
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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AUDIT – DEPARTMENT NATURAL RESOURCES STATE PARK PROJECTS

Report Released. On July 31, 2018, the Auditor of State released an audit report on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State park projects. The audit included an overview of 245 State park projects totaling \$39.0 million for FY 2013 through FY 2018.

Findings. The following findings were reported:

- Of the 245 projects, 40 were tested for adequate documentation of the project, including the project contract. Of the 40 tested, 18 did not contain adequate documentation. The report also stated that 3 of the 18 projects were not properly inspected.
- The DNR maintains projects monitoring documents in multiple locations. Locations include the main office in Des Moines and district offices located around the State. The audit found that the multiple locations make it difficult to update the project status on the database maintained in Des Moines.
- The audit found that there is not adequate documentation of the approval process for State park projects by the Natural Resource Commission. For example, for FY 2015, the Commission reported in its annual report that it approved 43 projects for a total of \$5.8 million. However, the auditors reviewed the monthly Natural Resource Commission minutes and identified 45 projects that were approved for a total of \$9.3 million.

Recommendations and Response. The DNR responded to the findings as follows:

- The project database was developed to track projects; however, it was not intended to be used for performance reporting purposes. The DNR will implement methods to ensure contractor performance and will add inspection information to the database. The response was acknowledged by the Auditor.
- The DNR will implement a standardized inspection process for projects. The response was accepted by the Auditor.
- The DNR will implement a tracking process that records the number and dollar amount of projects approved by the Natural Resource Commission. The response was accepted by the Auditor.

Report. The full audit report can be found [here](#).

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