



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: Great Basin District Program Overview
STAFF: Russ Dingman, District Superintendent
SUBJECT: Great Basin District Overview

Summary

The following provides an overview of the Great Basin District's unit structure and core program areas.

Discussion

District Structure

The District is comprised of two State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) park units, four State Historic Parks (SHP) units, three State Parks (SP) units and two State Natural Reserves (SNR) units. The District encompass 11 parks, which serves a combined 496,000 visitors a year.

Within the District structure, more than 100 full-time, intermittent, and seasonal employees comprise the staff that are responsible for administration, facilities, public safety, interpretation and education, and natural and cultural Resources. The eleven park units shared responsibilities across park unit boundaries that focus on strategic planning. Special attention is given to ensure a separation of funding sources, along with detailed accounting procedures to track funds within the District. The end result translates into better customer services for the public.

In addition, the increased level of investment in our staff through job and task sharing, co-training, and sharing knowledge and resources to accomplish the mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) and individual park units.

Hungry Valley SVRA. The SVRA provides approximately 20,000 acres of diverse recreation. Hungry Valley SVRA is the third largest unit of California State Park's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. Hungry Valley SVRA offers more than 4,000 acres of open space and 130 miles of designated trails and unmarked trails that

traverse a variety of terrain from sand washes, to rolling hills, to hill climbs. Hungry Valley SVRA has eleven campgrounds with over 200 campsites throughout the park and one group camp. In addition to camping and off-highway recreation, Hungry Valley SVRA is host to several special events, commercial filming, and military training.

We are in the process of updating the Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan, which will provide a comprehensive management plan that will guide the future of Hungry Valley SVRA for the next 20 to 30 years. The General Plan update will incorporate a multitude of mission-driven goals and guidelines that will focus management efforts on maintaining and improving programs and facilities. Expanding opportunities for mobile concessions, adding training tracks and features, as well as acquisition and developing a revenue program that directly benefits park programs are just a few of the General Plan goals.

Onyx Ranch SVRA is the second largest unit of California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. Onyx Ranch SVRA is the newest acquisition. Located in Eastern Kern County on the western edge of the Mojave Desert, the SVRA offers over 26,000 acres of scenic and challenging terrain for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), motorcycles, recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) and 4x4 vehicles. Open riding is available at the BLM's Jawbone Canyon and Dove Springs locations

Laid out in a checkerboard fashion, Onyx Ranch SVRA is surrounded by mostly Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land that traverse across BLM, State Parks, and private land. Onyx Ranch SVRA has semi-developed camping areas that are available, however the majority of our park visitors enjoy the option of dispersed camping throughout the park and the surrounding areas.

The Department is in the process of working on a General Plan for Onyx Ranch SVRA. This plan will provide a comprehensive management plan that will guide the future of Onyx Ranch SVRA for the next 20 to 30 years. The General Plan update will incorporate a multitude of mission-driven goals and guidelines that will focus management efforts on maintaining and improving programs and facilities, while integrating the SVRA's network of routes with federal and local government agencies in developing a regional route system throughout the area.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

None