

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2014
8:24 a.m. to 6:33 p.m.

Marie Callender's Conference Room
2131 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul Slavik, Chair
Diana Pérez, Vice Chair
Ted Cabral
Erin Hafkenschiel
Eric Lueder
Kevin Murphy
Edward Patrovsky

OHMVR COMMISSIONER ABSENT

M. Teresa Villegas

OHMVR DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director
Phil Jenkins, Division Chief
Maria Mowrey, Administrative Chief
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel

OTHER OHMVR DIVISION STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER – 8:24 A.M.

- (A) Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Lueder.
- (B) Roll Call – Seven Commissioners present at time of roll call and one Commissioner absent. One Commission member appointment vacant.

Chair Slavik introduced Ernest Chung, Chair, State Park and Recreation Commission, and Doug Metz, Chair, Division of Boating and Waterways Commission. He thanked the local elected officials who attended the Oceano Dunes SVRA indoor tour presentation on December 11, 2014.

AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Commissioner Lueder and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM III (A) – APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 MINUTES

Motion to approve the September 26, 2014 minutes was made by Commissioner Lueder and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM IV (A) – COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- Commissioner Cabral reported on the following:
 - He attended the BLM 2.0 planning meeting and the BLM youth summit; both events were held in Sacramento.
 - In October, he attended the California Air Resources Board meeting held in Diamond Bar.
 - He also attended the Eldorado National Forest over-snow meeting in Placerville.
 - He visited Prairie City SVRA and attended a motocross event. He also went to the Prairie City Improvement Group meeting.
 - In August, he attended the annual National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) conference.
Commissioner Cabral presented Ed Waldheim with the NOHVCC Perseverance Award.
- Chair Slavik reported on the following:
 - The OHMVR Division, Division of Boating and Waterways, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, and Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation hosted a Youth Day event at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.
 - On November 5, 2014, he attended the Boating and Waterways Commission meeting.
 - He also attended the State Park and Recreation Commission meeting on November 14, 2014.
 - He attended a celebration of Honda's 300-millionth motorcycle production.
- Vice Chair Pérez expressed her concerns about ATV safety and children under age 14 riding ATVs.
- Commissioner Murphy reported on the following:
 - In November, he met with Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez and Santa Clara County Park staff to discuss different ways to improve Metcalf Motorcycle Park. He also participated in a tour of the park.
 - He went on a personal tour of Prairie City SVRA.
 - He is researching the possibility of opening an urban OHV park within Morgan Hill.

- Commission Patrovsky presented the following report:
 - He thanked Oceano Dunes SVRA staff for the interesting and informative presentation at the indoor tour on December 11, 2014.
 - He provided a brief update about the Baldy Mesa Grants project and public meeting.

State Park and Recreation Commission Chair Chung thanked Oceano Dunes staff for the tour of the dunes. He expressed appreciation for all the efforts made by the Division and SVRA staff to preserve and protect the natural resources at the SVRAs.

Boating and Waterways Commission Chair Metz also expressed his appreciation for the Commission and staffs' dedication to preserving the environment while providing recreational opportunities for individuals to enjoy the beauty of California.

AGENDA ITEM IV (B) – COMMITTEE REPORTS

BLM Liaison Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Cabral encouraged the public to get more involved with the BLM planning process by attending public meetings and commenting on planning documents.

He encouraged the OHMVR Division to partner with BLM on the Youth Summit event.

USFS Liaison Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Cabral expressed concerns about the lack of recreation information in USFS planning documents. Attendees at the Eldorado National Forest over-snow meeting in Placerville discussed noise and fuel emissions—components that cannot be controlled by the USFS because they are regulated by the EPA and CARB—and mixed-use areas for motorized and non-motorized recreation. Commissioner Cabral requested a Commission meeting agenda item in the near future to discuss signage clarifying the responsibilities of non-motorized recreationists when entering a motorized use area.

Clear Creek Management Area Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Cabral encouraged BLM to think about possible management plans in the event Congressman Farr's proposed bill to reopen the area passes through Congress and is signed by the President.

Red Sticker Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Cabral attended an emissions test where a two-stroke motorcycle fouled up CARB's equipment because the owner of the vehicle did not use the factory recommended premix and the vehicle had not been properly serviced prior to the test. Commissioner Cabral expressed concerns about the lack of manufacturer and dealership participation in the testing process. Suggestions have been made that zero-emission vehicles or the purchase of carbon credits through the OHV Trust Fund could be used to offset carbon emissions from vehicles that are a little bit above the standards.

AGENDA ITEM IV (C) – PARKS FORWARD

Ken Wiseman, Executive Director of Parks Forward, presented a status report on the Parks Forward initiative. The Parks Forward Commission is an independent advisory committee comprised of 12 commissioners appointed by the Governor and the Secretary of Resources. Parks Forward is based on an MOU between the Department, the Resources Agency, and the Resource Legacy Fund. The Resource Legacy Fund is comprised of a group of foundations that came together to support Parks. The foundations donated \$6 million to fund the Parks Forward process.

Prior to developing the Parks Forward report, the Commission surveyed staff, participated in seven focus group meetings, and held ten public workshops. Concerns expressed by staff and the public included the need to:

- Develop a steady source of funding;
- Diversify top management opportunities; and
- Encourage and develop positive partnership relationships.

Other topics frequently brought up at the meetings involved motorcycles, dogs, mountain bikes, and nude beaches. Mr. Wiseman stated the Commission would not address these issues because it was tasked with looking at the big picture rather than individual park operations.

Parks Forward pilot projects currently in progress are:

- The installation of cabins at some parks; and
- The development of a smart phone application that will list state, national and regional parks and the types of recreational opportunities they offer.

Over the next two years, a transformation team led by Steve Szalay will implement the Parks Forward Commission recommendations.

After receiving comments from the Commissioners, Mr. Wiseman presented a video showcasing Parks. It was brought to Mr. Wiseman's attention that the video did not include OHV recreation.

The Parks Forward report will be released in February 2015. On February 24, 2015, a joint Senate and Assembly oversight information hearing will be held to review the Parks Forward Commission recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PARKS FORWARD REPORT

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist Association
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Randy Jordan, Sun Buggy Fun Rentals
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Ed Waldheim, CORVA, Friends of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage, and California Trails Users Coalition

AGENDA ITEM V (A) – ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS, ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

Chair Slavik called for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Murphy moved to nominate Ted Cabral as the Chair and Commissioner Lueder seconded. A vote was called and the vote carried. The Clerk recorded all seven Commissioners voting in support of the motion.

Chair Slavik called for nominations for Vice Chair. After Vice Chair Pérez expressed her desire to continue in that capacity, Commissioner Patrovsky moved to nominate Diana Pérez as the Vice Chair and Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Commissioners simultaneously voted; motion carried.

Chair Slavik formally announced Ted Cabral as Chair and Diana Pérez as Vice Chair for 2015. Their terms of office will be in effect from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

AGENDA ITEM V (B) – ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS, REVIEW OF COMMISSION COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIPS

The Commissioners reviewed the current list of ad hoc committees and memberships and took the following actions:

- Private Property Interface: combined with Law Enforcement
- Education members: no change – Commissioners Pérez and Murphy (existing); committee renamed Education & Outreach
- BLM Liaison: no change – Commissioners Cabral and Patrovsky (existing)
- USFS Liaison: Commissioner Cabral (existing) and Commissioner Lueder (added)
- Clear Creek Management Area: no change – Commissioners Pérez and Cabral (existing)
- Red Sticker: Commissioner Cabral (existing) and Commissioner Hafkenschiel (added); committee renamed CARB Liaison
- Cost Recovery: Commissioner Villegas (existing) and Commissioner Lueder (added)
- ATV Safety: no change – Commissioners Pérez and Murphy (existing)
- Events: no change – Commissioners Slavik and Cabral (existing); committee renamed Events/NOHVCC
- 150th Anniversary: deleted
- CA Statewide Motorized Trail: Commissioner Cabral (existing) and Commissioner Lueder (added)
- Eldorado National Forest 42 Routes SEIS Draft Letter: deleted
- Special OHV License Plate: deleted
- Urban Parks/Acquisitions: no change – Commissioners Slavik and Villegas (existing)

- Law Enforcement: no change – Commissioners Pérez and Patrovsky (existing); committee renamed Law Enforcement/Private Property Interface

After a discussion regarding the creation of a Fuel Tax Study ad hoc committee and a Sunset ad hoc committee, the Commission agreed to create one committee. Members of the Fuel Tax Study/2018 Sunset ad hoc committee are Commissioners Lueder and Hafkenschiel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Debbie Peterson, former Mayor of Grover Beach
- Diane Strachan, Director, Stewardship Travel Program, San Luis Obispo County Unincorporated Areas
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Randy Jordan, Sun Buggy Fun Rentals
- Ed Waldheim, CORVA, Friends of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage, and California Trails Users Coalition
- Don Amador, Blue Ribbon Coalition
- Chris Real, an individual
- Dr. Larry Foreman, Arroyo Grande Hospital

A discussion ensued regarding ATV safety.

AGENDA ITEM V (C) – ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS, SELECTION OF DATES FOR 2015 COMMISSION MEETINGS

After a brief discussion about holding Commission meetings and tours on Thursdays/Fridays versus Fridays/Saturdays, the Commission agreed to a Thursday/Friday schedule.

The Commission discussed the possibility of holding a meeting in October in conjunction with the NOHVCC Annual Conference. They agreed to set a tentative date and change it when the NOHVCC conference date has been confirmed.

Chair Slavik discussed the possibility of holding a recreation summit (a non-agendized, informational-type meeting) during 2015 in collaboration with the Park and Recreation, Boating and Waterways, and State Historic Resource Commissions. Urban youth recreational opportunities was suggested as a topic for the summit.

After discussing potential meeting dates for 2015, Commissioner Cabral made a motion to hold Commission meetings and tours on the following dates; Vice Chair Pérez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- March 12-13
- May 28-29
- September 24-25

- October 22-23 (tentative, may change to coincide with the NOHVCC Annual Conference)
- December 3-4 (optional)

Deputy Director Conlin introduced Kathy Weatherman, District Superintendent, San Andreas District. Chief Jenkins announced the passing of Jeff Herman, a long-time State Parks employee who made considerable contributions to the OHV program. Chair Slavik offered to write a letter of condolence to the family on behalf of the OHMVR Commission.

AGENDA ITEM VI (A) – BUSINESS ITEMS, PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A LETTER COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT DRECP AND EIR/EIS

Connie Latham, State Parks Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and Renewable Energy Team coordinator, presented a report on the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS. The draft was released on September 26, 2014, with an initial 106-day comment period that was extended an additional 45 days. All public comments are due on February 23, 2015.

Eleven DRECP public meetings were held in October and November and two webinars were held the week of December 15, 2014. Additional information regarding the DRECP is available on the DRECP.org website.

Four key agencies were involved in the development of the DRECP—the California Energy Commission, BLM, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The three main components of the DRECP include the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA), the Department of Fish and Wildlife natural community conservation plan, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service general conservation plan.

The Draft DRECP includes six alternatives. The preferred alternative will allocate approximately two million acres as Development Focus Areas (DFAs).

Ms. Latham discussed the potential effects of the DRECP within Ocotillo Wells SVRA. BLM will propose a new Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) within the park—the Ocotillo Wells East SRMA. DFAs will be established primarily within the existing Truckhaven Geothermal Lease Area that lies within the SRMA.

Randy Banis, CORVA DRECP stakeholder representative, discussed the potential effects the DRECP will have on recreation. A major concern of the recreation community is that recreation areas may become littered with renewable energy projects. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the DFAs listed in the plan is slated for private property and 20% is on public lands. The Federal Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement completed two years ago identified most of the public land within the DFAs suitable for solar development.

In the preferred alternative, approximately 177,000 acres of the two million acres designated as DFAs will form the actual renewable energy footprint. The SRMA

designation will provide additional protection for OHV open areas. The preferred alternative also proposes eight Extended Recreation Management Area (ERMA) designations in the Needles Field Office area.

BLM currently manages 1.4 million acres of land as “managed for recreational emphasis.” The DRECP will convert most of that land into SRMAs, but some land will be set aside for conservation and DFAs. In addition, the DRECP proposes Conservation Management Actions (CMAs) for conserving recreational values. The CMAs will prohibit renewable energy development in the SRMAs, ERMAs, and OHV open areas. In addition, impacts to recreation on DFA designated lands will be subject to mitigation.

Mr. Banis reported that some members of the recreation leadership expressed concerns about Christmas Canyon located within the Spangler OHV Recreation Area. Based on its cultural resources, Christmas Canyon is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Canyon is located on the edge of an ancient dry lake that was once a tropical haven for Native Americans. All action alternatives in the DRECP propose to convert this 3,000-acre area from open OHV use to limited use on designated trails. This proposal is in direct conflict with the DRECP’s pledge not to reduce nor add OHV open area acreage.

Another area of concern is a 4,000-acre parcel located between wilderness and an OHV open area. It has been difficult for BLM to manage the land as limited use/stay on trails due to its proximity to the open area. Suggestions have been made to BLM to designate this land as an OHV open area to offset the conversion of Christmas Canyon to limited use.

In addition to National Conservation Land System designations, expanding existing and adding new ACECs across the entire California desert could increase conservation efforts. This action will not have any impact on day-to-day OHV use, but may negatively affect the availability of Special Recreation Permits for events.

Concerns have also been raised regarding private property located in the middle of a designated OHV network. If this land is purchased by the State, potential conservation actions could fence off the property and eliminate connectivity to designated OHV areas.

There are concerns that BLM will not have adequate funding to manage the land in the conservation areas because fees paid by renewable energy developers will be deposited into a conservation fund. As a result, the OHV Grants program through grant applications may end up absorbing many of these costs.

Ms. Latham thanked Mr. Banis for his presentation and opened the floor for questions. After a brief discussion, the Chair called for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A LETTER COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT DRECP AND EIR/EIS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist Association
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Ed Waldheim, CORVA, Friends of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage, and California Trails Users Coalition
- Don Amador, Blue Ribbon Coalition

Pursuant to Chair Slavik's motion, Commission Cabral will work with OHMVR Division staff to draft and submit a comment letter on the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lueder; motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM VII (A) – PROGRAM REPORTS, OCEANO DUNES SVRA REPORT

Brent Marshall, Oceano Dunes District Superintendent, presented a brief overview. The Oceano Dunes District operates Oceano Dunes SVRA, Pismo State Beach, and the Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve. The SVRA consists of approximately 3,600 acres—1,500 acres are open for OHV activity. Three hundred (300) acres are closed seasonally for snowy plover and least tern protection.

In addition to the ADA accessible boardwalk in the Oso Flaco Lakes area, the SVRA offers other diverse recreational opportunities such as hiking, nature walks, horseback riding, kite surfing, and bird watching.

In 2013, the SVRA had approximately 1.6 million visitors and an additional 600,000 campers in the two Pismo State Beach campgrounds.

Desiree Goyette, Administrative Officer, provided a brief overview of the District's administration operation. The District has 46 full-time and approximately 114 part-time positions. The administration team is responsible for personnel, procurement and accounting, contracts, and the District's budget.

Curt Linse, Maintenance Chief, provided a report on the District's maintenance operation. Seventeen (17) maintenance staff members are responsible for maintaining all of the District's facilities including the campgrounds, beach, trailer dump stations, sewage, equipment, and vehicles. The team also assists with re-vegetation efforts throughout the dunes and installs miles of fencing for resource protection.

Ronnie Glick, Senior Environmental Scientist, reported on the habitat monitoring system and resource protection program. In collaboration with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the resources team is developing better study designs to demonstrate effective resource management and make the program scientifically sound and defensible.

Management of the vegetated areas within the dunes presents a major challenge for the team. In order to replace non-native vegetation with native species, they collect seeds and plant material from local genetic stock, grow them in the SVRA's greenhouse, and plant the seedlings in restoration areas.

Chief Ranger Kevin Pearce discussed the visitor services program. The program has 16 full-time staff—14 law enforcement rangers, one interpreter, and one records clerk. There are also 50 seasonal employees and over 150 docents and volunteers. Public safety is a major focus of the visitor services program, but they are also involved with many community outreach events.

The six-week-long Junior Lifeguard Program completed its second year with 30 kids participating in the program learning lifesaving skills as well as swimming and surfing. The interpretation staff offers 660 programs and makes contact with over 125,000 visitors every year. The mounted volunteers help equestrians, while the Butterfly Grove docents and volunteers educate visitors about the Monarch butterflies that frequent the area from late October to February.

In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry about the CalPAL program, Chief Ranger Pearce said the SVRA has available resources, but they have not had any recent requests to use the facilities.

In response to an inquiry from Vice Chair Pérez regarding ATV safety classes and ways to improve OHV safety, Chief Ranger Pearce said the SVRA has eight ASI instructors who offer numerous classes throughout the year. He also suggested reconvening the OHV Safety Committee so they could address statewide safety issues. The SVRA operates within the statewide guidelines set forth in the Vehicle Code.

Dena Bellman, Associate Parks and Recreation Specialist, discussed the planning, marketing and outreach efforts at the District. In 2010, a mobile marketing program was created in order to increase public knowledge about the SVRA.

Ten concessions operate in the Oceano Dunes District—five OHV rentals, one Hummer tour, a mobile sewage pumping and fresh water renewal company, camp trailer rentals, a towing service, and the Pismo State Beach Golf Course and Fins Restaurant. The concessions paid nearly \$700,000 in rent to the OHV Trust Fund in 2013, and created over \$7 million in gross receipts.

Ms. Bellman also provided an update on the Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center. They are currently working on improvements to the North Beach Campground Dump Station and the Pacific Crossing easement. The easement provides fiber optics from Japan going to South America. The easement vault will be located near the entrance to the lodge. Installation of meandering sidewalks and an equestrian path to access the Grand Dunes Trail will begin sometime next month.

Construction of the visitor center located in the Pismo State Beach Oceano Dunes Campground is slated for March 2015. The campground will be shut down during construction.

Other proposed projects include:

- improvements to the drainage system along the causeway at Oso Flaco Lakes;
- installation of a shade ramada, picnic tables and vault toilets in the parking lot at Oso Flaco Lakes; and
- ADA restroom improvements at Pismo State Beach Campground.

In 2014, the District held approximately 90 special events and 20 film shoots. Special events vary from simple family reunions, weddings, corporate dinners, and bonfires to kite boarding expeditions, Huckfest, and the Copacabana Beach Soccer tournament. Recent filming included vehicle commercials, music videos, fashion shoots, and reality TV and miniseries episodes.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's question, Ms. Bellman stated that the City of Grover Beach is currently working on financing scenarios for the lodge. The project timeline will be updated the beginning of 2015 now that the project is fully entitled through the city and Coastal Commission.

In response to Commission Cabral's inquiry, Ms. Bellman confirmed that permitted competition events are allowed in the SVRA.

In response to Commissioner Lueder's question, Ms. Bellman stated the SVRA had approximately 808 campers and 2,200 day use visitors the Saturday of Huckfest. Approximately 200 people attended last year's soccer tournament, but they expect 600 to 800 visitors to attend the next tournament.

District Superintendent Marshall presented an overview on the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Rule 1001 and highlighted some of the steps the District took to address the public's dust concerns, including temporary wind fencing and hay bales installed in spring 2014.

In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry, Superintendent Marshall stated that the APCD has been flexible and changed some of the timelines regarding the imposition of penalties. The District spent more than \$3 million on dust control issues over the last two years.

In response to an inquiry from Vice Chair Pérez on whether or not fencing and hay bales have helped reduce dust in neighboring areas, Superintendent Marshall said the Desert Research Institute is still analyzing the data.

In April 2015, the District will install a control monitoring site in the Oso Flaco Lakes area that will provide information on the types of sand moving in non-OHV activity areas.

In response to Commissioner Lueder's inquiry, Superintendent Marshall stated that the Coastal Commission has approved the necessary permits.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry about feedback from the community concerning particulate matter, Superintendent Marshall stated that discussions have been moving forward and the District is doing everything it can within the parameters of the law and state regulations.

The District continues to work on its Habitat Conservation Plan.

With the support of Deputy Director Conlin, Chief Jenkins, and Administrative Chief Mowrey, the District was able to change the contract with Reserve America so camping fees from the campgrounds in the Oceano Dunes District will be deposited into the OHV Trust Fund.

Superintendent Marshall presented a report on the District's service-based programming. The PowerPoint presentation highlighted revenues generated through visitor attendance, fuel tax revenues, OHV Green Sticker registration, and concessions as well as direct economic benefits to the local communities.

Chair Slavik thanked Superintendent Marshall and the District's staff for their informative presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE OCEANO DUNES SVRA REPORT

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Robert Tolin, Retired State Parks Employee
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee

AGENDA ITEM VII (B) – BLM REPORT

Jane Arteaga, OHV Travel Management Lead, BLM, provided an update on the youth conference held at California State University Sacramento. She thanked Commissioner Cabral for his participation in the Listening Circles where he had an opportunity to talk to youth about his experience working in the outdoors. Approximately 500 students attended in the conference. Over 50 partners, including the OHMVR Division, the Division of Boating and Waterways, and State Parks, participated in the expo portion of the conference.

With regard to safety training, Ms. Arteaga stated that the Redding, Ridgecrest, El Mirage and El Centro Field Offices currently have youth training programs. Because of liability issues, training at these facilities is typically done through partnerships.

A brief discussion ensued regarding inter-agency partnerships and providing outdoor opportunities to underserved youth.

Karl Symons, Ridgecrest Office Field Manager, presented an update on the West Mojave (WEMO) Plan Amendment. The initial Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 2006. In 2009, the Court issued a summary judgment requesting BLM reevaluate the plan and issue a new ROD. In 2011, a remedy order was issued requesting implementation of specific sections of the plan.

The public will have 90 days to comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) due for release the beginning of February. The final ROD must be signed and returned to the Court by September 2015.

The original WEMO plan analyzed over 9,000 miles of road and designated 5,098 miles open to recreation. More than 15,000 miles of linear disturbances with approximately 250,000 segments have been identified for the new plan. BLM is reviewing each segment to determine which ones will remain open and which ones will be closed.

Recent Court decisions require full Class III surveys on cultural resources, but BLM determined they would not be able to complete this type of survey on the 15,000 miles of road within the timeline set forth by the Court. As a result, BLM is working on programmatic agreements with the State Historic Preservation Office and the ACHB for predictive modeling that will set priority areas for the Class III surveys.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry regarding potential conflicts with the 2.0 Travel Management Plan, Mr. Symons stated that the WEMO Plan would comply with all current policies.

In response to Chair Slavik's question about the Onyx property, Mr. Symons stated he drafted the preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that State Parks is currently reviewing.

Ms. Arteaga suggested the Commission might want to consider at its next meeting a proposal to draft a comment letter on the WEMO DSEIS.

Gabe Garcia, Bakersfield Field Office Manager, presented a brief overview of the Bakersfield Field Office. The Field Office has approximately 100 employees and manages 612,000 acres of public land in addition to 1 to 1.5 million subsurface acres. Royalties from mineral development in subsurface areas bring in approximately \$200 million per year. Recreation opportunities include fishing, wildflower displays, boating, OHV, biking, hiking, equestrian, and gold prospecting.

Harrison Friedman, Bakersfield Field Office, provided an overview of the Temblor and Keyesville Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA). Temblor SRMA, located near the community of Taft, contains approximately 200 miles of designated motorized routes and two recreation management zones—Urban Interface and Dispersed Riding.

The Field Office was awarded an OHV Trust Fund Grant to put together a comprehensive management plan to provide sustainable OHV recreation opportunities in the Temblor SRMA. Public access is one of their biggest challenges because the

Carrizo Plain National Monument and private property surround the area. Current access to the area is passively permitted by private landowners allowing recreationists to ride across their property to access the trails. BLM is working with the landowners to obtain an easement that would provide definitive long-term permanent public access.

The Keyesville SRMA, located near the town of Lake Isabella, has approximately 70 miles of designated motorized routes on 11,000 acres. The area is known for its multi-use recreation and historic resources. It is divided into four recreation management zones—two areas along the river dedicated to camping and river activities; another area dedicated to touring historic areas on motorized trails; and a dispersed riding opportunity area.

AGENDA ITEM VII (C) – USFS REPORT

Garrett Villanueva, Assistant Forest Engineer, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, USFS, provided a brief overview of the USFS report topics.

Robert Poff, R.J. Poff and Associates, presented a report on the results of a three-year study to assess wet weather management of OHV trails on National Forests in California. One specific objective of the study was to field test an evidence-based method for determining when to open and close OHV trails during wet weather.

Four study areas were selected for sampling and calibration of the method—Upper Lake RD, Stonyford OHV Area, Sugar Pine OHV Area, and the Pozo OHV Area. The study looked at trail tread using two variables, soil moisture and soil strength, and correlated that with observed deformation or damage to the tread to establish thresholds that can be used to determine when it is appropriate to close or open trails. After the thresholds have been established, measurements are taken at selected benchmark sites, and a decision tree is developed.

The equipment used to take the measurements is easy to use and technicians and/or volunteers can be trained in a couple of hours.

A brief discussion ensued about the probability of implementing this method throughout the National Forests in California. There was also speculation on whether or not the system could be automated.

Mr. Villanueva informed the Commission that the forests are still assessing the fire damage to trails and hope to have a comprehensive report available at the next Commission meeting.

Approximately 50 riders participated in the Ranger Ride on the Tahoe. The weeklong event focused on riding, trail work, and education. They were also treated to a demonstration of the new Sutter Single Track Machine.

The USFS is completing the data collection phase for the Over-Snow Vehicle Subpart (c) Travel Management Plan. Subpart (c) management regulations are now

mandatory. The final rule will be released in January. Public meetings were held at Lassen, Eldorado, Stanislaus, and Plumas National Forests. The NEPA documents will address designated groomed trail systems, open area designations, and ungroomed road designations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE BLM AND USFS REPORTS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Don Amador, Blue Ribbon Coalition
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Ed Waldheim, CORVA, Friends of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage, and California Trails Users Coalition

AGENDA ITEM VII (D) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

In the interest of time, Chief Jenkins suggested the Commission forego the Deputy Director’s oral reports. The Commission requested an update on the Eastern Kern County Proposed Acquisition.

AGENDA ITEM VII (D) (2) (c) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORTS, EASTERN KERN COUNTY PROPOSED ACQUISITION

Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presented a status report on the Eastern Kern County proposed acquisition. On November 14, 2014, the California Public Works Board approved the State’s acquisition of the property. The acquisition is currently in escrow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE EASTERN KERN COUNTY PROPOSED ACQUISITION

Comment was heard from the following individual:

- Ed Waldheim, CORVA, Friends of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage, and California Trails Users Coalition

AGENDA ITEM VII (D) (4) (C) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT/SAFETY UPDATE, ATV SAFETY TRAINING

Amber Purcell, ATV Safety Institute, presented a report on issues surrounding ATV safety. The ATV Safety Institute was formed in 1988 to implement a national program of ATV safety education and awareness. Its primary goal is to promote safe and responsible use of ATVs and reduce accidents and injuries that may result from improper ATV operation by the rider.

The ATV Safety Institute’s *ATV RiderCourse*SM provides a four-and-a-half hour hands-on training session that includes straight-line riding, braking, and turning. The course is

designed to train individuals ages six and older, and is free to youth between the ages of six and 17. Safety training facilities are available at every SVRA.

The Institute also offers a two-and-a-half hour-long E course divided into three different sections—one for adults, one for teens, and one for youth. The E course is an introduction to ATV riding, but does not take the place of hands-on training. It is also not accepted as proof of training nor does it meet the certification standard for California's program.

An E course that provides information on the selection of size-appropriate ATVs is available to dealerships.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE ATV SAFETY TRAINING REPORT

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Zach Zeman, Sun Buggy Fun Rentals Instructor
- Craig Angello, Angello ATV
- Randy Jordan, Sun Buggy Fun Rentals
- Steve Dayton, Steve's ATV
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Ed Waldheim, CORVA, Friends of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage, and California Trails Users Coalition

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding ATV safety training and reconvening the OHV Safety Committee. Vice Chair Pérez made a motion to put this topic on the March Commission meeting agenda; Commissioner Murphy seconded. Motion carried.

In closing, Chair Slavik thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Commission and expressed his excitement about the new acquisitions and the opportunities they will provide to the recreation community.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Lueder; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.