



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296
Telephone: (916) 902-8598

Armando Quintero, *Director*

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION

Arroyo Grande, CA

May 16, 2024

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update
STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division
SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

Several planning efforts are underway within State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). Carnegie SVRA, Ocotillo Wells SVRA, and Hungry Valley SVRA are in the process of updating their park general plans. There are also several OHV-related studies in the process, including an economic and demographic study and a study to expand OHV recreation in the State. This report describes each plan's purpose, process, and current milestones.

Discussion

Following is a summary of recent SVRA/OHV general plan developments.

Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update:

Members of the OHMVR Commission participated in a site tour of Carnegie SVRA on April 17, 2024, to familiarize themselves with the park and learn about resource management, interpretation and education programs, visitor services, and recreation opportunities. They also had the opportunity to tour the adjacent Alameda-Tesla Property.

The Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) were circulated for public review and comment from January 16 through March 1, 2024. The Planning Team is evaluating written comments germane to the environmental review to be considered and responded to in the Final (EIR). The General Plan and Final EIR will be brought to the OHMVR Commission in Fall 2024 for consideration and action.

Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR may be reviewed online at the project website: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30807

This proposed General Plan Update and EIR are limited to the 1,533-acre original Carnegie SVRA and exclude the Expansion Area, which was the subject of a lawsuit. The classification of and planning for the Expansion Area (referred to as the Alameda-Tesla Property) will be addressed in the future under a separate planning effort. Please visit the Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update webpage for project updates and to sign up to receive project email announcements.

Alameda-Tesla Classification and General Plan

More than two decades ago, State Parks acquired the Alameda-Tesla Property with the intent of expanding the adjacent Carnegie SVRA. After challenges to this plan in 2021, SB 155 (PRC sec. 5090.42) authorized planning work to determine the best use of the land and specified that the property shall not be designated as a state vehicular recreation area or be considered for any future expansion of off-highway vehicle recreation.

The Alameda Tesla Classification and General Plan Project includes work to classify and name the property as a new park within the State Parks system, followed by development of a General Plan and environmental impact report for the new park. Together, these two planning efforts will determine the best use of the land and guide future management and use of the site.

The Alameda-Tesla Classification and General Plan Project has two phases: I) Park Classification and Naming and II) General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) development. During both phases, the public will have multiple opportunities to share input that will inform project outcomes, as shown on the [Participate](#) page of the project webpage (www.alamedateslaplan.com). Most recently, the OHMVR and State Park and Recreation Commission participated in a site visit of the property on April 17, 2024.

Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update:

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan has a project website at www.PlanHungryValley.com to facilitate public involvement and communication. Interested parties should visit the project website and register to receive email notifications regarding project progress. The planning team is preparing the administrative draft general plan and EIR for public review in Fall 2024.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA Plan:

Ocotillo Wells SVRA and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office are developing a joint general plan for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA/Ocotillo Wells Special Recreation Management Area. This joint planning document will meet the State Park's General Plan and BLM land management requirements for a California State Park unit General Plan, a BLM Recreation Management Plan, and a California Desert Conservation Area Land Use Plan Amendment. The latter two plans are federal planning documents. The combined Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) will meet the requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA). The core team working on the joint plan comprises staff from State Parks, BLM, and AECOM (consultants).

Prairie City SVRA Road and Trail Management Plan

The purpose of the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) is to provide specific guidance and direction for implementing the goals and guidelines of the 2016 Prairie City SVRA General Plan. The RTMP is a comprehensive planning document that examines the SVRA's existing system of roads and provides specific direction for their long-term construction, maintenance, and management. It considers current and potential public use, park operations, and the protection and enhancement of cultural and natural resources to ensure recreational trail opportunities are available at their fullest potential. Comprehensive trail planning also considers regional recreational opportunities and connectivity and includes extensive public outreach and input into designing new trails and experiences. The planning process began in Spring 2023 and will continue through Fall 2024.

Visit the Prairie City RTMP [webpage](#) to learn more about RTMP and public participation opportunities. Please send any other project-related questions or concerns to trails@parks.ca.gov.

OHV/OSV Economic Impact Study:

Field work for the survey (one research component of the OHV/OSV Economic Impact Study) has been ongoing at State Park, US Forest Services, and BLM OHV areas throughout the state. The survey and all outreach materials (email, posters, postcards) are in English and Spanish. Data collection for the special events version of the survey began in 2022 and included Hangtown in June 2023. Secondary data analysis includes DMV registration data to help correlate data collected in the survey. State Parks is reviewing the draft report and will present the findings at a future Commission meeting in 2024.

OHV Access Initiative

In September 2021, [Senate Bill 155](#) (Ch. 258, Statutes of 2021) amended Public Resources Code (PRC) Section (§) [5090.42](#), directing the California Department of Parks and Recreation, popularly known as State Parks, to explore the acquisition and development of properties and opportunities to expand off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation in new and existing facilities. This bill also recommended prioritizing opportunities that serve large urban areas such as the Bay Area and Central Valley and offer potential recreational opportunities for OHV recreation and motorized access to nonmotorized recreation. State Parks have many options for expanding OHV recreation throughout the state – through acquisition, lease, land swap, partnership, donation, transfer, legislation, and other means as established in PRC §5005, 5006, et seq.

Since November 2022, State Parks has held six public meetings for the OHV Access Project and a workshop with the OHMVR Commission. The last workshop in this series was held virtually in December 2023. The project next steps include:

- Meetings with land managers (BLM, USFS, etc.) – Spring to Summer 2024
- Refine list of potential sites based on results of site suitability analysis and feedback from stakeholders
- Prepare a preliminary report with a list of potential regions
- Community workshops to report back on project outcomes

State Parks has a website for the OHV Access Project (https://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=31220). The page provides more information about the planning process and ways to participate in the project.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

SVRA General Plans chart.

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
SPRS & OHMVR DIVISION**

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	Plan Status & Updates in Progress
Prairie City SVRA	2016 1991		Approved by the OHMVR Commission in September 2016
Carnegie SVRA	2016 1981		GP was approved by the OHMVR Commission in October 2016 and rescinded in 2021. General Plan (GP) Update for the 1575-acre original Carnegie property began in April 2022. The Draft GP and Draft will be brought to the Commission for consideration and action in Fall 2024.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012		The OHMVR Commission approved GP in June 2012
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011		The OHMVR Commission approved GP in December 2011
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981		GP update in progress. Preparing the Preliminary GP and Draft environmental impact report (EIR).
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981		GP EIR/Environmental Impact Statement restarted in September 2023
Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA			GP and EIR project may begin in 2024
Red Rock Canyon State Park	1981		State Park and Recreation Commission Meeting approved the general plan and EIR on March 3, 2023