

Baldy Mesa Trails Planning (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700522

A. Statement of Planning Objectives

This project will fund planning for improvements/additions to the Baldy Mesa trail system.

NEPA will be completed to analyze the proposed action and any alternatives that are developed. The proposed action would create OHV routes on roads and trails totaling 27.2 miles for a net gain of 6.3 miles of trails classified as OHV trails. These trails would be accessible from the Baldy Mesa Staging Area. This would improve OHV recreation opportunities while still protecting resources. An initial draft environmental assessment (EA) was completed in 2007. We are requesting funding for the specialist work to be completed and the project analysis to be reviewed and updated. This project will compliment the 17 miles of decommissioned unauthorized trails that the Forest completed with State funding in 2008 and provide riders a complete loop trail system, minimizing the need for user created trails.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

The proposed project will conduct an environmental analysis for improving and/or adding trails to the Baldy Mesa trail system, which is accessed through the Baldy Mesa Staging Area. The proposed action would create OHV routes on road and trails totalling 27.2 miles for a net gain of 6.3 miles of designated trail to the trail system.

Because this site is near adjacent landowners, there are a number of user created trails that lead from people's backyards to the forest trail system. This project will analyze these user created trails and potentially adopt them into the trail system, where they will be maintained properly, thus minimizing impacts to resources. In turn, this will identify user created trails that will need to be restored to their natural appearance.

C. Statement of Activities

The SBNF plans to conduct the following activities in analyzing the Baldy Mesa Trail System:

- Internal review of potential alternatives for the Baldy Mesa trail system by creating a forest Inter-disciplinary (ID) team.
- Public scoping and any necessary public meetings
- Specialist surveys and supporting reports required for an environmental assessment including a biological assessment/evaluation (including botany and wildlife), archaeological assessment and report, recreation, air quality, fire risk, soil and water, visual resources, and transportation facilities analysis
- Consultation with supporting agencies: including, but not limited to County of San Bernardino, USFWS, SHPO
- Production of an Environmental Analysis and Decision Memo with a management plan for Baldy Mesa trail system.

D. List of Reports

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is the ultimate goal of this proposal. Supporting documents will include:

- project initiation letter
- public record memo
- biological assessment/evaluation
- cultural resources/archaeological report and SHPO consultation
- hydrology/soils report
- recreation analysis
- fire risk assessment
- air quality report
- transportation facilities report

- visual resources

After an EA is produced, a Decision Memo will be written which shall include the preferred alternative, which will then be implemented. A management plan for the area should be included with the final decision

Additional Documentation

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1. Timeline for Completion

Attachments:

[Proposed Timeline - Baldy Mesa](#)

2. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents

3. Optional Project-specific Maps

Attachments:

[Baldy Mesa Trail Map](#)

Project Cost Estimate

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APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - San Bernardino National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Baldy Mesa Trails Planning (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-14-P01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	This project will fund planning for improvements/additions to the Baldy Mesa trail system. NEPA will be completed to analyze the proposed action and any alternatives that are developed. The proposed action would create OHV routes on roads and trails totaling 27.2 miles for a net gain of 6.3 miles of trails classified as OHV trails. These trails would be accessible from the Baldy Mesa Staging Area. This would improve OHV recreation opportunities while still protecting resources. An initial draft environmental assessment (EA) was completed in 2007. We are requesting funding for the specialist work to be completed and the project analysis to be reviewed and updated. This project will compliment the 17 miles of decommissioned unauthorized trails that the Forest completed with State funding in 2008 and provide riders a complete loop trail system, minimizing the need for user created trails.		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Public Affairs Notes : Bierce	2.000	291.000	DAY	0.00	582.00	582.00
	Other-District Rec Staff Notes : Lyon	36.000	320.430	DAY	8,010.00	3,525.00	11,535.00
	Other-District Archaeologist Notes : Doan	30.000	356.830	DAY	10,705.00	0.00	10,705.00
	Other-GIS - Planning	6.000	300.000	DAY	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
	Other-District support Notes : Jones	5.000	221.930	DAY	1,110.00	0.00	1,110.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest
 Application: Baldy Mesa Trails Planning (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Forest Botanist Notes : Lardner	1.000	469.830	DAY	470.00	0.00	470.00
	Other-Tribal Relations Notes : McCarthy	3.000	423.330	DAY	1,270.00	0.00	1,270.00
	Other-District Wildlife Biologist Notes : Meyer	25.000	395.070	DAY	9,877.00	0.00	9,877.00
	Other-District Botanist Notes : Nelson	10.000	313.730	DAY	3,137.00	0.00	3,137.00
	Other-Forest Archaeologist Notes : Sapp	3.000	439.060	DAY	1,317.00	0.00	1,317.00
	Other-Deputy DR Notes : Thornburgh	12.000	492.130	DAY	0.00	5,906.00	5,906.00
	Other-District Recreation Notes : Uthus	12.000	257.230	DAY	3,087.00	0.00	3,087.00
	Total for Staff				38,983.00	11,813.00	50,796.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Enterprise Team - Soil Scientist	10.000	800.000	DAY	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Misc. Supplies	1.000	200.000	EA	200.00	0.00	200.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-1/2 Ton Pick up	1.000	260.000	MOS	0.00	260.00	260.00
	Other-Sport Utility	1.000	243.000	MOS	0.00	243.00	243.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	503.00	503.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest
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3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs	1.000	4000.000	EA	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total Program Expenses					47,183.00	16,316.00	63,499.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					47,183.00	16,316.00	63,499.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					47,183.00	16,316.00	63,499.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest
 Application: Baldy Mesa Trails Planning (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	38,983.00	11,813.00	50,796.00	
2	Contracts	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	200.00	0.00	200.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	503.00	503.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Total Program Expenses		47,183.00	16,316.00	63,499.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		47,183.00	16,316.00	63,499.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		47,183.00	16,316.00	63,499.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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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. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. 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. (Please select Yes or No) Yes No
- e. 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 4 – 10

This project is to conduct an environmental analysis for further development of an existing trail system. As this is an analysis, no physical impacts to the environment would occur.

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - 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 9 - 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

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Planning Project Criteria

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

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is 0

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

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

2. Planning Project - Q 2.

A Planning Project - Page 1

2. The Planning Project would address the following 4

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

- Potential effects of OHV Recreation on special-status species habitats
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on cultural resources
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on soil conditions
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on water quality
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on other recreation uses
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on adjacent lands.
 Potential impact to relationships between OHV Recreation and local residents
 Toxic or hazardous materials within a Project Area or adjacent property that may impact OHV Recreation
 Trail issues such as traffic patterns, trails closures, appropriate uses, etc.

B. Planning Project - Page 2

Explain each statement that was checked

Baldy Mesa trails system has cultural sites adjacent to the project area that are experiencing impacts from OHV use. In addition, illegal or user created trails are causing impacts to soil and water conditions. The project will identify potential user created trails that will be adopted into the trail system. There are extensive private land owners adjacent to the project area that are experiencing impacts from the on-going OHV use and are using inappropriate user created trails. Other recreation use occurs nearby including equestrian use and radio controlled glider use.

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

- 6 or more items checked (4 points) 4 to 5 items checked (3 points)
 2 to 3 items checked (2 points) 1 or no items checked (No points)

3. Motorized Access - Q 3.

3. The Project would lead to improved facilities that provide motorized access to the following nonmotorized recreation opportunities 6

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

- Camping Birding
 Hiking Equestrian trails
 Fishing Rock Climbing

Other (Specify) [hunting, RC Gliders]

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project proposal was developed with public input employing the following 1

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

- Publicly noticed 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

The forest has routine meetings throughout the year with a group of stakeholders where the group discusses ongoing projects, needs for new projects, and the best way to manage OHV use on the forest. This group identified a need for facility/trail improvement in the Baldy Mesa area. This project will analyze alternatives to accomplish this. In addition, this project has already gone through one public scoping process for environmental analysis.

5. Stakeholder Input - Q 5.

5. If the Project were approved, the planning process would incorporate substantial stakeholder input: 5

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

- No (No points) Yes (5 points)

If 'Yes', explain, specifically, how it would be 'substantial'. Identify stakeholders

The planning process would include at a minimum the necessary public involvement from the NEPA stand point. In addition, the forest will work extensively with local landowners who use the area and other users of the area. Potential meetings or field trips will be conducted to provide opportunity to the various public. The forest will also involve the previously mentioned stakeholder group and local volunteer groups.

6. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 6.

6. 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)

Partners will include the SBNFA (San Bernardino National Forest Association) OHV group, Lytle Creek Volunteer Association, Adopt-a-Trail volunteers and the OHV leadership group.

7. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 7.

7. The Planning Project sustains OHV Opportunity in the following manner 12

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

- Project will develop management plans for existing OHV Opportunity (4 points)
 Project will complete environmental review for an OHV Development Project (3 points)
 Project supports development of OHV Opportunities adjacent to population centers (3 points)
 Project supports development of OHV Opportunities in areas that lack legal OHV Opportunity (2 points)
 Project will develop a system of designated OHV routes for an existing OHV Opportunity (2 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

Human populations are increasing dramatically in the vicinity of the Forest, while opportunities for OHV use on both public and private lands is decreasing due to urbanization and requirements for environmental protection. This has increased pressures for OHV recreation at Baldy Mesa. The existing designated trail system does not provide an adequate alternative to illegal use, which is currently causing unacceptable resource damage and is degrading the natural environment.

Completion of the NEPA /Planning document for the Baldy Mesa area will evaluate the existing trail system including existing user created trails and the need for new trail construction to provide improved resource protection and recreation opportunities in the area.

The proposed action for the Baldy Mesa Trails Planning/NEPA project provides consideration for improved OHV opportunities through improved design of the trail system. OHV users in this area come from San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties.

The goal of the pro

8. Identification of Funding Sources - Q 8.

8. Funds for implementing the completed plan have been identified 0

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

No (No points)

Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Reference Document

9. Offsite Impacts - Q 9.

9. The Planning Project would address offsite impacts relative to the Project Area (e.g., sound, fugitive dust, runoff): 0

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

No (No points)

Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response