



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers

December 1, 2012

STAFF REPORT: Volunteer Program Update
STAFF: Natalie Lohi, Supervising Ranger
SUBJECT: Division Wide Volunteer Hours and Impact

Summary

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division has long recognized the value of volunteers. Volunteers have been an integral part of the OHMVR Program since its inception 40 years ago. Today, there are volunteer programs at each district within the Division. Dedicated staff working within established policies and guidelines, have developed a well-managed and sustainable volunteer program. This program will continue to grow with the needs of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) and the off-highway vehicle (OHV) community.

Discussion

There are various types of volunteers as defined in the Volunteers in Parks Program Guidelines. They will all fall within one of two categories: long-term or short-term. Short-term volunteers work for three days or less, usually on special projects such as trail rehabilitation, tree planting, or feature builds. While some of these “Volunteer Work Days” are planned as needs arise, others have evolved into regularly occurring events. A list of SVRA Volunteer Work Days is attached. Becoming a long-term volunteer is a process that includes screening, interviewing, registration, annual training and performance reviews. Long-term volunteers commit to serve over an extended period of time and are usually required to work a minimum number of hours each month to retain “active” status. This minimum monthly hour requirement is determined at the district level. Long-term volunteers are also required to sign a Volunteer Service Agreement, a duty statement specific to his/her volunteer position, and a health questionnaire along with other registration forms. He/she may also be required to provide driving record information as well as submit to a criminal history check. All new volunteers participate in an orientation and an initial on-site training. All volunteers participate in on-going refresher training throughout the year. A District Volunteer Coordinator is designated to manage the volunteer program at each district. The duties and responsibilities of the District Volunteer Coordinator include:

- Planning, directing and overseeing the District Volunteer Program
- Coordinating volunteer program activities, including recruitment, screening, and required training of volunteers
- Coordinating the volunteer recognition program
- Compiling and reporting the annual volunteer activity reports to the statewide Volunteers in Parks Program Coordinator
- Informing the District Superintendent of all program activities and relevant issues

The District Volunteer Coordinators at the SVRAs communicate regularly with the State Park Interpreter III at the OHMVR Division Headquarters. Coordinators provide information on volunteer numbers and hours, projects, training programs and recruitment efforts. Additionally, the District Volunteer Coordinators report to the Volunteers in Parks Program Coordinator (the statewide volunteer program coordinator for the department) providing annual program reports and receiving guidance on policy and procedure.

The OHMVR volunteer program has grown consistently throughout the years. In 2002, the Division reported a total of 275 volunteers. In 2011, that number had increased to 1,156 volunteers. Our committed volunteers have assisted in various program areas including: Administration, Campgrounds, Interpretation & Education, Maintenance, All-Terrain Vehicle Safety InstituteSM (ASI) & Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Training, Public Safety, Natural & Cultural Resource Management, Outreach, and Special Events. In 2011, volunteers throughout the OHMVR Division contributed a total of 41,689 hours valued at \$908,404.00.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA:	1,402 hours	\$ 30,550.00
Oceano Dunes SVRA:	26,067 hours	\$ 568,000.00
Hungry Valley SVRA:	791 hours	\$ 17,236.00
Hollister Hills SVRA:	4,430 hours	\$ 96,530.00
Twin Cities SVRA:	8,999 hours	\$ 196,088.00

Our volunteers also provide significant benefits that cannot be measured in dollars. These are community members who often have extensive knowledge of area history. While department staff may promote and transfer, volunteers are often established residents who can provide a consistent presence at the SVRAs. An opportunity exists in the Division to train and develop some of our volunteers for leadership roles. Department policy provides for a Lead Volunteer position and allows for this position to attend the Department's volunteer management training. By developing the leadership skills of carefully selected volunteers, we can retain corporate knowledge in the event of retirements, transfers and promotions. We can also continue to grow the volunteer program without significantly increasing the need for staff hours, thereby maintaining the optimal cost benefit of the program. Volunteers have always been and will always be an integral part of the OHMVR Program. Through continued recruitment efforts, appropriate training, and consistent recognition, this program will continue to thrive.

To view the State Parks volunteer web page, follow the link below:
www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=886

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

District Volunteer Coordinators

SVRA Volunteer Work Days

**DISTRICT VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS
OHMVR DIVISION**

PARK	COORDINATOR	POSITION	CONTACT INFO
Hollister Hills District	Debra Cable	State Park Guide I	(831)636-2068 dcable@parks.ca.gov
Hungry Valley District	Michelle Hofmann	State Park Interpreter I	(661)753-6013 mhofmann@parks.ca.gov
Oceano Dunes District	Danielle Patterson	State Park Interpreter I	(805)773-7187 dpatterson@parks.ca.gov
Ocotillo Wells District	Steve Quartieri	State Park Interpreter III	(760)767-1331 squartieri@parks.ca.gov
Twin Cities District	Greg Schumaker	State Park Interpreter II	(916)985-1093 gschumaker@parks.ca.gov
DIVISION LIASON		POSITION	CONTACT INFO
Ellen Clark		State park Interpreter III	(916)324-3786 eclark@parks.ca.gov
VIPP STATEWIDE COORDINATOR		POSITION	CONTACT INFO
Margo Cowan		Associate Governmental Analyst	(916)653-8819 mcowan@parks.ca.gov

Volunteers in Parks Program 2011

	Hollister Hills	Hungry Valley	Oceano Dunes	Ocotillo Wells	Twin Cities
Unit	244	553	264	439	367
Admin.	378	0	4,805	162	0
Campground/Park Host	0	0	1,780	456	0
Interp	70	32	2,991	164	0
Maintenance/Housekeeping	844	0	580	72	0
Public Safety	2,327	599	11,391	32	2,525
Natural Resource Mgt.	125	0	1,942	0	30
Cultural Resource Mgt.	190	0	115	0	80
Public Relations	0	0	220	13	0
Public Contact	0	0	2,185	503	40
Special Events, Other	496	160	58	0	6,324
Total Volunteer Hours	4,430	791	26,067	1,402	8,999
Total # of Volunteers	155	39	689	94	179

Total Volunteers Hours	41,689
Total Dollar Value	\$908,403