



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
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**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Sacramento, CA**

**May 20, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT:** Winter Recreation Program  
**STAFF:** Jennifer Grady, Winter Recreation Manager  
**SUBJECT:** 2021-2022 End of Season Report

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**Summary**

The Winter Recreation Program is comprised of two separate elements: the Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) Program, funded through the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trust Fund and the California SNO-Park Permit Program, funded through the Winter Recreation Fund (WRF).

***Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) Program***

Public Resources Code (PRC) §5090.01-5090.65 requires the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to provide a statewide system of managed opportunities for all forms of OHV recreation. During the wintertime, these opportunities are provided through the statewide OSV Grooming program. The program's 1,761-miles of groomed OSV trails and 28 trailheads are located within 11 national forests throughout California.

The OSV program provides for the operation, maintenance, and grooming of winter recreation trails. The Grooming program season is generally from mid-December to the end of May, depending on snow conditions.

***California SNO-Park Permit Program***

The California SNO-Park Permit Program was established under PRC Division 5, Chapter 1.27, to provide parking facilities for winter recreation whereby winter recreationists may purchase a windshield sticker that will allow them to park in any of the roadside parking areas to be established and plowed for this purpose.

There are currently 18 SNO-Parks throughout the state providing access to snow play, cross-country skiing, dog sledging, and snowmobiling on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land from November 1 to May 30 each year through a Special Use Permit. The SNO-

Park program is self-funded through parking permit sales. Ten of the SNO-Parks provide for both motorized and non-motorized recreation.

## **Discussion**

### ***Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) Program***

The OHV Trust Fund provides the budget for the OSV program. These funds are included in the yearly budget for OHV Program support. Program funds purchase and maintain trail markings and signage, provide trail maps, and support seasonal monitoring of trails. A state-owned fleet of grooming tractors, in conjunction with contractors and volunteer groups, provide the OSV trail grooming. Although the groomed trails are primarily maintained for OSV use, many other users benefit from the services provided. Nordic skiers, snowshoers, and other non-motorized recreationists regularly use the parking areas and groomed trail systems. There is rarely conflict between user groups.

Cost share funding agreements are done on a three-year basis with the 11 USFS forests to provide services. These services are performed by volunteers, USFS employees, and private contractors. OHMVR also purchases and pays for all fuel, servicing, repairs and replacements of the snowcats used for trail grooming. Staff support for the program is provided by Jennifer Grady, Winter Recreation Manager and Talina Hagler, OSV Program Coordinator.

### ***California SNO-Park Permit Program***

The 2021-22 California State Budget provided \$347,000 from the Winter Recreation Fund to support the SNO-Park Program. This funding covers the cost of janitorial contracts, plowing, permit printing, Government maintenance, reconditioning, renovation, or improvement (MRRI) projects and personnel costs to administer the program. Staff support for the program is provided by Jennifer Grady, Winter Recreation Manager, Josh Bernadas, SNO-Park Program Coordinator and Josephine Parra, Permit Program Administrator.

The USFS Special Use Permit (SUP) that provides managerial authority for the SNO-Park locations requires an annual investment by the Division through MRRI projects, funded from the Winter Recreation Fund. The cost is based upon projects determined to be completed.

The SUP also requires pre-season (before November 1) and post-season inspections (after May 30). The COVID-19 pandemic caused a wrinkle in both the MRRI requirements and the inspections. Typically, both inspections are completed by Staff from the OHMVR Division and USFS together. Through the COVID-19 pandemic these inspections were conducted independently. With the re-opening of California, the 2021/22 end of season inspections will be conducting jointly.

### ***Permit Sales***

Snow levels were not amazing during the 2021-22 season, yet the permit program was still successful. Numbers were down from last year's records.

**Commission Action**

For information only.

**Attachments**

None