



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Susanville, CA 96130**

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STAFF REPORT: Statewide Off-Highway Motor Vehicle and Over Snow Vehicle Recreation Study

STAFF: Katie Metraux, OHMVR Planning Section

SUBJECT: Information about a Statewide Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Study

Summary

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is preparing to conduct a Statewide Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHV) and Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) Recreation Study (Study). The statewide Study would provide updated demographic information about OHV and OSV recreationists. It would also provide associated economic contributions to OHV recreation. The Division anticipates entering into an interagency agreement with a university to conduct the Study. This staff report describes the Study, proposed timeline, and potential costs.

Discussion

A comprehensive study is needed to identify gaps in OHV and OSV recreation opportunities, determine existing user base and target audiences, and ascertain potential funding needs. Study components could include:

- Demographics to know who is currently participating in OHV and OSV recreation;
- trends in OHV and OSV types;
- visitor use patterns;
- a statewide evaluation of existing OHV and OSV recreation opportunities; and,
- the economic impacts associated with OHV recreation.

The Study would be useful for all aspects of the OHMVR Program. It would help the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) find gaps in existing OHV and OSV recreation data; guide future acquisition and planning efforts; understand visitor needs and expectations; and help managers know what program components need further development. The information would also benefit federal agencies and local governments who may want to develop OHV and OSV opportunities on public lands within their jurisdiction.

The first comprehensive statewide study of OHV recreation was conducted by the Department in the late 1970s and utilized to develop the OHMVR Program. Other recreation studies include the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Economic Impact Analysis Report (2010/2011); a SVRA attendance study in 2014; a winter recreation study (2013), and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (known as SCORP) that is updated every five years. The 2015 SCORP is available for review on the California State Parks website: www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27894. These studies are limited in scope and do not address OHV and OSV recreation on other public and private lands.

The Study could include direct surveys (e.g., visitor intercept surveys and stakeholder interviews) and indirect surveys (e.g., mail surveys and/or online surveys) and review of other similar state and national OHV and OSV studies.

Potential Costs

The Department is exploring hiring an academic institution to design and implement the study, analyze data, and produce reports. Depending on the project deliverables, a study of this size could cost \$350,000 and up.

Proposed Phases

Phase 1: Study Design

Phase 2: Data Collection

Phase 3: Analyze Data and Produce Reports

Total estimated time is up to 2 years.

Next Steps

In February 2018, the Division sent the Study proposal to nine universities throughout California. Two universities have responded with proposals. Division staff are meeting with the universities to discuss their proposals.

Commission Action

For information only.