

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program BLM - Arcata Field Office's Preliminary Application Comments

Comments submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to individual Grant Applicants should in no way be construed as a guarantee of successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grants process or a commitment of funding. Additionally, the lack of comments by the OHMVR Division to any specific Applicant does not ensure successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grant process or a commitment of funding.

Failure by the Applicant to respond to any OHMVR Division comment of their preliminary Application may be cause for eliminating that item from the Applicant's final Application.

All final Applications will be reviewed by the OHMVR Division. The OHMVR Division may, at its sole discretion, decrease the requested amount and eliminate activities pursuant with regulation Section 4970.07.2 (f)(1-5) and for Law Enforcement Projects, regulation Section 4970.15.3(b)(1-5).

If multiple proposed Projects are requesting funding for the same deliverable, and multiple projects are successful, only one project will receive funding for the deliverable.

For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for snow and/or winter activities. Applicants must ensure the activities and/or Equipment/Heavy Equipment/Trailer requested are not and/or cannot be funded by the Department's Winter Program (commonly referred to as the Snow Grooming Program).

For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for the maintenance of roads and/or trails, note that only roads and/or trails that allow "green sticker" Off-Highway Vehicles are allowed to receive Grant funding.

Applicants are reminded that no Grant funds and/or match can be expended, or Project activities conducted in any land owned or managed by the Department except as allowed in the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program regulations section 4970.09 (b)(11).

General Evaluation Criteria:

- No comment.

Ground Operations: G26-01-02-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- “Operating and maintaining the caretaker site (deck, lawn, perimeter fence, water supply, septic tank, electricity, phone)” is considered an Indirect expense as the area is not open to the public. Applicant must ensure the costs for these activities are included only in the Indirect cost category.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant must clarify within this section whether the 15 miles of trail will be groomed once per year or multiple times throughout the Project performance period. In addition, Applicant must clarify whether the third bullet point “maintain open routes through dunes” is related to trail and road maintenance under Project Deliverable #1 or explain why this activity is not included under Project Deliverable #3 “Open Area Maintenance.” Furthermore, Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities should not be included in Project Deliverable #1 but must instead be listed under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #2 – Applicant must clarify how frequently the tracks will be maintained throughout the Project performance period. In addition, Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities should not be included in Project Deliverable #2 but must instead be listed under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.

Project Description – All Others

- No comment.

Project Cost Estimate

- All Staff Line Items – Due to recent federal staffing reductions, it is unclear whether the staffing levels listed in the Project Cost Estimate are accurate. Applicant must confirm that all staff positions listed in this Application are currently filled prior to the final Application submission.
- Staff #1 & 5-7 – The percentage of staff time dedicated to Project Deliverable #1 is unclear. Applicant must clarify within the line item notes what portion of staff time will be specifically dedicated to both monitoring activities and the maintenance of OHV trails and roads. Applicant is reminded that “trail condition assessment” or general trail monitoring is not an eligible activity under Project Deliverable #1, but should be included under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other. In addition, the quantity of hours requested for these line items has increased compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying this increase. Furthermore, Applicant must remove any costs associated with building awnings from these line items and relocate them to the Indirect Cost category. Lastly, “Collecting visitor use data” appears to be an Indirect activity for Staff #6 & 7. Applicant must clarify how the activity is directly related to the Project Deliverables or move the associated cost and language to the Indirect cost category.

- Staff #3 “Wildlife Biologist” – The proposed quantity for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the quantity requested and demonstrate that it is reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. In addition, this line item appears to be duplicative of the work being performed by the Institute of Wildlife Studies under their proposed Restoration Project. Applicant must clarify how the two Projects do not have any overlapping functions or duplicative activities.
- Materials / Supplies #5 “Concrete Picnic tables” – It appears that the Applicant may have transposed the quantity and rate for this line item. Applicant must review and correct this line item if the quantity and rate were inadvertently transposed.
- Materials / Supplies #8 “Gravel for new Rock Crawl feature”– It is unclear how the cost for this line item was determined, as the unit of measurement provided in the line item notes is not sufficiently explained. Applicant must revise the line item notes to clearly identify the unit of measurement used to calculate the cost. In addition, Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the use of gravel piles for a 4x4 Rock Crawl Feature, as gravel is not commonly associated with this type of feature and its necessity has not been adequately demonstrated.
- Materials / Supplies #9 “Awning for equipment storage” – Applicant must relocate this line item to the Indirect Cost category, as awnings for Equipment storage are considered an Indirect expense.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Administrative” – Applicant must move utility costs to their own separate line item and provide a clear explanation of how the cost was determined, as it is unclear how an hourly rate of “\$47” was established for utility expenses. In addition, it is unclear why “Paper for printing maps of OHV area” is included in this line item. Applicant must remove the verbiage related to “Paper for printing maps of OHV area” from the line item notes and list it as its own separate line item.

Restoration: G26-01-02-R01

Project Description – Background

- Applicant should ensure the Background is accurate and precise, listing only a brief description of the Applicant or Land Manager’s organization/program. Applicant must relocate any activity related to the Project in the Project Description section and/or remove any redundant language and irrelevant information.

Project Description – Project Description

- Law enforcement patrolling activities appear to fall under the scope of the Law Enforcement Project rather than the Restoration Project and may represent duplication of services between the two Projects. Applicant must provide additional information demonstrating how these activities meet Restoration grant criteria or remove all duplicative and/or law enforcement-related language and associated costs from the Project budget and scope of work, or identify the

methodology used to ensure there is no duplication of services across overlapping Projects and funding sources.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – It is unclear what the size of the actual active restoration area will be. Applicant must verify the accuracy of this figure or provide a revised estimate that reflects the appropriate level of active restoration associated with illegal OHV incursion. In addition, Applicant must also separately identify any areas representing anticipated future incursions and provide distinct estimates for each. Furthermore, Applicant should ensure that the List of Project Deliverables is accurate and precise, listing only those Project activities that pertain to the corresponding Project deliverable title. Applicant must relocate or remove all non-earth-moving activities (monitoring, signage, barriers, etc.) to the designated Project Deliverable.
- #2 – Applicants must provide the anticipated number of monitoring efforts for each Project Area listed under Section D: “Size of the Specific Project Area(s)...”.
- #3 – This activity is not listed in the Project Cost Estimate section, specifically to Material / Supplies Cost category. Applicant must clarify how this activity aligns with the corresponding Project Deliverable and associated costs.
- #4 – “Utilize driftwood and vegetation” is not listed in the Project Cost Estimate section, specifically in the Material / Supplies and Staff Cost category. Applicant must clarify how this activity aligns with the corresponding Project Deliverable and associated costs. In addition, Applicants must provide a clear estimate of the mileage, linear feet, or other applicable measurements of fencing and/or barriers required for the Project.

Project Description – All Others

- Attachments: Applicant is reminded to include Project-Specific Map(s) with sufficient detail for someone unfamiliar with the area to locate the Project site(s). The map(s) must also include valid GPS coordinates for all Project site locations. Additionally, Applicant may include map keys identifying active restoration areas, fencing/barriers, and other relevant Project features.
- (C) How the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation... – It is unclear whether the King Range and Cahto Peak wilderness areas are currently experiencing illegal OHV activity or whether the proposed patrols are intended solely as a preventative measure. Applicant must provide additional information describing the extent of OHV impacts in these areas, including whether illegal incursions are occurring now or if the purpose of the Project is to prevent potential future impacts.
- (D) The size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles – It is unclear what the total size is of the areas proposed for monitoring and patrolling, including both the active restoration sites under this Project and any additional areas such as newly fenced sites. Applicant must identify the location and acreage and/or miles of all areas that will require monitoring or patrolling upon completion of restoration work and must separately identify the size and location

of any additional areas outside these restoration sites, including past restoration areas and any newly proposed areas vulnerable to OHV incursions.

- (E) Except for scientific and cultural studies or planning Projects, describe the monitoring ... – Applicant must clarify what “each project” entails and how it relates to the Project.
- (H) Except for scientific and cultural studies or planning Projects, a plan to ensure the restored area... – Education signage and material is place at the main entrance kiosk and OHV staging area kiosk... appear to be Ground Operations activities rather than Restoration activities. Applicant must either provide additional information demonstrating how these activities meet Restoration grant criteria or remove all Ground Operations-related language and associated costs from the Project budget and scope of work.

Project Cost Estimate

- All Staff Line Items – Due to recent federal staffing reductions, Applicant must confirm that all staff positions listed in this Application are currently filled prior to the final Application submission.
- Staff #1 “Botanist” – Line item “Quantity” (QTY) significantly increased compared to the G22 Restoration Project. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the increase in QTY. In addition, the percentage of staff time allocated to Project Deliverables is unclear. Applicant must clarify what portion of each staff member’s time will be dedicated to active restoration, monitoring, signage, fencing/barriers, public outreach, and other relevant restoration activities.
- Staff # 2 “Outdoor Recreation Planner” – Patrol is a law enforcement activity; Applicant must clarify the meaning of patrol in this Project. In addition, the percentage of staff time allocated to Project Deliverables is unclear. Applicant must clarify what portion of each staff member’s time will be dedicated to active restoration, monitoring, signage, fencing/barriers, public outreach, and other relevant restoration activities.
- Staff # 3 “Park Ranger” – The duties described for this line item and Staff #3 “Law Enforcement” appear to overlap. Applicant must clarify whether these two positions perform distinct functions or if they are essentially carrying out the same on the ground tasks. If the roles are duplicative, Applicant must explain why two staff members are required and how their responsibilities differ in practice. In addition, Patrol is a law enforcement activity; Applicant must clarify the meaning of patrol in this Project. Furthermore, the percentage of staff time allocated to Project Deliverables is unclear. Applicant must clarify what portion of each staff member’s time will be dedicated to active restoration, monitoring, signage, fencing/barriers, public outreach, and other relevant restoration activities.
- Staff # 4 “Law Enforcement” – Line item “Quantity” (QTY) significantly increased compared to the G22 Restoration Project. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the increase in QTY. Additionally, this time appears to already be included in the Law Enforcement Project. Applicant must ensure there is no duplication of hours.

- Contracts #1 “CCC crew” – It is unclear how the cost was determined. Applicant must clarify how this cost was determined and provide a detailed breakdown.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Administrative Services” – Applicant must clearly list all activities referenced by the term “etc.”.

Law Enforcement: G26-01-02-L01

Need Assessment

- Item #4 – Clarify current LE staffing level. Recent programmatic site visit documented no Law Enforcement Officers assigned to field office. Applicant may ask funds for officers patrolling on detail.
- Item #4 – Applicant must describe types of vehicles used for patrol.

Needs Enforcement Certification

- #2 – Applicant needs to provide more detail on how the project will sustain OHV Recreation, maintain motorized access to non – motorized recreation and maintain OHV opportunities in the Project Area.
- #3 – “The BLM also cooperates with the United States Coast Guard during beach related search and rescue”, Applicant is reminded that only search and rescue activities with an OHV nexus are eligible under an OHV law enforcement grant.
- #10 – Applicant must describe how it is meeting the law enforcement operational needs (patrol time, staffing levels, education, patrol vehicles, OHV patrol vehicles, call volume, response time, regulatory signage, etc./) of the OHV areas and/or OHV designated routes within its jurisdiction. *§ 5090.53. Conditions for Grants or Encumbrance of Funds No funds may be granted or expended pursuant to Section 5090.50, unless all of the following conditions are met:(h) The recipient has included in its application a description of how it is meeting the operations and maintenance needs of any existing off-highway motor vehicle recreation facility under its jurisdiction.

Project Cost Estimate

- Staff #3 “Park Ranger” – Applicant must revise line-item notes to match current requested hour quantities. Additionally, Applicant must clarify how Park Ranger duties directly impact the law enforcement project. Park Ranger Staff time solely focused on education and outreach may be better suited in an Education and Safety Grant Application.