OHMVR Commission Park Acquisitions, Management and Uses Standing Committee Charter

The OHMVR Act established the Commission to provide a public body of appointed members having expertise in various areas related to off-highway recreation and environmental protection. The Commission is dedicated to reviewing and commenting on Program implementation, encouraging public input on issues and concerns affecting the OHMVR Program, considering and approving general plans for SVRAs, and providing advice to the OHMVR Division.

A Standing Committee of the OHMVR Commission is comprised of more than two but no more than four Commissioners whose purpose is to act with authority on behalf of the entire Commission to address and propose actions about a specific topic of interest related to the duties and responsibilities of the OHMVR Commission, make actionable recommendations and report out to the OHMVR Commission at their regularly scheduled meetings. A Standing Committee also must follow the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act by posting an agenda and meeting materials on the internet at least 10 business days prior to the meeting and allowing for public participation in the meeting.

Members of the Park Acquisitions, Management and Uses Standing Committee:
Commissioner Lemmon, Commissioner Urena, Commissioner Ross-Leech and Commissioner Salazar

OHV Division Staff Lead: TBD

California’s population has nearly doubled since the OHMVR Program’s inception in 1971. Today, more people are heading to rural areas searching for OHV recreational opportunities. At the same time, areas traditionally available for OHV recreation have been shrinking due to the reallocation of land uses as people relocate from urban communities and land management agencies embark upon the designation of motorized routes. This population movement creates a situation where competition for resources leads to land-use conflicts.

This issue of land use conflicts came to a head in 2021 when state lawmakers reached a deal to protect the 3,100 acre Tesla Park from becoming part of Carnegie SVRA. AB/SB 155 allocated $29.8 million to be placed from the state’s
General Fund into the OHMV Trust Fund to help off-roading enthusiasts and organizations find another location for a motorized vehicle park.

Park Acquisitions, Management and Uses Standing Committee Charter: Work with OHMVR Division staff, as well as other federal, state and local agencies and community and non-government stakeholders, to ensure the processes to identify and select new park sites, change management practices or uses, conduct public outreach, and develop new areas for OHMV recreation is robust, scientifically sound, and inclusive.

- Meet prior to each regularly scheduled OHMVR Commission meeting and as needed to review and discuss status and progress on park acquisition planning, major changes to management practices or uses, stakeholder outreach, OHMVR Division staff outreach and other topical issues regarding existing and expanding OHV use areas. The Standing Committee will meet at least twice per year.
- Identify Action Items to be placed on the agenda for OHMVR Commission meetings to ensure timely responses with public input for important issues and concerns.
- Meet regularly with OHMVR Division staff, other federal, state, local and community and non-government agency partners and stakeholders to discuss OHV park acquisition planning processes, management and uses planning processes, and public involvement processes to ensure understanding and recommend improvements where needed. The Standing Committee will meet at least once per year with the multi-agency partners and stakeholders.
- Develop an annual work plan with prioritized goals.
- Review current inter and intra agency protocols to determine if additional and/or revised guidance is needed.
- Review current communication plans and strategies for public involvement processes.
- Review annual OHMVR Division budget with park acquisition and management uses needs in mind.
- Ensure partner agencies and non-government agencies are aware of the OHMVR Division Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program that provides financial assistance to local, state, federal and non-profit organizations for OHV-related activities.