

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

Through a combination of grant funding, recreation fees, partnerships, and various sources of federal and other state and county funding this comprehensive ground operations project covering route ops/maint, and facility ops/maint will include the following activities:

Monitoring and survey (as outlined in the HMP and Soil Conservation Plan) activities coincide with regular patrol of OHV facilities (i.e. routes, trailheads, campgrounds, staging areas) and assist in identifying off-route impacts quickly. Specialists are able to quickly advise on appropriate methods to rehabilitate these areas in order to preclude further degradation.

Trail Maintenance - Maintenance of 565 miles of designated OHV routes providing OHV opportunity as well as access to non-motorized activities such as hiking, wilderness access, camping, hunting, etc. Maintenance activities include survey of all routes prior to spring by partners and USFS personnel to identify and eliminate safety hazards. The entire system is ridden, surveyed and prioritized for opening. Those items necessary (i.e. clearing of hazard trees, repair to tread blowouts due to winter runoff) to assure that the route can be safely used by the public will be performed first to enable the system to open as quickly as possible. Non-safety items (i.e. slough removal, sign repair) will be scheduled for completion later in the cycle with all attempts being made to plan all needed activities on a given route at the same time for efficiency. Examples of tasks include brushing, logging out, maintenance of erosion features (i.e. culverts, rolling dips), slough removal, and repairing tread damage. Grading is proposed on 246 miles of routes requiring additional funds for dozer rental/operators in addition to forest match of \$125,100. Maintenance, repair, and replacement of directional and route designation signs will be completed on an as needed basis. Route specific maintenance activities can be found in the 2009 Soil Conservation Plan.

Facility O&M - Funding is requested to assist in operating/maintaining the numerous forest facilities which provide amenities for OHV recreationists across the forest. Primary activities associated with this project include minor repair of facilities (i.e. restrooms, picnic tables, fire rings), cleaning, painting, litter pickup, hazard reduction, and health/safety inspections. This will necessitate the purchase of supplies for cleaning, maintenance, and minor repair (i.e. paint, hardware, protective gear, paper products, garbage bags). Additional activities include vault pumping at Ballinger Canyon Campground (CG), Wagon Flat, Brookshire, Horseshoe Springs, La Panza, Kings CG, Grade Valley facilities, and Chuchupate CG; providing porta toilets at Piru Creek Crossing; trash service at Ballinger CG, Piru Creek Crossing, and Kings CG.

Several levels of service are proposed at the sites depending upon use patterns and condition inventory of the sites. Heavily used sites (i.e. Ballinger Canyon, Pozo) would be serviced at least three times a week, with less used sites serviced weekly or every two weeks. Staffing costs are requested to assist in meeting high demand cleaning/operations costs at heavily used areas such as Ballinger Canyon, Piru Creek Crossing area, Pozo/La Panza, Rockfront, and Buckhorn.

Secondary facility operations and maintenance occur bi-weekly in campground facilities at Half Moon, Pine Springs, Nettle Springs, Dome Springs, Chuchupate, Dutchman, and Toad Springs campgrounds; and monthly at Wagon Flat, Lazy, Bear, Horseshoe Spring, and Kerry campgrounds which all provide access to the OHV route system.

As part of the forest's match, the trailhead at Trail 118 West Frazier Mine above the Chuchupate Ranger Station will be improved to include grading of the parking lot, installation of a two unit CXT (restroom), parking lot barriers, and signage. This project includes \$50,000 in operational support from Kern County, and \$10,000 value in snow removal support from Ventura County to provide access in the winter months which will provide a much desired snowmobile opportunity locally. Documentation of this match available.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

Route maintenance activities as outlined in Item A of this section will ensure the sustainability of the designated OHV

system on the forest. Without this maintenance, this valuable system would degrade due to normal soil sloughing onto trails, lack of maintenance on erosion control features, and off route impacts. Best Management Practices as outlined in Forest Service publication Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California will be implemented and provide one of the many guidelines for ensuring appropriate ground disturbing activities to preserve water quality adjacent to the OHV system.

Implementation of the 2009 soil conservation plan and execution of the trail maintenance schedule (including updated condition surveys) will give staff the information and direction necessary to maintain the route system in an efficient manner. Monitoring of soil loss and stream crossings, and survey activities coincide with regular patrol of OHV facilities (i.e. routes, trailheads, campgrounds, staging areas) and assist in identifying off-route impacts quickly. Specialists are able to quickly advise on appropriate methods to rehabilitate these areas in order to preclude further degradation.

Facility operations and maintenance as outlined in Item A of this section will ensure that associated amenities such as picnic tables, loading ramps, restrooms, fire rings, etc receive the maintenance and cleaning required to meet sustainability and sanitation standards as outlined by standards such as Meaningful Measures (corporate standards with minimum frequency standards). By visiting recreation sites based on levels of use, and condition of facilities the forest ensures facilities are clean and serviceable for the recreating public. These standards and guidelines are available upon request.

Condition surveys for sites and routes are utilized to schedule maintenance and operation frequencies. These surveys are maintained at District offices and are available upon request for review.

Providing vault pumping, porta potties where needed for high use areas, and trash service ensures sites remain free from unsanitary conditions and provide a more pleasing atmosphere to recreate than if these services were not provided.

All proposed actions in Item A are designed to meet at least minimum standards for sustainability of OHV recreation across the LPNF. Additionally, these actions benefit not only motorized recreations seeking a "riding" experience, but provide access to many nonmotorized activities such as hunting, hiking, fishing, camping, and star gazing. Actions which provide new services (i.e. Frazier Mountain Trailhead improvements) directly enhance OHV recreation opportunities by adding additional facilities to the developed site inventory.

C. Size of the Project

The entire project area lies within the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). The area with OHV opportunity includes portions of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, and Kern counties. The LPNF has 565 miles of designated OHV routes providing a range of skill level difficulty including novice, intermediate, advance, and expert. The bulk of the green/red sticker opportunity is located on the Santa Lucia (SLRD) and Mount Pinos (MPRD) Ranger Districts.

The project includes all associated developed recreation facilities (i.e. trailheads, staging areas, campgrounds, picnic areas).

We are developing a set of new maps to meet the grant application requirement to show facilities and routes. These will be attached to the project and posted to our website prior to submitting the final grant application.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

The entire project area lies within the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). The area with OHV opportunity includes portions of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, and Kern counties. The LPNF has 565 miles of designated OHV routes providing a range of skill level difficulty including novice, intermediate, advance, and expert. All ratings are indicated on OHV guide maps (copies available upon request), as well as on route signs in the field. This variety of opportunity is provided across the forest rather than in one concentrated area in compliance with our Land Management Plan direction for OHV recreation management. However, the bulk of the green sticker opportunity OHV system is located on the Santa Lucia (SLRD) and Mount Pinos (MPRD) Ranger Districts.

OHV riding is available 12 months a year with limited seasonal closures enforced at higher elevation when soil moisture exceeds permissible motorized vehicle use. Short duration closures also occur at wet river fords during high water periods.

Type of OHV activity includes 4WD, ATV, Motorcycle (legal, dual sport, green, red as appropriate), and SUV/passenger vehicle access on unpaved routes. Please see OHV guide maps for details. Motorized access leads to a wide variety of non-motorized activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, equestrian trails, and wilderness access.

In addition to a variety of routes, numerous developed facilities are provided to enhance the visitor's recreation experience. These facilities include campgrounds, trailheads, and day use areas. Kings Campground (CG), Dutchman CG, Chuchupate CG, Pine Springs CG, Half Moon CG, and Ballinger CG on the MPRD; Buck Springs, Paradise CG, and Baja CG on the SLRD provide camping opportunities and access to nonmotorized activities including wilderness, hunting, and hiking for the entire family. Facilities and services at these locations include picnic tables, fire rings, toilets, and in some locations trash service. Several multiple use facilities (such as Kings CG, Frazier Mountain Trailhead Staging Area, Navajo Flats, Turkey Flat and Rockfront Staging Areas) are operated in conjunction with partners such as California Trail User's Coalition, Los Padres National Forest Association, Ventura County Motorcycle Club, Frazier Park 4x4 Club, Santa Maria 4 Wheelers, and the Cal Poly Penguins. OHV related partnership opportunities exist to join these partners or develop additional programs with the Forest.

Popular OHV riding areas include Ballinger Canyon, Grade Valley, and Piru Creek Crossing areas on the MPRD; Pozo/La Panza, Rockfront, and Buckhorn areas on the SLRD; jeep touring opportunities on the Ojai Ranger District via Nordhoff and Potrero Seco Roads which provide an ocean view at times; and Buckhorn/Cameusa and Divide Peak routes on SBRD. All of these areas are linked by a system of routes creating a varied riding experience for all ages and experience levels of riders.

Hungry Valley State Vehicle Recreation Area (HVSVRA) lies adjacent to the eastern edge of the MPRD and provides a linkage to the forest OHV system on the east side. Riders often travel to the high elevation, pine forest riding opportunity on the MPRD while visiting this popular HVSVRA.

We are developing a set of new maps to meet the grant application requirement to show facilities and routes. These will be attached to the project and posted to our website prior to submitting the final grant application.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? Yes No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**
Attachments:
 - [Please Read Me](#)
 - [MPRD Mtn Communities](#)
 - [MPRD East Side - HVSVRA Interface](#)
 - [SLRD Pozo La Panza](#)
 - [ORD Nordhoff Ridge](#)
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - Los Padres National Forest
 Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Los Padres National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>Through a combination of grant funding, recreation fees, partnerships, and various sources of federal and other state and county funding this comprehensive ground operations project covering route ops/maint, and facility ops/maint will include the following activities:</p> <p>Monitoring and survey (as outlined in the HMP and Soil Conservation Plan) activities coincide with regular patrol of OHV facilities (i.e. routes, trailheads, campgrounds, staging areas) and assist in identifying off-route impacts quickly. Specialists are able to quickly advise on appropriate methods to rehabilitate these areas in order to preclude further degradation.</p> <p>Trail Maintenance - Maintenance of 565 miles of designated OHV routes providing OHV opportunity as well as access to non-motorized activities such as hiking, wilderness access, camping, hunting, etc. Maintenance activities include survey of all routes prior to spring by partners and USFS personnel to identify and eliminate safety hazards. The entire system is ridden, surveyed and prioritized for opening. Those items necessary (i.e. clearing of hazard trees, repair to tread blowouts due to winter runoff) to assure that the route can be safely used by the public will be performed first to enable the system to open as quickly as possible. Non-safety items (i.e. slough removal, sign repair) will be scheduled for completion later in the cycle with all attempts being made to plan all needed activities on a given route at the same time for efficiency. Examples of tasks include brushing, logging out, maintenance of erosion features (i.e. culverts, rolling dips), slough removal, and repairing tread damage. Grading is proposed on 246 miles of routes requiring additional funds for dozer rental/operators in addition to forest match of \$125,100. Maintenance, repair, and replacement of directional and route designation signs will be completed on an as needed basis. Route specific maintenance activities can be found in the 2009 Soil Conservation Plan.</p> <p>Facility O&M - Funding is requested to assist in operating/maintaining the numerous forest facilities which provide amenities for OHV recreationists across the forest. Primary activities associated with this project include minor repair of facilities (i.e. restrooms, picnic tables, fire rings), cleaning, painting, litter pickup, hazard reduction, and health/safety inspections. This will necessitate the purchase of supplies for cleaning, maintenance, and minor repair (i.e. paint, hardware, protective gear, paper products, garbage bags). Additional activities include vault pumping at Ballinger Canyon Campground (CG), Wagon Flat, Brookshire, Horseshoe Springs, La Panza, Kings CG, Grade Valley facilities, and Chuchupate CG; providing porta toilets at Piru Creek Crossing; trash service at Ballinger CG, Piru Creek Crossing, and Kings CG.</p> <p>Several levels of service are proposed at the sites depending upon use patterns and condition inventory of the sites. Heavily used sites (i.e. Ballinger Canyon, Pozo) would be serviced at least three times a week, with less used sites serviced weekly or every two weeks. Staffing costs are requested to assist in meeting high demand cleaning/operations costs at heavily used areas such as Ballinger Canyon, Piru Creek Crossing area, Pozo/La Panza, Rockfront, and Buckhorn.</p> <p>Secondary facility operations and maintenance occur bi-weekly in campground facilities at Half Moon, Pine Springs, Nettle Springs, Dome Springs, Chuchupate, Dutchman, and Toad Springs campgrounds; and monthly at Wagon Flat, Lazy, Bear, Horseshoe Spring, and Kerry campgrounds which all provide access to the OHV route system.</p> <p>As part of the forest's match, the trailhead at Trail 118 West Frazier Mine above the Chuchupate Ranger Station will be improved to include grading of the parking lot, installation of a two unit CXT (restroom), parking lot barriers, and signage. This project includes \$50,000 in operational support from Kern County, and \$10,000 value in snow removal support from Ventura County to provide access in the winter months which will provide a much desired</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - Los Padres National Forest
 Application: Ground Operations

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snowmobile opportunity locally. Documentation of this match available.							
Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total	
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
Other-Program Mgr Notes : Progam Manager support from Santa Lucia, Santa Barbara, Mt Pinos, and Ojai Ranger Districts - includes attendance at quarterly stakeholder meetings, quarterly specialist meetings relative to OHV management, supervision of ohv specialists in implementation of overall project.	1.000	25000.000	YR	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Other-Ojai Trail Specialists Notes : includes all crew/volunteer lead/coordination, trail maint activities, surveys, rehab of off route impacts, and public field contacts	1.000	12000.000	YR	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00	
Other-Ojai Fire Crew	2.000	1000.000	DAY	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Heavy Equipment Operator Notes : Ojai RD	5.000	300.000	DAY	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Other-Volunteers/Partners Notes : Ojai - 50 hrs Santa Lucia - 1800 hrs - 160 hrs dozer = 1640 hrs Mt Pinos - 1400 hrs - 80 hrs dozer = 1320 hrs	3010.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	60,200.00	60,200.00	
Other-Santa Lucia Rec Specialists Notes : includes staff funding (i.e. ohv/rec/trails specialists) for facility and trail operations and maintenance tasks, coordination of partners/volunteers to complete the same	1.000	75000.000	YR	75,000.00	0.00	75,000.00	
Other-Mt Pinos Rec Specialists Notes : includes staff funding (i.e. ohv/rec/trails specialists) for facility and trail operations and maintenance tasks, coordination of	1.000	90000.000	YR	90,000.00	0.00	90,000.00	

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
partners/volunteers to complete the same						
Other-Specialist Support Notes : Includes specialist salary (i.e. botanist, biologist, archeologist, geologist, hydrologist, soil scientist) to assist in clearances needed to implement rehab of off route impacts, and general trail and facility maintenance issues.	1.000	15000.000	YR	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Other-Volunteer Dozer Operators Notes : Per suggestion from public during comment period and in compliance with State OHV Reg Section 4970.05(f)(3); higher skilled dozer/tractor operator volunteers will be calculated as similar agency salaried equipment operator. SLRD - 160 hrs dozer work MPRD -80 hrs dozer work	240.000	37.500	HRS	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Total for Staff				192,000.00	97,700.00	289,700.00
2 Contracts						
Other-Road Grading - Ojai Notes : Annual Nordhoff and Potrero Seco Grading Contract	1.000	13500.000	YR	0.00	13,500.00	13,500.00
Other-Santa Lucia - Vault Pumping Notes : Vault pumping at La Panza Campground, Wagon Flat, Brookshire, and Horseshoe Springs.	4.000	500.000	EA	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Other-Mt Pinos - Vault Pumping Notes : Vault pumping at Ballinger, Kings, Chuchupate, and Grade Valley facilities.	1.000	6000.000	YR	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Portable Restroom Rentals Notes : Mt Pinos - Provided at Piru Creek Crossing/Goldhill area	12.000	250.000	MOS	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Other-Mt Pinos Notes : Trash service provided at Kings CG, Piru Creek Crossing,	12.000	800.000	MOS	0.00	9,600.00	9,600.00

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
and Ballinger CG - paid with recreation fee revenue.						
Other-Santa Lucia - CCC Crew Notes : Includes 2 two week tours for trail maintenance. 1 tour = \$13000. In lieu fees being used as match.	1.000	26000.000	MISC	13,000.00	13,000.00	26,000.00
Other-Forest Road Contract Notes : Forestwide grading contract on Level 2 roads open to OHV.	186.000	600.000	MI	0.00	111,600.00	111,600.00
Other-Ventura County Snow Removal Notes : Partnership with Ventura County who will provide snow removal services estiamted at \$1000/event to access Frazier Mountain Trailhead/Staging area	10.000	1000.000	EA	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total for Contracts				24,000.00	157,700.00	181,700.00
3 Materials / Supplies						
Other-Ojai - Chainsaw fuel/parts	1.000	150.000	YR	0.00	150.00	150.00
Other-Fencing & Barrier materials Notes : Fencing and barrier materials Ojai - 300 annually Mt Pinos - 1000 annually	1.000	1300.000	YR	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Other-Maintenance Supplies Notes : Includes items such as hardware, paint, minor repair items	2.000	1000.000	YR	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Other-Operations Supplies Notes : Includes day to day ops supply needs such as cleaning supplies, cleaning safety gear, trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.	2.000	1500.000	YR	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Other-Signs Notes : includes regulatory, information, directional, adopt a trail signing and associated materials (i.e. posts, hardware)	1.000	8000.000	YR	6,000.00	2,000.00	8,000.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Materials / Supplies				9,000.00	5,450.00	14,450.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Ojai - Trail Maint Vehicle Support Notes : Includes FOR for truck and quadrunner; mileage/fuel costs	1.000	2600.000	YR	0.00	2,600.00	2,600.00
	Equipment Rental Notes : Ojai - tractor rental \$1500/fuel and maint contributed	1.000	2500.000	YR	1,500.00	1,000.00	2,500.00
	Other-Santa Lucia - GO Vehicle Support Notes : SLRD - includes fuel, maintenance, and mileage for ground operations vehicles such as motorcycles, quads, trucks, and patrol rigs	1.000	15000.000	YR	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
	Other-Mt Pinos - GO Vehicle Support Notes : Mt Pinos - includes fuel, maintenance, and mileage for ground operations vehicles such as motorcycles, quads, trucks, and patrol rigs	1.000	15000.000	YR	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
	Equipment Rental Notes : Santa Lucia - D5 Dozer rental for two weeks	1.000	6000.000	EA	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
	Other-Santa Lucia - D5 Fire Dozer Notes : D5 Dozer use costs to include fuel, maintenance for two weeks	1.000	7000.000	EA	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				1,500.00	46,600.00	48,100.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
	Other-Frazier Mtn Trailhead Improvements Notes : Approved capital improvement project - includes grading and paving of access to and trailhead parking/staging area. Directly accesses OHV system. Other improvements to this pre-existing trailhead include barrier system.	1.000	491600.000	PKG	0.00	491,600.00	491,600.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-SST Construction Notes : This is a grant obtained by California Trail Users Coalition to improve facilities at the Frazier Mountain Trailhead. This will replace the nearest porta pottie (1/8 mile back to Ranger Station).	1.000	50000.000	PKG	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
	Other-Kern County O&M Support Notes : Kern County Board of Supervisors support for operations/maintenance of the Frazier Mountain Trailhead/Staging area. Costs covered by this support include salary, supplies, and maintenance materials as needed. They are lumped here in one place to demonstrate the partnership for the operation of this facility.	1.000	50000.000	YR	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
	Other-Santa Lucia - Traffic Counters	5.000	250.000	EA	1,250.00	0.00	1,250.00
	Total for Others				1,250.00	591,600.00	592,850.00
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-Administrative Cost	1.000	15000.000	YR	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
	Total Program Expenses				227,750.00	914,050.00	1,141,800.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				227,750.00	914,050.00	1,141,800.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				227,750.00	914,050.00	1,141,800.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
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	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	192,000.00	97,700.00	289,700.00	
2	Contracts	24,000.00	157,700.00	181,700.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	9,000.00	5,450.00	14,450.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	1,500.00	46,600.00	48,100.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	1,250.00	591,600.00	592,850.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Total Program Expenses		227,750.00	914,050.00	1,141,800.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		227,750.00	914,050.00	1,141,800.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		227,750.00	914,050.00	1,141,800.00	

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

There are no known wetlands or navigable waters on or adjacent to the proposed project area. There are wildlife sensitive habitats in or near OHV routes and facilities. These sensitive habitats are protected from impacts of OHV activities through management actions identified in the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and Soil Conservation Plan submitted with this application.

The Los Padres continues to consult with Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Land and Resource Management Plan, Los Padres National Forest and the management practices listed in the Southern California Conservation Strategy. All proposed project activities will be conducted under the provisions and management practices currently required or that may be required in the future as consultation continues (i.e., restrictions on the scheduling of maintenance during breeding and rearing season for the red-legged frog). The extensive biological surveys that went into the Southern California Conservation Strategy effort and the information biologists provided in the HMP show that, as proposed, this project has no adverse impact immediately or cumulatively on sensitive habitats in the funded area.

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

The proposed trail and facility maintenance operations are a "no net change" from previous years relative to increased noise or traffic, as they simply maintain what has been in place for numerous years. This project is the only type project occurring in the along the OHV routes and at facilities. Without the funding provided by this grant, these activities would not occur or would, at best, minimally occur. The Final Environmental Impact Statement, Land and Resource Management Plan, Los Padres National Forest and the subsequent amendments analyzed the immediate and cumulative impacts of the forest's OHV system. The analysis of this project proposal is tiered to that document. There are no significant immediate or cumulative impacts of this project or this project combined with other projects in the same area over several years.

Monitoring protocols outlined in the Habitat Management Plan and Soil Conservation Plan act as an early warning for possible negative effects on soils, heritage resources and wildlife/vegetation habitat. The results of monitoring enable the interdisciplinary team to design and schedule maintenance and conservation projects specific to the OHV system in a timely manner.

This results in project work being scheduled and performed that no significant negative cumulative effects will occur. This assumption has been verified by the Forest's past year's performance and monitoring, as well as, a study titled A Field Evaluation of the Use of Small Trail Tractors to Maintain and Construct OHV Trails on the National Forest in California by Roger Poff and Tom Ryan.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

Facilities and routes to be operated and maintained via this project have been designed to be located on flat or minimally sloped sites and areas. Those routes that fall into the category of steep and/or traverse highly erosive soils are monitored and maintained on a frequency to quickly identify and correct unacceptable impacts due to OHV travel/use. All maintenance activities are designed, planned, and implemented to ensure they do not contribute to a negative impact on soils - conversely, they result in the preservation of soils in these higher risk areas. All maintenance activities are subject to Best Management Practices (i.e., no side casting of excess material) to protect soils and minimize risk of erosion. Maintenance of water control structures on OHV routes reduces the potential for soil and water impacts on steeper slopes. Signing, physical barriers and enforcement all encourage users to stay on the designated trails and reduce the possibility of impacts to adjacent soil and vegetation resources. Tread work with mechanical machinery is scheduled in the short time frame when soil moisture allows for adequate compaction after maintaining the tread, dips, and overall route prism. Additional specific information relative to soils can be found in the Soil Conservation Plan.

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

The only State Scenic Highway within the view shed of a route or facility proposed for maintenance in this application is Highway 33. Potrero Seco Road intersects Highway 33 at a saddle. However, the intersection is obscured from view and the OHV route presents no scarring from a distance. One segment of the Ortega Trail is visible from Highway 33, however, switchbacks and position of the trail in relationship with the slope subordinate the feature and are not recognizable from the highway. Additionally, vegetation along the highway effectively screens most of the trail from view. Maintenance of the existing trail as proposed in this application would not increase impacts on scenic resources.

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

There is no potential for the project to cause indirect significant impacts such as causing user groups to go elsewhere or significantly increasing use in the vicinity of the OHV route system. Routine maintenance activities are designed and intended to improve the condition of the OHV routes thereby encouraging riders to stay on the route which serves to reduce potential soil erosion and undesired habitat impacts on, and adjacent to, the existing OHV system by providing a well maintained and operated riding opportunity. Facilities are operated and maintained to meet user comfort as well as provide an alternative to negatively impacting less developed resources outside facility locations.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[NEPA CE Decision Memo](#)

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Version # _____

APP # 700257

1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 10

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 76% or more (10 points)
 51% - 75% (5 points)
 26% - 50% (3 points)
 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
 Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
 Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
 Potential trespass (2 points)
 Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The project is comprehensive in its approach to OHV management across the forest. It's funding of specialists (i.e. botanist, biologist, archeologists, OHV fields techs) enables the forest to ensure barrier systems and fences are in repaired in a timely manner to prevent potential trespass on adjacent private property owners; prevent negative impacts to cultural sites by identifying those needs prior to ground disturbing activities and implementing a flag and avoid strategy in order to responsibly retain OHV opportunity; biologists and botanists advise the field techs as to which locations need additional attention to prevent impacts to special-status species such as the California Condor. Lack of funding will significantly negatively impact our ability to implement all outlined OHV management activities (see project description) to the extent needed to retain OHV opportunity across the forest. Ref Appendix D Adaptive Mitigation Measures for Recreation Uses, 2005 Land and Resource Management Plan.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
 Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
 Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
 Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
 Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The project trail maintenance plan and soil conservation plan are developed from the results of soil loss monitoring, stream crossing checklists, and annual trail surveys and include initial spring opening of approximately 565 miles of routes to include logging/brushing; maintaining road and trail tread, installing/repairing erosion control features such as culverts to prevent unacceptable levels of soil loss and negative impacts to water quality, replacing/repairing traffic control signage; and post winter surveys identify new maintenance needs. All this work is completed on a system that provides for multiple use (i.e. ATV, MC, 4x4, SUV) and some mixed use on a designated route system. The OHV opportunity provided across the forest includes providing a variety of riding levels to include easiest, more difficult, and most difficult. Please see Appendix D Adaptive Mitigation Measures for Recreation Uses, 2005 Land and Resources Management Plan.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
 Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
 Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This proposal was developed through phone calls with interested parties, and quarterly stakeholder meetings over a period of 3 months to obtain their input and concurrence on our proposal. Specific dates and contact information available upon request

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 4 or more (4 points) 2 to 3 (2 points)
 1 (1 point) None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Frazier Park 4x4 Club
Los Padres National Forest Association
Cal Poly Penguins
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Motorcycle Club
San Luis Obispo 4 Wheelers
Plus many more!

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
 Protecting water quality (1 point)
 Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
 Protecting special-status species (1 point)
 Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
 Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
 Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
 Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

Physical barriers which aid in controlling OHV use are maintained at all times to include maintenance of smooth wire fence in restoration and sensitive areas (i.e. cultural resources) and in developed sites such as staging areas, trailheads, and campgrounds. Water quality protection measures are determined by monthly stream crossing checklists and soil loss monitoring where appropriate. These checks ensure timely response to needs to prevent unacceptable impacts to soils and water quality. Sanitation services such as dumpsters, fixed toilets, and porta-potties are provided across the forest at high use areas, campgrounds, staging areas, and trailheads to meet State and Federal standards. The designated route system was designed not to impact riparian/wetlands. The extreme fluctuations of water flow and wide shallow stream beds predominant across the forest make bridges less effective than hardened crossings. The forest mitigates wet ford crossing impacts by closing routes during incidents of high water flow.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 5

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [recycle content papertowels, toilet paper]

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Maintaining the natural environment as it is provides the most water efficient landscaping necessary. We do not maintain or create artificial or unnatural landscaping at OHV trailheads, staging areas, or along trails that requires additional use of water. Additionally, we do not utilize flush plumbing in our numerous toilet facilities thereby negating the potential for unnecessary uses of water including low flow plumbing fixtures. Facilities are designed with minimal water use as one of the primary design elements. As a federal agency we are mandated to purchase only "green" products which include recycled content, energy efficient products/equipment, biobased products (i.e. cleaning products, lubricants, grease for vehicles and site maintenance), and scheduling patrols/trips to minimize the use of nonrenewable resources such as traditional fuels. Hybrid vehicle technology is now the norm for scheduled fleet replacement. A list of applicable policies can be provided.

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- Camping
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Other (Specify) [Hunting,Cycling,Star Gazing]
- Birding
- Equestrian trails
- Rock Climbing