

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program BLM - Bishop 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: G26-01-05-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- It is unclear why the Applicant is proposing to complete 1,630 miles of route assessments each year, as this scope of work appears to be excessive given the annual weather events within the Project Area. In addition, conducting route assessments under both the Applicant's G25 Project and the RTP Project appears to constitute duplicative work, deeming the activity an ineligible Grant expense. Furthermore, based on the Applicant's historical capacity to complete approximately 1.5 miles of trail maintenance per year, the proposed miles of route monitoring does not reflect an appropriate amount of work, as the maintenance needs derived from the monitoring results are unlikely to be achievable within both the current or future Project performance periods. Applicant must provide a clear justification for the proposed scope of route assessments and submit a revised cost estimate that is reasonable and proportionate to the amount of trail or road maintenance the Applicant is capable of achieving.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant must ensure that the List of Project Deliverables is accurate and precise, listing only those activities that directly pertain to the corresponding Project Deliverable title. Applicant must confirm that "graffiti removal" is related to Trail/Road maintenance and relocate "Route delineation" and "Signing routes" to their appropriate Project deliverables. In addition, Applicant references "routes listed below" within this deliverable; however, the routes appear to be listed above rather than below. Applicant must clarify what is meant by this reference and ensure the language accurately reflects the content of the Application. 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.
- #3 – Applicant must ensure that the List of Project Deliverables is accurate and precise, listing only those activities that directly pertain to the corresponding Project Deliverable title. Applicant must relocate "Distributing OHV recreation maps and safety information" and "Maintain facilities (see below)" to their appropriate Project deliverables. In addition, Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities should not be included in Project Deliverable #3 but must instead be listed under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #10 – The tasks associated with the traffic counters and "Photo documentation of field work completed and grant funded ground operations success and accomplishments" are considered Indirect expenses. Applicant must ensure all costs associated with these activities are only included in the Indirect cost category.

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. In addition, the percentage of staff time spent working on Project Deliverable #1 is unclear. Applicant must clarify what portion of staff time will be dedicated to the maintenance of OHV trails, roads within the line item notes. Furthermore, Applicant must also clarify in the line item notes what portion of time will be spent monitoring the 1630 miles of trails / roads as described in Project Deliverable #7.
- Staff #1 “Seasonal Park Rangers” – It is unclear how 100% of the staff's time is being claimed as a direct cost between this proposed Project and the Restoration Project. It is generally expected that staff time includes agency-required trainings, administrative tasks, and other non-Project activities that are not directly related to the accomplishment of Project Deliverables. Applicant must provide a clear breakdown of how staff time is allocated between direct and Indirect activities and demonstrate that the proposed costs are reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. In addition, Applicant must clarify whether the staff time included in this line item encompasses the traffic counter work described in Project Deliverable #10. Furthermore, Applicant must provide specific details related to Project Deliverable #8 “Public Outreach/Visitor Services”, as it is unclear if the activities should be relocated to the Applicant’s Law Enforcement Project.
- Staff #2 “Visitor Center Tech” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. It is unclear how the Applicant is able to justify claiming 75% of staff time as a direct cost for assisting OHV visitors. Applicant must revise the quantity of hours to accurately reflect the percentage of staff time dedicated to directly assisting OHV users. In addition, Applicant must remove the costs and associated language related to “monitor soil conditions” and “perform photo monitoring” from this line item, as these activities are duplicative of the specialist staff positions already included in this Project.
- Staff #3 “Permanent Recreation Staff” – “... work with Park Rangers and Technicians to ensure monitoring, maintenance schedules and protocols are followed correctly” appears to be a supervisory task. Applicant must clarify how many staff positions are responsible for completing this task and specify the number of hours dedicated to this activity within the line item notes. In addition, Applicant must provide specific details related to the type of “visitor contacts” for the 3 Park Rangers in this line item, as it is unclear if the activity should be relocated to the Applicant’s Law Enforcement Project.
- Staff #4 “Engineer” – The proposed quantity of hours for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must provide a specific breakdown of how the hours were calculated, including the precise amount of work to be completed for each activity. In addition, it is unclear why an engineer is necessary to perform the activities outlined in the line item notes, such as “vandalism repair, signage, and general campground maintenance.” Applicant must clarify the specific role and

duties of this position and demonstrate how they are directly related to and necessary for the completion of the Project Deliverables.

- Staff #6-8 – The proposed cost for these line items appears excessive when compared to like Projects and in relation to the limited amount of trail maintenance being performed. Applicant must provide a clear justification for the quantity of hours requested for each of these positions.
- Materials / Supplies #2 “Personal Protective Equipment” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive when compared to like Projects. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost was determined by identifying the cost and quantity of each item to be purchased that was used to calculate the line item total. In addition, the line item notes appear to be inaccurate and must be revised, as the Project Cost Estimate does not support the claim that there are 11 field positions associated with this Project. Furthermore, Applicant must clarify the nature of "hydration needs" and "sun protection" as these items appear to be Indirect costs.
- Materials / Supplies #3 “Janitorial Supplies” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive when compared to like Projects. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost was determined by identifying the cost and quantity of each item to be purchased that was used to calculate the line item total. In addition, Applicant must identify the facilities the supplies are going towards and verify the Contract #1 line item does not duplicate any of the activities.
- Others 1 “Trash and Litter Disposal Fees” – Applicant must provide examples of “certain types of litter”.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Utility, Supervision, and Admin” – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must separate this line item out into its appropriate individual cost categories and provide a clear explanation of how each cost was determined. 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.
- Indirect Costs #3 “Trafx Counter” – Applicant must remove this line item as it was listed in the prior year's Application.
- Indirect Costs #4 “Protective Footwear” – The proposed cost for this line item has increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying this increase.

Law Enforcement: G26-01-05-L01

Need Assessment

- No comment.

Needs Enforcement Certification

- No comment.

Project Cost Estimate

- Staff #1 “LE Officers” – Applicant needs to explain the 174 hours increase from previous grant cycle with same staffing level.