



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Borrego Springs, CA

November 16, 2013

STAFF REPORT: General Plans Update
STAFF: Dan Canfield, Planning Manager
SUBJECT: Status of General Plans for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

Several of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) are in the process of updating their park general plans. A general plan directs the long-range development and management of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. This guidance is essential to the SVRA managers and staff, and is of value to those organizations and individuals who have an interest in the SVRA. SVRAs must have an approved general plan before funding can be appropriated for any major capital outlay projects to build new facilities in a park unit.

Discussion

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2, California State Parks is required to prepare general plans for units of the State Park System (e.g., SVRAs) prior to the development of new facilities. In 2007, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division performed a review of existing general plans for the SVRAs and determined that six SVRAs needed to initiate or update their general plans. A contractor was secured to prepare some of the general plans. A table identifying the status of the SVRA general plans is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 1).

Following is a brief summary of recent SVRA general plan developments:

Ocotillo Wells SVRA: Working Paper #2 has been posted on the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan project website: www.PlanOcotilloWells.com. Working Paper #2 describes the existing conditions for a set of topics relevant to the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan. The content of this working paper will constitute the “Existing Conditions” chapter of the General Plan. The information presented in this working paper will also serve as background for the development of the draft concept alternatives that will be presented to the public at a workshop tentatively planned for December 2013. Additionally, the technical information included in this document will be used to develop the existing

setting for the corresponding Environmental Impact Report, which will be prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts of implementing the General Plan.

Carnegie SVRA: The Carnegie SVRA General Plan team will host a public workshop on November 12, 2013, to present the draft preferred General Plan concept. The workshop will be held in Pleasanton, California at Amador Valley High School. The preferred concept was developed based on detailed resource and constraints information, and on stakeholder comments received on the three concept alternatives presented in June/July 2013.

As with prior workshops, all information presented at the workshop will be made available on the project website: www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com. An interactive web activity will also be available on the project website to allow public feedback on the preferred concept.

Prairie City SVRA: On October 13, 2013, Prairie City SVRA celebrated Visitor Appreciation Day. SVRA visitors not only had a chance to enjoy the exciting recreational opportunities, but also numerous vendor displays and demonstrations were available in the main staging area, including another opportunity to participate in the General Plan process for Prairie City SVRA.

The Prairie City SVRA General Plan team was present at Visitor Appreciation Day to promote public participation in the General Plan process. The General Plan booth was the last stop for raffle drop-off, and a perfect opportunity to ask SVRA visitors for their thoughts on the long-term future of Prairie City SVRA. Visitors were able to review five different land-use zones to select their preferences and provide their own ideas on the future for each location. Families, recreationists, long-time visitors, and those enjoying their first day at Prairie City SVRA were able to provide their thoughts and hopes for the SVRA which include camping opportunities and further development in areas such as the Quarry Pit.

Members of the public that were not able to attend Visitor Appreciation Day can visit the Prairie City General Plan project website, www.PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com, to complete an online exercise to provide their thoughts on the future of Prairie City SVRA. The online exercise will be available through January 15, 2014. Additionally, a survey is available at the project website until October 31, 2013, to gather information on how visitors currently use the SVRA.

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

Attachment 1: SVRA General Plans Update – November 2013

OHMVR DIVISION

State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plans Update November 2013

| Park Unit | Adopted | Amended | GP Status & Updates in Progress |
|----------------------|---------|---------|--|
| Carnegie SVRA | 1981 | - | GP update underway including Alameda-Tesla properties. Preferred concept public meeting scheduled for November 12, 2013 in Pleasanton, CA. |
| Clay Pit SVRA | 2012 | - | Approved by the OHMVR Commission June 2012 |
| Heber Dunes SVRA | 2011 | - | Approved by the OHMVR Commission December 2011 |
| Hollister Hills SVRA | 1978 | 2003 | - |
| Hungry Valley SVRA | 1981 | - | GP update pending, including new and proposed acquisitions |
| Oceano Dunes SVRA | 1975 | 1991 | - |
| Ocotillo Wells SVRA | 1981 | - | GP update underway including newly acquired properties. Planning alternatives public meeting tentatively scheduled for December 2013. |
| Prairie City SVRA | 1991 | - | GP update underway. Concept alternatives online workshop available on project website through January 15, 2013. |