

Summary of Hopes, Concerns, Issues Organized by Subject – Proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition Focus Group Meeting

Hopes	Concerns	Related Issues
Recreation Opportunity		
Expand well managed and well maintained OHV recreation	Loss of hunting opportunities	
Expand OHV opportunities, including 4X4 trails, open areas	Overly restrictive uses of trails; route, trail, and open area closures	
Focus on adding single track trails; the area has very few for motorized use	Trail density and destination oriented route opportunities for OHV	
Reduce “useless” trail maintenance; fewer dirt freeways	Have trails already been decided on? Will public be notified/included on these plans?	
Keep existing trails in Jawbone/Dove Springs Open Areas	Loss of existing routes and trails	
Additional open areas		
Biological Resources		
If the entire property under consideration is purchased, will it help with habitat connectivity	Funds may be insufficient to protect riparian areas	
Wildlife habitat and bird migration pathway is well protected and managed	Protect black butterflies	
Development of wildlife interpretive areas and programs	Protect Butterbredt Spring and adjacent area	
Cultural Resources		
Ensure Native American land and artifacts are protected, including surveys and monitoring to ensure protection and recognition of sites	Can cultural resources be adequately protected?	
Ensure sites are respected during construction/maintenance	Given the large number of acres to be surveyed for cultural resources, some sites may be missed	
Provide sufficient resources to include culturally affiliated and experienced Native American consultants in the preliminary and final cultural resource surveys for CEQA	Will there be adequate resources for Native American consultant surveys?	

Other Resources		
	Will there be adequate funding for protection of highly erodible soils in special areas?	
	Will water rights be obtained?	
	Need flexibility regarding water development	
General Resource Management		
Become a showcase example of sustainable multiple use	Will appropriate management be available?	How will BLM-OHMVR Division checkerboard be managed?
Interpretive signage in areas of interest or with sensitive resources; these could be a teaching tool to public that may encourage their understanding and desire to support protection of these areas	Will there be adequate education? We need maps, and interpretation to explain why people should stay out of protected areas. Education is a critical part of this.	
Provide better education/information on how to experience this sensitive area without damaging it and why it needs protection and preservation. Present this information on Friends of Jawbone map and all OHV/BLM handouts	Natural resource protection must be done in a manner that makes the resource sustainable	
Sustain and potentially increase OHV motorized recreation with reduced impacts to resources as a result of a well thought out and implemented management plan	Environmentally sensitive areas should not allow motorized recreation	
Protect sensitive resources	Need adequate resources to protect communities and Pacific Crest Trail from illegal OHV use	
Ensure acquisition areas are adequately and continually monitored		
Hope the area acquired is not developed more than it already is. It's a fantastic piece of original California – rare these days. Preference is to leave it as wild as it can be.		
Ensure areas of critical concern are protected and off limits to any OHV use		

Park Operations/Management		
State Parks and BLM will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which allows state to manage as a lead agency	Concern regarding management with conjunction of BLM and OHMVR Division. Who is in charge? Who will acquire, who will manage, and how?	
Improved management of lands through greater partnership between state and BLM	What happens if long-term management/ operations dollars don't materialize	
OHMVR Division will bring management resources – patrol and enforcement, outreach and education, restoration and monitoring – to benefit this area	Ensure enforcement practices are well defined and fully funded	
Recognize that management is currently occurring in OHV usage areas and hope that State Parks will draw on this local expertise and provide resources to support it	Can OHMVR Division maintain/protect this vast area? Expand partnerships with special interest groups and those now involved.	Partnership with Friends of Jawbone.
Include communication with stakeholders to work through the issues that will arise	That Friends of Jawbone can continue to do what it has been doing without reinventing what it's doing.	
Provide adequate enforcement funding	Can open areas co-exist with other uses?	
Implement buffer zones	What is being done with property outside existing OHV area?	
Continue all existing land uses	Friends of Jawbone/BLM collaboration on Jawbone and Dove Springs	
No further development; leave it as wild as possible. Ideally it would be less developed.	BLM's mandate is to protect natural resources while at the same time provide for multiple use of the lands it administers; the acquisition must bear this in mind	
Use Hungry Valley SVRA as a model	Maps should delineate areas that should be off limits; must educate	
	OHMVR Division has spotty record. It points with pride to Hungry Valley omitting mention of Ocotillo Wells/Cahuilla [Truckhaven] area, a complete disaster, causing great concern.	

Livestock/Agriculture		
Include an agricultural plan in planning effort	Loss of grazing. Documents do not address agricultural production capacity for local ranching business. There will be an economic loss to local agricultural businesses. California Cattlemen's Assoc. and Farm Bureau are concerned about reducing availability of land which removes the ability to produce for the consumer	
Maintain successful grazing where it currently exists	Federal grazing permits require landowners wishing to exclude cattle to fence them out. How will OHMVR Division handle fencing and will it be an adequate addition to the plan?	
Continue to develop and spread water on desert for cattle and wildlife resource management	How can OHMVR Division mitigate the loss of water sources for grazing land?	
	There is an important facility at Kelso camp, which is critical to business and shipping and receiving. Will this remain?	
	Can grazing remain a viable financial enterprise given a new management paradigm?	
	Why acquire certain parcels, e.g., Kelso Camp, School House, that are extremely important to the grazing operation on BLM and USFS permits?	
Planning/CEQA Processes		
Have management plans ready prior to acquisition	Planning and CEQA process is being rushed	If resource issues are identified during EIR, then it would be good to see mitigation, such as reroutes, included in the same plan. This would eliminate the cost of additional EIRs.
Include everyone in plan development, not just OHV representatives	Need better maps, e.g., topographical maps clearly marking water	Consult, consult, consult
Balance recreation with conservation, i.e., project becomes a win-win for environmental concerns vs. recreation opportunities	Does OHMVR Division have a well-defined baseline of areas that need to be protected or know what exactly exists on the ground now? Without baseline of areas you can't assess where you are going.	

Don't use a CEQA statement of overriding consideration	Mitigation plan has a high priority	
Complete and implement project area plans in a timely manner	Landowners should be completely informed on all plans	
Need better communication – state with local land owners and ranches.		
Implement a consensus driven process	EIR must lay out trail design/management plans	
Energy Development		
Project will abate threat of wind energy and other renewable energy development	What are the long-term plans? Will wind or solar be permitted on park lands or interspersed on BLM lands?	
OHMVR Division will not lease back lands for future energy development on new land or allow transmission to land locked BLM parcels for future energy extraction by current applications.	Will lands be leased back, sold, or traded for alternative energy?	
	Are the ridgelines reserved (or zoned) for wind energy development in the future?	
	Influx/inclusion of alternative energy in area	
	Confused about developer's decision to sell the land at this time. Factors include appraisal price, zoning change, transmission currently being brought into area, covenant recorded between City of Vernon and Kern County, etc. Doesn't make sense.	
Other		
Friends of Jawbone endorses visible identification to aid law enforcement response to illegal riding	Land is never enough; users always want more – any use, not only OHV	
Buy City of Vernon land parcel	Where does the money come from?	
	Will there be money available for management, operations, and maintenance well into the future, especially given the difficult economy?	
	What did OHMVR Division learn from trying to acquire land outside of Bakersfield?	

	How would general plan affect existing 1986 BLM plan?	
	Who else is actively involved in trying to purchase the lands? Is there an alternative buyer with a competing offer?	
	Acquisition of rest of Onyx (northern end) as mitigation	
	The subsidized bailout of ReNu is the face of the failure of the extension of Production Tax Credits	