



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Ruth Coleman, *Director*

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Dear Interested Party,

In response to the many helpful suggestions from the public and past applicants, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (the Division) has made a number of improvements to the regulations which govern the Grants and Cooperative Agreements program. The changes are as follows:

#### Definitions

- Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.
- Ground Disturbing Activity means any activity in which earth moving is performed that has the potential to directly or indirectly affect; soils, special-status species or sensitive habitats in or adjacent to the Project Area.
- Repair means to fix, mend, make new or revitalize to the condition of the habitat that existed prior to authorized or unauthorized OHV use and related.
- Restoration means upon closure of the unit or any portion thereof, the return of land to the contours, the plant communities, and the plant covers comparable to those on surrounding lands or at least those which existed prior the OHV use.

#### General Application Requirements

- All applicants shall complete an inventory of Equipment for items purchased with OHV trust funds, within the last five years.

#### Environmental Documents

- All federal agencies and Federally Recognized Native American Tribe applicants shall submit an analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed Project comparable with the requirements of CEQA. This compliance documentation for each Project or other comparable documentation prepared by the Applicant. IN addition, the Applicant shall submit responses to the ERDS for each Project to allow the OHVMR Division to make a sufficient Project review to determine the appropriate level of CEQA compliance and any additional environmental documentation required from the Applicant to conform the Applicant's environmental analysis to CEQA.
- All Applicants submitting proposed Project(s) involving Ground Disturbing Activity shall demonstrate that the Applicant has, or will implement, a Soil Conservation Plan that achieves the Soil Conservation Standard with regard to the proposed Project(s). Applicants shall submit only one Soil Conservation Plan for each Application. The Soil Conservation Plan shall encompass all Project Areas for every Project with Ground Disturbing Activities for which funding is requested.

## Soil Standards

- The standards correctly names the Consulting Agency Review Committee (CARC).
- Sustainable is clarified to mean that the facility will be managed to meet the soil conservation standard for a minimum service life of 25 years.
- Under Physiographic Data, Wildlife, the bullet: “Additional assessment may entail the development of a Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan (WHPP). A WHPP includes a description and survey of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and wildlife and wildlife habitat in the area of OHV activity.” is deleted.
- Under Project Design Features, Rolling Dips, the wording is revised to: Rolling dips are used for drainage control and should not be considered as features for OHV recreation – they are not intended as jumps for OHVs. Ideally, the trough length of a rolling dip is long enough so that spinning wheels of OHVs do not gouge the trail tread and alter the effectiveness of the rolling dip. Many factors dictate the appropriate spacing and dimensions of rolling dips, road steepness being the most important. The speed of OHV traffic on a trail is also important – rolling dips dimensions should generally be more elongated with faster traffic. As a general rule, rolling dips troughs should be at least as long as the average wheelbase of vehicles on the trail or road. For example, if a trail is intended for motorcycles only, and the typical motorcycle wheelbase is 55 inches, then the trough flat on a rolling dip should be approximately 55 inches, then the trough flat on a rolling dip should be approximately 55 inches. The figures below provide examples of basic rolling dip design.
- Under Project Design Features, Waterbreaks, the wording on “spinning wheels” is revised to: The spinning wheels of OHVs eventually obliterate the waterbreaks. More durable can be made by mixing soil with rock in the waterbreak core and/or adding a soil amendment such as cement or bentonite. Waterbreaks may also be hardened by positioning pre-formed concrete blocks known as “dogbones,” along the waterbreak crests. On-site materials, such as rock or timber, can be used if sufficient amounts of soil are unavailable.

We hope you will find these new regulations to be more accessible and easier to use. Thank you again for your on-going interest and participation in the OHMVR Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program. We appreciate your comments and welcome your suggestions as we continue to try and simplify the application process.

Sincerely,

Daphne C. Greene  
Deputy Director  
OHMVR Division, California State Parks