

#### **A. Statement of Activity or Product**

The High Sierra Ranger District, covering the south half of the Sierra National Forest, has a network of 80 miles of four wheel drive routes along with 539 miles of Level 2 roads, both offering challenges for the novice or expert OHV enthusiast. Of the 13 routes available, 11 have lakes either along the route or as destinations providing dispersed camping and day use opportunities. The Jose Basin and Blue Canyon areas provide great opportunities when the 80 miles of trail in the high country close due to snow. The large areas closed to motorized use are five wilderness areas and the Kings River Special Management Area.

Funding for this project will provide routine patrols to educate public of OHV laws and regulations throughout the general forest on the High Sierra RD, along with 4x4 trails, staging areas/trailheads, and dispersed, undeveloped use areas. Tasks would include posting associated bulletin boards, distribution of brochures, "rules of the road" information, Tread Lightly and Pack it In/Pack it Out information. This is a way to inform public of the safest techniques used to protect us and the environment. OHV Staff and volunteers will monitor visitor use through field/office public contacts and traffic counters.

The High Sierra Ranger District provides a destination winter recreation location for those visitors seeking to pursue snow related activities. The District's winter recreation trailheads are located on Highway 168, north of Shaver Lake, at both Tamarack Ridge, elevation 7600 feet, and Huntington Lake, elevation 7000 feet. Three trailheads service 234 miles of designated snowmobile trails. There are 209 miles of snowmobile trails groomed throughout the winter season. The groomed trail system provides access to approximately 72,800 acres of public land available for open snowmobile recreation. A snowmobiler can park at any of the three snowmobile trailheads and have access to the entire trail system. Of the 32 designated trails, some are loop trails and many are destination trails to scenic overlooks and lakes. The District has one Law Enforcement Officer and one Forest Protection Officer patrolling the winter trail system.

The high visibility of the LEOs, FPOs, Sheriff's Office patrollers, and volunteer patrols will provide the opportunity to observe the public for non-compliance and to educate the public about the importance of OHV regulations. Education and public outreach efforts by Law Enforcement personnel will include attending Forest Service sponsored, Four Wheel Drive Club, Motorcycle Club, and Snowmobile Club meetings and contacting local OHV/OSV dealerships. An innovative approach by law enforcement on the District is to recruit the use of the CHP and SO helicopters to survey for wilderness intrusions and other OSV activities. This is accomplished while the agencies are on routine patrol in the area.

The OHV/OSV Volunteer programs enhance the ability of staff to perform education and safety activities and provide a direct link to what is happening on the ground in terms of visitor involvement, safety and quality of route and trail system, as well as feed back as to improvements or needs for a successful program.

Volunteers are trained, provided with visible identification, and are equipped with a Forest Service radio for communications. Over the last several years they have initiated response to many medical emergencies they have encounter in the field, along with numerous other types of assistance to all forest visitors. Volunteers are trained in first aid and CPR, Forest Service emergency procedures, communications, orienteering and map reading skills, report writing, public contacts, hazard identification, trail maintenance skills, and special attention to safety in all tasks they perform. In addition, the snowmobile and Nordic ski volunteers receive avalanche recognition and rescue, mountaineering skills, snowmobile safety and operation and skiing technique.

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

Education and Safety is one of the most important messages we can get across to the public. This plays an important role in creating a sense of stewardship towards public lands by its users. Once someone is educated they can pass that information onto the next person. Our goal is to create public awareness that will enhance OHV/OSV use and create more OHV/OSV. By utilizing Law Enforcement Officers, Forest Protection Officers, Forest Service staff and Volunteers we can provide ample education and safety opportunities .

Visitor Information Specialists, OHV patrollers, and volunteers are responsible for providing accurate information, visitor assistance, promoting responsible resource ethics and OHV user etiquette. The Tread Lightly program promotes a

valuable resource protection message through user etiquette. The Tread Lightly message is posted on our bulletin boards, related personally one-on-one with users by all staffs and volunteers, and is included in brochures to remind and educate the users of necessary resource protection methods and multiple-uses of the trails.

All of the above mentioned activities, whether, maintaining buildings, installing signs, cleaning campsites, or coordinating the volunteer program, help in reaching our goal of sustaining quality OHV Recreation here on the Forest.

Maintenance of directional signs and barriers and management traffic, keeps OHV users on the established routes and staging areas. This will reduce off-trail impacts to cultural sites adjacent to these areas. The Tread Lightly message posted at all bulletin boards promotes a valuable resource protection message through user etiquette. Maintenance of the many favored dispersed campsites will give the public numerous camping options in locations that are impacted but suitable for extended overnight use, thus keeping the impacts concentrated on hardened sites. Having established, favored sites in a well maintained condition encourages use and reduces the possibility of encroaching upon sensitive cultural sites nearby. Maintaining erosion control features in and around staging areas/dispersed campsites will protect natural and cultural resources. Erosion has the capability to unearth cultural artifacts and degrade the archaeological site. This can make the site obvious and attract illegal digging in the site. Prevention of erosion protects water quality and prevents habitat destruction in sensitive watersheds. During all patrols or travels on level 2 roads and established routes, OHV staff consistently removes all garbage, including aluminum cans, bottles and paper/cardboard from the roadsides.

### **C. Identification of Needs**

This project will address the informing of public on rules, regulations, education and safety. If we do nothing to educate on safety and general OHV/OSV use we will incur more law violations and have more accidents/fatalities on the forest. The future generations of OHV/OSV users will have apathy instead of respect for the Sierra National Forest and the OHV/OSV areas within. The need of gaining public involvement is what the project will address most.

Maintenance of directional signs and barriers and management traffic, keeps OHV users on the established routes and staging areas. This will reduce off-trail impacts to cultural sites adjacent to these areas. The Tread Lightly message posted at all bulletin boards promotes a valuable resource protection message through user etiquette. Maintenance of the many favored dispersed campsites will give the public numerous camping options in locations that are impacted but suitable for extended overnight use, thus keeping the impacts concentrated on hardened sites. Having established, favored sites in a well maintained condition encourages use and reduces the possibility of encroaching upon sensitive cultural sites nearby. Maintaining erosion control features in and around staging areas/dispersed campsites will protect natural and cultural resources. Erosion has the capability to unearth cultural artifacts and degrade the archaeological site. This can make the site obvious and attract illegal digging in the site. Prevention of erosion protects water quality and prevents habitat destruction in sensitive watersheds. During all patrols or travels on level 2 roads and established routes, OHV staff consistently removes all garbage, including aluminum cans, bottles and paper/cardboard from the roadsides.

### **D. Location of Training Services**

Training services will be provided on the Sierra National Forest, either on the High Sierra Ranger District on our many trail systems. Some training might be provided at the Supervisors Office in Clovis as well. Most of our training will be provided on specific trails, depending on the training topic. Many times we will provide a "hands on!" training experience. Workshops for trail construction, tree removal, water bar building/repairing and other large construction projects are provided by experienced Forest Service Trailshots.

We will also have trainings at 4X4 club meetings or at work centers located on the forest. We will cover public contact, first aid safety, radio use, GPS, Map and compass, camping skills used in the backcountry and proper food storage. The focus is on safety and resource protection. That way paid staff and volunteers are on the same page when it comes to education and safety of OHV/OSV use.

**E. OHV Safety, Environmental Responsibility, and Respect Private Property**

At each of our trailheads we have bulletin boards that have educational material along with rules and regulations. They will have flyers that give trail information, destinations along the way and on proper low impact techniques used in camping/traveling in a forest setting. Many OHV/OSV enthusiasts offer help to newcomers to the sport which also helps pass information to new groups.

Maintenance of directional signs and barriers and management traffic, keeps OHV users on the established routes and staging areas. This will reduce off-trail impacts to cultural sites adjacent to these areas. The Tread Lightly message posted at all bulletin boards promotes a valuable resource protection message through user etiquette. Maintenance of the many favored dispersed campsites will give the public numerous camping options in locations that are impacted but suitable for extended overnight use, thus keeping the impacts concentrated on hardened sites.

This project has private property nearby with illegal routes near the private property. Establishing staging areas and prohibiting use in sensitive areas will protect residents, private property and adjacent landowners from noise, trespass and property damage. Landowners within or adjacent to national forest boundaries can be our biggest allies or enemies. They live with, and sometimes adjust to, the activities and uses found in the forest. Informing them of our management practices and future projects that may affect them is crucial to the success of our future projects.

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**1 Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[Bulletin Board](#)

[Bulletin Board](#)

**2 Optional Project-specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Sierra National Forest Location Map](#)



Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: USFS - Sierra National Forest  
 Application: Education & Safety OHV/OSV High Sierra RD

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	Other-OHV Technician	90.000	120.000	DAY	5,400.00	5,400.00	10,800.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Signs	150.000	30.000	EA	2,250.00	2,250.00	4,500.00
	Safety Equipment	20.000	25.000	EA	250.00	250.00	500.00
	Brochures	5000.000	1.000	EA	2,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00
	Emergency Medical Supplies	10.000	50.000	EA	250.00	250.00	500.00
	Other-Hardware (Nuts & Bolts)	100.000	5.000	EA	250.00	250.00	500.00
	Other-Sign Posts	150.000	20.000	EA	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
	<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				7,000.00	7,000.00	14,000.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	5.000	1500.000	EA	3,750.00	3,750.00	7,500.00
	Other-Power tool repair/maintenance	15.000	30.000	EA	225.00	225.00	450.00
	Equipment Rental	2.000	150.000	EA	150.00	150.00	300.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				4,125.00	4,125.00	8,250.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
<b>7</b>	<b>Administrative Costs</b>						
	<b>Total Program Expenses</b>				16,525.00	16,525.00	33,050.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: USFS - Sierra National Forest  
 Application: Education & Safety OHV/OSV High Sierra RD

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				16,525.00	16,525.00	33,050.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>16,525.00</b>	<b>16,525.00</b>	<b>33,050.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: USFS - Sierra National Forest  
 Application: Education & Safety OHV/OSV High Sierra RD

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	5,400.00	5,400.00	10,800.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	7,000.00	7,000.00	14,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	4,125.00	4,125.00	8,250.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		<b>16,525.00</b>	<b>16,525.00</b>	<b>33,050.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		<b>16,525.00</b>	<b>16,525.00</b>	<b>33,050.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>16,525.00</b>	<b>16,525.00</b>	<b>33,050.00</b>	

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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. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378?  Yes  No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. 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
- d. 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 3 – 9

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

**ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

**ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

**ITEM 7 - 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 8 - 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

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

**ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[NEPA](#)

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**1. Evaluation Criteria - Q 1.**

The Applicant is applying for the following type of Project: (Check the one most appropriate.) (Please select one from list)

- Education – Applicants shall only respond to items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11  
 Safety – Applicants shall only respond to items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, and 15

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 76% or more (10 points)  51% - 75% (5 points)  
 26% - 50% (3 points)  25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Evaluation Criteria - Q 2.**

2. For Applicant's OHV Grant Projects which reached the end of the Project performance period within the last two years, the percentage of all deliverables accomplished 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 100% of Deliverable accomplished (5 points)  
 75% to 99% of Deliverables accomplished (3 points)  
 Less than 75% of Deliverables accomplished (No points)  
 First time Applicants and past Applicants with no active Grant projects within the last two years (2 points)

**3. Evaluation Criteria - Q 3. (FOR DIVISION USE ONLY)**

3. Previous Year Performance 0

(FOR DIVISION USE ONLY) (Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- In the previous year the Applicant has been responsive and communicated effectively with the assigned OHMVR Grant Administrator by phone, email or personal visit (3 points)  
 First time Applicants and past Applicants with no active Grant projects within the last two years (2 points)  
 In the previous year the Applicant has not been responsive (No points)

**4. Evaluation Criteria - Q 4.**

4. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(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)

On the Sierra National Forest we have developed an adopt-a-trail program that gives OHV/OSV clubs and volunteers the opportunity to help the Forest Service. The clubs will help open and maintain our trail systems in conjunction with Forest Service OHV/OSV staff. The clubs are as follows: 4X4 Him Christain Wheelers, Clovis Independent 4X4 Club, Lock and Low 4X4 Club, Mountain Toppers, Hang M High 4X4 Club of Fresno and Sierra Snowmobile Club.

**5. Evaluation Criteria - Q 5.**

5. The Project addresses the following types of OHV Recreation 4

(Check all that apply.) Scoring: 1 point each (Please select applicable values)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ATV        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4X4                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M.C.       | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Utility Vehicle (RUV) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snowmobile | <input type="checkbox"/> Dune buggy, rail                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)       |   |

**6. Evaluation Criteria - Q 6.**

6. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- 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

The largest stakeholders would be the 4X4 clubs and the OSV club and their members. On occasion a Forest Service employee will attend monthly club meetings to answer question and update members on OHV/OSV news. OHV/OSV management on the Sierra NF has tried diverse ways to educate the public such as: displays and presentations at large shopping malls, state OHV conventions and high schools and colleges. These efforts will continue in the future.

**7. Evaluation Criteria - Q 7. (Education Project ONLY)**

7. The Project incorporates the following, clearly identifiable and/or measurable, elements 8

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Process of researching issues and audience (2 points)
- Objectives (2 points)
- Testing process to ensure actions are effective (2 points)
- Plan to implement the Project (2 points)
- Evaluation and feedback of the process (2 points)

**8. Evaluation Criteria - Q 8. (Education Project ONLY)**

8. Total number of points of contact the Project is anticipated to reach 3

(Check the one most appropriate.) (Please select one from list)

- Greater than 10,000 (4 points)
- 1,000 to 10,000 (3 points)
- 100 to 1,000 (2 points)
- 20 to 100 (1 point)
- 0 to 20 (No points)

**9. Evaluation Criteria - Q 9. (Education Project ONLY)**

9. Total time a participant will have exposure to the Project's message or training 3

(Check the one item of highest point value that applies.) (Please select one from list)

- Greater than 2 hours (4 points)
- 1 hour to 2 hours (3 points)
- 5 minutes to less than 1 hour (2 points)
- 1 minute to less than 5 minutes (A Project for maps will fall under this category) (1 point)
- Less than 1 minute (No points)

**10. Evaluation Criteria - Q 10. (Education Project ONLY)**

10. The Project will utilize the following methods of education 14

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 point each up to a maximum of 14 points (Please select applicable values)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hands on training      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tool kits          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Handouts               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Events  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet messaging/CDs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio/TV           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community involvement  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public relations/media |   |

**11. Evaluation Criteria - Q 11. (Education Project ONLY)**

11. The Project provides direct support for delivery of ATV Safety Institute and/or Motorcycle Safety Foundation training 2

(Check the one most appropriate.) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points)  Yes (2 points)

**12. Evaluation Criteria - Q 12. & 13. (Safety Project ONLY)**

12. The Project will utilize personnel trained to the following level

(Check the one most appropriate.) (Please select one from list)

- Emergency Medical Technician level, or higher (5 points)  First Responder level (2 points)  
 First Aid and CPR (1 points)  No training (No points)

13. The Project will provide search and rescue as follows

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 24 hours, 7 days per week (5 points)  Less than 24 hours, 7 days per week (4 points)  
 Less than 24 hours, less than 7 days per week (2 points)  On special occasions/events only (No points)

**13. Evaluation Criteria - Q 14. (Safety Project ONLY)**

14. The Project will have the majority of personnel trained in the following areas

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each up to a maximum of 16 points (Please select applicable values)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio communication          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tracking skills          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avalanche rescue             | <input type="checkbox"/> Navigation training      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swift water rescue           | <input type="checkbox"/> ATV certification        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog handling                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle certification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rope skills                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x 4/Off-Road training  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness search and rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)          |

**14. Evaluation Criteria - Q 15. (Safety Project ONLY)**

15. The Project will have resources that are equipped and trained for rescue in the following environmental conditions\*

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Type 1 – Extreme Condition (including but not limited to): Altitude (generally 7000 feet+) or Snow, Ice, Desert, Heat, Heavy ground cover, Steep difficult terrain. (2 points)  
 Type 2 – Rugged Terrain. Rugged conditions, Altitude (generally under 7000 feet), Heat, Cold concerns, Moderate to heavy ground cover. (2 points)

- Type 3 – Moderate/Gentle Terrain. Gently rolling terrain, Open spaces, Maintained trailheads, and Agricultural areas. (2 points)
- Type 4 – Urban. High traffic, Urban office complexes, man-made surfaces, Public interaction and Park trails. (2 points)

**\* From the Governor's Office of Emergency Services – Mutual Aid Guidelines, Search and Rescue, Off-Highway Vehicles**