

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

The FoEM Ground Operation Project will fund work activities for onsite visitor center services along with the normal operations and maintenance activities required to sustain OHV recreation opportunities. In concert and coordination with the BLM Barstow FO, we will support the routine maintenance of roads/trails associated with the East & West Loop areas as primary and other work as they (BLM) deem necessary; not in conflict with their on going efforts related to OHV Grant funding projects.

Associated with this project will be the contract for two highway type billboards to promote safety, OHV trail courtesy, stay on marked roads, limit damage to wild life and plants and other educational and safety information as directed.

The FoEM staff along with BLM Staff, Maintenance Workers and Park Rangers work to clean restrooms and maintain facilities such as roads, signs, kiosks, fences and vehicle barriers.

The FoEM staff, BLM staff and volunteers work together to provide seamless visitor services including directions, emergency services and visitor contacts for voluntary compliance with the rules and regulations. The addition of a FoEM visitor center staff member will support a seven day operations, assist BLM staff on holiday weekends, support extended operating hours e.g. a second shift operation and during special events.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

The El Mirage OHV Recreation Area was created primarily to provide opportunities for off-highway vehicle recreation for San Bernardino County and the greater S. Calif. area.

To date about 12,000 acres of private land have been acquired with green sticker grants, and added to existing public land creating this 25,850 acre riding area.

This Project provides the visitor center services needed to support OHV recreation on public land. Visitor contact and support services are provided by staff at the visitor center and through routine patrols of the recreation area.

This Project provides basic visitor services for people staging, camping and riding OHVs here today and tomorrow.

Maintaining the perimeter barrier delineates the legal riding opportunity and prevents trespass.

Maintaining the access road network facilitates visitor and emergency vehicle travel and distribution throughout the recreation area. Maintaining the signs, restrooms and protective fencing sustains a clean healthy setting.

The billboards proposed will further facilitate to the general public and OHV visitors that the desire of the government and others is one of concern for their safety and a wanting to keep the sport moving forward by practicing good conduct and respect for the land they use.

C. Size of the Project

The El Mirage OHV Recreation Area contains 25,850 acres designated open for legal OHV recreation.

There are no trails for this open area project.

The FoEM will coordinate with the BLM Barstow FO prior to starting any work efforts as not to duplicate our collective efforts.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

The El Mirage Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area is located in the Mojave Desert along the western edge of San

Bernardino County, which makes it the closest OHV open area recreation experience to the greater Los Angeles area.

This area includes a 5,000 acre dry lakebed perfect for beginning riders, go carts and a variety of special & homemade vehicle types with minimal suspension. From the lakebed the land rises gently across thousands of acres of excellent terrain for intermediate riding to the low lying Shadow Mountains, which bisect the recreation area.

The Shadow Mountains offer a variety of terrain and riding opportunities. This ranges from easy routes up the washes, to intermediate trails across the ridges, interspersed with expert hill climbs.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

(a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? Yes No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

3 **Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Intersections approaching Lakebed](#)

[Topographic Map](#)

[BLM Barstow FO Project Map for El Mirage OHV Grant 2009](#)

4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[Other connecting roads](#)

[Looking Down on proposed project](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009

6/2/2009

Agency: Friends of El Mirage

Application: Ground Operations - Trail Maintenance/Signage

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	Friends of El Mirage		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations - Trail Maintenance/Signage	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The FoEM Ground Operation Project will fund work activities for onsite visitor center services along with the normal operations and maintenance activities required to sustain OHV recreation opportunities. In concert and coordination with the BLM Barstow FO, we will support the routine maintenance of roads/trails associated with the East & West Loop areas as primary and other work as they (BLM) deem necessary; not in conflict with their on going efforts related to OHV Grant funding projects.</p> <p>Associated with this project will be the contract for two highway type billboards to promote safety, OHV trail courtesy, stay on marked roads, limit damage to wild life and plants and other educational and safety information as directed.</p> <p>The FoEM staff along with BLM Staff, Maintenance Workers and Park Rangers work to clean restrooms and maintain facilities such as roads, signs, kiosks, fences and vehicle barriers.</p> <p>The FoEM staff, BLM staff and volunteers work together to provide seamless visitor services including directions, emergency services and visitor contacts for voluntary compliance with the rules and regulations. The addition of a FoEM visitor center staff member will support a seven day operations, assist BLM staff on holiday weekends, support extended operating hours e.g. a second shift operation and during special events.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Heavy Equipment Operator Notes : Provides for 2 operators for about 60 days, at 5 days per week.	340.000	33.580	HRS	0.00	11,417.00	11,417.00
	Park Attendant Notes : Park attendant is working the station to deal with the	2912.000	17.710	HRS	36,572.00	15,000.00	51,572.00

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<p>customers coming in on 8 hour basis. We can also support a second shift as needed.</p> <p>Because the BLM has so many more responsibilities. It will become incumbent on FoEM Staff to be there 365 days a year. BLM does not work on Holidays.</p> <p>The \$36,572 grant request and \$15,000 match which will come from User Fee's, will be total for 7 day week coverage 365 days a year</p>						
<p>Other-Archilogist</p> <p>Notes : Archeologist and Recreation planner are Match from BLM staff to clear the areas that trail maintenance will be done.</p> <p>Field Manager Roxie Trost has made it clear that not all trail can be done without clearance, so in order to solve that problem, we have estimated these hours to accomplish the necessary actions of completing the proper E. A. paperwork.</p>	80.000	45.000	HRS	0.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
<p>Other-Recreation Planner</p> <p>Notes : Archeologist and Recreation planner are Match from BLM staff to clear the areas that trail maintenance will be done.</p> <p>Field Manager Roxie Trost has made it clear that not all trail can be done without clearance, so in order to solve that problem, we have estimated these hours to accomplish the necessary actions of completing the proper paperwork.</p>	100.000	40.000	HRS	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total for Staff				36,572.00	34,017.00	70,589.00
2	Contracts					
<p>Other-Billboards</p> <p>Notes : This is for the contracting with Sign Company to put up bill</p>	1.000	13400.000	YR	9,900.00	3,500.00	13,400.00

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	<p>boards on Hwy 395 as you come from Southern California. It is both to make sure we educate the desert visitor but more important tell them about El Mirage opportunity so that they use it and not trespass on private property or areas that is not appropriate for OHV use. , Match would come from FoEM</p> <p>Provides for 2 each billboards, \$1,400.00 to prepare art work for the signs, and \$500.00 per month each rental fee for one year.</p>						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	<p>Other-General Office Supplies Notes : These are generic items such as note pads, pencils/pens, folders, copy paper, cartriges etc.</p> <p>With limited funds, we find it more appropiate to use any extra income from sales to be used in a more direct way by supporting local functions and advertising the sport.</p>	1.000	650.000	MISC	0.00	650.00	650.00
	<p>Trash Bags Notes : Items such as bags, cleaning products do account for dollars that can be better spent on products to promote OHV activities, a few free hand outs to visitors, public information etc.</p> <p>What small sales are made, should be used for better things then soap, paper towels and the like, that is why these small but needed items are in the grant request.</p>	400.000	0.100	EA	40.00	0.00	40.00
	<p>Other-Cleaning Products Notes : This cost is for everyday cleaners, sanitizers, soaps, toilet cleaners towles, hand soap etc.</p> <p>With limited funds, we find it more appropiate to use any extra income from sales to be used in a more direct way by supporting</p>	1.000	550.000	MISC	0.00	550.00	550.00

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
local functions and advertising the sport.						
Other-signs	200.000	13.850	EA	1,385.00	1,385.00	2,770.00
Other-Decals	200.000	12.200	EA	1,220.00	1,220.00	2,440.00
Other-First-aid/cleaning supplies Notes : Provides for all station cleaning supplies, soaps, towels, toilet paper. It also will provide for replacement items in first aid kits, liquids, creams etc that should be replaced, Expiration dates and have a small reserve back up of other related first aid items, like large gauze pads, tape, extra saline fluids etc.	1.000	500.000	MISC	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total for Materials / Supplies				2,645.00	4,305.00	6,950.00
4 Equipment Use Expenses						
Other-D7 Bull Dozer	32.000	300.000	DAY	9,600.00	0.00	9,600.00
Other-Grader Notes : This is needed to smooth out the road ways that the D7 has dug into and unearthed large rocks and other larger stones. This will allow for safer travel on the roads.	1.000	4300.000	EA	0.00	4,300.00	4,300.00
Total for Equipment Use Expenses				9,600.00	4,300.00	13,900.00
5 Equipment Purchases						
6 Others						
Other-Transportation of D7 Notes : This is the cost to transport the D7 bulldozer to El mirage and a fee to come and get it for the return trip...i.e. two trips total.	2.000	750.000	EA	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Other-Deisel Fuels	1120.000	4.750	EA	0.00	5,320.00	5,320.00

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
Other-Std Maintenance Required Notes : This costs covers the 2, 30day Maintenance checks, hydraulics, lube, engine/oil air breather filters, etc. Being used in the extreme dust environment causes more damage to the filter systems overall.	2.000	2000.000	EA	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Other-Transport Costs Notes : Transport of the grader equipment to/from El Mirage.	2.000	365.000	MISC	0.00	730.00	730.00
Other-Internet costs Notes : FoEM pays this fee as well as the dish costs to support the OHV and other visitors, the BLM had not been successful in reimbursing us for these costs, and yes it is small, but operating funds are very limited, therefore we ask for this cost as a sustainment on a yearly basis. We look at this as for every dollar spent for routine operations, could be spent for better products such as free brochures, certain maps, displays and local promotion of safe and responsible OHV activities,	12.000	77.000	MOS	924.00	0.00	924.00
Total for Others				924.00	11,550.00	12,474.00
7 Administrative Costs						
Administrative Costs-Grant Administratio	1.000	3200.000	YR	3,200.00	0.00	3,200.00
Administrative Costs-General Admin Suppo	1.000	963.000	YR	0.00	963.00	963.00
Total for Administrative Costs				3,200.00	963.00	4,163.00
Total Program Expenses				62,841.00	58,635.00	121,476.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				62,841.00	58,635.00	121,476.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				62,841.00	58,635.00	121,476.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: Friends of El Mirage
 Application: Ground Operations - Trail Maintenance/Signage

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	36,572.00	34,017.00	70,589.00	
2	Contracts	9,900.00	3,500.00	13,400.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	2,645.00	4,305.00	6,950.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	9,600.00	4,300.00	13,900.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	924.00	11,550.00	12,474.00	
7	Administrative Costs	3,200.00	963.00	4,163.00	
Total Program Expenses		62,841.00	58,635.00	121,476.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		62,841.00	58,635.00	121,476.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		62,841.00	58,635.00	121,476.00	

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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. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. 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
- d. 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 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

This project includes work activities at El Mirage, but similar work will be accomplished by BLM Staff at three other sites, the Johnson Valley, Stoddard Valley and Rasor OHV Recreation Areas. Each is located on relatively similar desert terrain and geography with few conflicts among OHV riders and natural resources.

This project would have no impact on wetlands or navigable water because there are none in the project area. Nor would this project result in harmful impacts to sensitive habitats or species because the project consists of on-going routine operations and maintenance with no new surface disturbing activities. This project is similar to the ground operations project at El Mirage in occurring over the historical range of the desert tortoise. And likewise the biological opinions for the Stoddard and Johnson Valley Management Plans determined there would be no impacts from such routine activities.

Stoddard and Johnson Valleys both overlap the habitat of the endangered tortoise, however none of the proposed activities would result in harmful habitat impacts. This is according to the findings in the Biological Opinion for the Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management Plan (8340E4 (CA-068.45)) (1-8-93-F-1), and the Biological Opinion for the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area Management Plan (6840 CA-932.5) (1-6-90-F-39)

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

This is a ground operations project to fund continued routine maintenance and operation of existing facilities and services. We determined the potential impacts from these routine activities are nominal and therefore determined this project qualifies for a categorical exclusion. No cumulative impacts were identified for this project.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

There is a very low possibility the proposed activities will have a significant effect on slopes or soils because our routine maintenance and operations do not involve work on steep slopes or highly erosive soils.

This project involves routine upkeep and maintenance for minimal facilities providing basic services such as signs, kiosks, vault toilets and roads within the OHV recreation areas. All these facilities are located to avoid environmental problems related to steep slopes and highly erosive soils.

Planned work activities in this project include measuring and monitoring soils within the recreation area to update and ensure compliance with our soils management plan.

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

There is no potential for damage to scenic resources within the viewshed of a state scenic highway because there are no scenic highways in the vicinity of the proposed project.

ITEM 7 - 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 8 - 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

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

There is no potential for this project to cause indirect significant impacts because all the activities in this project are minor with no or nominal surface disturbances. The work consists of routine on-going maintenance and operations of existing facilities and services inside the OHV recreation area.

Continued maintenance and operations in this project will likely result in an attractive setting that continues to draw OHV riders to these areas, thereby keeping user groups here and avoiding dislocation to elsewhere and the resulting off-site impacts.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[BLM Barstow FO DR Categorical Exclusion RVW for El Mirage 2009](#)

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 76% or more (10 points)
 51% - 75% (5 points)
 26% - 50% (3 points)
 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 7

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
 Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
 Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
 Potential trespass (2 points)
 Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. This project maintains protective barriers around sensitive cultural sites in the Shadow Mountains. Preventive activities web pages, kiosks, brochures, and visitor contacts by LE Rangers and non-LE Park Rangers.
b. There are a special-status species and sensitive habitat within the OHV Recreation Area that is protected by a multi-layer approach involving outreach, interpretation, visitor contacts and physical barriers.
c. Trespass was the biggest issue nearly resulted in closing El Mirage to OHVs. We work hard with local communities and stakeholders on a program to prevent and control trespass.
d. We see a correlation between on-site presence and vandalism to facilities. The higher staff presence and the better the facilities are maintained the less they are vandalized.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 12

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
 Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
 Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
 Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
 Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. 12 miles of access roads maintained on a regular basis; grading, dust control and compaction. Provide access for vehicles with OHVs, campers, motorhomes and trucks towing trailers. This project funds compete maintenance on a regular schedule, including control dust and compact road surfaces.
- b. Project includes clearing drainage channels and culverts. There are a few earthen drainage channels built decades ago. These need to be cleaned and maintained where intersect primary road system.
- c. Maintenance activities for the recreation area include upkeep and replacement of traffic control signs such as stop, speed limits, riding restrictions, plus signage for interpretation, rules & regulations and educational & safety messages.
- d. This project is used for many activities, landsailors use the vault toilets, aircraft and remote controlled vehicles use the lakebed, plus hiking, scrambling and geo-caching in mtns.
- e. The terrain varies greatly for beginner to expert rider providing OHV riding opportunities fr

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. This project was presented in public meetings with the OHV Leadership Team
- b. This project was developed with public input from the last couple of meetings, along with the other FoEM projects. These meetings were attended by representatives from a range of activities including OHV groups, motorized sports, competitive racing, commercial filming, local homeowners, business interest, environmental interest and clubs for non-motorized sports

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 4 or more (4 points)
- 2 to 3 (2 points)
- 1 (1 point)
- None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

The Barstow Field Office of the BLM, San Bernardino County Sheriff Departments, AMA District 37, SCTA , along with El Mirage Homeowners Association and San Bernardino County Parks Department

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 5

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
- Protecting water quality (1 point)
- Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
- Protecting special-status species (1 point)
- Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
- Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

It is understood that FoEM is here to assist in the BLM efforts and will coordinate all ground operations.

- a. Project maintains 27 miles of perimeter fence to control OHV use, in part to protect sensitive desert resources on public lands closed to motorized travel.
- b. Project maintains northern perimeter fence, a mandatory term and condition in our Section 7 Consultation Package with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding the Desert Tortoise.
- c. This project maintains signs, fences and alternative roads to divert traffic away from the 5,000 acre dry lakebed from vehicle use while it is wet or muddy.
- d. There are ten vault toilets within the recreation area that need ongoing maintenance.
- e. There are a few sensitive cultural sites protected by fences and barriers within the OHV Recreation area. These include both historic and prehistoric resources. This project includes fence maintenance, plus routine Ranger patrols along with staff and volunteer monitoring.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [Our largest use of recycled sign material involves attaching reflective material]

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 0

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- Camping Birding
- Hiking Equestrian trails
- Fishing Rock Climbing
- Other (Specify) [Land Sailing, Gyrocopter, rocket shooting]