



**SIERRA PACIFIC
INDUSTRIES**
Growing Forests For Our Future

Sierra Pacific Industries

2849 Northgate Drive • Chico, CA 95973 • (530) 345-0025

March 25, 2013

Steve Collins, Sheriff's Sergeant
Butte County Sheriff
33 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA. 95965

Dear Sergeant Collins:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your department's pending grant application to the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission. (OHV Commission)

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), is a family owned company in the business of growing and harvesting forest products with roughly 137,000 acres in Butte County. SPI forest lands are managed under the "Sustainable Forestry Initiative" providing forest products, clean water, wildlife habitat and other resource values.

The basis for your OHV grant is to provide protection to natural resources and OHV recreational users on lands administered within the boundaries of Lassen National Forest and Plumas National forest. SPI owns property adjacent to these National Forests where OHV use is authorized. Additionally, in 2008 the Butte County Board of Supervisors approved several county roadways as open to OHV use. SPI is the primary land owner along many of these approved routes of travel by OHV's.

Our public use policy does not allow OHV use. These OHV authorized areas by the U.S. Forest Service and County of Butte has resulted in significant natural resource damage to lands owned by SPI. OHV's illegally trespass onto adjacent SPI lands negatively impacting roads, vegetation, soils, water quality and wildlife habitat. As the land owner we responsible for clean-up and abatement of damages caused by this unauthorized use. Authorized OHV use by the U.S. Forest Service and County of Butte has also resulted in OHV users utilizing SPI lands for OHV staging areas resulting in illegal camping, illegal camp fires, illegal cutting of timber and establishments of OHV open areas on private property. For the past three years, SPI has aggressively signed these county roadways and our property adjacent to US Forest Service lands to discourage OHV use on SPI lands. Unfortunately, SPI lands are still experiencing significant resource impacts from illegal OHV use.

We are requesting that the Butte County Sheriff modify their grant to include Butte County Sheriff's Department patrol on SPI lands adjacent to U.S. Forest Service and County of Butte authorized OHV routes of travel. This patrol would include enforcing private land trespass, illegal camping, illegal campfires, destruction of natural resources from OHV operation as well as other laws and regulations.

SPI supports the efforts of the Butte County Sheriff's Office in their grant request to the OHV Commission.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Dennis Thibeault
District Manager