

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2013
9:03 to 5:36 p.m.

Lake Natoma Inn
702 Gold Lake Drive
Folsom, CA 95630

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul Slavik, Chair
E. Theodore Cabral
Kevin Murphy
Edward Patrovsky
Diana Pérez
M. Teresa Villegas

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Breene Kerr, Vice Chair

OHMVR DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Chris Conlin, Deputy Director
Phil Jenkins, Division Chief
Maria Mowrey, Administrative Chief
Claire LeFlore, Chief Counsel, State Parks

OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER - 9:03 A.M.

- (A) Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Patrovsky
- (B) Roll Call – Six OHMVR Commission Members present at time of roll call. One Commission Member absent. Two Commission Member appointments vacant.

AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to allow a time variable for the BLM report was made by Commissioner Cabral and seconded by Commissioner Patrovsky. Motion carried.

Chair Slavik informed Commissioners that the 150th Anniversary presentation will be moved to Item IV (B) (1).

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Commissioner Cabral and seconded by Commissioner Villegas. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM III (A) – APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2013 MINUTES

The Commissioners acknowledged appreciation of the summary minutes. Chief Jenkins informed the Commission that both the transcripts and minutes will be posted on the Internet. Motion to approve the March 23, 2013, minutes was made by Commissioner Villegas and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried.

Chief Jenkins confirmed the meeting transcripts would be posted on the internet.

AGENDA ITEM IV – INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM IV (A) – COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Chair Slavik reported on the following:

- He was asked to be a California partner of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council. He asked Kane Silverberg, a previous Commissioner, to be the alternate partner. Mr. Silverberg will attend the national conference in October.
- He suggested the September Commission meeting be held at the Orange County Fairgrounds so everyone attending the Sand Sports Super Show would have easy access to the meeting. He views this as an opportunity to engage the public and provide them with a chance to get to know the Commissioners. Discussion was held about holding workshops at the show in order to provide a venue for the Commissioners and public to meet.

Commissioner Villegas said she thought events like this also provide opportunities to meet, and have discussions with, members from the off-highway vehicle (OHV) industry.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry, Chief Jenkins stated subcommittee reports should be given during the Commissioners' reports.

- Commissioner Cabral reported on the following:
 - He has been working with staff to obtain existing information and maps on the statewide-motorized trail system. Commissioner Murphy confirmed he was the second member of the Statewide Motorized Trail System subcommittee.
 - He and Amy Granat from CORVA met with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) staff to discuss the draft of the forest synthesis report. He said USFS staff was receptive to the information provided about OHV use in the forests, and felt, at the conclusion of the meeting, that they had a better understanding of OHV recreation. He anticipates USFS staff and the scientists will conduct more research and provide additional information about OHV usage in the next draft of the forest synthesis report.
 - He had a meeting with Kathy Mick from USFS to discuss common goals and ways to move forward despite the different operating methods used by federal, state and local governments.
 - He is excited about the new Parks leadership and appreciative of the OHMVR Division staffs' commitment to the Program.

- He also reported that he has not been able to set up a meeting with the Eldorado National Forest staff.

In response to Commissioners Cabral and Pérez's inquiry, Chief Jenkins indicated staff would provide a list of subcommittees with the Commission meeting materials.

- Commissioner Villegas reported on the following:
 - She, along with Commissioner Pérez and District Superintendent Jeff Gaffney, met with Senator Lara to discuss and solicit his support of SB 234. They were not successful in getting him to co-author this legislation, but were able to provide him with more information about OHV recreation and the role of the Commission.
 - They also met with State Parks Commissioner Elva Yanez to discuss Commission activities. Commissioner Villegas stated that the purpose of the meetings with the State Parks Commissioners is to engage and nurture a good working relationship in order to exchange information.
 - While in the Los Angeles area, they had a meeting with L.A. County Parks. County Parks staff briefed them on completed and on-going OHV projects.
 - Chair Slavik will join her on a tour of the urban parks in the San Gabriel Canyon area at the end of the month.
 - She reported an OHV urban park in the north area of Los Angeles County is scheduled to open before the end of the year.
 - She also met with L.A. County Sheriff staff to discuss urban parks and the need for more OHV recreation opportunities in this area.
- Commissioner Patrovsky reported on the following:
 - He met with San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood to discuss Johnson Valley. One week after the meeting, the County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to endorse Congressman Cook's bill, which, if passed, would leave most of the area open for OHV recreation and designate Johnson Valley as an OHV Recreation Area.
 - He also met with Matt Knotts, the head fuel representative for Congressman Cook. They discuss OHV issues, including Johnson Valley. Mr. Knotts provided background on past side-by-side legislation sponsored by Congressman Cook during his tenure as an Assemblyman.
- Commissioner Pérez reported on the following:
 - She participated in a tour of Oceano Dunes with Supervisor Paul Teixeira, City Council Member Roberta Fonzi, and Deputy Director Conlin. During the tour, Will Harris, Bonnie Kluge, and District Superintendent Brent Marshall provided information on the complexity of the dunes and the challenges staff face on a daily basis. Supervisor Teixeira said the tour provided information previously unknown to him. Efforts were made to conduct tours for other Air Pollution Control Board Members, but they were postponed due to the perception of potential Brown Act violations.
 - She met with Randy Jordan, owner of Sun Buggies.
 - She attended General Jackson's meet and greet at Pismo Beach.
 - She had a meeting with Jan Marx, Mayor of San Luis Obispo.

- She took an additional tour of Oceano Dunes where she was able to see firsthand the day-to-day operations of the park, as well as witness the types of challenges staff deals with on a daily basis. She acknowledged the need for additional staff and equipment, and praised the quality and quantity of work performed by the staff.
- She confirmed Supervisor Debbie Arnold agreed to attend an Oceano Dunes tour later in May.
- She will participate in a tour of Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) with Congressman Farr, General Jackson, and Deputy Director Conlin on June 24, 2013. An invitation to participate in the tour was extended to Commissioner Villegas.

In response to Commissioner Murphy's request to also attend the CCMA tour, Counsel LeFlore stated the tour would have to be publicly noticed if there were more than two Commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Murphy withdrew his request.

- Commissioner Murphy reported on the following:
 - He toured CCMA with Dan Canfield and Matt Allen. The BLM representative scheduled for the tour was unable to attend. He noted that for a temporary closure, it looked more like a permanent closure because the trailheads were completely fenced off with steel fencing, and there was absolutely no activity in the area.
 - He worked with Commissioner Cabral and Dan Canfield to draft a protest letter to BLM requesting the adoption of Option B regarding CCMA.

In response to Commissioner Murphy's question about asking the AMA to send out a political action alert encouraging the adoption of Option B, Chair Slavik said it would be more appropriate to discuss this during the BLM presentation.

Chair Slavik thanked the Commissioners for their active involvement with the public and government agencies regarding OHV recreation.

Discussion was held regarding the Brown Act and potential violations. Chief Counsel LeFlore informed the Commission that state agencies are subject to the Bagley-Keene Act while local governments are under the jurisdiction of the Brown Act. Both laws are similar in their requirements to publicly notice any meeting when more than two members of any board or commission are present.

Commissioner Pérez expressed concern that even if only two members meet it may appear to be a serial meeting. Counsel LeFlore stated that a meeting of only two members of a board or commission does not constitute a serial meeting. A serial meeting would occur if one commissioner phoned every other commissioner individually and discussed the same topic.

In response to the Commissioners' request for Bagley-Keene Act training, Chief Jenkins assured the Commissioners that staff would create a Commissioner Resource Handbook which would include the Commission's current policies and procedures,

Bagley-Keene Act cheat sheet, and other resources. The handbook will be available at the next Commission meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the Air Pollution Control Boards' interest in touring Oceano Dunes.

Chair Slavik thanked Tina Williams for facilitating the purchase of Commissioner polo shirts.

AGENDA ITEM IV (B) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director Conlin thanked the Commissioners and the public for their continued participation and involvement in the OHMVR Program. He spoke about his background and qualifications, and stated he was here to provide a neutral perspective and the leadership necessary to achieve the Program's goals.

He also spoke about General Jackson's strategic plan and said State Parks is in a period of great opportunity. He stressed the importance of cultivating public trust, letting people know about all of State Parks' accomplishments, and getting people to the parks. Not only does State Parks protect and preserve the environment, but it provides an opportunity for people to connect with nature while recreating responsibly.

He addressed the sunset clause, and stressed the need for a permanent OHV Program.

Chief Counsel LeFlore spoke about General Jackson's Parks Forward initiative. The initiative creates a partnership between the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Resources Agency, and the Resources Legacy Fund.

Legislation enacted last September when the undisclosed funds were found directed the Department to create a commission or task force of independent people to conduct an assessment of the State Parks system. The commission is also tasked with reviewing financial, operational, cultural, and other challenges facing State Parks, developing recommendations for a long-term plan, and identifying potential sources of sustainable funding to keep parks open and available to the public.

The Resources Legacy Fund, along with a consortium of different philanthropical organizations, including the Bechtel and Moore Foundations, will help the Department fund the project. A project director, assistant project director, support staff, as well as staff from the Resources Agency and Department will be leading the effort on behalf of State Parks.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will host a series of hearings or workshops throughout the state to get public input. Chief Counsel LeFlore asked the OHMVR Commission to submit suggestions to Division staff regarding the type of input they would like to present to this commission.

In response to Commissioner Villegas' request for clarity about Parks Commission workshops, Chief Counsel LeFlore said she was not aware of the specific topics at this

time, but the workshops would be held at different locations throughout the state. She also said only one or two Parks commissioners would attend each workshop.

In response to further inquiry from Commissioner Villegas regarding the OHMVR Commission's role in the process, Deputy Director Conlin stated it is still a work in progress and roles have not been defined. It is not necessarily directed just at the financial issue, but part of a stratagem to take Parks to the next level, to do what is necessary to make it sustainable, and to make it better and more efficient. He further stated that although the OHMVR Program has different legislation, mandates, and funding, we are part of State Parks, and will leverage the Parks Forward concept in the OHMVR Program.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's question about the possibility of an OHMVR Commissioner becoming a member of the Parks Forward commission, Chief Counsel LeFlore stated that none of the State Parks four commissions (Parks and Recreation Commission, OHMVR Commission, Historical Preservation Commission, and Boating and Waterways Commission) have been invited to have a member on that commission. She suggested that the OHMVR Commission may want to discuss whether or not they want a Commissioner present at some or all of the Parks Forward meetings.

In response to Commissioner Pérez's question about how OHV will be represented and who will be the OHV advocate, Chief Counsel LeFlore stated she did not have any specifics at that time, but assured the Commission that Division staff will have some input once the work team has been established.

Deputy Director Conlin told the Commissioners that OHMVR Division staff will continue to provide updates to the Commission about the Parks Forward initiative and information about the workshops will be sent to them.

In response to Commissioner Pérez's question about why people were not able to use the free park passes received when someone becomes a member of the Parks Foundation at OHV parks, Chief Jenkins stated that park passes have always been kept separate because of the different funding sources and the disparity in day-use fees between OHV parks and General Funded parks.

AGENDA ITEM IV (C) – BLM REPORT

BLM State Director Jim Kenna provided an update. He hoped the Commissioners enjoyed their visit to the Chappie-Shasta OHV area and expressed pride in the progress made on the road and trails system in that area.

Mr. Kenna stated that BLM manages over 15 million acres in California and discussed the impact to local economies from public lands. Recent estimates for California are \$2.5 billion per year and 9,600 jobs. Of the 9 million visits to public lands annually, 5 million are for OHV recreation.

BLM is currently on a continuing resolution rather than a normal budget and, as a result, funding for recreation has been reduced about 7-1/2%—approximately \$600,000 in cuts

statewide. Mr. Kenna briefly discussed BLM's 30-year relationship working with the OHV Commission and Division. He further stated that BLM has received over \$135 million in grant funds.

He discussed the Resource Management Plan for Imperial Sand Dunes, a major recreation destination receiving 1.1 visitors annually. After 12-13 years, the Plan is close to completion. They are in the consultation process with the State Historic Preservation Office relating to the Record of Decision and anticipate finalizing the long-term management plan soon. They are also in the process of preparing a business plan and looking at available funding. A study completed in 2003 estimated Imperial Sand Dunes needs a \$6 million operating budget; the current operating budget is approximately \$4.5 million. He spoke about the cuts to services and the roads program, but also stressed the need to provide general staff and law enforcement, as well as maintain some of the emergency medical services during the high-level use times. He expressed concerns about some upward trends in driving under the influence and narcotics use and wants to make sure the area remains safe for families.

With regard to fees, he said the public does not want an increase in fees and has requested that seasonal passes continue to be offered. He further explained if fees remain as low as they currently are, BLM will have to make changes in some levels of service. They intend to work with the USFS Recreation Resource Advisory Council and/or the local Desert Advisory Council to provide an additional opportunity for the public to comment on the business plan before final decisions are made. Mr. Kenna anticipates a decision before the start of the season in September.

Mr. Kenna gave an update on the CCMA, expressed appreciation for the help provided by the Division, and acknowledged uncertainties and the need to work through the issues.

A discussion was held about the preferred alternatives and the formal protest period conducted by the Washington office. Mr. Kenna noted his view that the preferred alternative is a starting point. He felt it was important to have an adaptive management component in the preferred alternative as well as a prescribed time period to revisit the asbestos issue.

Commissioner Murphy stated the Commission submitted a letter proposing adoption of Option B, and suggested the public contact their elected officials and encourage adoption of Option B. Mr. Kenna said he hoped the public submitted their comments before the protest period ended on May 6th.

In response to Commissioner Patrovksy's question about ranger staffing in the California Desert District, Mr. Kenna said BLM has seen a slowdown in hiring, but they are trying to provide as high a level of service as possible.

Commissioner Pérez commented on the \$10 fee and recognized that people do not want fees to increase, but suggested BLM review this option again stressing the importance of providing services and continued access to recreation areas. She further stated the

importance of communicating with the public—let them know what they are getting in exchange for their fees.

Commissioner Cabral thanked Mr. Kenna for his report. He spoke about the public's unanimous support to reopen CCMA and felt the asbestos risk was minimal. He also said he thought recreationists, motorized or non-motorized, realize there is an inherent risk in most activities.

Chair Slavik invited Mr. Kenna to attend the next Commission meeting on September 20-21, 2013, at the Sand Sports Super Show in Orange County stating it would be a great opportunity to connect with people who recreate in Imperial Sand Dunes.

Commissioner Pérez extended an invitation to join the CCMA tour on June 24th.

AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM IV(C)

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association
Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
Tom Tammone

In response to John Stewart's inquiry regarding two different address listings for submission of protests regarding the CCMA, Mr. Kenna stated he would research why the Final Environmental Impact Statement listed one address and the BLM website provided another address thereby resulting in the return of some protest letters to the senders.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(5) – 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mike Lynch, co-chair of the Department's Statewide 150th Anniversary Committee, provided a report on the 150th Anniversary. He stated the new Director adopted the program as a vehicle to rebuild the public trust and remind people of the value of the parks.

2014 marks the 150th anniversary of the park movement in the United States. On June 30, 1864, Abraham Lincoln signed a bill granting Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove to the State of California for public resort use and recreation forever. In 1866 the Parks Commission held its first meeting and appointed Galen Clark as the first paid state park employee. Additional historical background information was presented by Mr. Lynch.

A few of the projects the Anniversary Committee has been involved with include:

- Development of programs and exhibits;
- Distributing banners to all parks;
- Distributing commemorative pins to all employees; and
- Travel trailer design for a 150th road show.

In response to Commissioner Murphy's question about the approach that will be used to inform the public, Mr. Lynch stated they will use social media, website(s), events, etc. A public rollout is planned for September 2013 with the Governor proclaiming 2014 as the year of California State Parks 150th anniversary. He also said they would like to work with OHMVR staff to develop a formal resolution recognizing the 150th that the Commission could adopt at one of the upcoming meetings.

In addition, a joint ceremony with Yosemite National Park is planned for June 30, 2014, with the goal of having the President, Secretary of Interior, and Governor in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

Bruce Brazil

Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association

Dave Pickett, District 36

John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs

Nick Harris

Tom Tammone

Discussion was held regarding the Governor's decision to redirect the RTP funds to CalTrans. Deputy Director Conlin suggested the public and the Commissioners (individually or as a group) express their concerns to the legislature and the Governor's office. It was confirmed that the funds are allocated on an annual basis, and public influence may or may not affect decisions for future allocations. Chair Slavik suggested putting the RTP issue on an upcoming meeting agenda so the Commission could vote on whether or not they wanted to submit a letter expressing their concerns.

Chief Jenkins explained the Truckhaven properties swap with Anza-Borrego and assured the public that land parcels paid for out of the OHV Trust Fund are not being used for non-motorized recreation.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(7) – HANGTOWN-PRAIRIE CITY

District Superintendent Fehling spoke briefly about his background and experience with State Parks and followed up with an overview of Prairie City SVRA. He discussed the park's diverse facilities and the variety of resource and education programs administered by staff.

Prairie City SVRA Overview

The park offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities—from quarter midget tracks to kids tracks to 4x4 riding areas as well as a mini Rubicon Trail. The recently improved 4x4 area provides rock crawling challenges for beginners and more experienced recreationists. The mini Rubicon Trail was created as a result of a stormwater management project. Sediments from water runoff settle into a sediment basin beneath the strategically placed rocks and boulders that provide the obstacles for rock crawling enthusiasts.

Special events are held approximately 120 days a year. Due to the many multiuse facilities located throughout the park, multiple activities are going on every day. The Ten Week mountain bike event held on Wednesdays, the one day a week the park is closed, draws participants from a variety of demographics, increases the park's user base, and creates additional advocates for OHV parks.

The Mud Mart Concession, a prominent point of contact for park visitors, provides parts and supplies, food services, rentals and repairs.

Another unique facility at Prairie City SVRA is the Environmental Training Center (ETC). The ETC consists of a classroom, two training ranges, and a three-acre trail system landscaped with native plants representing five bioregions of California. The ETC building is equipped with solar panels that generate about 10% more energy than it uses. The trail system is used for ATV, dirt bike and recreational off-highway vehicle (ROV) training. The Off-Highway PALs program also uses the ETC facilities to teach at-risk youth ages 12 to 17 how to ride ATVs and dirt bikes, as well as drive ROVs. Utilizing an ATV simulator, as well as other educational tools, the interpretive team's goal is to promote sustainable OHV recreation by educating the public on environmentally responsible and safe riding practices.

The park has a proactive Habitat Management Plan that involves rotational closure and opening of hill areas. A section of hill is closed temporarily, recontoured with soil from sediment basins, and vegetation re-established, while another section is reopened, essentially creating a neutral balance of closed and opened hillsides.

Park volunteers continue to play a vital role at Prairie City SVRA. During the last tree-planting project, volunteers planted about 100 trees. Prairie City SVRA is also used by many agencies for grassland fire training.

District Superintendent Fehling reported that Prairie City SVRA is in the initial stages of updating its general plan and anticipates holding the first public meeting in June.

In response to Commissioner Murphy's inquiry about staff availability to ensure environmental protection at the park, District Superintendent Fehling told him they have an environmental scientist onsite and additional resources available at the Division and Parks Department.

Commissioner Cabral expressed his appreciation for the improvements made at Prairie City SVRA throughout the years and said it serves as a good example of an OHV recreation area near a large urban area.

Chief Jenkins acknowledged former District Superintendent Bob Williamson's leadership in transitioning the park to what it is today. District Superintendent Fehling also thanked Randy Caldera for his contributions to the park improvements.

Hangtown Motocross Classic

District Superintendent Fehling introduced Sector Superintendent Jeanne Sisson who gave a presentation on the Hangtown motocross race that has been held at Prairie City

SVRA since 1979. She provided a brief history of the event from its inception to what it is today. She also acknowledged the Dirt Diggers North involvement with improvements to the track over the years including installation of a permanent irrigation system, restrooms, an announcement tower, and gazebos.

Today's Hangtown Motocross Classic is a nationally televised event that kicks off the 12-race Lucas Oil AMA Motocross Series. The event is considered the "crown jewel" of the series. It is also the only event on the motocross schedule that is still run by a motorcycle club and held on public lands.

Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee, provided an overview of the event and discussed the economic impact to the local communities.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1) – GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATE CONTINUED

Continuing with the General Program Update, Deputy Director Conlin reported on the fire at Hungry Valley SVRA and Los Padres National Forest. He stated that Hungry Valley SVRA has a new District Superintendent, Kent Miller, and acknowledged the good job Garratt Aitchison is doing in Ocotillo Wells.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(2) – LEGISLATION UPDATE

OHMVR staff member Tina Williams provided a brief update on AB 64.

A discussion was held on the roles of the Division and Commission regarding proposed legislation. Chief Jenkins stated the Division can only offer technical advice and cannot advocate for or against proposed state legislation.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(3) – PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

OHMVR staff member Mike Lair reported on the law enforcement training grants and upcoming law enforcement deployments. Scheduled deployments include the Rubicon Trail, the King of the Hammers at Johnson Valley, and a Thanksgiving weekend detail at the Red Rock/Dove Springs/Jawbone area.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(4) – OCEANO DUNES / PMRP UPDATE

Deputy Director Conlin provided an update on the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control Board Rule 1001 that requires Oceano Dunes to monitor PM10. The park is currently operating 9 of the 12 temporary monitoring stations that have been set up to help determine locations for permanent monitoring stations, which are scheduled to be installed in October 2014.

A discussion was held on the possible purchase of the La Grande tract. Chief Jenkins stated the best course of action is to try to secure an option the major of Grover Beach supports, but fund allocations will depend on the budget process.

AGENDA ITEM IV(D) – USFS REPORT

Kathleen Mick with the USFS introduced Debra Whithall, Regional 5 Social Scientist for the Pacific Southwest Region. Ms. Whithall spoke about the forest plan revision process

under the new 2012 National Planning Rule, the travel analysis process and its relationship to planning, best available scientific information, and some of the USFS's public involvement strategies.

The 2012 National Planning Rule directs that a forest plan provide for social, economic, and ecological sustainability within USFS authority. Forest plans start with an assessment, which synthesizes existing information related to social, economic, and ecological conditions and trends. The assessment may lead to proposed forest plan revisions. She stated that the forest plan revision is a programmatic document and will not make site-specific decisions on motorized use. It could, however, influence future project-level decisions concerning motorized use based on the five components of the plan—desired conditions, objectives, suitability of uses, standards, and guidelines.

Although the travel management rule and planning rule are separate and not interdependent, the travel analysis process provides up-to-date road information and an increased understanding of road-related issues.

The 2012 National Rule requires the use of best available information in the development of forest planning documents. Scientific information used in the planning process comes from a variety of sources—peer-reviewed scientific literature, government reports, professional associations and interest groups, and the public. Ms. Whithall stated this information is different than the Science Synthesis. The Science Synthesis, researched and written by scientists at the Pacific Southwest Research Station, supports the scientific basis of the assessment. The Science Synthesis is a programmatic document as well and will not make site-specific decisions for any project; it will be used for planning purposes to guide planning phases of specific projects at a later time. The anticipated publishing date for the final version is set for late July or early August.

Ms. Whithall also discussed Our Forest Plan (ourforestplace.dot.ning.com/)—a website designed to improve public participation in the planning process. This website gives the public an opportunity to interact directly with one another and members of the regional planning team. Living Assessment, a Wiki-style website accessible from Our Forest Place, hosts the 15 topic papers required by the 2012 Planning Rule directives. It focuses on relevant information, scientific understanding and monitoring results and, regardless of the edits made to the documents, all information is captured and saved.

In addition to the above-referenced websites, the three early adopter national forests—the Sierra, Sequoia, and Inyo National Forests—have collaborative communications plans. The plans identify a range of activities including public meetings, webinars, podcasts, workshops, and forest-level websites.

Commissioner Cabral requested a meeting with Ms. Whithall to discuss the forest management plan process in more detail.

Chair Slavik thanked Ms. Whithall for her presentation. He stressed the importance of the Commissioners and the OHV community becoming involved in the Living Assessment process. Ms. Whithall stated there is no formal comment period during the

assessment phase of the planning process. The purpose of the assessment period is to identify current conditions and trends, and see if there are any inconsistencies with the existing forest plan.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry about quality control, Ms. Whithall outlined some of the safeguards that have been put into place.

In addition to the websites, a series of public meetings—the Sierra Cascades Dialogue—are being held. The topic for the upcoming May 30th meeting is the draft Bio-Regional Assessment.

Diana Erickson, landscape architect, Eldorado National Forest, discussed the travel management Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), commonly known as the 42 Routes Project. She provided background information about the 2008 travel management EIS which created a designated route system for OHVs. In 2011, the Eastern District Court ruled that the USFS failed to evaluate 42 routes that crossed or bordered meadows, and issued a court order resulting in the closure of portions of those routes pending the outcome and decision in the SEIS.

In February, a Draft SEIS was released which presented four alternatives. After the effects of the four alternatives were analyzed, Alternative 3 was selected. This alternative consists of the following:

- The 14 routes that did not cross or border meadows would be designated for public motor vehicle use and reopened.
- The 10 routes that cross or border meadows and meet the standard and guidelines would be designated for public motor vehicle use and reopened.
- The 18 routes that did not meet the standard and guidelines would not be designated for public motor vehicle use until corrective actions are analyzed and implemented.

The USFS then prioritized the 18 routes. Tier One includes routes in high demand and ones that require relatively easy corrective actions; Tier Two routes involve relatively difficult corrective actions with high demand for public use; and Tier Three routes involve difficult corrective actions with a bit less recreational demand. Three grant applications were submitted to the OHMVR Division requesting funds to address a number of these routes.

They anticipate releasing the Final SEIS in June.

Former USFS employee, Lester Lubetkin, responded to Chair Slavik's inquiry about the practicality of the solutions proposed in Alternative 3, stating he felt this was the best solution because it allowed the USFS to move forward and reopen many of the routes sooner.

In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry if these routes were user-created, Mr. Lubetkin said they were older system routes—some date back to the mid-1800s—and some are roads constructed by the USFS.

Further discussion ensued on clarifying hydrologic connectivity and route closures or reroutings.

Kathleen Mick provided an overview of pending litigation regarding the over-snow vehicles program (OSV) indicating there are some implications for future OSV management and planning. She will keep the Division apprised of developments as they become known.

She is still working on organizing a meeting between Regional Forester, Randy Moore; other USFS executive leadership; and State Parks executive leadership, General Jackson and Deputy Director Conlin.

Ms. Mick reported on the NVUM (National Visitor Use Monitoring) used by USFS to monitor trend information nationally, regionally, and by forest.

A brief discussion was held about Ms. Mick's background and experience.

Ms. Mick showed a slideshow highlighting some of the national forests' recent accomplishments.

A discussion was held on Adopt-a-Trail and ways to promote volunteerism.

AGENDA ITEM – PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association
John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
Tom Tammone

AGENDA ITEM IV(6) – OHMVR PROGRAM TRIENNIAL REPORT

Chief Jenkins provided an update on the Triennial Report. The OHMVR Commission has the responsibility of reporting to the Governor and the Legislature on the status of California's OHMVR Program every three years. The Triennial Report is due January 1, 2014. The Division provides staff support to accomplish this task. The contents of the Triennial Report have to be discussed at a minimum of two Commission meetings. Chair Slavik and Commissioner Pérez are on the subcommittee.

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed outline for the report, including the following items required by legislation:

- Strategic Plan accomplishments
- Condition of natural and cultural resources relative to areas and trails funded by the OHV Trust Fund
- Conflict resolution relative to areas and trails funded by the OHV Trust Fund
- Status and accomplishments of the OHMVR Division Grants Program restoration projects
- Summary of the OHMVR Division resource monitoring
- Summary of completed OHMVR Division restoration projects

- Actions taken by the OHMVR Division to reduce OHV trespass
- Other relevant Program-related environmental issues

The Commissioners submitted the following suggestions regarding the report:

- Commissioner Slavik
 - Include history of the OHMVR Commission
 - Include an Executive Summary
- Commissioner Pérez
 - Provide information regarding the economic benefits the SVRAs provide to the public
 - Information on diversity of usage
 - More condensed, easier to read report, plus a summary version
 - Include photos
- Commissioner Cabral
 - Use General Jackson’s Strategic Plan as a framework
 - Smaller, more condensed report that can be used as a marketing tool
 - Move bullet points listed on the proposed outline under “Review statewide OHV recreation needs” to the beginning of the document
- Commissioner Murphy
 - Include a summarized version of the report with references to detailed information
 - Include photos
- Commissioner Villegas
 - Agreed the report should be condensed
 - Make key pitches at the beginning of report—focus on the Commission and discuss the 2018 Program sunset clause

All Commissioners agreed to include a message from the Chair and the Deputy Director.

Discussion was held on developing a mission statement for the Commission. Deputy Director Conlin suggested paraphrasing the OHMVR Commission Act language establishing the Commission rather than develop a mission statement at this time.

Chief Counsel LeFlore recommended the Commissioners review the proposed outline and submit comments and suggestions to Chief Jenkins or Dan Canfield within the next few weeks. A more detailed discussion could then be held at the next Commission meeting.

In response to Commissioner Murphy’s inquiry about including information about the 150th anniversary, Deputy Director Conlin responded that he could include this information in his message. He also agreed that any opportunity to let the public know about the Program’s positive accomplishments helps support General Jackson’s concept of restoring public trust.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TRIENNIAL REPORT

Comments was heard from the following individual:

- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs

Discussion was held on the following suggestions:

- Highlight program growth and SVRA visitation
- Change SVRA Special Events/Project Coordination to Public/Private Partnerships
- Include Visitor Use charts in the summary

AGENDA ITEM V(A) – CHANGES TO GRANTS REGULATIONS

OHMVR staff member Kelly Long provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to the Grants Regulations:

- Clarification to the evaluation criteria; make it less confusing for the grantees
- Remove outdated plant and animal classifications from the Habitat Management Program
- Increase the cap to 30% for the acquisition planning and development category
- Include language to ensure developments funded by Grant Funds remain available for use

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CHANGES TO GRANTS REGULATIONS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Tom Tammone
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Bruce Brazil

Motion was made by Commissioner Cabral and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to have staff move forward with the proposed changes to the Grants Regulations. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM V(B) – CHANGES TO OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE TO ELIMINATE WEEKEND MEETINGS

Discussion was held on changing the Commission Meeting day to Friday and four day to Saturday.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CHANGES TO OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Tom Tammone
- Bruce Brazil

AGENDA ITEM V(C) – ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR

Discussion was held on the timeframe for the election of new chair. It was agreed that election of a new chair would occur at the November meeting with the term on a calendar year—January to January.

Commissioner Pérez expressed interest in the Chair position.

Commissioner Villegas moved and Commissioner Cabral seconded to adjourn the Commission meeting at 5:36 pm. Motion carried.