



MT. SHASTA VISTA VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

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EIN: 68-357390

March 31, 2014

Klamath National Forest, Gooseneck Ranger District
Attn: OHV Grants
1711 S. Main St.
Yreka, CA 96097

Re: Juniper Flat OHV Park

To Whom it May Concern;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the grant for the improvements at the Juniper Flat OHV area.

Mt. Shasta Vista Volunteer Fire Company (MSVVFC) response area includes the Juniper Flat OHV park and we support the completed and upcoming improvements with the following exceptions:

1. The addition of barbeque grills in the picnic area coupled with the already in place toilet facilities, may encourage non OHV people to set up permanent living camp sites exacerbating an already potentially volatile wildfire area. As it is, there are a significant number of people in the private land area that borders the park that currently live in a permanent camping state without the benefit of any water resources. Over the past several years, that type of living has created a number of illegal and escaped burning incidents and is one of our top concerns as a wildfire threat.

As an example of a seemingly good idea that has gone bad is the public access camp area at Lake Shastina. It is our belief that the OHV park will need to be closely monitored by KNF in perpetuity to ensure that it stays a day use area only.

2. With the ever increasing usage of the OHV park there clearly needs to be a larger area provided for the OHV's to travel in. The greater number of OHV's in a confined space creates a greater chance for accidents. If possible, expanding the trail eastward and under Highway 97 would allow the OHV's more area to travel lessening the opportunity for accidents.

3. A few months ago, Supervisor Kobseff provided maps of fire department response zones that included USFS gated roads. We were to supply information whether we wanted the gates to be open or stay closed. Our preference was to keep the gates closed and that is still the case. The concern is OHV riders having access to the bordering private roads.

MSVVFC's priorities are decreasing fire dangers and increasing safety for the people within the response zone. We do believe the OHV park has the potential to become an important asset to the community and we appreciate KNF's willingness to listen to the community.

Sincerely,

Mary Cameron, MSVVFC Chief