



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
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Armando Quintero, *Director*

OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

Virtual Meeting

September 16, 2022

STAFF REPORT: OHV Safety Summit
STAFF: Callan McLaughlin and Don Schmidt
SUBJECT: OHV Safety Summit

Summary

The first OHV Safety Summit attracted over 70 attendees from across the OHV community to discuss ways to promote safe off-roading, with a focus on new recreational off-highway vehicles (ROV/side-by-sides) and off-road utility vehicles (UTV) users. Short-term (1-12 months) and long-term goals (1-3 years) were identified and will be implemented as soon as possible.

Discussion

During 2020 and 2021, sales of ROVs and UTVs increased dramatically. Between June 2019 and June 2022, green sticker registrations for ROVs increased 242%, which partially explains why there has been an increase in accidents and negative interactions between ROVs and other off-road recreationists. Many of the ROV owners are new to off-road recreation and may not have any knowledge of the safe operation of their vehicle or may not have been exposed to any off-road ethics education.

In February 2022, Division Chief McLaughlin asked for a small working group to begin looking for ways to improve the safety and education of all OHV users, with a focus on new ROV/UTV owners. Following the first meeting held at Hungry Valley SVRA, it was decided that input from the greater OHV community was necessary to reduce accidents and improve overall OHV safety.

The OHMVR Division OHV Safety Summit took place on Tuesday, August 23 at the McClellan Training Center. This hybrid-type meeting included over 70 attendees both in-person and online to discuss a wide range of topics, including safety messaging, effective media opportunities, on-site training, and legislative solutions. The group also discussed safety measures being implemented in adjoining states, and how we can develop consistent messaging, particularly in the OHV areas bordering California.

The attendees were encouraged to talk openly about the root causes of the safety issues, and this allowed some sensitive topics to be discussed, including the overall

safety of side-by-sides use, the possible lack of off-road and driver education with new ROV/UTV owners, and potential legislative efforts to address the problems.

Specific actions include developing a marketing strategy to effectively implement safety messaging across multiple media and platforms. This would include producing safety and training videos, continue use of safety handouts, and working with our staff and Tread Lightly! to develop consistent safety messages that OHV users would see across the state.

The meeting appeared to be a success in so much that all participants who wanted a voice in the issues were able to express their opinions, and all options for addressing OHV safety were accepted. The OHMVR Division staff have taken the meeting notes, identified some early goals to work toward, and have started the process of taking action.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

OHV Safety Summit Agenda