



**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Palmdale, CA 93551**

March 13, 2015

STAFF REPORT: General Plans Update
STAFF: Dan Canfield, Planning Manager
SUBJECT: Status of General Plans for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

Several of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) are in the process of updating their park general plans. A general plan directs the long-range development and management of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. This guidance is essential to the SVRA managers and staff, and is of value to those organizations and individuals who have an interest in the SVRA. SVRAs must have an approved general plan before funding can be appropriated for any major capital outlay projects to build new facilities in a park unit.

Discussion

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2, California State Parks is generally required to prepare general plans for units of the State Park System (e.g., SVRAs) prior to the development of new capital facilities. In 2007, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division performed a review of existing general plans for the SVRAs and determined that six SVRAs needed to initiate or update their general plans. A contractor was secured to prepare some of the general plans. A table identifying the status of the SVRA general plans is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 1).

Following is a brief summary of recent SVRA general plan developments.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA:

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan team is using the public and agency feedback on the draft Planning Alternatives to develop a draft Preferred Planning Alternative for the General Plan Update. It is anticipated the Preferred Planning Alternative will be available for public review and comment in March 2015. Public workshops will also be conducted to present the Preferred Planning Alternative and solicit public input.

Throughout this process, the General Plan team is consulting closely with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), El Centro Field Office. Approximately 21,000 acres of the lands managed as Ocotillo Wells SVRA is owned by the BLM. Through consultation with the BLM El Centro Field Office, it has been determined the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan update must also include a Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan as amended. This process will include an environmental document compliant with both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Additionally, the General Plan update/LUPA will provide the framework for a future transfer of the BLM lands to Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

Carnegie SVRA:

The Carnegie SVRA General Plan team is currently preparing an administrative draft General Plan along with an administrative draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose of the draft EIR is to inform decision makers and the public of any significant environmental impacts that may result from General Plan implementation. Once reviewed and edited by OHMVR Division staff and California State Parks legal staff, the draft General Plan/EIR will be published for public review and comment. It is anticipated the draft General Plan/EIR will be available for public review in March 2015.

Prairie City SVRA:

The Prairie City SVRA General Plan team published a revised General Plan Preferred Concept Comment Card on September 30, 2014. During the month of October, the Prairie City SVRA General Plan team expanded their efforts to inform the public about the revised General Plan Preferred Concept. In addition to email blasts and project website updates, OHMVR Division staff reached out to OHV dealerships in the Sacramento region to spread the word about the revised Preferred Concept and to solicit public feedback. OHMVR Division staff also distributed flyers and comment cards at the Prairie City SVRA entrance kiosk and at the Prairie City SVRA visitor appreciation day event.

The comment period on the revised Preferred Concept ended on October 31, 2014, with over 400 comments received. In December 2014, a Summary and Key Findings document was posted to the project website at www.PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com.

Based on the input received on the revised Preferred Concept, the Prairie City SVRA General Plan team is currently producing a preliminary draft General Plan and draft EIR.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

Attachment 1: SVRA General Plans Update – March 2015

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
OHMVR DIVISION

State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plans Update
March 2015

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	GP Status & Updates in Progress
Carnegie SVRA	1981	-	GP update in progress. Draft General Plan/EIR tentatively scheduled to be published in March 2015.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission June 2012.
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission December 2011.
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	-
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981	-	GP update pending, including new and proposed acquisitions.
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	-
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981	-	GP update underway including newly acquired properties. Draft Preferred Planning Alternative tentatively scheduled to be published in March 2015.
Prairie City SVRA	1991	-	GP update underway. Prairie City SVRA General Plan team currently refining Draft General Plan/EIR.