



**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Sonora, CA 95370**

May 29, 2015

STAFF REPORT: Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program

STAFF: Sixto J. Fernandez, Grants Manager

SUBJECT: Grants Program Update

Summary

The current grant cycle is proceeding according to the schedule outlined in the last Grants report. Final applications were submitted May 4, 2015, and the Intent to Award will be posted on the OHMVR Division website on June 1, 2015.

This report provides an update on two Grant projects discussed at a previous Commission meeting—the San Bernardino National Forest and the Southern California Mountain Top Foundation proposed development and restoration projects within the Baldy Mesa Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area of the San Bernardino National Forest. The two projects were tentatively approved in the 2013/14 grant cycle and are nearing a decision by the OHMVR Division on whether or not to fund these projects.

Discussion

The San Bernardino National Forest and Southern California Mountain top Foundation proposed development and restoration project areas are located in the Cajon Pass and Baldy Mesa area of the San Bernardino National Forest in the Front Country Ranger District north of State Route 138, and near Interstate Highway 15 where it crosses the summit of Cajon Pass. Baldy Mesa is the Ranger District's "hot spot" for OHV recreation and very popular due to its isolation, terrain, and historic use. OHV recreation on Baldy Mesa includes four-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, and dirt bikes.

The applicants' grant requests intend to provide resources to an area currently lacking proper management. The development project proposes to:

- Construct, install signage, and maintain two 50-inch OHV loop trails and a ridge trail for a distance of 23 miles.
- Designate the Baldy Mesa OHV Staging Area in its current location, retain restrooms, define the footprint with barriers, and install picnic tables, trash cans, signage, and a loading ramp.

- Build a new trail on four miles and upgrade a 19-mile user-created trail to U.S. Forest Service (USFS) standards.
- Obliterate and revegetate 55 miles of unauthorized trails.

Along with the two projects, the San Bernardino National Forest was granted an education and safety grant awarded during the same grant cycle which includes funding to provide OHV education awareness at the staging area. Finally, the forest included law enforcement and Forest Protection Officer staff and sound testing equipment/training in their law enforcement and ground operations grants to specifically address the public request to reduce property trespass and enforce sound and spark arrester regulations. These collaborative efforts are required for the long term sustainability of the Baldy Mesa OHV area.

The OHMVR Division proposes to award grant funds to the San Bernardino National Forest Front County Ranger District and Southern California Mountains Foundation.

An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) conducted by the OHMVR Division's environmental consultant, MIG/TRA, was published and made available for public review and comment on March 26, 2015. The 30-day public comment period ended on April 27, 2015. The OHMVR Division received seven comments regarding the IS/MND.

All the comments are being reviewed and a management decision memorandum will be drafted for the Deputy Director's review. At that time, a decision will be made on whether or not to fund these projects.

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

2014/2015 Final Application Funding Amount Requested Chart

Final Application Funding Amount Requested 2014/2015

Summary by Applicant

	Ground Operations	Acquisition	Development	Planning	Restoration	Education & Safety	Law Enforcement	Total Projects	Total Amount Requested
USFS	15 projects \$6,499,871	0 projects \$0	8 projects \$1,501,005	7 projects \$525,978	8 projects \$1,919,420	5 projects \$226,990	18 projects \$1,553,913	61	\$12,227,177
BLM	10 projects \$1,917,252	0 projects \$0	2 projects \$339,000	2 projects \$257,227	7 projects \$1,489,890	4 projects \$525,293	11 projects \$1,560,713	36	\$6,089,375
Other Federal	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0	\$0
Local Agencies	10 projects \$2,750,668	0 projects \$0	1 project \$99,525	4 projects \$202,052	1 project \$72,939	8 projects \$345,201	49 projects \$6,165,458	73	\$9,635,843
Districts	1 project \$34,705	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	4 projects \$702,386	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	5	\$737,091
Education Institutions	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0	\$0
Nonprofits	13 projects \$2,683,724	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	15 projects \$5,835,572	11 projects \$877,818	0 projects \$0	39	\$9,397,114
Federally Rec. Tribes	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	1 project \$219,364	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	0 projects \$0	1	\$219,364
Total Requested	49 projects \$13,886,220	0 projects \$0	11 projects \$1,939,530	14 projects \$1,204,621	35 projects \$10,020,207	28 projects \$1,975,303	78 projects \$9,280,084	215	\$38,305,965
Available Funding	\$13,000,000				\$6,500,000	\$1,300,000	\$5,200,000		\$26,000,000
	Ground Operations	70% (min)	\$9,100,000				USFS 30%	\$1,560,000	
	Acquisition	10% (max)	\$1,300,000				BLM 30%	\$1,560,000	
	Development	10% (max)	\$1,300,000				Local 40%	\$2,080,000	
	Planning	10% (max)	\$1,300,000						