



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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April 17, 2012

To: EQC Members

Fr: Hope Stockwell, Research Analyst

Re: Bill drafts related to HJR 32 (study of state parks, outdoor recreation, and heritage resources)

Attached are three bill drafts (LC 9000, 9001, and 9002) requested by the EQC at its March 2012 meeting.

These drafts are variations on an administrative theme. All three would give the Parks Division its own governing board, separate from the current FWP Commission. In addition, LC 9001 and LC 9002 would transfer administration of Virginia City, Nevada City, and Reeder's Alley to the Parks Division *without* making them state parks. LC 9001 would eliminate the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission (MHC). LC 9002 would transform the MHC into an advisory council to a new parks, recreation, and heritage board.

Please review these drafts prior to the May meeting and be ready to discuss whether the Council would like to proceed with any. Drafts may be revised and/or sent out for a 30-day public comment period before the EQC makes a final decision on whether to formally propose any legislation to the 2013 Legislature.

The day before your discussion of these drafts, the EQC will travel to Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park and Virginia and Nevada Cities to get a first hand look at operations. The schedule will look something like this:

May 2:

8:00 a.m.	Depart from the Capitol
9:15 - 11:00 a.m.	Visit Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park
12:00 p.m.	Arrive Virginia City, eat lunch at Bob's Pizza
12:45 p.m.	Tour Virginia and Nevada Cities
4:00 - 5:00 p.m	Depart for Helena

Please contact me at any time with questions. 444-9280 or hstockwell@mt.gov