



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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December 20, 2011

To: EQC Members

From: Hope Stockwell, Research Analyst

Re: HJ 32 study of state parks, outdoor recreation, and heritage resource programs

As you can see on the EQC agenda for January 11, the EQC is scheduled to have a two-part panel discussion for HJ 32. This discussion is intended to provide regional and national perspective on the administration of state parks, outdoor recreation, and heritage resource programs.

To help you gear up, I've attached a visual roundup of the administration of state parks in 9 states in or near the Rocky Mountain region. It provides basic data about each state park system as well as information about their structure, strategic management initiatives, and how they work with tourism programs.

Also attached, is information from the Western Governors' Association, which has launched a "Get Out West!" initiative aimed at connecting kids to nature and growing the tourism and recreation economies of the West. The initiative is currently working with the Outdoor Industry Association to update a 2006 study on the economic impact of outdoor recreation nationally and state-by-state. Montana's data from the 2006 study is attached.

The EQC will have a lot of ground to cover on January 11, so please review the attached information beforehand.

As always, feel free to contact me at any time with questions: 444-9280 or hstockwell@mt.gov.