

## Ground Operations - Forest-wide (FINAL)

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Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700541

### 1. Project Description

#### A. Statement of GO Activity

Through a combination of grants, partnerships, and various sources of federal, state and county funding, the Sierra NF will undertake an OHV Ground Operations project that will encompass: Survey & Monitoring, Road Maintenance, Trail Maintenance, Facilities Operations & Maintenance, Sign Installation, and the purchase of a Trail Tractor. Through the Travel Management process, the Sierra NF has been designating a road and trail system where it is legal to drive a motorized vehicle. Once the decision is available for implementation, up to 85 miles of well-sited and well-suited roads and motorized trails will be designated. Many of these roads and trails will need mitigation work before they can be opened for public use. The aim of the following activities is to maintain and enhance the OHV system and bring newly designated OHV routes up Forest Service trail standards as quickly as possible in order to provide the public with the best possible recreational OHV experience.

Survey & Monitoring – As outlined in the HMP and Soil Conservation Plan, survey and monitoring of OHV use patterns is conducted by USFS personnel during the regular patrol of OHV facilities and routes. The information gathered through these activities, along with log and prescription surveys, allows quick identification of natural resource impacts and potential public safety concerns. This information is used to set appropriate Annual Work Plan priorities and ensure that the resources of the OHV program staff are directed towards projects that will have the maximum positive effect on the public's OHV experience.

Road Maintenance – FS personnel, in collaboration with volunteer & partnership groups, will maintain Forest Service system roads that provide popular OHV riding opportunities and/or are critical connections between OHV riding areas and developed campgrounds, dispersed camping areas, and recreational destination points. The work will include brushing, drainage repair and cleaning, removal of downed trees, conditions surveys, and removal of debris.

Trail Maintenance – FS personnel, in collaboration with volunteer & partnership groups, will maintain designated OHV trails providing riding opportunity as well as access to non-motorized activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, rock climbing, bird watching, etc. Work activities include brushing, drainage repair, removal of downed trees, conditions surveys and removal of debris.

Facilities Operation & Maintenance – O&M includes the continual care of all OHV Staging Areas forest wide, numerous destination campsites and bulletin boards located at OHV/OSV trailheads. Work activities include cleaning, painting, minor repair of facilities (i.e. restrooms, picnic tables, fire rings), debris removal, hazard reduction and health/safety inspections.

Sign Installation – Installation of directional and route designation signage to support OHV recreation within the guidelines of the Sierra NF Travel Management Plan. This includes 18 Combined Use sites and approximately 100 Forest road Mixed Use sites where OHV signage is required.

Trail Tractor – The purchase of specialized equipment, such as the Sweco Model 480 Trail Tractor, will significantly increase the Sierra NF's ability to maintain and improve the OHV routes within the forest. The trail tractor is a 4 foot wide machine specially designed to build and maintain OHV trails. It enables the mechanical construction of drainage features, tread reconstruction and slide & slump removal without widening the route corridor. Similar trail tractors have been used on the forest periodically in the past 5 years and it has been found that the mechanically constructed drainage features excel at withstanding the impacts of heavy OHV use and require only minor annual maintenance. The Forest has a truck and trailer of appropriate size to transport the trails tractor, and has already trained 3 employees and one volunteer in its operation.

#### B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

This Project is focused entirely on improving the public's OHV recreational experience on the Sierra NF. Project funding will allow FS personnel, alongside volunteers and partners, to maintain, support and enhance OHV routes and facilities. Adverse resource and cultural impacts will be prevented and minimized, provisions for public health and safety will be enhanced, and the capacity of FS personnel to undertake ground operations projects in the future will be improved. The activities included in this Project are necessary to sustain the long-term use of the Sierra NF by OHV enthusiasts.

**C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles**

The Project area encompasses approximately 772,000 acres of National Forest System Land available for OHV recreation within the Sierra NF boundaries.

**D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The Sierra NF is located on the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada mountain range, bordered by Yosemite NP to the north and Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP to the south. It encompasses more than 1.3 million acres of land between 900 and 13,986 feet in elevation, with approximately 772,000 available for OHV recreation. During the colder months OSV enthusiast will find over 180 miles of designated snowmobile routes, 155 miles of which are groomed and maintained throughout the winter. OHV and OSV routes appropriate for every level of rider, from novice to expert, provide access to campsites, vistas, play areas, meadows, waterways, mountain tops, and a lifetime of recreation on public lands.

The examples below provide a sample of the available opportunities:

Miami Motorcycle Trails – Easily accessed from Hwy 41, this popular area offers 60 miles of year round trails for dirt bikes and ATVs. The extensive trail network is found at an elevation between 3,600 and 4,800 feet and is characterized by numerous intersecting routes in the Low to Moderate Difficulty range, although there are short segments of High Difficulty trails.

Bald Mountain OSV Trail – This More Difficult groomed trail can be accessed from the Kaiser Pass Trailhead and extends 18 miles to Bald Mountain. Along the way it intersects Tamarack Trail and upon reaching Bald Mountain it offers beautiful vistas Shaver Lake and the Kaiser Ridge Area.

Dusy Ershim OHV Route – This highly popular backcountry route is classified as Most Difficult and traverses 31 miles between the John Muir and Dinkey Wilderness areas. The route begins at Courtright Reservoir at an elevation of 8,400 feet, rises to 10,000 feet at Thompson Lake, and remains above 9,000 for the duration of the route. It requires an estimated 2 to 3 days of driving time and offers a remarkably varied and challenging OHV experience.

**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

## Additional Documentation

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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**
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

**Project Cost Estimate**

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<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	USFS - Sierra National Forest		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Ground Operations - Forest-wide (FINAL)	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	G09-02-17-G05
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<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		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>Through a combination of grants, partnerships, and various sources of federal, state and county funding, the Sierra NF will undertake an OHV Ground Operations project that will encompass: Survey &amp; Monitoring, Road Maintenance, Trail Maintenance, Facilities Operations &amp; Maintenance, Sign Installation, and the purchase of a Trail Tractor. Through the Travel Management process, the Sierra NF has been designating a road and trail system where it is legal to drive a motorized vehicle. Once the decision is available for implementation, up to 85 miles of well-sited and well-suited roads and motorized trails will be designated. Many of these roads and trails will need mitigation work before they can be opened for public use. The aim of the following activities is to maintain and enhance the OHV system and bring newly designated OHV routes up Forest Service trail standards as quickly as possible in order to provide the public with the best possible recreational OHV experience.</p> <p>Survey &amp; Monitoring – As outlined in the HMP and Soil Conservation Plan, survey and monitoring of OHV use patterns is conducted by USFS personnel during the regular patrol of OHV facilities and routes. The information gathered through these activities, along with log and prescription surveys, allows quick identification of natural resource impacts and potential public safety concerns. This information is used to set appropriate Annual Work Plan priorities and ensure that the resources of the OHV program staff are directed towards projects that will have the maximum positive effect on the public's OHV experience.</p> <p>Road Maintenance – FS personnel, in collaboration with volunteer &amp; partnership groups, will maintain Forest Service system roads that provide popular OHV riding opportunities and/or are critical connections between OHV riding areas and developed campgrounds, dispersed camping areas, and recreational destination points. The work will include brushing, drainage repair and cleaning, removal of downed trees, conditions surveys, and removal of debris.</p> <p>Trail Maintenance – FS personnel, in collaboration with volunteer &amp; partnership groups, will maintain designated OHV trails providing riding opportunity as well as access to non-motorized activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, rock climbing, bird watching, etc. Work activities include brushing, drainage repair, removal of downed trees, conditions surveys and removal of debris.</p> <p>Facilities Operation &amp; Maintenance – O&amp;M includes the continual care of all OHV Staging Areas forest wide, numerous destination campsites and bulletin boards located at OHV/OSV trailheads. Work activities include cleaning, painting, minor repair of facilities (i.e. restrooms, picnic tables, fire rings), debris removal, hazard reduction and health/safety inspections.</p> <p>Sign Installation – Installation of directional and route designation signage to support OHV recreation within the guidelines of the Sierra NF Travel Management Plan. This includes 18 Combined Use sites and approximately 100 Forest road Mixed Use sites where OHV signage is required.</p> <p>Trail Tractor – The purchase of specialized equipment, such as the Sweco Model 480 Trail Tractor, will significantly increase the Sierra NF's ability to maintain and improve the OHV routes within the forest. The trail tractor is a 4 foot wide machine specially designed to build and maintain OHV trails. It</p>		

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	enables the mechanical construction of drainage features, tread reconstruction and slide & slump removal without widening the route corridor. Similar trail tractors have been used on the forest periodically in the past 5 years and it has been found that the mechanically constructed drainage features excel at withstanding the impacts of heavy OHV use and require only minor annual maintenance. The Forest has a truck and trailer of appropriate size to transport the trails tractor, and has already trained 3 employees and one volunteer in its operation.
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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Program Expenses</b>						
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>					
	Other-District Ranger - BL	2.000	510.000	DAY	0.00	1,020.00
	Other-District Staff - BL	2.000	357.510	DAY	0.00	715.00
	Other-OHV Rec Specialist - BL	40.000	291.520	DAY	8,115.80	3,545.20
	Other-OHV Rec Technician - BL	100.000	162.470	DAY	12,184.50	4,062.50
	Notes :					
	Other-OHV Rec Temp/FPO - BL	100.000	127.080	DAY	9,531.00	3,177.00
	Other-Law Enforcement - BL	28.000	291.520	DAY	5,684.71	2,478.29
	Other-Botanist - BL	15.000	365.970	DAY	3,457.84	2,032.16
	Other-Archeologist - BL	13.000	296.210	DAY	2,466.08	1,384.92
	Other-Hydrologist - BL	14.000	365.970	DAY	2,838.64	2,285.36
	Other-Volunteers - BL	40.000	23.000	DAY	0.00	920.00
	Other-Trail-Tractor Crew - BL	4.000	145.080	DAY	435.24	144.76
	Other-Trail-Tractor Operator - BL	4.000	252.140	DAY	756.31	252.69
	Other-Dump Truck/Back Hoe Operator - BL	4.000	450.000	DAY	1,350.00	450.00
	Other-WG 10 Equipment Operator - BL Eng	76.500	369.360	MI	7,064.06	21,191.94
	Other-WG 5 Laborer - BL Eng	76.500	212.530	MI	4,064.66	12,194.34
	Other-GS 11 Supervisor - BL Eng	76.500	15.790	MI	1,208.00	0.00

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
Other-WG 10 Equipment Operator - HS Eng	68.400	402.530	MI	20,650.06	6,882.94	27,533.00
Other-WG 5 Laborer - HS Eng	68.400	231.620	MI	11,882.05	3,960.95	15,843.00
Other-GS 11 Supervisor - HS Eng	68.400	15.790	MI	0.00	1,080.00	1,080.00
Other-WG 3 Laborer - Signs Eng	61.000	122.340	DAY	5,597.06	1,865.94	7,463.00
Other-WG 5 Laborer - Signs	61.000	145.080	DAY	6,637.41	2,212.59	8,850.00
Other-GS 11 Supervisor - Signs	9.000	315.720	DAY	2,131.11	709.89	2,841.00
Other-District Recreation Officer - HS	10.000	346.980	DAY	2,602.35	867.65	3,470.00
Other-OSV Program Manager - HS	230.000	273.000	DAY	47,092.50	15,697.50	62,790.00
Other-OHV Program Manager - HS	200.000	226.950	DAY	34,042.50	11,347.50	45,390.00
Other-Assistant OHV Manager - HS	225.000	198.180	DAY	33,397.88	11,193.12	44,591.00
Other-GS 3 Recreation Technicians (3) -	330.000	101.110	DAY	25,024.73	8,341.27	33,366.00
Other-GS 4 Recreation Technicians (3) -	330.000	113.510	DAY	28,093.71	9,364.29	37,458.00
Other-Wildlife Biologist - HS	15.000	344.000	DAY	3,444.62	1,715.38	5,160.00
Other-Hydrologist - HS	13.000	322.110	DAY	1,766.64	2,420.36	4,187.00
Other-Botanist - HS	15.000	325.960	DAY	2,391.84	2,497.16	4,889.00
Other-Aquatic Specialist - HS	15.000	326.570	DAY	2,174.10	2,724.90	4,899.00
Other-Archeologist - HS	14.000	291.660	DAY	1,644.08	2,438.92	4,083.00
Other-Volunteers - HS	1000.000	20.000	DAY	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Other-Aquatics Specialist - BL	9.000	306.200	DAY	1,684.10	1,071.90	2,756.00
Other-Wildlife Biologist - BL	9.000	344.840	DAY	1,896.62	1,207.38	3,104.00
Other-Trail Crew - BL & HS	40.000	1000.000	DAY	30,000.00	10,000.00	40,000.00
Other-Road Crew - BL & HS	100.000	1080.000	DAY	81,000.00	27,000.00	108,000.00

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	<b>Total for Staff</b>				402,310.20	200,453.80	602,764.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-Vault Pumping - BL	1.000	14000.000	YR	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
	Other-Vault Pumping - HS	1.000	8000.000	YR	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
	<b>Total for Contracts</b>				22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-Signs - BL Notes : Includes regulatory, information, and directional signage & bill boards as well as associated	1.000	25747.600	YR	25,748.00	0.00	25,748.00
	Other-Signs - HS Notes : Includes regulatory, information, and directional signage & bill boards as well as associated materials (i.e. posts, hardware) located in High Sierra RD	1.000	13632.000	YR	13,632.00	0.00	13,632.00
	Other-Janatorial - HS Notes : Includes cleaning supplies, toilet paper, trash bags, etc. to be used in OHV facilities in High Sierra RD	1.000	1400.000	YR	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00
	Other-Administrative - HS Notes : Includes office & stationary supplies used in support of the OHV program in High Sierra RD	1.000	650.000	YR	650.00	0.00	650.00
	Other-Barriers - BL Notes : Includes materials for barrier repair/replacement (i.e. Lumber, rock) on OHV routes in Bass Lake RD	1.000	33200.000	YR	33,200.00	0.00	33,200.00
	Other-Bear Boxes - BL Notes : Includes concrete, rebar, lumber forms, etc. used in bear box installation in Bass Lake RD	10.000	500.000	EA	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
	Other-Tread Lightly - BL Notes : Includes posters, signs, etc. used by the OHV program in	1.000	4000.000	YR	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00

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Bass Lake RD						
Other-Road Materials - BL Notes : Includes aggregate base for 2 miles of road on Bass Lake RD	2.000	17850.000	MI	35,700.00	0.00	35,700.00
Other-First Aid Kits-HS	4.000	139.000	EA	416.00	140.00	556.00
Other-Eye Protection-HS	100.000	7.650	EA	573.00	192.00	765.00
Other-Chainsaw Hard Hats-HS	15.000	40.500	EA	455.00	153.00	608.00
Other-Ear Protection-HS	5.000	29.950	PKG	110.00	40.00	150.00
Other-Chainsaw Gloves-HS	15.000	27.250	EA	305.75	103.25	409.00
Other-Hard Hats	100.000	13.700	EA	1,027.00	343.00	1,370.00
Other-Gloves-HS	100.000	10.350	EA	776.00	259.00	1,035.00
Other-Chainsaw Chaps-HS	15.000	109.950	EA	1,236.00	413.00	1,649.00
<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				124,228.75	1,643.25	125,872.00
<b>4 Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
Other-Vehicle Support - BL Notes : Includes fuel, maintenance, mileage and repair for ground operations vehicles (i.e. trucks, motorcycles, quads) in Bass Lake RD	1.000	37085.690	YR	37,086.00	0.00	37,086.00
Other-Vehicle Support - HS Notes : Includes fuel, maintenance, mileage and repair for ground operations vehicles (i.e. trucks, motorcycles, quads) in High Sierra RD	1.000	20794.320	YR	20,794.00	0.00	20,794.00
Other-Equipment Support - BL Notes : Includes power & hand tool maintenance/repair in Bass Lake RD	1.000	9675.000	YR	9,675.00	0.00	9,675.00

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	Other-Equipment Support - HS Notes : Includes power & hand tool maintenance/repair in High Sierra RD	1.000	1790.000	YR	1,790.00	0.00	1,790.00
	Other-Heavy Equipment Use rate - BL Notes : Includes use rates for brush mower, backhoe, loader, dump truck, utility support vehicles, etc. in Bass Lake RD	1.000	22991.030	YR	22,991.00	0.00	22,991.00
	Other-Heavy Equipment Use rate - HS Notes : Includes use rates for brush mower, backhoe, loader, dump truck, utility support vehicles, etc. in High Sierra RD	1.000	18961.700	YR	18,962.00	0.00	18,962.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				111,298.00	0.00	111,298.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
	Other-Upgrades to fleet vehicle - HS Notes : Upgrades to fleet Jeep used for OHV program in High Sierra RD Upgrades include: 1. Dana 60 Rear Axle w/ Selectable Lockers \$4,200 + labor 2. 4.5" Lift Kit w/ shocks/ extended break lines \$3,700 + labor 3. 37" Tires Goodyear MTR \$1,725 + labor 4. 9500lb Warn Winch with air compressor \$1,475 + labor 5. Warn Recovery Kit \$400 + labor 6. Warn Front Bumper w/ Winch Mount \$960 + labor 7. Warn Rear Bumper w/ SwingAway Tire Mount 1,315+labor 8. Rocker Protection \$375 + labor	1.000	18000.000	YR	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00
	Other-Quad - BL Notes : Includes purchase of Grizzly 700 with skid plates for use by OHV program in Bass Lake RD	1.000	11000.000	YR	11,000.00	0.00	11,000.00
	Other-Winch - BL Notes : Includes purchase of winch for use by OHV program in Bass Lake RD	1.000	1200.000	YR	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Sweco - BL & HS Notes : Includes purchase of Sweco tractor, inclosed cab, dozer blade, ripper attachment, etc. for use on both Bass Lake and High Sierra RDs	1.000	130000.000	YR	80,000.00	50,000.00	130,000.00
	Other-Upgrades to HondaTLR200 M/C- HS Notes : Upgrades for Honda TLR200 M/C include: Handlebars, Aluminum Sprockets, Replacement Exhaust system, Replacement Fork Tubes and Rear Shocks.	1.000	2300.000	YR	2,300.00	0.00	2,300.00
	Other-Safety Equipment - HS	1.000	9869.000	YR	7,394.75	2,474.25	9,869.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Purchases</b>				119,894.75	52,474.25	172,369.00
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
	Other-Trail Monitoring Training - BL Notes : Includes monitoring training (e.g. use of surveys, photo logs, database) for OHV personnel on Bass Lake RD	4.000	500.000	DAY	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	Other-Trail Builder Workshops Notes : Includes Sweco tractor training for OHV personnel on Bass Lake and High Sierra RDs	1.000	7000.000	YR	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
	<b>Total for Others</b>				2,000.00	7,000.00	9,000.00
<b>7</b>	<b>Indirect Costs</b>						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs Notes : Forest overhead costs are currently 8%	1.000	70846.800	YR	0.00	70,847.00	70,847.00
	<b>Total Program Expenses</b>				781,731.70	332,418.30	1,114,150.00
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				781,731.70	332,418.30	1,114,150.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>781,731.70</b>	<b>332,418.30</b>	<b>1,114,150.00</b>

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<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	402,310.20	200,453.80	602,764.00	
2	Contracts	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	124,228.75	1,643.25	125,872.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	111,298.00	0.00	111,298.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	119,894.75	52,474.25	172,369.00	
6	Others	2,000.00	7,000.00	9,000.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	70,847.00	70,847.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		<b>781,731.70</b>	<b>332,418.30</b>	<b>1,114,150.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		<b>781,731.70</b>	<b>332,418.30</b>	<b>1,114,150.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>781,731.70</b>	<b>332,418.30</b>	<b>1,114,150.00</b>	

## 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

### ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

As stated in the attached NEPA documentation, the environmental impact of the proposed action is minimal, and the project is categorically excluded from documentation by environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under the authority of actions identified in the Washington Office Amendment to FSH 1909.15, Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, Chapter 30, Categorical Exclusion from Documentation, effective July 6, 2004 (FSH 1909.15-2004-3). Limited operating periods (LOP), road drainage control, riprap specifications, road slope stabilization practices, and other BMPs (as identified in the Watershed Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California - Best Management Practices September 2000) have been established to reduce or eliminate impacts to sensitive species and their habitat. Where wetlands and navigable waters exist within the project boundaries, the project activities will reduce sediment travel and improve water quality.

### ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

As stated in Item 4, the environmental impact of the proposed action is minimal. The cumulative impact of the proposed action is also minimal. As stated in the attached NEPA documentation, the project is tiered to and consistent with direction in the Sierra National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended.

### ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

No, the project activities will improve the soil erosion conditions and help retain topsoil.

### ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

The scenic resources will be unaffected by the proposed actions.

### 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.

The proposed activities will not have a substantial adverse impact on historical or cultural resources.

**ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

The project activities are expected to result in continued and increased use of OHV trails, roads and facilities on the Sierra NF. However, the project activities will maintain and improve these areas in order to eliminate significant impacts and accommodate increased use. Please refer to the attached NEPA Decision Memo.

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[Ground Ops NEPA Document](#)

## Evaluation 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 cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(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. 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

Failure to complete this project would lead to route deterioration, drainage structure failures and restricted public access due to brush encroachment and closures and safety concerns. OHV opportunities would be lost, cultural sites would be at risk of degradation, sensitive habitat would be threatened and trespass could not be guarded against.

### 3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 12

(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

This project encompasses operation and maintenance activities for the entire Sierra NF OHV system, which is a multi-use system with varied levels of difficulty. These activities include road & trail maintenance, installing & repairing erosion features, and providing traffic control & educational signage.

### 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)

- 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

This project was developed with input from several different OHV clubs, including the Stewards of the Sierra, the Fresno Four Wheel Drive Club, and the Sierra Scenic Byway Association. This input was gathered through conference calls with representatives of the organizations and meetings with groups and individual stakeholders.

**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 2

(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):

Stewards of the Sierra, Four Wheel Drive Club of Fresno, the Sierra Scenic Byway Association

**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

The activities included in this project incorporate all of the elements listed above (with the exception of re-routes, which may be undertaken as needed but will require input from natural resource specialists). Physical barriers will be built/repared using native materials, drainage structures will be maintained to safeguard water quality, bridges will be built/repared where appropriate as determined by natural resource specialists, special-status species habitat has been identified and will continue to be protected, and operation & maintenance of sanitary facilities will continue and expand, and barriers protecting culturally significant sites will be maintained.

**7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.**

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 2

(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)

**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

Examples of sustainable technologies include: several fleet vehicles that are gas/electric hybrids, use of water-based paints on all facilities/signs/bill boards, extensive use of vault toilets rather than facilities requiring constant water usage, and maintenance of drainage structures across the forest which promote efficient water flow/use.

**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

Birding

Hiking

Equestrian trails

Fishing

Rock Climbing

Other (Specify)