

## Law Enforcement - El Centro (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700447

### ITEM 1. Proposed Project

**Geographical Area:** This project will provide service to OHV visitors to the BLM El Centro Resource Area including by not limited to the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA), Superstition Mountains, Plaster City East and West Open Areas, the Yuha Desert and Lark Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle Area as well as all lands located within Imperial and eastern San Diego counties.

**Educational Outreach:** The BLM Law Enforcement branch partners with the United Desert Gateway (UDG), American Desert Foundation (ADF), American Sand Association (ASA), and Tread Lightly!, both on and off public lands, to increase OHV safety and compliance with state and federal laws.

The UDG works together with the BLM to produce an annual OHV publication. This "Desert Visitor's Guide" incorporates rules and regulations to ensure safe OHV visits in Imperial County. It also includes a map to legal OHV recreation areas and is dispersed at regional OHV events, shows, and recreation areas.

The BLM is partnering with the ADF to increase the availability of ATV safety training per CVC-38503. They are submitting an application for grant funds in the 2010/2011 grant process. BLM will advise visitors through patrols about the ATV safety classes in the Dunes.

The ASA has produced a sand dunes safety video. BLM Rangers distribute the popular safety DVDs to visitors on public lands increasing land stewardship ethics.

BLM, ASA, and Tread Lightly! partnered together to create the "Guide to Sand Duning" booklet which incorporates both safety and land use ethic principles. The information has been well received by OHV visitors and is distributed by all three partners via the Internet, on-site, and at special events.

**Uniqueness:** Management of the OHV areas provides a unique challenge for the BLM. Specifically in the ISDRA extreme spikes in visitation, coupled with large crowds of OHV activity at several congregation points, challenge the BLM's workforce capabilities.

Large OHV congregation areas such as Oldsmobile Hill, Competition Hills, and impromptu sand drags, require special and careful management to ensure employee and visitor safety. Staff is trained in special tactics to ensure these areas are kept open for OHV recreation and safe for visitors. Law Enforcement tools can vary from educational contacts, issuing citations, arrest, or setting up mobile Visitor Contact Stations at the entrance to key locations to deter lawless behavior.

**Requests for Funding:** The labor dollars requested in this application will assist the BLM by providing funding for additional Ranger staff needed to better manage OHV recreation occurring in the El Centro Resource Area. The purchase of In-car camera units will assist Rangers in the documentation of OHV related enforcement contacts and assist in the successful prosecution of law violators. The in-car camera units will also provide objective documentation of OHV enforcement contacts conducted by Rangers in order to better address public comments and concerns sometimes expressed about these encounters, thereby increasing public trust in OHV law enforcement.

### ITEM 2. Project Coverage

The El Centro Field Office (ECFO) manages 1,240,000 acres of public lands in Imperial and San Diego Counties. The fifteen El Centro Law Enforcement Rangers patrol 3,486 miles of limited use OHV routes, and 137,253 acres of open OHV recreation area. Approximately 95% of the BLM ECFO managed lands lie within Imperial County.

**ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols**

Patrols are conducted daily in the El Centro Resource Area. Patrols are scheduled to occur during peak visitation times such as evenings and weekends. Extra staff is assigned to the El Centro Field Office managed Public Lands during the winter holiday weekends when visitor use at the popular OHV areas drastically increases. Enforcement issues facing many of these areas include incursions by OHV to administrative closures and Wilderness Lands, damage to sensitive archaeological sites, damage to gates/barriers and signs.

During winter holidays, the BLM ECFO employs 40-50 federal officers that patrol in addition to 30 non-law enforcement personnel which also patrol the lands managed by the El Centro Field Office. The BLM Law Enforcement Rangers conduct patrols on the boundaries of these areas in four wheel drive vehicles and OHVs. As situations dictate, Law Enforcement Rangers conduct foot patrols in protected/closed areas that are not accessible by vehicles. When high vehicular and/or foot activities are identified in a sensitive/closed area, surveillance and/or saturated patrols are initiated to reduce and eliminate incursions. BLM Law Enforcement Rangers educate the public, give warnings, and issue state and U.S.

District Court Violation Notices and/or make arrests for violations of federal and state laws, rules, or regulations. The El Centro Resource Area documented over 5000 enforcement actions in calendar year 2009. The vast majority of these actions related to OHV recreation.

Arrest/incident reports, violation notices and/or patrol reports can be provided upon request.

**ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel**

The El Centro Field Office (ECFO) will staff thirteen permanent law enforcement ranger positions during the project period dedicated to OHV law enforcement patrol of the Resource Area. The requested grant funding will pay for a majority of salary costs for seven law enforcement rangers and partially fund one supervisory staff law enforcement ranger.

Four times per year during the high-use winter season, BLM ramps up its law enforcement patrol of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area commensurate with spikes in visitation. More than 40 Rangers from throughout the western states are brought in to the area for OHV patrol. Currently, the four holidays are: Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Years and Presidents Day Weekend. The costs associated with this increase in law enforcement presence is paid by the BLM through appropriated funds and recreation fees.

## LE Certification

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### Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

The West Mesa, Eastern Desert, and Imperial Sand Dunes Patrol Sectors have crucial law enforcement and legal concerns stemming from their unique terrains, natural, cultural, and resource concerns, growing numbers of OHV-recreation visitors, and a reduction in quality OHV recreation resources. Enforcement issues facing many of these areas include incursions by OHV, damage to sensitive archeological sites, damage to gates/barriers and signs, as well as threats to sensitive and endangered species. The BLM Law Enforcement and non-law enforcement patrol is conducted in the areas mentioned above on a daily basis. The BLM Law Enforcement Rangers conduct patrols on the boundaries of these areas in four wheel drive vehicles and OHVs. Law Enforcement Rangers conduct foot patrols in protected/closed areas that are not accessible by vehicles. When high vehicular and/or foot activities are identified in a sensitive/closed area, surveillance and/or saturated patrols are initiated to reduce/eliminate incursions

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

The project is focused on patrol of Public Lands that are either open to OHV use or those that could be significantly impacted by OHV use. In order to sustain OHV recreation in the project area enforcement of OHV laws and regulations is critical to protect natural resources and the visiting public. Without such enforcement degradation of Public Land resources in addition to hazards posed by inappropriate OHV use could result in the restriction of lands which are currently open to OHV use. By enforcing existing restrictions, including state and federal laws in regards to OHV use, public safety and resource protection will be enhanced and motorized access to the Public Lands in the El Centro Field Office will be preserved. Patrol is conducted by BLM Law Enforcement and non-law enforcement personnel on four-wheeled drive, motorcycles and other OHVs. Law Enforcement Rangers need to conduct foot patrols and OHV patrols in protected/closed areas that are not accessible by other vehicles.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

The El Centro Field Office works closely with the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, surrounding local police departments and the El Centro and Yuma, AZ. U.S. Border Patrol. This cooperation is necessary to ensure necessary staffing at large OHV events and holiday use weekend. Additionally, the relationship is critical to protecting private property in areas where the jurisdiction boundaries are intermeshed with public and private lands. During the ISDRA high visitation weekends, the Imperial County Sheriff's Office partners with the BLM to ensure adequate public safety and visitor services are provided to OHV visitors.

### Law Enforcement - Page 2

4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit?  Yes  No  
(Please select Yes or No)

Explain

The law enforcement portion of a BLM permitted activity can be recovered as outlined in the BLM Special Recreation Permit Handbook.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations?  Yes  No  
(Please select Yes or No)

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

All BLM Rangers are authorized and trained to enforce various state and federal laws as they relate to OHV violations. Rangers are also trained and authorized to enforce all laws as they relate to the protection of natural and cultural resources on Public Lands. Ongoing training throughout the year will be mandated to all Rangers in such fields as geography, community policing, and educating the public on rules and regulations as it pertains to the protection of natural resources and especially OHV requirements. This training is also implemented as new officers are trained as part of the Field Training and Evaluation Program.

**Law Enforcement - Page 3**

7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

**Law Enforcement - Page 4**

10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:  
O & M is funded through a combination of CA OHV grants, federal dollars, monies collected through fees at OHV areas, and volunteer labor.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No

**Project Cost Estimate**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	BLM - El Centro Field Office		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Law Enforcement - El Centro (FINAL)	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	G09-01-09-L01
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>Geographical Area: This project will provide service to OHV visitors to the BLM El Centro Resource Area including by not limited to the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA), Superstition Mountains, Plaster City East and West Open Areas, the Yuha Desert and Lark Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle Area as well as all lands located within Imperial and eastern San Diego counties.</p> <p>Educational Outreach: The BLM Law Enforcement branch partners with the United Desert Gateway (UDG), American Desert Foundation (ADF), American Sand Association (ASA), and Tread Lightly!, both on and off public lands, to increase OHV safety and compliance with state and federal laws.</p> <p>The UDG works together with the BLM to produce an annual OHV publication. This "Desert Visitor's Guide" incorporates rules and regulations to ensure safe OHV visits in Imperial County. It also includes a map to legal OHV recreation areas and is dispersed at regional OHV events, shows, and recreation areas.</p> <p>The BLM is partnering with the ADF to increase the availability of ATV safety training per CVC-38503. They are submitting an application for grant funds in the 2010/2011 grant process. BLM will advise visitors through patrols about the ATV safety classes in the Dunes.</p> <p>The ASA has produced a sand dunes safety video. BLM Rangers distribute the popular safety DVDs to visitors on public lands increasing land stewardship ethics.</p> <p>BLM, ASA, and Tread Lightly! partnered together to create the "Guide to Sand Duning" booklet which incorporates both safety and land use ethic principles. The information has been well received by OHV visitors and is distributed by all three partners via the Internet, on-site, and at special events.</p> <p>Uniqueness: Management of the OHV areas provides a unique challenge for the BLM. Specifically in the ISDRA extreme spikes in visitation, coupled with large crowds of OHV activity at several congregation points, challenge the BLM's workforce capabilities. Large OHV congregation areas such as Oldsmobile Hill, Competition Hills, and impromptu sand drags, require special and careful management to ensure employee and visitor safety. Staff is trained in special tactics to ensure these areas are kept open for OHV recreation and safe for visitors. Law Enforcement tools can vary from educational contacts, issuing citations, arrest, or setting up mobile Visitor Contact Stations at the entrance to key locations to deter lawless behavior.</p> <p>Requests for Funding: The labor dollars requested in this application will assist the BLM by providing funding for additional Ranger staff needed to better manage OHV recreation occurring in the El Centro Resource Area. The purchase of In-car camera units will assist Rangers in the documentation of OHV</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
 Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office  
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	related enforcement contacts and assist in the successful prosecution of law violators. The in-car camera units will also provide objective documentation of OHV enforcement contacts conducted by Rangers in order to better address public comments and concerns sometimes expressed about these encounters, thereby increasing public trust in OHV law enforcement.
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	Supervisor Notes : Supervision of OHV Patrol. Rate includes benefits.	1.000	114000.000	YR	24,138.00	89,862.00	114,000.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : OHV Law Enforcement Patrol. Rate includes benefits.	1.000	101000.000	YR	70,700.00	30,300.00	101,000.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : OHV Law Enforcement Patrol. Rate includes benefits.	1.000	87000.000	YR	60,900.00	26,100.00	87,000.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : OHV Law Enforcement Patrol. Rate includes benefits.	1.000	72000.000	YR	50,400.00	21,600.00	72,000.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : OHV Law Enforcement Patrol. Rate includes benefits.	1.000	67000.000	YR	46,900.00	20,100.00	67,000.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : OHV Law Enforcement Patrol. Rate includes benefits.	1.000	65000.000	YR	45,500.00	19,500.00	65,000.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : OHV Law Enforcement Patrol. Rate includes benefits.	1.000	58000.000	YR	40,600.00	17,400.00	58,000.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : OHV Law Enforcement Patrol. Rate includes benefits.	1.000	55000.000	YR	38,500.00	16,500.00	55,000.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				<b>377,638.00</b>	<b>241,362.00</b>	<b>619,000.00</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
	Other-In-car Cameras Notes : In-car camera systems including installation	7.000	5766.000	EA	40,362.00	0.00	40,362.00
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
<b>7</b>	<b>Indirect Costs</b>						
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>					418,000.00	241,362.00	659,362.00
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					418,000.00	241,362.00	659,362.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>					<b>418,000.00</b>	<b>241,362.00</b>	<b>659,362.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
 Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office  
 Application: Law Enforcement - El Centro (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	377,638.00	241,362.00	619,000.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	40,362.00	0.00	40,362.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		418,000.00	241,362.00	659,362.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		418,000.00	241,362.00	659,362.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>418,000.00</b>	<b>241,362.00</b>	<b>659,362.00</b>	

## Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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### ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

#### ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project?  Yes  No  
(Please select Yes or No)

#### ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No

### ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378?  Yes  No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

### ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

### ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

### ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

### ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

### ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

### ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

### ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**