



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

West Sacramento, CA

July 28, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update
STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division
SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

Several planning efforts are underway within State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). Carnegie SVRA, Ocotillo Wells SVRA, and Hungry Valley SVRA are in the process of updating their park general plans. There are also several OHV-related studies in the process, including an economic and demographic study and a study to expand OHV recreation in the State. This report describes each plan's purpose, process, and current milestones.

Discussion

Following is a summary of recent SVRA/OHV general plan developments.

Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update:

This proposed General Plan Update and EIR are limited to the 1,575-acre original Carnegie SVRA and exclude the Expansion Area. The classification of and planning for the Expansion Area will be addressed in the future under a separate planning effort.

The OHMVR Division prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) under Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The Planning Division and consultant held a virtual public scoping meeting on April 19, 2022, and the public comment period ended on April 30, 2022. Please visit the [Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update](#) webpage for project updates and to sign up to receive project email announcements. The team anticipates the draft updated general plan and EIR to be released for public review in late Summer 2023.

Hungry Valley SVRA:

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan has a project website at www.PlanHungryValley.com to facilitate public involvement and communication. Interested parties should visit the project website and register to receive email notifications regarding project progress. The planning team is preparing the administrative draft general plan and EIR for public review in Spring/Summer 2024.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA:

The General Plan was put on hold in 2019 and will restart in Summer 2023.

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan team, in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office staff, is developing a new land management plan for Ocotillo Wells SVRA/Ocotillo Wells Special Recreation Management Area. For compliance with both state and federal land management policies, the long-term land management plan for Ocotillo Wells SVRA is envisioned to be comprised of the following:

- a California State Park unit General Plan,
- a BLM Recreation Area Management Plan, and
- a California Desert Conservation Area Land Use Plan Amendment.

Prairie City SVRA Road and Trail Management Plan

The purpose of the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) is to provide specific guidance and direction for implementing the goals and guidelines of the 2016 Prairie City SVRA General Plan. The RTMP is a comprehensive planning document that examines the SVRA's existing system of roads and provides specific direction for their long-term construction, maintenance, and management. It considers current and potential public use, park operations, and the protection and enhancement of cultural and natural resources to ensure recreational trail opportunities are available at their fullest potential. Comprehensive trail planning also considers regional recreational opportunities and connectivity and includes extensive public outreach and input into designing new trails and experiences. The planning process began in Spring 2023 and will continue through Fall 2024.

The first stage of the planning process is to develop an inventory of the road and trail system in the park, including features, structures, and erosion severity. This information evaluates road and trail conditions and associated impacts on natural and cultural resources.

The first public meeting will be held in the next few months. Visit the [Prairie City Road and Trail Management Plan](#) webpage to learn more about RTMP and public participation opportunities. Please help guide decisions for the Prairie City RTMP by taking the [Community Feedback Survey](#), which will remain open until August 15, 2023. Please send any other project-related questions or concerns to trails@parks.ca.gov.

OHV/OSV Economic Impact Study:

Field work for the survey (one research component of the OHV/OSV Economic Impact Study) has been ongoing at State Park, US Forest Services, and BLM OHV areas throughout the state. The survey and all outreach materials (email, posters, postcards) are in English and Spanish. Data collection for the special events version of the survey began in 2022 to include Hangtown in June 2023. Secondary data analysis includes DMV registration data to help correlate data collected in the survey. The online and telephone survey will continue through August 2023, and a draft report is expected in Spring 2024.

Data Collection in Process:

- postcard invitation with QR code and survey link mailed to ~3000 DMV-registered users
- posters with QR codes and survey links posted at recreation sites
- onsite data collection and postcard distribution at recreation sites
- survey links posted on State Park webpages
- email invitation sent to OHV contact list (~2000 contacts)
- onsite data collection about the impact of special events

OHV Access Project

In September 2021, [Senate Bill 155](#) (Ch. 258, Statutes of 2021) amended Public Resources Code Section [5090.42](#), directing the California Department of Parks and Recreation, popularly known as State Parks, to explore the acquisition and development of properties and opportunities to expand off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation in new and existing facilities. This bill also recommended prioritizing opportunities that serve large urban areas such as the Bay Area and Central Valley and offer potential recreational opportunities for OHV recreation and motorized access to nonmotorized recreation. State Parks have many options for expanding OHV recreation throughout the state – through acquisition, lease, land swap, partnership, donation, transfer, legislation, and other means as established in Public Resources Code Sections 5005, 5006, et seq.

The first step in this process – where we are now -- is to gather information through public outreach and research. Then, State Parks will prepare a preliminary report, feasibility study, and the OHV Recreation Action Plan. Once these steps are complete, the department will work on strategies to implement the OHV Recreation Access Plan recommendations.

The Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division will manage this project's planning phase with the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division and OHMVR Commission.

State Parks has a website for the [OHV Access Project](#). Check the page for more information about the planning process and upcoming meetings. We also created the [California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Access Project Survey](#) that asks about locations, OHV recreational experiences, and potential partnerships State Parks should consider for the OHV Access Project.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

SVRA General Plans chart.

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
SPRS & OHMVR DIVISION**

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	Plan Status & Updates in Progress
Prairie City SVRA	2016 1991		Approved by the OHMVR Commission in September 2016
Carnegie SVRA	2016 1981		GP was approved by the OHMVR Commission in October 2016 and rescinded in 2021. General Plan (GP) Update for the 1575-acre original Carnegie property began in April 2022. The Draft GP and Draft EIR will be available for public review in late summer 2023.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012		The OHMVR Commission approved GP in June 2012
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011		The OHMVR Commission approved GP in December 2011
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981		GP update in progress. Preparing the draft preliminary GP and draft environmental impact report (EIR) for internal review
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981		GP EIR/Environmental Impact Statement restarted in 2022
Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA			GP and EIR project may begin in 2024
Red Rock Canyon State Park	1981		State Park and Recreation Commission Meeting approved the general plan and EIR on March 3, 2023