

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

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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).

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## **General Evaluation Criteria:**

- No comment.

## **Ground Operations: G26-01-04-G01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- No comment.

## **Project Description – Project Description**

- Installing post and cable fencing to prevent further "Incursions into the wilderness surrounding a parking area ..." is considered a Restoration Project deliverable and not eligible for a Ground Operations Project. Applicant must remove all costs and language associated with the activity which falls under Project Area 2 from this Application.

## **Project Description – List of Project Deliverables**

- #1 – Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities are not eligible under Project Deliverable #1 and must instead be included under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #3 – The meaning of "daily safety inspections" as described in this Project Deliverable is unclear, and it is not evident how this activity directly relates to open area maintenance. If this activity involves general area monitoring, Applicant must relocate the associated language to the Project Deliverable "Other" category. In addition, Applicant must provide a thorough description of all activities to be performed under this Project Deliverable to clearly demonstrate how each activity directly supports the proposed scope of work.
- #5 – The location of proposed signing activities lacks sufficient information. The reference to "within Project Area 1" is inadequate given the expansive size of the area. Applicant must identify specific locations where signing activities will be conducted.

## **Project Description – All Others**

- No comment.

## **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 #2 "Volunteers" – Applicant must further clarify the duties being performed by volunteers. It is unclear whether volunteers will be engaged in activities beyond cleanup. Applicant must provide a detailed description of all tasks to be performed by volunteers and demonstrate how each activity directly supports the completion of the Project Deliverables.
- Staff #3 "Soils Technician" – The proposed cost for this line item has increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. It is unclear why the quantity of staff hours has not decreased in proportion to the reduction in Ground Disturbing Activity proposed under this Project. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the hours were determined and demonstrate that the proposed cost is reasonable and proportionate to the scope of Ground Disturbing trail maintenance outlined in the Project Deliverables.

- Staff #4 “Maintenance Staff” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive relative to the scope of work outlined in Project Deliverables #1, 2, and 4. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the quantity of Staff hours was determined and demonstrate that the proposed cost is reasonable and proportionate to the Project Deliverables. In addition, Applicant must clarify within the line item notes the specific percentage of Staff time dedicated to direct maintenance activities versus monitoring activities. Furthermore, Applicant must clarify the percentage of time staff time will be dedicated specifically to Project Deliverable #1.
- Indirect Costs #1 “15% of Grant Request” – Applicant must revise this line item to address their Project Indirect costs determined based on their Project needs. In the narrative, Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost was determined, including the precise scope and amount of work to be conducted. For any Staff positions included in this line item, Applicant must utilize the hourly rate and quantity of hours as the unit of measure to clearly demonstrate how the associated costs were calculated. If helpful, Applicant may break this line item out into multiple Indirect Cost line items to clearly identify and separate the various costs.

## **Planning: G26-01-04-P01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- No comment.

### **Project Description – Project Description**

- Applicant must clarify whether the proposed road is open to off-highway vehicles. The incident command post is considered an indirect activity. Any planning costs related to the incident command post must be listed as an Indirect Cost. If the Applicant applies for a Development Project, all costs associated with the incident command post can only be claimed as an Indirect Cost.

### **Project Description – List of Project Deliverables**

- #3 – Applicant should ensure the list of Project deliverables is accurate and precise, listing only those Project activities that pertain to the corresponding Project deliverable title. Applicant shall move this Deliverable to Project Deliverable #5.
- #5 – Applicant shall clarify the type of NEPA documentation that will be completed and the list of reports.

### **Project Description – All Others**

- No comment.

## **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. In addition, Applicant must update the narrative to include the GS/WG levels for each staff member.
- Staff (#1 & 6) – Line item Project activities appear duplicative. Applicant must remove one line item or explain the need for separate line items.
- Contracts #1 “Engineering and Design Contract” – Cost appears excessive, Applicant must attach a copy of the supporting contract quote to the final Application submission to support the costs. In addition, Applicant must also clarify the source of match. Lastly, Applicant must move the time and costs related to planning the incident command post to the Indirect Cost category.
- Indirect Costs #1 –Cost appears excessive, Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost was determined, including the precise scope and amount of work to be conducted. For any Staff positions included in this line item, Applicant must utilize the hourly rate and quantity of hours as the unit of measure to clearly demonstrate how the associated costs were calculated. If helpful, Applicant may break this line item out into multiple Indirect Cost line items to clearly identify and separate the various costs.

## **Education and Safety: G26-01-04-S01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- No comment.

### **Project Description – Project Description**

- No comment.

### **Project Description – List of Project Deliverables**

- No comment.

### **Project Description – All Others**

- No comment.

## **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.
- Equipment Use Expenses #3 “Generator Fuel” – Applicant is reminded that fuel receipts must be submitted to justify fuel costs.

- Others #2 “Mobile Aid Station” – Applicant shall remove the line item as there are no costs associated.
- Indirect Costs – Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the administrative duties cost was determined, including the precise scope and amount of work to be conducted. For any Staff positions included in this line item, Applicant must utilize the hourly rate and quantity of hours as the unit of measure to clearly demonstrate how the associated costs were calculated. If helpful, Applicant may break this line item out into multiple Indirect Cost line items to clearly identify and separate the various costs.

## **Law Enforcement: G26-01-04-L01**

### **Need Assessment**

- No comment.

### **Needs Enforcement Certification**

- No comment.

### **Project Cost Estimate**

- Staff #1 “Law Enforcement” – Applicant needs to explain the 362 hours increase from the previous grant cycle with the same staffing level.