

COMMENTS TO THE 2009/10 GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM

FOR ALL GRANT REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY THE SEQUOIA NATIONAL FORREST

COMMENTER:

Monache Associates, Owners of Private Property in the Monache Meadow Complex of the Sequoia National Forrest.

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Monache Associates requests that the OHMVR Division reject/deny all SNF Grant Requests that are associated with the Kern River Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest until the Kern River Ranger District repairs/and agrees to maintain the Monache Four Wheel Drive Road (trail No. 34E38).

The Sequoia National Forest has submitted OHV Grand requests for \$1,057,752, excluding Law Enforcement, for the 2009/2010 period.

Ref. G09-02-15-D01
G09-02-15-G01
G09-02-15-R01
G09-02-15-S01

REASONS FOR DENIAL:

The Monache 4WD Road (34E38) is a single point destination road of approximately 8 miles in length that begins in the Sequoia National Forrest and terminates in the Inyo National Forest. Approximately 3 miles are in the SNF and 5 miles in the INF. This road is passable only by 4WD, ATV or motorcycle.

Over the past 8-10 years the SNF portion of this road has seriously deteriorated to near impossible conditions. Two sections are extremely difficult and dangerous areas and do not have water bars to prevent further damage and erosion. More and more users are building alternate unauthorized routs to circumvent these unmentioned sections. While the INF portion has seen major improvements (reroutes / wet land protection and is being maintained on a regular basis using OHV Grant funds.

The primary use of this road is destination to Private Property (approx 10 owners), for Cattle Grazing Permitees, Primitive Camping and Fishing on the S. Fork of the Kern River. This road is also used by the OHV Community as an "easy" route of 4 wheelers and young children on ATVs and motorcycles.

In 2008 one of the Monache Private Property Owners contacted the Kern River Ranger District in Kernville, Ca to complain about the progressive deterioration of this road and the lack of maintenance on the part of the SNF. He was told by the KRRD Recreation Officer, Ms. Cheryl Bauer, that the Forrest Service had "conducted a survey" and all wanted a "challenging" Jeep Road. In other words a "Rubicon Trail". No explanation was given as to why major maintained is being performed on the Inyo National Forest portion of this road.

Over the past two years I have had the opportunity to contact most of the Private Property Owners; both cattle range Permittees, and numerous campers and fisherman. No one whom I have contacted was asked are aware of any kind of Forest Service conducted survey.

As this road is primarily a destination road to private property, for cattle permittees operations, for fisherman, for campers and for light beginner type off road experience we request that all Grant funds directed to the Kern River Ranger District be with held until the road is repaired and maintained. It should remain as the 4WD Road as it has always been but not the vehicle buster it has become in the last 6-8 years.

The Monache Associates appreciates the opportunity to comment on these requests before the OHV Commission.

Respectfully,

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P.S. There was no contact person listed on these Grant Applications so these comments are being sent directly to the OHMVR Division.

For the record, I have been going to the Monache Area for the past 41 years and have been a property owners of the past 15 years. I am an experienced off roader and dirt biker and currently a Volunteer Off Road Patrolman at the Hungry Valley OHV Recreation Area.