

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

**TO:** County Clerk; State Clearinghouse; Responsible Agencies; Trustee Agencies; Federal Agencies with approval or funding authority; Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Eastern Kern County Property Acquisition, State Clearinghouse No. 2012091066

**LEAD AGENCY:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area  
46001 Orwin Way  
Gorman, CA 93243

Contact: Peter Jones, Park and Recreation Specialist  
PO Box 1360  
Lebec, CA 93243  
661-248-7007

Notice is hereby given that the OHMVR Division has prepared a Draft EIR for the project identified above and is requesting comments on the content of this Draft EIR.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Eastern Kern County Property Acquisition comprises 59 parcels totaling 28,275 acres located on the western edge of the Mojave Desert near the southern Sierra Nevada and Piute Mountains. The project area extends from State Route 14 near Jawbone Station Visitor Center north to Sorrel Peak and from Red Rock Canyon State Park west to Sequoia National Forest. Site elevations range from 2,200 to 7,500 feet.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The OHMVR Division proposes to acquire and manage 59 privately-owned parcels from ReNu Resources, LLC (ReNu), a private company that owns and manages agricultural land in California. The ReNu parcels are largely interspersed with lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Property management includes visitor activities, maintenance and operations, resource management, minor projects, and special events. These activities could involve minor ground disturbance activities such as installation of fencing, signage, vault toilets or re-routing of recreational trails. No changes in land uses or significant site improvements are proposed. No expansion of open riding or the existing route network is proposed. No new points of access to the project property or changes to open range grazing are proposed. The Draft EIR assumes visitation could increase by up to 1%.

**ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** The Draft EIR identifies a potentially significant impact to a biological resource associated with the proposed project (desert tortoises are vulnerable to collision from high speed OHV recreation). Mitigation is proposed, but the potential for take of individual desert tortoises remains significant and unavoidable.

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS:** The Draft EIR is available for public review and comment for 45 days, beginning February 15, 2013. Your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but *no later than April 1, 2013*. Please send your written response to Peter Jones, Park and Recreation Specialist, at the address shown above, or via email to [Peter.Jones@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Peter.Jones@parks.ca.gov)

**Public Hearing Location:** The OHMVR Division encourages all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies to attend the public hearing for the Eastern Kern County Property Acquisition on:

**Saturday, March 16, 2013  
3 pm – 6pm  
Holiday Inn Express  
901 Capitol Hills Parkway  
Tehachapi, CA 93561**

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** The Draft EIR is available for review at the addresses shown above. The Draft EIR may also be reviewed or downloaded from the OHMVR Division website at the following address:  
<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/ohv-cega-notices>

DATE: February 14, 2013

  
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Jeff Gaffney, Project Manager