



The Desert Protective Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 3635, San Diego, California 92163-1635
protectdeserts.org

April 7 2014

RE: CA OHMVRD Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program 2013/14- Support Letter for Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation Application for Restoration Funding

Dear Sixto Fernandez and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD) of California State Parks,

The Desert Protective Council (DPC) is pleased to submit a letter of a support for the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation's (CSNC) application for funding for restoration from the *OHMVR Division's Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program 2013/14*.

Although the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) and meadows of the Sierra Nevada Mountains are not within the jurisdiction of DPC's mission to protect and preserve the unique features and values of the southwestern deserts, our 60-year old organization understands the importance of all of our diverse California habitats. Members and staff of the DPC have visited, hiked, bird-watched and camped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and have appreciated the beauty and biodiversity of the forest ecosystem and of mountain meadows.

This restoration grant application describes a detailed plan for monitoring areas in the Eldorado National Forest where motorized off-route travel has created damage, for restoring areas that can be restored without further ground disturbance, and for documenting sites needing more extensive restoration for future efforts.

One of the most compelling aspects of CSNC's Restoration Grant Application is the inclusion of a detailed plan for cooperating and coordinating with the Eldorado National Forest to sponsor an intensive training program to teach professionals and volunteers how to design and implement mountain meadow restoration.

The DPC appreciates the exquisite fragility of mountain meadow ecosystems and their sensitivity to even seemingly minor changes in water availability. We have seen heartbreaking photos of terrible damage to these Sierra Nevada mountain meadows from illegal motorized travel. We also appreciate the CSNC's personal and deep on-the-ground knowledge of the Eldorado National Forest and the mountain meadows and their years of successful cooperation and collaboration with the ENF staff in their travel management planning process. For a decade or more, CSNC has spent many days each year driving and hiking the ENF to monitor and assess motorized trails and have worked collaboratively with local motorized recreation enthusiasts, Eldorado County and with the ENF supervisor toward crafting solutions for protecting these areas from further degradation.

The mission of the Desert Protective Council is to safeguard for sustainable use by this and succeeding generations those desert areas that are of unique or significant scenic, scientific, historical, spiritual, and recreational value, and to educate both children and adults to a better understanding of the desert.

The CSNC Grant Application for Restoration and Training lays the groundwork for a well-thought-out collaborative program for implementation of remedies that will benefit the ENF and the plants and animals that dwell in the vicinity, the local forest users and the public who visit the Sierra Nevadas from all over the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for this grant application.

Sincerely,

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