

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2013
9:03 to 4:10 p.m.

Holiday Inn
1900 Hilltop Drive
Redding, CA 96002

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul Slavik, Chair
Breene Kerr, Vice Chair
E. Theodore Cabral
Kevin Murphy
Edward Patrovsky
Diana Pérez
M. Teresa Villegas

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, Director
Aaron Robertson, Chief Deputy Director

OHMVR DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Phil Jenkins, Division Chief
Maria Mowrey, Administrative Chief
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel, OHMVR Division
Claire LeFlore, Chief Counsel, State Parks

OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS

AGENDA ITEM I - Call to Order – 9:03 a.m.

- (A) Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Murphy
- (B) Roll Call – Seven OHMVR Commission members present at time of roll call. Newly-appointed Commissioners Cabral, Murphy, and Patrovsky introduced themselves.

AGENDA ITEM II - Approval of Agenda

No action taken.

AGENDA ITEM III (A) - Approval of September 15, 2012 Minutes

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Kerr and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion carried with Commissioners Cabral, Murphy, and Patrovsky abstaining.

AGENDA ITEM III (B) - Approval of December 1, 2012 Minutes

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Kerr and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion carried with Commissioners Cabral, Murphy, and Patrovsky abstaining.

AGENDA ITEM IV - INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM IV (A) - COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- Commissioner Villegas reported that she and Commissioner Pérez participated in a January 30, 2013, call with State Parks Commissioner Caryl Hart in their ongoing effort to foster communications between the two commissions on overlapping issues. She also reported there is a pending meeting of April 5 with Senator Lara regarding legislation.
- Commissioner Kerr thanked General Jackson for attending this meeting and appointing the new deputy director for the Division.
 - He reported he toured Hungry Valley and commented on how the facility has improved and the importance of continued talks with USFS about better integration of properties. He also suggested employee training and taking senior managers out onto the trails. He complimented the Hungry Valley staff on the newly-constructed single track trails.
- Commissioner Patrovsky reported that he and Chair Slavik toured the proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition and the Jawbone/Dove Springs areas. He complimented the Friends of Jawbone for their vehicle controls and route restoration.
- Commissioner Pérez reported on the following:
 - She participated in a teleconference with Commissioner Villegas and Commissioner Hart.
 - January 9, she had a conversation with Matt Webb from Boating and Waterways.
 - January 9 through 11, she attended a Coastal Commission meeting in Pismo Beach.
 - January 15, she met with Oceano Dunes staff and received an update on the park.
 - January 16, she attended a presentation by the Air Pollution Control District from San Luis Obispo.
 - January 17, she met with Supervisor Paul Teixeira from San Luis Obispo County.
 - January 22, she had lunch with a resident from the Nipomo Mesa area.
 - January 23, she took a tour with Chief Jenkins at Oceano Dunes.
 - February 7, she had a follow-up in-depth tour of Oceano Dunes with Will Harris.
 - February 8, she met with Mayor Debbie Peterson of Grover Beach.
 - On February 14, she had a reoccurring meeting with a supervisor from San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department.
 - February 27, she met with San Luis Obispo County Supervisor Bruce Gibson.
 - March 7, she met with Atascadero Councilmember, Roberta Fonzi.
 - March 8, Superintendent Jeff Gaffney gave her a tour of the proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition.
 - March 14, she again met with County Supervisor Paul Teixeira.

- March 15, she coordinated a teleconference with Chief Jenkins, San Luis Obispo County Supervisors Debbie Arnold and Paul Teixeira, and Grove Beach Mayor Debbie Peterson.
- She perceives support for California State Parks regarding Oceano Dunes SVRA from what she calls the silent majority.
- She would like to see the opportunity to purchase the La Grande Tract in Oceano Dunes SVRA.
- She would like to see the Pismo Beach visitor center completed.
- She encouraged her fellow Commissioners to get out in their local area and meet the residents.

In response to Commission Kerr's inquiry, Chief Jenkins did not think that the steps necessary to buy the La Grande Tract could be accomplished by the end of the fiscal year. State Parks Chief Deputy Director Robertson added they're working with the Department of Finance and the Administration regarding re-appropriation of dollars for this purchase.

- Chair Slavik reported on the following:
 - On January 18 he met with Matt Webb, the Chair of the Boating and Waterways Commission at the time. Chair Slavik subsequently spoke with Chief Deputy Director Robertson who was inclined to try to get all the commissions together to talk about their commonalities and how to further the goals and missions of General Jackson for the future of California State Parks.
 - He and Commissioner Kerr met with the newly-appointed State Parks Director General Jackson, Chief Deputy Director Robertson, and Chief Jenkins.
 - He and Commissioner Kerr met with Ramiro Villalvazo, Director of Public Services for Region 5 of the USFS, regarding the importance of a USFS representative participating at the OHMVR Commission meetings.
 - He attended the King of the Hammers event.
 - He attended the funeral of the brother of Karen Schambach.
 - He and Commissioner Patrovsky toured the proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition and participated in the public scoping meeting held in Tehachapi on March 16th.
 - He attended the 20-year anniversary celebration of the San Bernardino National Forest Association, which is the largest volunteer associations on any national forest in the United States.
 - He's been trying to connect with Caryl Hart and looks forward to making that contact.

Newly-appointed State Parks Director General Jackson was invited to address the Commission. General Jackson thanked the Commission for its invitation. He gave a brief overview of his background. He expressed his intent to devote the same amount of energy to Parks and Recreation, Boating and Waterways, and OHV and reminded everyone of his open-door policy. He explained his role as director as that of a student; the importance of listening before speaking and then making clear decisions based on the information and knowledge that has been gathered. He encouraged the public and Commissioners to always attend meetings that are addressing issues concerning OHV.

His mission is to ensure State Parks achieves its mission of preserving California's cultural and natural resources, educating the public about the importance of these resources, and promoting healthy outdoor recreational activities in all its forms. A document has been created that lays out in skeletal form his vision called *State Parks Strategic Action Plan* and is currently available on the California State Parks website. He stressed the importance of reaching out to more diverse communities and bringing them to the State Parks to experience the many recreational opportunities available. He asked associations and foundations to help finance displays where people could learn about other parks while exploring the original park of interest. This would spark enough curiosity to explore other parks thereby ensuring the relevancy and future of State Parks by making the public more aware of all the recreational opportunities State Parks offers. He also stressed the importance of endeavoring to obtain more than a quarter of State Parks' budget from the General Fund. June of 2014 marks the 150th anniversary of California's State Park system for which a committee has been established to encourage a series of celebratory events to take place throughout State Parks; the culminating event should be held on the Capitol lawns in September 2014. A blue ribbon panel is being set up to develop by October 2014 a vision for State Parks for the next 50 to 100 years. The Little Hoover Commission, set up by the California Legislature to make government more efficient, has published a report which will be studied to learn of other ways to improve the processes within State Parks.

General Jackson gave a brief background on Chris Conlin, who will be sworn in on April 4, 2013 as the new deputy director of the OHMVR Division. Colonel Conlin has assumed some of the highest responsibilities that the United States can give an officer and General Jackson believes he comes to the Division with the highest integrity and intention.

AGENDA ITEM IV (B) - DIVISION REPORTS

Chief Jenkins welcomed the new Commissioners to the OHMVR Commission. He expressed appreciation for the involvement of commissioners. He thanked General Jackson and Chief Deputy Director Robertson for working closely with the OHMVR Division. He expressed that the changes in leadership in State Parks has been a refreshing one. He acknowledged the new energy and hope that has been expressed by others regarding the changes in the Department.

He introduced Administrative Chief Mowrey who informed the Commission regarding personnel changes. She stated that the new District Superintendent at Ocotillo Wells, Garratt Aitchison, started February 8, 2013; and Mike Fehling started as the new interim District Superintendent at the Twin Cities District. She introduced Claire LeFlore, the new chief counsel for State Parks.

Chief Jenkins reported that three of the four District Superintendents in the OHMVR program are new to their positions. He acknowledged the good works of three Superintendents—Bob Williamson, Kathy Dolinar, and Andy Zilke—who have retired.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1)(i) - BUDGET

Chief Jenkins reported the Governor's proposed budget for 2014/15 identified \$26 million for the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program and has made it through one legislative subcommittee. The Grants funding had been cut for this current fiscal year to \$10 million, and the Division is doing its best to support operations out in the field. The Division is still facing the \$5 million reduction to its operations budget. General Jackson and Chief Deputy Director Robertson participated in an "OHV 101" briefing and are fully aware of the Division's budgetary struggles.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1)(ii) - RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

Chief Jenkins reported on an addendum in the transportation section of the Governor's Budget Summary. As part of streamlining government operations to make things more efficient, the Administration is proposing to consolidate, under the Department of Transportation, many of the transportation grants that are administered by a variety of entities. The potential effect to the OHV program is that it will put the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants under a consolidated grant application process that defines active transportation as human powered. The Division will be looking further into this issue.

Chair Slavik invited Pam Gluck, Executive Director of American Trails and the Coalition for Recreational Trails to speak regarding the RTP. Ms. Gluck expressed her organization's concern regarding the Governor's proposal impacting the RTP and offered the assistance of American Trails regarding this issue.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1)(iii) - OCEANO DUNES SVRA AIR QUALITY

Chief Jenkins reported State Parks has received notification from the San Luis Obispo (SLO) Air Pollution Control District (APCD) that State Parks is out of compliance with Rule 1001, as the deadlines to receive permits from outside agencies for dust reduction measures and monitoring have lapsed. No fines are currently being charged. Chief Jenkins mentioned State Parks had previously raised their concerns with APCD regarding the timeline and deadlines stating that the timeframes outlined in the Rule were not compatible. At this time, State Parks is in discussions with Air Pollution Control Officer Larry Allen, and Division staff has been working with the California Coastal Commission and the SLO APCD staff and board, trying to move forward to meet Rule 1001 deadlines. Currently, State Parks is working on a schedule to outline when the necessary information can be provided to satisfy the deadlines that have passed. State Parks staff had also been developing a temporary monitoring program. Chief Jenkins will attend the April 27, 2013, SLO APCD Board meeting and report on State Parks' proposed schedule of compliance. Chief Jenkins will keep the Commission updated.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1)(iv) - CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE MOTORIZED TRAIL

Chief Jenkins reported that since the 1980s it's been in California legislation that a statewide motorized trail would be developed from Mexico to Oregon that originally would allow an off-highway vehicle to travel border to border. The OHMVR Strategic Plan calls for a Statewide Motorized Trail to be in place by 2020. He suggested a Commission subcommittee be formed to work with a taskforce from the Division, along

with interested members of the community, to find out if the community still wants to pursue this project.

Chief Jenkins invited Sylvia Milligan from the Recreation Outdoors Coalition to give a brief history on the project. She reported that currently the trail is connected from the Oregon border to Sierra County, and a plan is in place for the rest of the trail.

Chief Jenkins invited John Stewart from the California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs to discuss the 2007 four-wheel drive jeep tour from the Mexico border outside of Yuma heading up to the Oregon border. He reported only 30 to 40 miles of that tour were on pavement, the rest being on dirt roads.

AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS I, II, III, IV(A), IV(B)(1)(i-iv)

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist Association: Mr. Haris expressed his concerns regarding the RTP report and mentioned that the American Motorcycle Association submitted a letter to the Governor—with copies sent to General Jackson, the new OHV Deputy Director, and Chief Jenkins—that shares the same concerns such as what type of precedent does this set for funding off-highway recreation in other instances.
- Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association: Ms. Granat shared her concerns with the Governor's decision regarding the RTP. Although the program represents a small amount of money, the effect the program has reaches a huge population of Californians. She stated that her association will also be submitting a letter to the Governor explaining the importance of the program and what it provides.
- Pam Gluck, American Trails: Ms. Gluck explained the importance of the RTP: it's a user-pay, user-benefit program especially for the OHV community. She explained her concern that if the RTP is consolidated in the larger Caltrans fund that the RTP will be lost and the user community paying taxes into that fund will no longer receive the benefits of that funding. The funding allows for maintenance and allows for the State Trail Advisory Committee – a committee that has brought motorized and non-motorized communities together to ensure the great trails throughout the country.
- Jim Bramham, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Bramham expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the Division and Commissioner Pérez in working to keep Oceano Dunes SVRA open, and hopes to see that effort continue so that the SVRA remains open and available for public use.
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Stewart added another value to the RTP in that the funding provides more than trail work and maintenance, it also provides trailhead and restroom facilities at various places along the trails. Mr. Stewart requested that the Division make available a snapshot of what the grants are, and have been over the past, in order to develop talking points describing what makes the program unique and important to the recreation program community.

- Mr. Stewart expressed that there is a valid need for the California Statewide Motorized Trail in that a segment of the public seeks long-distance trips on back roads that offers more dispersed camping away from paved roads and cities.
- Don Amador, Western Representative, Blue Ribbon Coalition: Mr. Amador expressed his concerns with opting out of the RTP and also believes it is a bad idea.

Mr. Amador was glad to hear that the California Statewide Motorized Trail has come up again. He shared a story about a trip with his father, a World War II vet, and his last trip on the Back Country Discovery Trail segment on the Mendocino, an alternate route that goes up to the Mendocino Six Rivers National Forest. Mr. Amador would love to be part of moving forward with the California Statewide Motorized Trail.

AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Randy Jordan, Sun Buggies Fun Rentals: Mr. Jordan expressed his concern regarding the concessionaire contracts at Oceano Dunes SVRA, and ROV and ATV safety. He feels that there is a calculable, reoccurring number of injuries and no action to reduce these numbers. In ten years Sun Buggies has never had an adolescent injury and they provide general liability insurance unlike the other concessionaires. He would like to see a new contract with language that increases safety.
- Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association, presented Chief Jenkins with the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) George Thomas Memorial Trophy Off-Roader of the Year Award.
- Jim Bramham, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Bramham thanked Tom Bernardo for his efforts and technical guidance for side-by-side legislation. Mr. Bernardo has been an amazing resource helping the people within State Parks and all federal agencies understand the regulations and the legislation moving forward.
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Stewart thanked General Jackson for his approach in bringing multiple stakeholders together. Mr. Stewart invited the General to visit Picacho SRA, a state park in the southeastern corner of California that offers a full mix of recreation, including non-motorized, motorized, and boating opportunities.
- Don Amador, Blue Ribbon Coalition: Mr. Amador thanked BLM and Division staff for one of the best tours he has ever experienced. He also recommended that American Trails consider having another conference in Redding given that it has been thirteen years since the last one.
- Sylvia Milligan, Recreation Outdoors Coalition: Ms. Milligan recommended that a letter be written by the OHMVR Commission to the Shasta/Trinity National Forest thanking them for their forward movement on the "Share the Dream" trail. The

Forest's willingness to review the road conditions and reduce some trails from ML3/ML4 to trails that support mixed use so that OHV recreation could once again be allowed on the Share the Dream trail, a trail originally intended for all users.

- Rick Lavello, San Bernardino National Forest: Mr. Lavello described the San Bernardino National Forest Association, now becoming the Southern California Mountains Foundation, and the off-highway vehicle education program and other critical services provided by this association and its staff of 200 volunteers. This association contributes to the protection of resources, education, patrol, and maintenance of over 900 miles of dirt road, 170 of which are off-highway recreation. Mr. Lavello expressed his sincere concern about what would happen to these efforts without the funding of the RTP and Cooperative Grants Agreement.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(2) - LEGISLATION

OHMVR staff member Tom Bernardo reported on AB 1595 and AB 1266 regarding ROVs.

OHMVR Division Superintendent Williams reported on the following:

- SB 64 regarding children wearing a helmet while in a child safety seat.
- SB 234 regarding eliminating the requirement for a passenger to hold onto a grasp.
- AB 334 regarding changing the dates some bills go into effect to January 1, 2015.
- AB 988 regarding requiring an application to DMV for manufacturers and dealers of ROVs
- SB 151 regarding DMV issuing a sticker in lieu of a license plate.
- Two bills that address a pass program to waive fees for veterans visiting State Parks on certain days.

Chief Jenkins further informed the Commission on the ROV legislation.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(5)(i) - PUBLIC SAFETY, KING OF THE HAMMERS

Commission reviewed a video of the event held this year. Superintendent Williams discussed event details including an estimated 50,000 people in attendance during the week of activities and an estimated 600,000 people watching the race via online video streaming. There were 129 competitors of which 29 completed the 183-mile race. The State Parks' outreach tent staffed law enforcement, interpreters, and grant administrators and became a hub for visitors to receive information on OHV recreation and new and existing laws. State Parks brought their ATV safety simulator and manikin family to showcase safety and safety equipment.

Superintendent Robertson reported on the successful deployment of law enforcement and outreach at the King of the Hammers event. OHMVR Division established goals and objectives after accepting an invitation from BLM to participate in the event. San Bernardino Sheriff's Office was also a primary participating agency. One goal was to share new styles of outreach and communication, not just writing tickets, but with the idea that long-term compliance really needs good outreach programs and good

messages. Eight State Parks rangers were inserted into BLM's patrol schedule. The most successful contacts were made by the rangers on motorcycles. When the event first started, countless violations of OHV laws were present. Due to the successful implementation of law enforcement outreach, by the end of the event violations could not be found.

Chief Jenkins acknowledged the tremendous amount of work BLM puts into managing the race, maintaining a safe event, and ensuring environmental issues were addressed.

Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS IV(B)(5)(i)

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Pat Henderson: Mr. Henderson shared his experience at the King of the Hammers event this year, the importance of safety and what he saw put into effect to ensure the safety of visitors. He was pleased with the outcome of the event.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Cabral made the following comments:

- He would like to see a specific classification for ROVs that would allow the vehicle to travel on unimproved dirt roads throughout National Forests and State Parks, and for safety reasons, be prohibited from traveling on paved roads.
- He supports the idea of a statewide motorized trail.
- He acknowledged the King of the Hammers event and hopes events like this can continue. He was impressed with the safety aspects.
- He would like to see the Commission take action, letter or otherwise, to support keeping the RTP program as it is.
- He will inform the OHMVR Division regarding his contacting one of the beginning developers of the Statewide Motorized Trail program.

Commissioner Pérez congratulated Chief Jenkins on his award from CORVA.

Commissioner Patrovsky commented that he appreciated the increased emphasis on spectator safety at organized events as seen during the King of the Hammers presentation.

Commissioner Kerr made the following comments:

- He stressed the importance of working hard with the Marine Corps to preserve access to the unique area of Kern County.
- He congratulated State Parks law enforcement for their participation in the King of the Hammers event.
- He's very supportive of the Statewide Motorized Trail and potentially serving on the subcommittee.
- Upon further inquiry, Chief Jenkins provided in-depth details regarding income and expenditures within the OHMVR budget. Chief Jenkins also spoke to conditions of repayment of the funds borrowed by the State over the past

20 years. Commissioner Kerr requested that this item be kept within the budget reporting.

- He thanked the Redding BLM for yesterday's tour.
- He requested that the King of the Hammers be submitted for a cultural designation to become a protected cultural resource within the State of California.
- He suggested placing the Statewide Motorized Trail onto the OHMVR Commission's permanent agenda.

Commissioner Murphy made the following comments:

- He commended BLM for the tour yesterday and the overall park.
- He supported the concept of ROVs having its own classification.
- He commended the San Bernardino National Forest volunteers.
- He commended the support OHMVR staff gave to the King of the Hammers event, and thinks it should be supported in the future.

Commissioner Villegas made the following comments:

- She noted the importance of outreach especially to newly-elected officials in all branches of government and that the need for education is extremely high.

Chair Slavik made the following comments:

- He requested an updated organizational chart of the OHMVR Division.

The following Commission subcommittees were formed with the following Commissioners:

- Statewide Motorized Trails – Commissioners Cabral and Kerr
- Recreational Trails Program – Commissioners Villegas and Cabral

Director Jackson's parting comments before the lunch break were to thank the public and he looks forward to working with the OHMVR Commission.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(3) - GENERAL PLANS

OHMVR staff Dan Canfield provided a brief history on the general plans for SVRAs. A chart was provided with the overall status of all SVRA general plans. The projected schedule to bring the general plans for Carnegie and Ocotillo Wells to the Commission for its consideration is early 2014.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(4) - ATTENDANCE

State Parks Ranger Natalie Lohi provided the report. The Division is required to report attendance data monthly. California State University, Sacramento received a contract to complete a comprehensive review of attendance to help satisfy some requirements under SB 742 and help assess the surveys currently be collected at all of the SVRAs.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(6) - GRANTS PROGRAM

OHMVR Grants administrator Kelly Long provided an update and gave a brief history of the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program. He identified that the preliminary applications for this current grant cycle total \$30 million in funding requests out of the \$10 million available.

AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(7) - PROPOSED EASTERN KERN COUNTY ACQUISITION

Dan Canfield reported the draft EIR was made available for public review and comment on February 15, 2013. On March 16, 2013, a subcommittee of the OHMVR Commission held a public hearing in Tehachapi where the public was able to provide comments.

Chief Jenkins informed the Commission that Ranger Tim Guardino was nominated and awarded posthumously the Drury Award for Professional Integrity. The award ceremony will be held April 24, 2013.

AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS IV(B)(2-7)

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist Association: Mr. Haris commented on the Eastern Kern County Acquisition including his excitement for the project. The public meeting he attended was very informative; however, he wishes more of the public attended.
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee: Mr. Pickett expressed his concern regarding the \$10 million that has been taken from the OHV Trust Fund for the last two years. He suggested that the OHMVR Commission write a letter to the Governor and Secretary Laird asking when this will stop.
- Jim Bramham, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Bramham discussed what he feels was the beginning of the ROHVA movement which started in the sand dunes with users bringing their own golf carts, then modified golf carts. Soon enough manufacturers realized the need for side-by-sides. He mentioned that many of the users visiting the Imperial Sand Dunes, where this all began, are non-residents from Arizona who have modified their vehicles to suit their families' needs. He finished by stressing the importance of solving the ROHVA legislation and the importance it has on the local economies in California.
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Stewart recommended that the OHMVR Commission have Division staff calculate the amount of money requested by grantees that is not funded at the end of the Grant cycle. He feels this number is important to know given all the underfunded recreational opportunities on federal land.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS IV(B)(3-4, 6-7),

Commissioner Cabral made the following comments:

- In response to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry, Chief Jenkins acknowledged that opportunities for all points of view are provided and taken into consideration during the entire general plan process. Mr. Canfield described the different meetings where those opportunities for input were given.

Chair Slavik made the following comments:

- In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry, Chief Jenkins affirmed that the Division is currently trying to schedule tours at Hollister Hills SVRA for elected officials and is open to giving interested parties a tour.

- In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry, Chief Jenkins gave an update on the funds appropriated to purchase the proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition. The funds are expiring June 30, 2013, and the Division is diligently working to complete the acquisition. Discussion ensued regarding the acquisition and staying engaged in this process. Chief Jenkins affirmed that this project was a top OHV priority for General Jackson. Chair Murphy offered his support to the Eastern Kern County Acquisition.
- In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry regarding ROVs, Commissioner Cabral thought the issue should be revisited in subsequent Commission meetings.

AGENDA ITEM IV(C) - REPORTS - BLM

BLM Redding Field Manager, Jennifer Mata, provided an update. Due to the current sequestration, Jane Arteaga was unable to travel and attend this Commission meeting. Ms. Mata informed the Commission that on February 11, 2013 the Navy signed a Record of Decision regarding Johnson Valley to implement Alternative 6 with some modifications. BLM continues to work with the Department of Defense and has identified the impacts to OHV in the Johnson Valley.

Ms. Mata reported on the progress of the Draft Business Plan for the Imperial Sand Dunes. All events held there since September have been successful with no serious safety issues noted. Once all protests have been resolved for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan, BLM will issue a Record of Decision to the public.

Office Recreation Planner, Sky Zaffarano, from the Redding BLM Field Office gave a PowerPoint presentation on four OHV recreation areas managed in Northern California: Chappie-Shasta Staging Area, Samoa Dunes Recreation Area, Port Sage, and Cinder Cone OHV area.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS IV(C)

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Jim Bramham, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Bramham insisted that the OHMVR Commission follow the business plan for the Imperial Sand Dunes very closely as it will affect user patterns and consumer satisfaction.
- John Stewart, California Association 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Stewart discussed two concerns related to BLM practices. The first item related to their process for special event permits in that permit requirements are applied to situations that should not qualify for special events, such as a family of less than ten vehicles visiting an area, without any spectators, being required to go through the permit process much like the King of the Hammers event. Secondly, he expressed his disappointment in not hearing about the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan in the BLM report. This plan will close off major portions of desert recreation areas; areas in which BLM has still applied for OHMVR Grants regardless of the potential closing of these areas. Mr. Stewart encouraged the OHMVR Commission to research and question this issue.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM IV(C)

Commissioner Cabral made the following comments:

- He sought further clarification on BLM's special recreation permit process. Ms. Mata noted that the Redding and Arcata Field Offices have requested funds to redo their resource management plans, which is the guiding direction for how a field office is managed. She encouraged Commissioners and the public to submit requests for uses during that process.

Chair Slavik made the following comments:

- He informed BLM that the OHMVR Commission will include for its next meeting the proposed plan at Imperial Sand Dunes as part of the agenda, and requested that Jim Kenna appear.

AGENDA ITEM IV(D) - REPORTS - USFS

Garrett Villanueva with the USFS presented the report for Kathleen Mick, who was unable to travel and attend due to the current sequestration.

Mr. Villanueva gave an update on the travel management plan and the associated lawsuits.

Mr. Villanueva gave an informational report on the Science Synthesis for Forest Plan and Revision that affects the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests.

Mr. Villanueva gave an update on the Eldorado National Forest 42 Trails. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is currently open for public comment, which will close on April 8, 2013.

Mr. Villanueva gave an update on the draft SEIS for the Southern California Forestland Management Plans for the Cleveland, San Bernardino and Angeles National Forests. Two new alternatives are being analyzed. Alternative 3 would allocate a larger share of the inventoried roadless areas to wilderness designation, and Alternative C would require extensive monitoring.

AGENDA ITEM V(B) - BUSINESS ITEM - PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A LETTER TO THE USFS REGARDING THE USFS SCIENCE SYNTHESIS

OHMVR Environmental Program Manager, Christopher Huitt gave a detailed informational report indicating that the Science Synthesis plan will ultimately set direction and provide citations for the upcoming forest plan revision for all 155 National Forests throughout the United States. Numerous organizations and clubs representing motorized and non-motorized recreation and other land uses have challenged the Science Synthesis report.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM IV(D) and V(B)

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association: Ms. Granat discussed the exclusion of not only OHV recreation, but all recreation in the Science Synthesis

study. Not only is this study lacking recreation studies, but also peer-viewed research from the OHV community and the social, economic, and ecological benefits of recreation. She requested the help of the OHMVR Division and Commission to help bring about a resolution to the unbalanced approach in this document.

- Don Amador, Blue Ribbon Coalition: Mr. Amador reminded the Commission that yesterday's tour included not only BLM, but USFS representation. He also acknowledged the efforts of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in revising their travel management plan. After receiving feedback from the public that their current travel plan was inadequate, the forest took steps to improve their plan by being open to collaboration and by hiring a trail coordinator. He gave kudos to the local forest for doing a great job.
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs: Mr. Stewart discussed his view of the USFS Science Synthesis report stating that he recognizes it is not perfect, and is hopeful that the living assessment that will go along with the report will fill many of the gaps.
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee: Mr. Pickett expressed his unhappiness with the USFS, depleting OHMVR grant funds, and the continued borrowing of OHV funds in general. The current funding situation of the OHV program does not allow for poor travel management planning. He mentioned a retired stakeholder program that consisted of forest services representatives and the environmental and OHV community that made agreements that were never kept.
- Sylvia Milligan, Recreation Outdoors Coalition: Ms. Milligan discussed a past survey conducted by the USFS and her concerns with the methodology used to conduct the survey. She discussed her concerns with the forest supervisor, stating that the survey was made inadequate by the exclusion of ATVs and dirt bikes due to the recent lock out of OHVs.

Chief Jenkins spoke to the sequestration preventing BLM and USFS representatives from traveling to and attending the Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM IV(D) and V(B)

Commissioner Pérez made the following comments:

- She suggested that video conferencing be considered for future meetings so that BLM and USFS can attend.

Commissioner Cabral made the following comments:

- He commended the work of USFS employees that interact with visitors.
- He suggested the USFS consider a work schedule that allows the forest offices to remain open on the weekend and be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- He suggested if the Commission decides to draft a letter on the Science Synthesis to include the concern regarding the lack of off-highway vehicle use mentioned in the report.

- He questioned if the USFS continued to leave OHVs out of their processes could that impact scoring on future grants.

Commissioner Kerr recommended that the Commission hear about potential research projects in the future which have been funded in the past by the OHMVR Grants program.

In response to inquiries from Commissioner Murphy, Chief Jenkins clarified that the OHMVR Division would not take part in the scientific studies, and OHMVR staff Huitt clarified that socioeconomics are included in the study.

Chair Slavik made the following comments:

- He recommended that the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council be considered as a resource.

Commission discussion ensued with Chief Jenkins who committed to look further into the issues surrounding the Science Synthesis and report back to the Commission at a future meeting.

Commission took no action on Agenda Business Item V(B).

AGENDA ITEM V(C) - BUSINESS ITEM - PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A COMMENT LETTER REGARDING THE ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST 42 ROUTES DRAFT SEIS

OHMVR staff Dan Canfield updated the Commission.

Chair Slavik appointed a subcommittee comprised of himself and Commissioner Cabral.

Commissioner Kerr moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded to authorize the subcommittee to draft and send a letter on behalf of the Commission. Motion carried.

Chair Slavik tabled Agenda Business Items V (D, E, and F) until a future meeting.

Chair Slavik informed the Commission that a letter could not be submitted for Agenda Business Item V(E), even though the L.A. County Staging Area is a great project.

Commissioner Kerr moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded to adjourn the Commission meeting at 4:10 p.m. Motion carried.