

April 5, 2009

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Subject: Public Comment on Preliminary Grant Application
Education & Safety / Friends of Hope Valley
Grant # G08-04-12-503

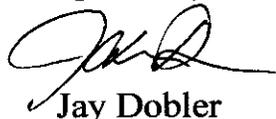
As a Member of the Citizens Alpine County Winter Recreation Plan Committee and a representative of the California-Nevada Snowmobile Association , I make the following comments regarding this Preliminary Application:

1. This Grant Application does not focus specifically on OHV Opportunity or Safety. In fact , the first page only uses the reference to OHV in 2 sentences only. This grant application only refers to Winter Recreation and avoids specifying OHV activities. It lacks specifying references to things such OHV Trail heads,, and just Trail heads. OHV Grants should be directed to OHV opportunity specifically, understanding that other user groups may benefit.
2. This grant duplicates existing information that is available thru the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest , including on-line. Additionally, the CNSA website provides information. Funding for additional Website development is not appropriate.
3. The CNSA also has an Operating field Safety Training Program that has existed for over 12 years, and has a Course scheduled for the Winter of 2010 in Hope Valley. This course is available to anyone, free of charge. The course is defiantly designed for Snowmobilers, but also is informative to other users. CNSA funding for this comes partially from an existing OHV Grant.
4. This Grant would duplicate and existing Grant for safety training to CNSA.

5. The Signage listed in the Grant Application makes no reference to OHV Opportunity or Education. Red Lakes and Centerville is currently provide no OSV opportunity or very limited. Red Lake access is currently Closed to OSV by an improperly issued Forest Order. The OSV access at this location has become extremely limited and now lacks sufficient parking for OHV/OSV. Additionally, the access is on a County Road and adjacent to Private Lands. Centerville has no current Access or adequate parking . Blue Lakes SnoPark has 2 existing Information Kiosk's which should be adequate.
6. Printing of Maps: We believe maps are important, but the printing of 15,000 maps would be inappropriate at this time. The new Alpine County Winter Recreation Plan is not Implemented and will take 10 to 15 years to be a reality. Maps should be printed in smaller quantities and updated as the Plan progresses. Being as accurate as possible will avoid user dissatisfaction and avoid complaints to the Forest. Misdirecting any user to an area of Opportunity that doesn't exist would be a Disaster. Maps have been provided and printed by the Forest. Funding for maps should be direct with the Forest to avoid Grantee markup .
7. A \$ 36,500.00 OHV grant to an Organization that has a history of denying and opposing existing OHV use on the Forest is also somewhat troublesome. Many of the Leadership of this Applicant Organization have been strong Opponents to OSV/OHV access and use on this Forest. It would be impossible for me or CNSA to support this grant.

This being said,,we would look to cooperate with the Friends of Hope Valley to coordinate our joint efforts to improve the Education and Safety of all Users in the Forest. It is in our Mutual best interest to find common grounds to build on and enhance the enjoyment of our Forest for All.

Respectfully,



Jay Dobler

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