and asked to participate in an online survey. A total of 109 managers responded resulting in a response rate of 27%.

Quantity and quality of recreation facilities and areas

- 51% of respondents indicated walking/jogging/biking paths should be increased.
- 33% of respondents indicated bike lanes on roads should be increased.
- Nearly 50% of respondents indicated there was an adequate number of fishing areas and motorized boating areas.
- Over 50% reported there were an adequate number of big and small game hunting areas.
- Close to 60% of respondents reported there were an adequate number of picnic areas.
- Around 50% of respondents reported there was an adequate number of horseshoe pits, baseball fields, softball fields and football fields.
- Around 50% of respondents did not have and did not want downhill ski areas or snowmobile trails.

Inventory of outdoor recreation facilities

- Respondents reported the amount of each facility they had in their jurisdiction.
- The facilities listed as having the most were picnic areas (341) and playgrounds (377).
- There were a total of 5,423 miles of hiking trails reported by 30 different agencies.
- There were 145 miles of bike lanes reported by 15 different agencies.

Facility needs

- The top need by nine mangers was an aquatics facility.
- Other top facility needs included playgrounds, expanding facilities, deferred maintenance, hiking and biking trails, and water access.
- Youth: The top facility need for youth was playgrounds followed by hiking and biking trails.
- Adults: Future facility needs for adults include hiking and biking trails.
- Senior and ADA accessibility: Facility needs include hiking and biking trails and campgrounds.

Outdoor recreation trends and issues

- Youth and future generations, children and nature, and health benefits of recreation were rated high as issues influencing decisions about facilities.
- Over 30% of respondents indicated they sometimes or often rely on friends groups and service organizations for agency funding.
- 37% of managers indicated their funding from tax allocations decreased in the past five years.
- Over 75% of respondents reported they were likely to collaborate with service organizations, county agencies, municipal agencies, and nonprofit organizations over the next five years.

Results from this study suggest Montana outdoor recreation managers should focus on developing and creating more hiking/walking and biking paths and trails. Agencies should continue to develop relationships with service-based organizations to help fund recreation efforts. Managers should continue to keep youth and connection with nature on the forefront when making decisions about facilities.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 3

Table of Figures and Tables 5

Introduction 6

Methods 6

Results 7

Assessment of facility quantity and quality 9

Inventory of outdoor recreation facilities 18

Facility needs 19

Outdoor recreation trends and issues 21

Summary and Discussion 24

Appendix A: Survey Instrument 26

Appendix B: Open Ended Comments 27

Table of Table and Figures

Table 1: Tourism regions and frequency of respondents 8
Table 2: Montana counties and frequency of respondents 8
Table 3 Quantity and quality of trails/street/road facilities 9
Table 4: Quantity and quality of water-based areas/facilities 10
Table 5: Quantity and quality of land-based areas/facilities 12
Table 6: Quantity and quality of sports facilities 14
Table 7: Quantity and quality of winter sports areas/facilities 16
Table 8: Quantity and quality of viewing/learning areas/facilities 17
Table 9: Inventory of outdoor facilities 18
Table 10: Inventory of total miles of trails 19
Table 11: Top 5 facility needs 19
Table 12: Top 3 facility needs for demographic groups 20
Table 13: Issues influencing future decisions about facilities 21
Table 14: Funding sources for outdoor recreation agencies 21
Table 15: Visitor characteristic trends at outdoor recreation facilities 23
Table 16: Likely collaborators over the next 5 years 23

Figure 1: Map of Tourism Regions in Montana and Sample Size per Region 7
Figure 2: Comparison of funding from public tax allocations 22

Introduction

A goal of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is to identify outdoor recreation trends, needs, and issues that will help direct Montana's use of the Land Water Conservation Fund dollars that are allocated to the state. Most SCORPs address the demand for and supply of recreation resources (local, state and federal) within a state, identify needs and new opportunities for recreation improvements and set forth an implementation program to meet the goals identified by its citizens and elected leaders. The current Montana SCORP extends through 2012 and therefore an update is needed.

There are many organizations in the state of Montana that offer recreation facilities and natural resource recreation areas including school districts, federal agencies, municipalities, counties, tribes and state agencies. To understand these facilities, an inventory of public recreation entities was conducted. The intent of this survey was to inventory public recreation facilities, including built and natural resource recreation areas (trails, fishing access, etc.), identify the condition of these facilities/areas and identify the future facility/area needs to meet the recreation demand in Montana.

Methods

The Statewide Facility and Natural Resource Recreation Area Needs Survey was conducted in the fall of 2012 using an online/web- based format. A comprehensive list of facility mangers (local, state and federal) was obtained by Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) and the SCORP Advisory committee. This list included a total of 396 email addresses.

In early September, an initial letter was sent via email by FWP to each of the recreation managers informing them about the survey and asking them for their participation. A second email was sent seven days later asking for the recreation manager to follow a link to the online survey where they could complete the facility needs assessment. Three reminder emails were sent in seven day intervals, all which contained a link to the online survey. In addition to reminder emails, the SCORP advisory committee and FWP were charged with generating support for the survey at the 2012 Montana Parks and Recreation Association annual meeting in Missoula, MT. This method resulted in a total of 109 completed surveys and a 27% response rate.

The survey was created using SANP survey software. SNAP allows for offline creation of a survey with the option to have an online version. Previous MT SCORP's were used to create survey questions along with SCORP reports from other states including Pennsylvania and Oregon. Questions addressed quality and quantity of outdoor recreation facilities and natural areas. Other questions addressed general trends in outdoor recreation, recreation and facility needs and agency funding.

Results

Respondents were asked which tourism region and county a majority of their facilities were located. A majority of respondents were from Glacier Country (24%) and Gold West Country (21%). The region with the least number of respondents was Missouri River Country (Table 1). Forty-eight of the 56 counties in Montana were represented. With the most number of respondents coming from Flathead County (n=12) and Lewis and Clark County (n=9). There were no respondents from Big Horn, Daniels, Dawson, Glacier, Garfield, Hill, Judith Basin or Wibaux Counties (Table 2).

Figure 1: Map of Tourism Regions in Montana and Sample Size per Region

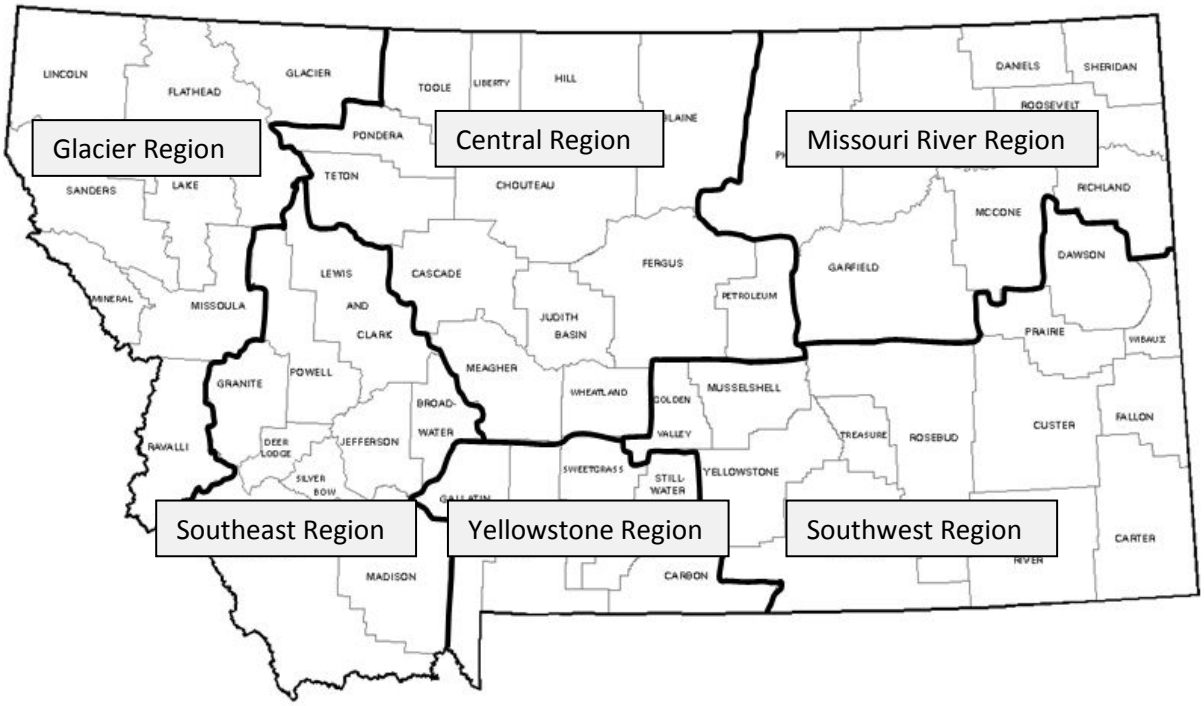


Table 1: Tourism regions and frequency of respondents

Region	Frequency	Percentage
Glacier Region	26	24%
Central Region	21	19%
Missouri River Region	11	10%
Southwest Region	23	21%
Yellowstone Region	13	12%
Southeast Region	15	14%

Table 2: Montana counties and frequency of respondents

County name	Frequency	County name	Frequency
Beaverhead	5	Madison	2
Big Horn	0	Meagher	2
Blaine	2	Mineral	3
Broadwater	2	Missoula	8
Carbon	2	Musselshell	1
Carter	1	Park	2
Cascade	6	Petroleum	1
Chouteau	6	Phillips	2
Custer	4	Pondera	1
Daniels	0	Powder River	1
Dawson	0	Powell	3
Deer Lodge	2	Prairie	1
Fallon	0	Ravalli	2
Fergus	6	Richland	1
Flathead	12	Roosevelt	2
Gallatin	7	Rosebud	3
Garfield	0	Sanders	1
Glacier	4	Sheridan	3
Golden Valley	0	Silver Bow	2
Granite	1	Stillwater	3
Hill	0	Sweet Grass	2
Judith Basin	0	Teton	2
Lake	3	Toole	1
Lewis and Clark	9	Treasure	1
Liberty	2	Valley	4
Lincoln	3	Wheatland	2
McCone	1	Wibaux	0
		Yellowstone	7

Assessment of facility quantity and quality

Respondents were asked about the quantity and quality of various outdoor recreation facilities and natural areas. Quantity was measured by asking respondents if there was an adequate number of facilities or if facilities should be increased in their jurisdiction. Respondents were also given the option to indicate if they don't have the facility but would like it or don't have the facility and don't need the facility. Quality was measured by asking the respondent to report if the facility was in poor, fair, good or very good condition. It is important to note that respondents had the option to check not available (NA) when rating the quality of the facility. Please interpret these results with caution.

In the category of trails/street/road facilities, 51 percent of the respondents reported that walking/jogging/biking paths should be increased (Table 3). Hiking trails (37%), bike lanes (33%) and mountain bike trails (31%) were also areas that respondents indicated should be increased. Thirty-two percent of respondents indicated that there were an adequate number of motorized off-road trails and 42 percent indicated they did not have and did not need these types of trails. The quality of walking/jogging/biking paths and hiking trails was fair to very good. Twenty-nine percent of respondents reported bike lanes on roads as being poor or fair.

Table 3: Quantity and quality of trails/street/road facilities

Trails/street/road facilities			
Walking/jogging/biking paths	**Quantity**	**Quality**	
Adequate number	19%	Poor	9%
Should be increased	51%	Fair	27%
Don't have but would like	18%	Good	13%
Don't have don't need this	11%	Very Good	17%
		NA	30%
Hiking trails			
Adequate number	34%	Poor	3%
Should be increased	37%	Fair	23%
Don't have but would like	17%	Good	27%
Don't have don't need this	12%	Very Good	17%
		NA	31%
Equestrian trails			
Adequate number	26%	Poor	4%
Should be increased	21%	Fair	8%
Don't have but would like	18%	Good	17%
Don't have don't need this	35%	Very Good	11%
		NA	60%
Bike lanes on roads			
Adequate number	6%	Poor	15%
Should be increased	33%	Fair	14%
Don't have but would like	37%	Good	14%
Don't have don't need this	24%	Very Good	2%
		NA	55%

Mountain bike trails			
Adequate number	17%	Poor	8%
Should be increased	31%	Fair	12%
Don't have but would like	22%	Good	20%
Don't have don't need this	31%	Very Good	7%
		NA	54%
Motorized off-road trails			
Adequate number	32%	Poor	4%
Should be increased	14%	Fair	17%
Don't have but would like	11%	Good	15%
Don't have don't need this	42%	Very Good	5%
		NA	60%
Scenic byways			
Adequate number	33%	Poor	4%
Should be increased	22%	Fair	6%
Don't have but would like	12%	Good	26%
Don't have don't need this	32%	Very Good	8%
		NA	57%

In the category of water-based areas/facilities, about 50 percent of respondents reported there was an adequate number of fishing areas and motorized boating areas (Table 4). Forty-five percent indicated lake and river access should be increased and 38 percent reported lake and river boat launches should be increased. Twenty-six percent indicated that they don't have but would like waterparks and splash/spray decks. Overall, the quality of the water-based areas and facilities was rated good or very good.

Table 4: Quantity and quality of water-based areas/facilities

Water-based areas/facilities			
Outdoor pools	**Quantity**		**Quality**
Adequate number	37%	Poor	4%
Should be increased	13%	Fair	12%
Don't have but would like	16%	Good	12%
Don't have don't need this	35%	Very Good	14%
		NA	59%
Splash/spray decks			
Adequate number	17%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	11%	Fair	5%
Don't have but would like	26%	Good	6%
Don't have don't need this	46%	Very Good	5%
		NA	82%
Waterparks			
Adequate number	17%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	8%	Fair	7%
Don't have but would like	26%	Good	5%
Don't have don't need this	49%	Very Good	4%

		NA	82%
Lake and river boat launches			
Adequate number	37%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	38%	Fair	21%
Don't have but would like	4%	Good	28%
Don't have don't need this	22%	Very Good	15%
		NA	35%
Lake and river access			
Adequate number	37%	Poor	5%
Should be increased	45%	Fair	17%
Don't have but would like	4%	Good	30%
Don't have don't need this	14%	Very Good	17%
		NA	31%
Fishing areas			
Adequate number	49%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	35%	Fair	14%
Don't have but would like	1%	Good	36%
Don't have don't need this	15%	Very Good	21%
		NA	27%
Non-motorized boating areas			
Adequate number	43%	Poor	0%
Should be increased	26%	Fair	15%
Don't have but would like	8%	Good	28%
Don't have don't need this	23%	Very Good	17%
		NA	39%
Motorized boating areas			
Adequate number	50%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	17%	Fair	9%
Don't have but would like	6%	Good	26%
Don't have don't need this	28%	Very Good	18%
		NA	46%

For the land-based area/facilities, close to 50 percent or more of the respondents indicated there were an adequate number of big game, small game and waterfowl hunting areas (Table 5). Respondents indicated there were adequate numbers of camping areas with hook-ups (32%), without hook-ups (47%) and backcountry (43%). Picnic areas (59%) and rodeo grounds (44%) were also reported as adequate. Twenty-four percent of respondents indicated they don't have outdoor climbing areas but would like them. Nearly 50 percent of respondents indicated they did not have and did not need dog parks. Thirty-seven percent of respondents indicated that the quality of big game hunting areas were fair. A majority of respondents reported all of the other land-based areas/facilities as being good or very good.

Table 5: Quantity and quality of land-based areas/facilities

Land-based areas/facilities			
Big game hunting areas	**Quantity**		**Quality**
Adequate number	53%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	26%	Fair	37%
Don't have but would like	0%	Good	25%
Don't have don't need this	22%	Very Good	27%
		NA	41%
Small game hunting areas			
Adequate number	56%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	21%	Fair	4%
Don't have but would like	1%	Good	28%
Don't have don't need this	22%	Very Good	27%
		NA	42%
Waterfowl hunting areas			
Adequate number	49%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	25%	Fair	9%
Don't have but would like	3%	Good	28%
Don't have don't need this	24%	Very Good	22%
		NA	41%
Campgrounds with hook-ups			
Adequate number	32%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	29%	Fair	9%
Don't have but would like	7%	Good	15%
Don't have don't need this	32%	Very Good	17%
		NA	57%
Campgrounds without hook-ups			
Adequate number	47%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	27%	Fair	10%
Don't have but would like	3%	Good	28%
Don't have don't need this	23%	Very Good	19%
		NA	42%
Backcountry camping			
Adequate number	43%	Poor	0%
Should be increased	22%	Fair	9%
Don't have but would like	7%	Good	21%
Don't have don't need this	29%	Very Good	16%
		NA	54%
Publicly owned rental cabins/yurts/lookouts			
Adequate number	28%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	28%	Fair	8%
Don't have but would like	12%	Good	18%
Don't have don't need this	33%	Very Good	9%

		NA	63%
Picnic areas			
Adequate number	59%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	31%	Fair	19%
Don't have but would like	3%	Good	36%
Don't have don't need this	7%	Very Good	27%
		NA	16%
Playgrounds			
Adequate number	43%	Poor	4%
Should be increased	35%	Fair	18%
Don't have but would like	6%	Good	26%
Don't have don't need this	17%	Very Good	21%
		NA	31%
Dog parks			
Adequate number	19%	Poor	4%
Should be increased	17%	Fair	7%
Don't have but would like	18%	Good	7%
Don't have don't need this	46%	Very Good	5%
		NA	77%
Outdoor rock climbing areas			
Adequate number	23%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	16%	Fair	6%
Don't have but would like	24%	Good	14%
Don't have don't need this	37%	Very Good	8%
		NA	71%
Pow wow/dance arbors			
Adequate number	24%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	8%	Fair	7%
Don't have but would like	14%	Good	7%
Don't have don't need this	54%	Very Good	3%
		NA	81%
Rodeo grounds			
Adequate number	45%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	8%	Fair	9%
Don't have but would like	5%	Good	18%
Don't have don't need this	42%	Very Good	6%
		NA	66%

In the sports facilities category, close to 50 percent of respondents indicated there was an adequate number of horseshoe pits, baseball fields, softball fields and football fields (Table 6). Other facilities with a large percent of respondents indicating they were adequate were golf courses (45%) and outdoor basketball courts (42%). Over 20 percent of respondents indicated that disc golf courses and tennis courts should be increased. Twenty-seven percent of respondents indicated they don't have but would like outdoor volleyball courts and BMX/MT bike skills parks. The quality of outdoor basketball courts was low with over 30 percent reporting they were poor or fair. The quality of the other sports facilities ranged between fair and very good.

Table 6: Quantity and quality of sports facilities

Sports facilities			
Tennis courts	**Quantity**		**Quality**
Adequate number	36%	Poor	8%
Should be increased	22%	Fair	14%
Don't have but would like	11%	Good	19%
Don't have don't need this	31%	Very Good	9%
		NA	50%
Skateboard parks			
Adequate number	24%	Poor	3%
Should be increased	13%	Fair	8%
Don't have but would like	18%	Good	10%
Don't have don't need this	45%	Very Good	8%
		NA	71%
BMX/MT bike skills parks			
Adequate number	15%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	15%	Fair	4%
Don't have but would like	27%	Good	9%
Don't have don't need this	44%	Very Good	4%
		NA	82%
Archery ranges			
Adequate number	35%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	16%	Fair	11%
Don't have but would like	18%	Good	11%
Don't have don't need this	31%	Very Good	9%
		NA	66%
Rifle/handgun ranges			
Adequate number	35%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	18%	Fair	14%
Don't have but would like	12%	Good	10%
Don't have don't need this	35%	Very Good	12%
		NA	62%
Horseshoe pits			
Adequate number	51%	Poor	7%
Should be increased	12%	Fair	20%

Don’t have but would like	12%	Good	16%
Don’t have don’t need this	25%	Very Good	8%
		NA	49%
Golf courses			
Adequate number	45%	Poor	0%
Should be increased	10%	Fair	4%
Don’t have but would like	7%	Good	16%
Don’t have don’t need this	38%	Very Good	19%
		NA	61%
Disc golf/folf courses			
Adequate number	19%	Poor	5%
Should be increased	22%	Fair	6%
Don’t have but would like	26%	Good	9%
Don’t have don’t need this	34%	Very Good	9%
		NA	70%
Baseball fields			
Adequate number	50%	Poor	5%
Should be increased	19%	Fair	12%
Don’t have but would like	6%	Good	15%
Don’t have don’t need this	26%	Very Good	15%
		NA	42%
Softball fields			
Adequate number	50%	Poor	4%
Should be increased	19%	Fair	14%
Don’t have but would like	7%	Good	26%
Don’t have don’t need this	24%	Very Good	15%
		NA	41%
Lacrosse fields			
Adequate number	7%	Poor	3%
Should be increased	11%	Fair	2%
Don’t have but would like	13%	Good	1%
Don’t have don’t need this	70%	Very Good	1%
		NA	93%
Outdoor basketball courts			
Adequate number	42%	Poor	10%
Should be increased	25%	Fair	21%
Don’t have but would like	8%	Good	27%
Don’t have don’t need this	26%	Very Good	7%
		NA	35%
Soccer fields			
Adequate number	36%	Poor	4%
Should be increased	20%	Fair	17%
Don’t have but would like	14%	Good	17%
Don’t have don’t need this	30%	Very Good	14%

		NA	48%
Football fields			
Adequate number	51%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	15%	Fair	12%
Don't have but would like	5%	Good	25%
Don't have don't need this	30%	Very Good	19%
		NA	41%
Outdoor volleyball courts			
Adequate number	27%	Poor	8%
Should be increased	18%	Fair	11%
Don't have but would like	27%	Good	9%
Don't have don't need this	29%	Very Good	2%
		NA	70%

In the winter sports areas/facilities category, around 30 percent or more of respondents reported there was an adequate number of snowmobile trails, XC ski and snowshoe trails and downhill ski areas (Table 7). Twenty-seven percent of respondents indicated sledding and tubing areas should be increased. Over 20 percent of respondents don't have but would like outdoor ice rinks. Around half of the respondents reported not having and not needing downhill ski areas (56%) and snowmobile trails (47%). The quality of winter areas/facilities is difficult to determine given that over 50 percent of the sample reported these facilities as not available.

Table 7: Quantity and quality of winter sports areas/facilities

Winter sports areas/facilities			
Sledding/tubing areas	**Quantity**		**Quality**
Adequate number	23%	Poor	3%
Should be increased	27%	Fair	18%
Don't have but would like	14%	Good	16%
Don't have don't need this	36%	Very Good	4%
		NA	60%
XC ski/snowshoe trails			
Adequate number	30%	Poor	1%
Should be increased	27%	Fair	12%
Don't have but would like	13%	Good	18%
Don't have don't need this	31%	Very Good	10%
		NA	59%
Outdoor ice rinks			
Adequate number	24%	Poor	3%
Should be increased	17%	Fair	11%
Don't have but would like	21%	Good	12%
Don't have don't need this	39%	Very Good	5%
		NA	69%
Snowmobile trails			
Adequate number	35%	Poor	0%
Should be increased	12%	Fair	5%

Don't have but would like	7%	Good	15%
Don't have don't need this	47%	Very Good	12%
		NA	69%
Downhill ski areas			
Adequate number	31%	Poor	0%
Should be increased	7%	Fair	3%
Don't have but would like	6%	Good	7%
Don't have don't need this	56%	Very Good	13%
		NA	76

In the category of viewing/learning areas/facilities, over 50 percent of the sample indicated there was an adequate number of heritage/historic areas and sites (Table 8). Over 40 percent reported interpretive trails, open space, wildlife viewing areas, and natural or wild areas should be increased. Overall, the quality of these areas was reported as fair to very good.

Table 8: Quantity and quality of viewing/learning areas/facilities

Viewing/learning areas/facilities			
Heritage/historic areas & sites	**Quantity**		**Quality**
Adequate number	52%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	32%	Fair	20%
Don't have but would like	4%	Good	25%
Don't have don't need this	13%	Very Good	17%
		NA	36%
Environmental education centers			
Adequate number	34%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	33%	Fair	15%
Don't have but would like	18%	Good	18%
Don't have don't need this	15%	Very Good	17%
		NA	49%
Interpretive trails			
Adequate number	27%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	43%	Fair	15%
Don't have but would like	15%	Good	26%
Don't have don't need this	15%	Very Good	14%
		NA	44%
Open space areas			
Adequate number	42%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	40%	Fair	15%
Don't have but would like	5%	Good	30%
Don't have don't need this	14%	Very Good	22%
		NA	31%
Wildlife viewing areas			
Adequate number	42%	Poor	2%
Should be increased	41%	Fair	18%
Don't have but would like	3%	Good	27%

Don't have don't need this	15%	Very Good	21%
		NA	33%
Natural or wild areas			
Adequate number	42%	Poor	3%
Should be increased	39%	Fair	16%
Don't have but would like	4%	Good	23%
Don't have don't need this	15%	Very Good	28%
		NA	30%

Inventory of Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Recreation providers from city, county, tribal or schools were asked to indicate the number of facilities they have for each category (Table 9). Respondents reported playgrounds (n=377) and picnic areas (n=341) the most. With 54 and 44 agencies, respectively, reporting they have those facilities. Only one agency reported having a lacrosse field or a waterpark in their jurisdiction.

Table 9: Inventory of City, County and Tribal Outdoor Facilities

Facility	Total number of facilities	Total number of agencies indicating 'yes' to facility	Total number of agencies indicating '0' facilities
Playgrounds	377	54	11
Picnic areas	341	44	23
Baseball fields	213	39	26
Horseshoe pits	188	23	42
Tennis courts	171	29	36
Outdoor basketball courts	167	47	18
Softball fields	153	44	21
Soccer fields	97	33	32
Football fields	84	41	22
Outdoor volleyball courts	41	16	49
Golf courses	27	17	49
Outdoor ice rinks	26	15	50
Outdoor pools	22	17	48
Rodeo grounds	15	15	50
Splash/spray decks	14	6	59
Disc golf courses	14	14	51
Pow wow/dance arbor areas	12	4	61
BMX/mountain bike skills parks	11	8	54
Archery ranges	11	11	54
Rifle/handgun ranges	10	10	55
Skateboard parks	9	13	57
Waterparks	6	1	59
Lacrosse field	1	1	61

Recreation providers were also asked about how many miles of trails they had in their jurisdiction. Table 10 presents the reported mileage for each of the trail categories. Thirty agencies reported having close to 5500 miles of hiking/backpacking trails, sixteen agencies reported having over 4,000 miles of equestrian trails, and thirteen agencies reported having close to 3,000 miles of snowmobile trails.

Table 10: Inventory of total miles of trails

Trail type	Total miles of trails	Total number of agencies indicating 'yes' to trails	Total number of agencies indicating '0' trails
Hiking/backpacking trails	5423	30	57
Equestrian trails	4387	16	68
Snowmobile trails	2933	13	71
Off-road/ATV trails	2649	16	69
Walking/fitness/bike trails	1825	42	42
XC ski/snowshoe trails	1064	19	67
Designated mt. bike trails	325	15	69
Bike lanes	145	15	66

Facility needs

Outdoor recreation managers were asked about their top facility needs for the next five years. There were a variety of needs listed and they were categorized for ease of comprehension (Table 11). A full list of needs can be found in Appendix B. Nine respondents indicated an aquatics facility was there number one need. The number 2 need listed by eight respondents was a playground. Ten respondents indicated their number three facility need was expanding current facilities. The number four need was a tie between deferred maintenance and hiking/biking trails. Seven respondents reported water access as their number five need.

Table 11: Top 5 facility needs

	Top Facility Needs	Frequency
Need #1	Aquatics facility	9
Need #2	Playground	8
Need # 3	Expand facilities	10
Need #4	Deferred maintenance and Hiking/biking trails (both equal)	5
Need #5	Water access	7

Respondents were also asked about specific facility needs for demographic groups including youth (under age 18), adults (ages 18-64), seniors (age 65 and up), and needs to help meet requirements for ADA/accessibility standards (Table 12). The number one need identified for youth was playgrounds and the number two and three needs were hiking/biking trails and aquatics facilities. For adults the top listed needs were hiking/biking trails. Both seniors and ADA facility needs had the same break down of needs with the number one and two needs listed as hiking/biking trails and the number three need reported as campgrounds.

Table 12: Top 3 facility needs for demographic groups

	Facility Needs	Frequency
Youth facility needs		
1	Playground	13
2	Hiking/Biking trails	11
3	Aquatics facilities	8
Adult facility needs		
1	Hiking/Biking trails	13
2	Hiking/Biking trails	13
3	Hiking/Biking trails	6
Senior Facility Needs		
1	Hiking/Biking trails	16
2	Hiking/Biking trails	9
3	Campgrounds	5
ADA Facility Needs		
1	Hiking/Biking trails	9
2	Hiking/Biking trails	9
3	Campgrounds	5

Outdoor recreation trends and issues

Respondents were asked how influential certain issues were when making decisions regarding facility improvements. The list of issues was created using major themes in outdoor recreation and was reviewed by several recreation professionals (Table 13). Respondents were asked to rate the issues on a scale of 1-4 where 1 equal not influential and 4 equals very influential. The issue with the highest mean score was youth and future generations (m=3.38). This was followed by health benefits of recreation (m=3.00) and children and nature (m=3.00). Issues with the lowest mean scores were nonresident users (m=2.15), multi-use regional parks (m=2.27) and providing opportunities for military veterans (m=2.30).

Table 13: Issues influencing future decisions about facilities

Scale from 1-4	Not influential	Somewhat influential	Influential	Very influential	Mean
Youth & the future generations	2%	9%	38%	51%	3.38
Children and nature	8%	18%	40%	34%	3.00
Health benefits of recreation	8%	18%	39%	35%	3.00
Connecting people with nature	8%	21%	39%	33%	2.95
Aging population	10%	25%	38%	27%	2.81
Increased connectivity between trails	28%	20%	23%	30%	2.55
Recreation data for justification needs	23%	29%	30%	18%	2.44
Training future recreation workforce	23%	36%	28%	13%	2.31
Providing opportunities for military veterans	21%	38%	32%	9%	2.30
Multi-use regional parks	38%	17%	25%	20%	2.27
Nonresident users	29%	36%	27%	8%	2.15

Respondents were asked to indicate their agencies sources of funding in the past five years (Table 14). Below is the breakdown for each of the potential funding sources. Some interesting results exist in the donations category. Around 40 percent of respondents indicated they used friends groups or service groups for funding sometimes or often.

Table 14: Funding sources for outdoor recreation agencies

	N	Not at all	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	All the time
Fund allocations						
Federal	93	20%	16%	15%	22%	26%
State	91	28%	19%	23%	15%	15%
Tribal	88	87%	7%	3%	2%	0%
County	89	57%	19%	15%	6%	3%
City/town	89	61%	14%	9%	6%	10%
Other						
Park/user fees	92	48%	8%	13%	15%	16%
Designated taxes	88	57%	8%	11%	10%	14%
Bonds	89	76%	9%	7%	6%	2%

Public grants	90	39%	13%	27%	20%	1%
Private grants	92	42%	21%	26%	10%	1%
Donations						
Friends groups	93	37%	20%	25%	14%	4%
Individuals	93	34%	27%	24%	11%	4%
Businesses or development agencies	92	37%	27%	20%	12%	4%
Service groups	92	32%	23%	29%	12%	4%

Respondents were asked to compare their current funding from public tax allocations to five years ago (Figure 2). Fifty-three percent indicated their public tax funding stayed the same, 37 percent reported it had decreased and 10 percent indicated it had increased.

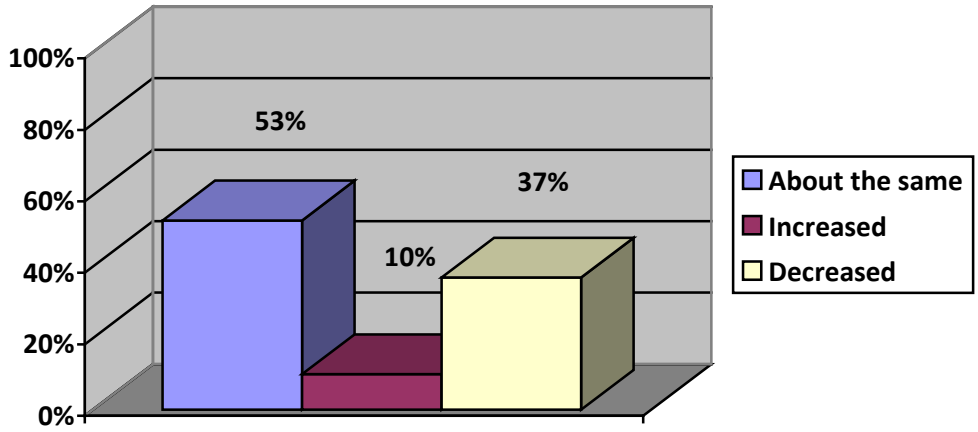


Figure 2: Comparison of funding from public tax allocations

Respondents were asked to the best of their ability to describe the visitor characteristics trends they are seeing at their outdoor recreation facilities (Table 15). Categories that are seeing an increase in numbers that are close or over 50 percent are family groups (50%), local residents (56%), individuals (48%) and small groups (48%). Groups that were reported the greatest for decreasing numbers include children under 12 years of age (17%) and teenagers (18%). Groups that were reported the greatest percentage for staying the same were visitors with disabilities (70%), ethnically diverse individuals and groups (66%), and large groups (61%).

Table 15: Visitor characteristic trends at outdoor recreation facilities

	Increasing numbers	Decreasing numbers	Staying the same
Individuals	48%	5%	47%
Small groups (<5)	48%	8%	44%
Large groups (>10)	33%	7%	61%
Family groups	50%	4%	46%
Local residents	56%	7%	38%
Non-local MT residents	40%	9%	51%
Out-of-state visitors	38%	10%	52%
Children (<12 years)	39%	17%	44%
Teenagers (13-18 years)	36%	18%	47%
Adults (18-54 years)	47%	4%	49%
Seniors (65 and older)	47%	7%	46%
Visitors with a disability	26%	3%	70%
Ethnically diverse individuals/groups	29%	6%	66%

Recreation managers were asked who they were likely to collaborate with on recreation projects over the next five years (Table 16). Over 75 percent of respondents indicated they were most likely to collaborate with nonprofit agencies (82%), service-based organizations (79%), county agencies (79%), and municipal agencies (76%). Sixty-five percent of respondents indicated not likely to collaborate with tribal agencies over the next five years.

Table 16: Likely collaborators over the next 5 years

Collaborators	Yes	No
Nonprofit organizations	82%	17%
Service-based organizations (MCC, Americorps, etc.)	79%	24%
County agencies	79%	21%
Municipal (city/town) agencies	76%	24%
Special interest groups	75%	26%
State land management agencies	74%	26%
Friends groups	74%	26%
Other state agencies	72%	28%
Federal land management agencies	66%	34%
Other federal agencies	64%	36%
Private industries/businesses	63%	37%
Universities and colleges	55%	45%
Tribal agencies	35%	65%

Summary and Discussion

Out of the 396 emails sent out to outdoor recreation providers only 109 responded. This low response rate could be due to the online nature of this survey versus a traditional mail survey. It is easy for emails from unknown addresses to get sent directly to junk mail or to get buried under the large amounts of spam. Additional factors could be due to emails not being sent to the appropriate person to fill out the recreation facility survey. The low response rate makes it difficult to generalize these findings to the state of Montana and results should be used with caution.

The assessment of quantity and quality of the recreation facilities provided detailed information about what facilities should be considered priorities for building and improvement. Some notable findings were in the trails/street/road facilities. Over 50 percent of the respondents indicated that walking/jogging/biking paths should be increased and 36 percent of respondents reported the condition of these facilities as fair or poor. This is an area for Montana mangers to consider when determining which facilities to construct or repair. Other notable facilities include motorized-off road trails and snowmobile trails. Forty-two percent of managers reported that they did not have and did not need motorized off-road trails and only 14 percent indicated these trails should be increased. Likewise, 47 percent reported they did not have and don't need snowmobile trail. These findings suggest that mangers are not concerned with building new motorized trails. These types of trails often evoke strong emotions from residents and user groups and results should be applied with caution. Over half of respondents reported several facilities as being adequate including several sports fields, heritage sites, picnic areas and small and big game hunting areas. This could provide support for not allocating resources to building more of these types of facilities.

Managers were asked about future facility needs in general and specifically for demographic groups. A need that surfaced across all of the demographic groups and in the overall needs was hiking and biking trails. This validates findings from the assessment of quantity and quality where respondents reported walking/jogging/biking paths should be increased. This suggests managers should continue to explore options for expanding existing trail systems for both bikes and walking/hiking.

There were several issues that were identified as being influencing factors in how decisions are made regarding facilities. The most influential issues were youth related including connecting children with nature. Another influential issue was the health benefits of recreation. These two issues are somewhat related and should continue to be on the minds of Montana managers as they make decisions regarding recreation. These findings suggest that the Montana is focusing on not only state issues but issues affecting the entire country and they might be able to use this emphasis as a spring board for future funding initiatives.

Funding for recreation continues to be a salient topic for many mangers. Results suggest that recreation agencies are relying on friends groups and service groups to help fill some of the funding gaps that may exist. This finding suggests agencies should continue to develop or create relationships with service groups (Americorps, youth conservation corps, etc.) and friends groups. Especially, since 36 percent of respondents reported their public tax funding has decreased over the past 5 years.

Collaborations might be a potential way to lessen the effect of decreasing budgets. There were several agencies that over 75 percent of respondents were likely to collaborate with. In this list were service-based organizations. This validates the finding that managers are receiving financial help from service organizations and they should continue to look to these entities for future funding opportunities.

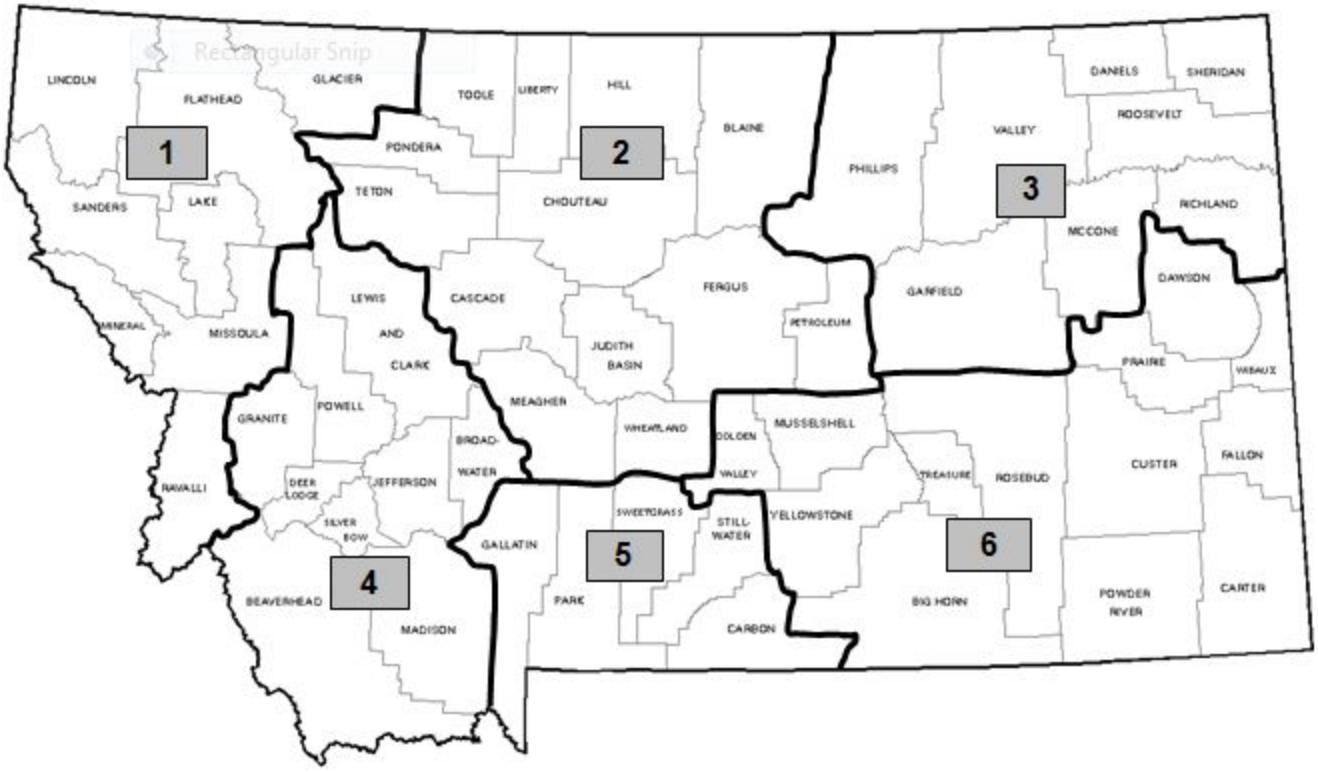
Overall, the findings from this survey suggest there are a few key areas where Montana outdoor recreation managers can focus in the next 5 years. This includes walking/hiking and biking paths, connecting with youth in recreation, and collaborating with service-based organizations. Keeping these areas in mind will help ensure that managers are addressing the recreation needs of Montanans.

Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Statewide Facility and Outdoor Recreation Needs Survey

1. **What is the name of your organization?**

In question #2 below, what region are the majority of your facilities located? **(We realize some agencies cross over county and region boundaries)**



2. **Please check the region that best applies to your agency.**

- ○ *1*
- ○ *2*
- ○ *3*
- ○ *4*
- ○ *5*
- ○ *6*

3. **Please identify the primary county in which your agency is located.**

Beaverhead
Big Horn
Blaine
Broadwater
Carbon
Carter
Cascade
Chouteau
Custer
Daniels
Dawson
Deer Lodge
Fallon
Fergus
Flathead
Gallatin
Garfield
Glacier
Golden Valley
Granite
Hill
Jefferson
Judith Basin
Lake
Lewis and Clark
Liberty
Lincoln
McCone
Madison
Meagher
Mineral
Missoula
Musselshell
Park
Petroleum
Phillips
Pondera
Powder River
Powell
Prairie
Ravalli
Richland
Roosevelt
Rosebud
Sanders
Sheridan
Silver Bow
Stillwater
Sweet Grass
Teton
Toole
Treasure
Valley
Wheatland
Wibaux
Yellowstone

4. **Please check the adequacies of the following facilities under your jursidiction.**

	Adequate number	*Should be increased*	*Don't have, but would like this*	*Don't have, don't need this*
Trails/street/road facilties				
Walking/jogging/biking paths				
Hiking trails				
Equestrian trails				
Bike lanes on roads				
Mountain bike trails				
Motorized off-road trails				
Scenic byways				

5. **Please check the adequacies of the following facilities under your jursidiction.**

	Adequate number	*Should be increased*	*Don't have, but would like this*	*Don't have, don't need this*
Water-based areas/facilities				
Outdoor pools				
Splash/spray decks				
Waterparks				
Lake and river boat launches				
Lake and river access				
Fishing areas				
Non-motorized boating areas				
Motorized boating areas				

6. **Please check the adequacies of the following facilities under your jursidiction.**

	Adequate number	*Should be increased*	*Don't have, but would like this*	*Don't have, don't need this*
Land-based areas/facilities				
Big game hunting areas				
Small game hunting areas				
Waterfowl hunting areas				
Campgrounds with hook-ups				
Campgrounds without hook-ups				
Backcountry camping				
Publicly owned rental cabins/yurts/lookouts				
Picnic areas				
Playgrounds				
Dog parks				
Outdoor rock climbing areas				
Pow wow/dance arbor areas				
Rodeo grounds				

7. **Please check the adequacies of the following facilities under your jursidiction.**

	Adequate number	*Should be increased*	*Don't have, but would like this*	*Don't have, don't need this*
Sport facilities				
Tennis courts				
Skateboard parks				
BMX/mountain bike skills parks				
Archery ranges				
Rifle/handgun ranges				
Horseshoe pits				
Golf Courses				
Disc golfing/folfing courses				
Baseball fields				
Softball fields				
Lacrosse fields				
Outdoor basketball courts				
Soccer fields				
Football fields				
Outdoor volleyball courts				

8. **Please check the adequacies of the following facilities under your jursidiction.**

	Adequate number	*Should be increased*	*Don't have, but would like this*	*Don't have, don't need this*
Winter sports areas/facilities				
Sledding/tubing areas				
XC ski/snowshoe trails				
Outdoor Ice rinks				
Snowmobile trails				
Downhill ski areas				

9. **Please check the adequacies of the following facilities under your jursidiction.**

	Adequate number	*Should be increased*	*Don't have, but would like this*	*Don't have, don't need this*
Viewing/learning areas/facilities				
Heritage/historic areas or sites				
Environmental education areas or centers				
Interpretive trails				
Open space designated areas				
Wildlife viewing areas				
Natural or wild areas				

10. **NOW with the same list of facilities/areas you have just completed, please identify the quality of the condition of facilities/areas in which you are responsible.**

	Poor	*Fair*	*Good*	*Very Good*	*N/A*
Trails/street/road facilties					
Walking/jogging/biking paths					
Hiking trails					
Equestrian trails					
Bike lanes on roadways					
Mountain bike trails					
Motorized off-road trails					
Scenic byways					

11. **Please identify the quality of the condition of facilities/areas in which you are responsible.**

	Poor	*Fair*	*Good*	*Very Good*	*N/A*
Water-based areas/facilties					
Outdoor pools					
Splash/spray decks					
Waterparks					
Lake and river boat launches					
Lake and river access					
Fishing areas					
Non-motorized boating areas					
Motorized boating areas					

12. **Please identify the quality of the condition of facilities/areas in which you are responsible.**

	Poor	*Fair*	*Good*	*Very Good*	*N/A*
Land-based areas/facilties					
Big game hunting areas					
Small game hunting areas					
Waterfowl hunting areas					
Campgrounds with hook-ups					
Campgrounds without hook-ups					
Backcountry camping					
Publicly owned rental cabins/yurts/lookouts					
Picnic areas					
Playgrounds					
Dog parks					
Outdoor rock climbing areas					
Pow wow/dance arbor areas					
Rodeo grounds					

13. **Please identify the quality of the condition of facilities/areas in which you are responsible.**

	Poor	*Fair*	*Good*	*Very Good*	*N/A*
Sports facilities					
Tennis courts					
Skateboard parks					
BMX/mountain bike skills parks					
Archery ranges					
Rifle/handgun ranges					
Horseshoe pits					
Golf Courses					
Disc golfing/folfing courses					
Baseball fields					
Softball fields					
Lacrosse fields					
Outdoor basketball courts					
Soccer fields					
Football fields					
Outdoor volleyball courts					

14. **Please identify the quality of the condition of facilities/areas in which you are responsible.**

	Poor	*Fair*	*Good*	*Very Good*	*N/A*
Winter sports areas/facilities					
Sledding/tubing areas					
XC ski/snowshoe trails					
Outdoor Ice rinks					
Snowmobile trails					
Downhill ski areas					

15. **Please identify the quality of the condition of facilities/areas in which you are responsible.**

	Poor	*Fair*	*Good*	*Very Good*	*N/A*
Viewing/learning areas/facilities					
Heritage/historic areas or sites					
Environmental education areas or centers					
Interpretive trails					
Open space designated areas					
Wildlife viewing areas					
Natural or wild areas					

16. **If you are a city, county, tribal or school recreation provider, please indicate the number of facilities you have for each category.** ***NOTE: Please indicate "0" in each box if you do not have this facility.***
(State and federal land agencies skip to question #17).

Tennis courts	
Skateboard parks	
BMX/mountain bike skills parks	
Archery ranges	
Rifle/handgun ranges	
Horseshoe pits	
Golf courses	
Disc golfing 'folfing' courses	
Baseball fileds	
Softball fields	
Outdoor basketball courts	
Soccer fields	
Football fields	
Lacrosse fields	
Outdoor volleyball courts	
Playgrounds	
Picnic areas	
Outdoor pools	
Splash/spray decks	
Waterparks	
Outdoor ice rinks	
Pow wow/dance arbor areas	
Rodeo grounds	

17. **Please indicate the approximate miles of trails your agency manages for each trail type.**

Walking/fitness/bike trails	
Hiking/backpacking trails	
Equestrian trails	
Bike lanes	
Designated mountain bike trails	
Off-road/ATV trails	
XC ski/snowshoe trails	
Snowmobile trails	

18. **Over the next 5 years, what are your top 5 outdoor recreation facility needs? This can include facilities/areas that need to be improved, building new facilties or acquiring land for new areas and facilities.**

Faciltiy need #1

Facility need #2

Facility need #3

Facility need #4

Facility need #5

19. **Please list up to 3 outdoor recreation facilities you need to improve, build or acquire to serve YOUTH (under age 18) over the next 5 years.**

Facility need #1

Facility need #2

Facility need #3

20. **Please list up to 3 outdoor recreation facilities you need to improve, build or acquire to serve ADULTS (ages 18-64) over the next 5 years.**

Facility need #1

Facility need #2

Facility need #3

21. **Please list up to 3 outdoor recreation facilities you need to improve, build or acquire to serve SENIORS (Age 65 and up) over the next 5 years.**

Facility need #1

Facility need #2

Facility need #3

22. **Please list up to 3 outdoor recreation facilities you need to improve, build or acquire to meet ADA/ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS over the next 5 years.**

Facility need #1

Facility need #2

Facility need #3

23. **How influential are the following issues for your agency when making decisions regarding facility improvements, services and programs?**

	Not Influential	*Somewhat Influential*	*Influential*	*Very Influential*
Youth & the future generations				
Aging population				
Children in nature				
Nonresident users				
Health benefits of recreation				
Connecting people with nature				
Training future recreation workforce				
Multi-use regional parks				
Increased connectivity between trails				
Recreation data for justification needs				
Providing opportunities for military veterans and families				

24. **Please indicate the sources of funding your agency has used for outdoor recreation in the past 5 years.**

	Not at all	*Rarely*	*Sometimes*	*Often*	*All the time*
Federal fund allocations					
State fund allocations					
Tribal fund allocations					
County fund allocations					
City/town fund allocations					
Park/user fees					
Designated taxes					
Bonds					
Public grants					
Private grants					
Donations from 'Friends' groups					
Donations from individuals					
Donations from businesses or development agencies					
Donations from service groups					

25. **Compare your recreation funding from public tax allocations of 5 years ago to today. How has it changed?**

- *About the same*
- *Increased*
- *Decreased*

26. **To the best of your ability, describe the visitor characteristic trends you are seeing at your outdoor recreation facilities?**

	Increasing numbers	*Decreasing numbers*	*Staying the same*
Individuals			
Small groups (<5)			
Large groups (>10)			
Family groups			
Local residents			
Non-local MT residents			
Out-of-State visitors			
Children (<12 years of age)			
Teenagers (13-18 years of age)			
Adults (18-64 years of age)			
Seniors (65 and older)			
Visitors with a disability			
Ethnically diverse individuals/groups			

27. **Who are you likely to collaborate with on recreation projects in the next 5 years?**

	Yes	*No*
Federal land managment agencies		
Other federal agencies		
State land management agencies		
Other state agencies		
Tribal agencies		
County agencies		
Municipal agencies (city or town)		
Service-based organizations (Americops, MT Conservation Corps, etc.)		
Nonprofit organizations		
Friends groups		
Special interest groups		
Universities and Colleges		
Private industries/businesses		

28. **Please provide any additional comments related to your agency and outdoor recreation.**

Thank you for your time.

Appendix B: Open Ended Comments

Over the next five years, what are your top five outdoor recreation facility needs?

#1 Need:

Repair Sidewalks	skateboard park
Sidewalks!	Capital Upgrades
Football Field	Bike paths
Soccer Fields	Archery Range
tennis courts	Playground
Aquatics facility	Deferred maintenance and h.c. access. retrofitting for rental cabins and campgrounds
golf	Soccer field
Boat access to Lake Koocanusa	Golf Pump Station
Gym	practice fields
Softball	walking/running path
Move playground away from road	Residing the gym
Dog Park	Multi-use athletic fields
Hiking/Biking Trails	Outdoor volleyball court
walking paths in communities	Indoor recreation facility
open space	community bike park construction
river/lake access	Regional Park
campground renovation projects	Classroom/office
campground expansion w/ electricity	better river access trails on the Blackfoot
walking/biking trails	Hookups in Campgrounds
walking and bike trails	Tennis Courts
Additional motorboat river access	Update playground
Purchase new river accesses.	Swimming Pool
Outdoor pools	Upgrade electric Service to campgrounds to meet customer demands
NEW INFIELD MATERIAL AND BUILDINGS OT FR. SHEEHAN PARK	administrative facilities
Handicap accessibly hunting blind	developed tent camping sites
Trails - bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian	Playground
Facility/CG Maintenance and Upgrades	Softball fields
Softball Fields	Gym Floor desperately bad
improve signage for current recreation areas	Limekiln/Judiths
Improve existing rec facilities	acquire river access sites
Updated playground	aquatics/recreation center
Campgrounds with hook-ups	Campground up Swimming Woman Gulch

Protection of open space/greenways	access to public land
Expanded campgrounds	update playground
Park District	Rubberized all-purpose surface
Acquisition and development of Fishing Access Sites in the Upper Clark Fork River Drainage	Replace Waterslides
Bike trails	outdoor pool rehabilitation
Public access	Connectivity between facilities
Disc Golf course	Not cost effective to acquire more
hunting access	New indoor pool
Swimming Pool	New and improved pool
Expand football field/track complex	Bike Trials to schools and surrounding areas for our students to ride or walk
Labor to do the work	building new facilities in 2 new parks
Interpretive Visitor Center	Skate park
Hunting Management Areas (Public)	

#2 Need:

Repair and expand playground	Funding
bike lanes	Improved campground facilities
Baseball Field	Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Areas
Outdoor Basketball Courts	playgrounds
city bike/walking paths	Interior road improvements
Parks - open space	bike lanes
lacrosse	Rifle Range
Sanitation needs (toilets) at dispersed sites	All-weather track
Football fields	finishing projects already started but for which we had insufficient funds or funds
Tennis	Trails
Pond Revitalization	Spray Park
Paved commuter trails	playground
hiking trails	landscape/irrigate the play area
wildlife viewing	Replace aged irrigation systems
picnic areas	Playground equipment
construct mountain bike trails	indoor swimming pool
walking, hiking, biking trails	dog park construction
fair and rodeo grounds	Trails Pedestrian/bike
additional fishing access sites	Administrative area revamp
Rapid increase in users from oilfield personnel.	new vault toilets at Garnet
Water parks	Access to public lands through private
SKATE PARK DRAINAGE	Ice Skating Rinks

Interpretive trail	Playgrounds
Parks/playgrounds - including dog park	Improve day use facilities - Picnic shelters.
Boat Launch Maintenance and Upgrades	interpretive sites
Football Fields	developed rv camping sites
rehab fee collection sites at campgrounds	Football Field
Reduce existing infrastructure	Indoor swimming pool
basketball court	Archery
Visitor centers	Ear Mountain
Dog parks	acquire lake access sites
Expanding river launches/parking	sports complex
Community Parks & Maintenance	Bike trails
Improvements to campsites (parking spurs, fire rings, picnic tables etc.) at existing campgrounds	Upgrade 9 Restrooms
Hiking trails	ice rink rehabilitation
Heritage tourism	Walking / bike paths
Hiking/Biking Paths	restrooms in parks
fishing access	Playground for the Arlee 4-6 grades - they currently have 2 sets of swings and one slide
Outdoor Water Park	fire lookout rehab for public rental
refinish basketball court	Playgrounds

#3 Need:

maintain football field	Property fencing
Outdoor Basketball	walking paths
Family Picnic Area	BMX Facility
land acquisition	Folf
Woodland Center - ice rink/day camp	removing facilities that we can no longer afford to maintain
Motorized trail development	Softball field
Trails	Playground renovations
Storage Facility (Equipment)	Replace aging playgrounds
Softball complex	Update of football area
environmental centers	Indoor running track
cross country ski trails	fully accessible playground
swim areas	playground
repair river access sites	Trails
shower facilities	Dedicated motorized Trails direct motorized use to where we want it away from where we don't want it
county museum heritage building	Sledding
More public fishing ponds	Safe Walk & Bike Paths

Complete development of recent access points..	Construct new or additional comfort station
Rifle Ranges	boat launch improvements
ROOF A GAZEBO	seasonal staff quarters
wildlife viewing trails/interpretive sites - especially birds	Tennis Courts
Public Access	Tennis Court
Soccer Fields	Lowry Bridge
collect more accurate visitor use data for all recreation areas	improve ADA access
Re-establish trees and shrubs	new lights at softball complex
Land acquisition	Bike Lanes
Improving access roads to recreation sites	Upgrade fall protection at 36 playgrounds
Expanded float-in campsite development on rivers	skate park
Lacrosse field	Picnic areas
Recreation rental cabin development	irrigation upgrades
Stock fish ponds	running Track that has a football field in it too - ours is cinder track and unhealthy
hiking trails	trail network in 2 new parks
Outdoor Volleyball	Tourism Center
Increased Accessible Infrastructure	
Wildlife Management Areas	
baseball fields	

#4 Need:

repair bike paths	Cultural/geologic interpretive sites
outdoor ice rink	Tracks
Bathrooms - all parks	construct parking/camping areas at high-use access sites
Dock replacement forest wide	Improve existing trails
river access	Dispersed camping
Replace existing Wooden Playgrounds	Acquiring public access to public lands
Picnic areas	Existing gravel roadway improvement at current access sites
river access (motorized & non motorized)	Out Door Pool
non-motorized water use	Facilities maintenance
dog areas	interpretive trails
backcountry trail clearing/reconstruction	Outdoor Basketball
interpretive areas	Enhanced Interpretive/Educ. Trails
softball fields	River Access Sites
additional bike trails	BMX track
Maintain existing sites and facilities.	Biking/walking

Splash parks	interpretation of heritage-historic-recreation sites
RESURFACE TENNIS COURTS	Skate park
Picnic shelter	

#5 Need:

picnic areas	boat dock
outdoor performance venue	Community gym
Road repairs to recreation sites	retrofitting existing recreation sites / campgrounds to increase safety in grizzly bear country
lake access	Folf area
Camp Center Improvements	Dog Park
Playground Upgrades	Picnic Shelters
indoor swimming facilities	Upgrade of baseball/softball field
more downhill ski runs	facility maintenance
hike/bike trails	open space
historic cabins and building maintenance	General maintenance
visitor center	Front country trails that connect to urban trails
Tennis courts	Winter Sled & Tube Area
LOCATE AN AREA FOR AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL FIELD	Improve all-weather roads to remote recreation facilities.
Access to public lands - for hunting, fishing, hiking, walking, etc.	trails
Tennis Courts	Outdoor Basketball
acquire assistance agreements for law enforcement patrols at recreation sites	Gilmore Cabin
Increase management of dispersed recreation sites	improve existing ramps and docks
Hiking trails	outdoor pool
Additional non-motorized trails	Tubing hills
Boat launch improvement/maintenance/replacement at existing access sites	Replace playground equipment
Basketball courts	xc/snowshoe trails
Funding for staffing	Lake or river access
biking trails	cabins or yurts in parks
Bike or walking trail	Sidewalk/walkway improvement
Improved boat launches	
Fishing Access Sites	

Please list up to 3 outdoor recreation facilities you need to improve, build or acquire to serve youth (under age 18) over the next 5 years.

Youth #1 Need:

Bike Paths	Hunting Access Areas
skate parks	FAS Campgrounds
Football Field	Basketball Courts (Outdoors)
Soccer	Archery Range
tennis courts	All weather track
Community Center	rental cabins
soccer	Playground renovation
West Kootenai Boat Launch	practice fields
build a gym	playground
Softball	play area
Wooden Playgrounds (Replace)	Trail system Expansion
Playground Upgrades	Playground
walking/biking paths	Indoor recreation center
wildlife viewing	sports fields
fishing	playgrounds
campground renovation	Classroom
interpretive trails	Virtual Access to the outdoors via smart phones (which is not a physical facility)
walking/biking trails	Update playground
Additional fishing access sites	Swimming Pool
Skate Parks	interpretive sites
BASEBALL FIELDS	Group use picnic shelters
Handicap accessibly hunting blind	Skate Park
Trails	Playground
Fresno Reservoir	Ice rink
Softball Fields	Archery
Camp Creek Recreation Area/Campground	Limekiln
Local picnic area for school groups	athletic fields
updated playground	Better playground facilities
playgrounds	access to public land
Playground	bike paths
Non-motorized trails	rubberized all purpose surface
Increased access for youth angling opportunities	Replace waterslides
Bike Trail	outdoor pool
interpretive trail	Ice rink
swimming pool	indoor pool repairs
football field	pool

Fishing sites	Archery Range
Enhanced Interpretive/Educ. Trails	trails & connecting trails
Skate park	

Youth #2 Need:

ball fields	Rifle Range
Baseball Field	Playground
walking/biking paths	hyalite pavilion and W shore trail
Ice Rink/day camp center	Spray Park
lacrosse	bike paths
Galton project trail/trailhead	skate/bike park
softball fields	tennis/basketball court
Tennis	replace playgrounds
Camp Center (Improvements)	Baseball/softball field
Trails	playgrounds
environmental education centers	sport fields
tennis courts	trails
swimming	More Mountain Bike Trails
construct mountain bike trails	Playgrounds and Picnic Sites
bike paths	boat launches
Water Parks	Group camping facilities
NEW FOLF COURSE	Bike paths
Clark Canyon Reservoir	Football Field
Tracks	tennis courts
Paulo Recreation Area	Crystal Cave
Interpretive Trails	gym space
basketball court	bike lanes for safety
interpretive trails	Playgrounds
Shoreline fishing areas	ice rink
Group-use campsites	Outdoor basketball courts
Hiking Trail	gun range
water park	rubber track and football field
basketball courts	educational centers
Access to public lands	Pool
Jogging/Hiking/Biking Trails	
FAS access	

Youth #3 Need:

outdoor ice rink	BMX Track
Aquatics	campgrounds
rock climbing	Rock climbing wall
Stone Hill Climb Area	new multi-use athletic fields
football fields	Football field
Splash Park	concessions/restroom facility
indoor swimming facilities	splash park
ski trails	additional land
bike trail	Basketball Courts
river access site upgrade	trails
nature center	Outdoor sports facilities
Splash Parks	Collar Peak Trailhead
SWIMMING POOL/WADING POOL	indoor turf
Tennis Courts	tubing hills
Cottonwood Recreation Area	Tennis courts
Urban interface trail system	splash park
hiking trails	Baseball / softball fields
General access site improvements/maintenance	softball/baseball complex
Basketball courts	campgrounds
basketball court	Sports fields (basketball, volleyball, soccer)
Indoor Swimming Facility	
FAS picnic areas	

Please list up to 3 outdoor recreation facilities you need to improve, build or acquire to serve adults (ages 18-64) over the next 5 years.

Adult #1 Need:

walking paths	Hunting Access areas
side walks	FAS Campgrounds
Football Field	Rifle Range
Soccer	Community gym
tennis courts	rental cabins
Community Center	Rock climbing wall
pickle ball courts	walking/running path
West Kootenai Boat Launch	tennis/basketball court
water access	Trail system expansion
Bike/Pedestrian Trails	indoor recreation center

Softball complex	trails
walking/biking paths	open space
more downhill ski runs	Classroom
fishing	Hookups in Campgrounds, more space in campgrounds to accommodate everyone's toys they bring.
campground renovation	Swimming Pool
hiking, walking, bike paths	interpretive sites
walking/biking trails	RV camping sites
hike and bike trails	Walking paths
add & improve motorboat access	NA
Rifle Ranges	ice rink
OUTDOOR EXERCISE STATIONS	Limekiln
Handicap accessibly hunting blind	Lake Blaine
Trails	athletic fields
Fresno Reservoir	access to public land
Football Venue	gun ranges
Camp Creek Recreation Area/Campground	Tennis courts
Urban interface trail system	outdoor pool
campgrounds with hook-ups	Walking / bike paths
Trails	Walking paths
Campgrounds	tennis court repairs
General access site improvements/maintenance	Archery Range
Bike Trail	trails & connecting trails
hiking trail	Hunting land maintenance
walking trail	Improved boat launches
Access to public lands	

Adult #2 Need:

bike trails	Improved campground facilities
Baseball Field	Jogging/Hiking/Biking Trails
Bike Paths	FAS access
softball fields	Archery Range
Ice Rink	Walking/biking path
Galton project trail/trailhead	hyalite pavilion and w shore trail
bike paths	Trail upgrades and maintenance
Dog Park	Picnic Facilities
Trails	community bike park
indoor swimming facilities	bike/pedestrian trails
cross country ski trails	Trails
swimming	WI FI services in campgrounds
river access site upgrade	Basketball Courts

more electrical hookups in campground	boat launches
Additional fishing access sites	Tent camping sites
Archery Ranges	bike paths
SWIMMING POOL	tennis courts
Clark Canyon Reservoir	Crystal Cave
Tracks	Flathead River House of Mystery access
Black Jack Butte Campground	gym space
Motorized trail system	horseshoe adult recreation area
hiking trails	Bike/hike trails
River access ramps/parking	ice rink
Group-use campsites	Outdoor basketball courts
Hiking Trail	rubber track and football field
interpretive trail	campgrounds
community weight room	Sports fields

Adult #3 Need:

walking/biking paths	campgrounds
Big Creek Baldy Lookout	Picnic shelter upgrades
trails	Multi-use athletic fields
Lazy River (Wild River upgrade)	sports fields
Picnic areas	tennis courts
hiking trails	additional lands
open space	Facilities that accommodate small family group gatherings
dog area	Picnic Sites
backcountry trail clearing	trails
shower facility	community center
Outdoor Pools	Collar Peak Trailhead
BICYCLE PATHS	Clark Fork River between Plains and Thompson Falls
Tennis Courts	indoor turf
Fresno OHV Recreation Area	improve walking trails for weather stability
Availability & accuracy of recreation information	Basketball courts
mountain bike trails	xc/snowshoe trail
Access roads	Baseball / softball fields
Float-in campsites	softball/baseball complex
Swimming Pool	visitor centers
swimming pool	Horseshoe pits
Indoor Swimming Facility	BMX Track
FAS picnic areas	

Please list up to 3 outdoor recreation facilities you need to improve, build, or acquire to serve seniors (age 65 and up) over the next 5 years.

Senior #1 Need:

n/a	Senior Center Enhancements
side walks	FAS Campgrounds
Track	Rifle Range
Walking Trails	Community gym
walking/biking paths	rental cabins
Community Center	Trail upgrades and maintenance
walking track	walking/running path
West Kootenai Boat launch	tennis/basketball court
water access	Trail system expansion
Accessible Paths to Pavilions	indoor recreation center
Trails	dog park
walking/biking paths	walking trails
open space	Trails
fishing	Upgrade existing facilities to accommodate larger RVs
campground renovation	Swimming Pool
electrical hookups in campground	interpretive sites
walking/biking trails	RV camping sites
hike and bike trails	Walking paths
Add & improve motorboat access	NA
Walking Trails	community center
TENNIS COURTS	Limekiln
Handicap accessibly hunting blind	senior center
Trails	access to public land
Fresno Reservoir	horseshoe pits
Football Venue	walking trails improved for stability of surfaces
Paulo Recreation Area	3 season shelter
Improve condition of Forest roads	outdoor pool
Campgrounds with hook-ups	Walking / bike paths
Trails	Walking paths
Electrical hook-ups	walking paths
General access site improvements/maintenance	Archery Range
Bike Trail	trails & connecting trails
same	Walking trails
Swimming pool	Increased Accessible Infrastructure
ADA accessible areas	

Senior #2 Need:

pickle ball courts	Exercise Facilities
Ross Creek Cedar	FAS access
trails	Archery Range
Programs (Non existent)	Walking/biking path
Picnic areas	hyalite pavilion and W shore trail
picnic areas	Picnic shelter upgrades
wildlife viewing	Picnic facilities
walk path/trail	trails
fitness trails front country trails	picnic areas
boat launch areas	Improved accessibility
Additional fishing access sites	Picnic Sites
Motorized Trails	boat launches
SWIMMING POOL	trails
Clark Canyon Reservoir	Crystal Cave
Tracks	aquatics center
Camp Creek Recreation Area/Campground	dance hall
Availability & accuracy of recreation information	Tennis courts
visitor centers	xc/snowshoe trail
Universal accessibility to facilities	Wildlife viewing areas
Campsite improvements within existing campgrounds.	rubber track and football field - walkers of all ages could use this
Hiking Trail	campgrounds
walking trail	Pool

Senior #3 Need:

bike lanes	Swimming Pool
Bull River Campground	weight room
pocket parks	Indoor Swimming Facility
More Linking Bike/Pedestrian Paths	FAS picnic areas
camping with hook-ups	campgrounds
wildlife interpretation	ADA parking
picnic area	Cultural/performance venues
scenic drive areas	open space
walking & bike trails	historic building stabilization
Tennis Courts	Interpretive Walk Paths
Tennis Courts	road upgrades
Montana Gulch Campground	trails
Volunteer & partnership opportunities	adult education center for physical fitness

walking trails	Bike/hike trails
Boat docks	ice rink
Boat launch improvements/maintenance	swimming pool
visitor centers	

Please list up to 3 outdoor recreation facilities you need to improve, build or acquire to meet ADA/accessibility standards over the next 5 years.

ADA #1 Need:

walkways	Hunting Access Areas
side walks	FAS Latrines
Football Field/Track	Rifle Range
All of the Above	Football field/stadium
playgrounds	rental cabins
Bathrooms	Playground renovations
swinging pool	walking/running path
West Kootenai Boat launch	Picnic facilities
gym	indoor recreation center
Accessible Paths to Pavilions	playgrounds
Trails	playground
ADA fishing piers/platforms	restrooms
wildlife viewing	Most of our facilities have been considerably improved for accessibility in recent years.
fishing	Update playground
campgrounds	Walk Paths
paved walking trails	interpretive sites
walking/biking trails	sidewalk upgrades
Additional ADA fishing accesses	Football Field
Outdoor Pools	Limekiln
Handicap accessibly hunting blind	Pine Grove Pond ADA
Trails	restrooms
None	access to public lands
Football Venue	ADA public bathroom
Paulo Recreation Area	Playgrounds
Install accessible recreation facilities	outdoor pool
trails	Picnic areas
Fishing access	N/A
Trails	Archery Range
Accessible fishing platforms	trails & connecting trails
Bike Trail	Walking trail accessibility

same	Accessible Walks/Interp Trails
swimming pool	

ADA #2 Need:

beach access	Exercise Facilities
Ice Rink	Picnic tables
Ross Creek Cedar	Archery Range
dock improvements	Playground
Pool Ramp for Lazy River	hyalite pavilion and W shore trail
ADA nature trails	Picnic shelter upgrades
open space	Playgrounds
trails	trails
fitness access trails	trails
boat launch areas	Picnic Sites
Motorized Trails	boat launches
None	boating facilitiy upgrades
gym seating	trails
Camp Creek Recreation Area/Campground	ADA accessible showers
Improve outdoor access routes	Park shelter access
campgrounds	trails
Swim areas	Walking / bike paths
Improved access to existing latrines	Track
Hiking Trail	visitor centers
weight room	Enhanced Campground Facilities

ADA #3 Need:

ice rink	Swimming Pool
Sylvan Lake Campground	walking trails
trails	Interpretive Visitor Center
Access throughout parks	Indoor Water Facility
ADA camping pads & picnic areas	Camping pads
fishing access	campgrounds
picnic	Parking improvements
boat launch facilities	Trail access parking areas
comfort stations	open space
None	Bleachers
Soccer seating	restroom upgrades
Montana Gulch Campground	pools
Availability & accuracy of information related to accessibility	ADA accessible for walking trails

fishing access	Restrooms
Shelters	ice rink
Improved accessibility within existing campsites	swimming pool
approaches to tables & bathrooms	

Open-ended comments:

A swimming pool is essential for the safety of our students. They need a safe facility to learn swimming and water safety. Libby's numerous rivers and lakes can be extremely dangerous.
Agency is funded by purchases of licenses from resident and nonresident sportsmen. Funding from excise tax on sporting good sales from PR or DJ dollars.
Although it is anticipated that availability of federal recreation facilities will remain somewhat stable, federal provision of outdoor recreation services will be declining due to anticipated reductions in Federal budgets. More and more of FS services, and maintenance or construction of new facilities will be done through citizen involvement, user fees, and partnerships with other organizations and volunteers. Issues that will be the focus of FS resources will be directed to management of impacts associated with increased dispersed, unregulated use of the national forests, enforcement of travel restrictions, and demands for increased access and motorized recreation opportunities.
Anderson Elementary has applied for a SRTS grant several years with minimal success. We desperately need a trail to school so our students can safely walk or ride their bikes to school. At this time, it is extremely unsafe to do that.
As a public school a lot of this did not apply. Maybe give schools the N/A option?
As a public school, our funding resources are somewhat limited. However, recreation opportunities in this community are more than adequate.
As a school district, we have to rely heavily on private businesses and individuals to help of fund local projects.
I see the demands for outdoor recreation facilities on the increase... The public has turned toward local recreation opportunities in an effort to satisfy their needs.... Population bases are staying somewhat constant while the usage is increasing for programs and facilities/open space... Revenues sources seem to be drying up, and becoming fewer ...
Just trying to find funding sources to create all-purpose areas through reasonable means available to open the area to our students and community members
Recreation and parks critical to quality of life. Create a statewide parks commission
Stateside LWCF has to be adequately funded as it was initially designed from the beginning. It is a great funding source to help state & local governments fund outdoor recreation projects. All of our communities have suffered by Congress not allocating these funds appropriately. It is time to allocate LWCF fairly.
Thank you.

The County does not operate its own parks and recreation program. There are 3 Parks Districts in Madison County and a 4th is being considered. Outdoor recreation needs are taken care of through others, especially FWP, BLM, USFS, DNRC, private agencies/resorts. The County owns property that is managed by others for golf course and tennis. According to a survey recently done for our growth policy, access to public lands and access to opportunities by an aging population are of concern (see http://www.madison.mt.gov/departments/plan/publications/GrowthPolicy.asp, especially questions 4-10).
There are about 650 miles of numbered "roads" on the CMR Refuge, but in actuality they function as a multiple use trail system, and thus were listed as trails for the purpose of this survey. Properly licensed, "street legal" ORVs and ATVs are allowed on these roads as well, and were included. Each allowed use was allocated the full 650 miles, which is the Refuge total mileage (i.e. the categories are not additive). There are developed recreational facilities on the Refuge under the management of the Army Corps of Engineers and the BLM. I have attempted to exclude those from the "condition" survey questions, but did consider them when estimating the questions asking if we needed more or had enough. All of the potential partners in the last question are included for possible collaborative efforts in the coming years as the National Wildlife Refuge System is not primarily engaged with recreation opportunities (Wildlife First), but we are growing as an agency to recognize that getting people engaged and caring about these areas requires opportunities to visit, explore, learn, and enjoy. Please call Rick Potts at 406.535.2800 x12 for additional information, clarification, or corrections if I misinterpreted any of the questions.
This was tough to do as a school facility. Many questions don't apply and I simply guessed.
Tribal land is mixed with non-tribal, private, and leased lands as well as city and county boundaries. Therefore, it is difficult to answer some of these questions because the outdoor facilities may not be directly maintained by the Tribes, but are primarily used by Tribal members. We are hoping to increase our tourism programs and realize that outdoor recreation can be a big draw so we do hope to collaborate with more groups in the future.
Use at developed recreation sites, especially on waterways has increased about 3-5% over the past 5 years. Highest uses are camping, boating, fishing, hunting and OHV riding.
We are a public school
We are a school district
We are a school district that is why the questions are answered the way they are.
we are currently in the process of completing the initial parks and recreation master plan for the city of Whitefish, unfortunately it will not be done in time to include any of the information in the SCORP survey, but will certainly be of benefit in the next update of the SCORP.
We are located on the end of the Flathead Indian reservation and we seem to be the forgotten city as we have no agencies that govern out town other than friends groups. We need some support and help getting our families healthy. Walking and biking trails is a great start and a personal priority for me.