

# **2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program BLM - El Centro 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: G26-01-09-G01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- No comment.

## **Project Description – Project Description**

- No comment.

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

- #1 – It is unclear which precise locations along the Back Country Discovery Trail will be undergoing work in relation to the 1.6 miles of OHV route maintenance proposed under Project Deliverable #1. Applicant must identify the specific locations where work will be performed and ensure they are clearly reflected within the Project Deliverables. In addition, the same mileage was proposed in the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating that the proposed work is not duplicative of prior Grant-funded activities and represents a meaningful and distinct contribution to the overall maintenance of their OHV trail system. Given that the Applicant has identified a total of 2,302 miles of OHV trails within the Project Area, Applicant must also demonstrate that the proposed scope of work reflects a systematic and comprehensive approach to trail maintenance rather than the repeated maintenance of the same general location(s). Furthermore, Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities are not eligible under these Project Deliverables and must instead be included under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #3 – Project Deliverable #3 is intended for on-the-ground trail and road maintenance activities. Applicant must relocate any duties related to monitoring to Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #4 – The "OHV areas" referenced within this Project Deliverable are not specifically identified. Applicant must provide the names and locations of all OHV areas to be serviced under this Project Deliverable. In addition, it is unclear where the 72 restrooms referenced within this Project Deliverable are located. Applicant must identify the specific locations of all restroom facilities to be maintained. This information may be provided within the Project Description or the "Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s)" section of the Application.

## **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 "Maintenance" – It is unclear how many staff positions are included within this line item. Applicant must clarify the total number of staff positions included and ensure this information is clearly reflected within the line item notes. In addition, the percentage of staff time dedicated to direct maintenance activities

versus monitoring activities is unclear. Applicant must clarify within the line item notes the specific percentage of staff time dedicated to each activity. Applicant must also provide a detailed breakdown of the scope of monitoring activities to be performed for each position, including the specific types of monitoring and the amount of staff time dedicated to each activity. If helpful, Applicant may relocate the costs and associated language related to monitoring activities to a separate line item to ensure that each activity is clearly identified and substantiated.

- Staff #2 & 3 – The proposed cost for these line items appears excessive when compared to like Projects. It is unclear why the completion of 1.6 miles of trail maintenance requires a full week of staff time. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the quantity of hours was determined for each position and demonstrate that the proposed costs are reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables.
- Contracts #1 “Trash Collection” – It is unclear how the scope of work associated with this line item is not duplicative of the trash collection duties described under Staff #1. Applicant must clarify the distinct scope of work to be performed under this contract and demonstrate that it does not overlap with the activities already proposed under Staff #1. In addition, Applicant must attach a copy of the supporting contract quote to the final Application submission.
- Contracts #2 “Vault Toilet Pumping” – Applicant must attach a copy of the supporting contract quote to the final Application submission.
- Materials / Supplies #1 “Supplies and Materials” – It is unclear whether the janitorial services proposed under this line item overlap with the scope of work outlined under Contract #2 “Vault Toilet Pumping.” Applicant must clarify whether the vault toilet pumping contract includes any cleaning or restocking services, and whether the items listed under this line item are being supplied to the contractor for use in performing their contracted work. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of the distinct scope of work associated with each line item and demonstrate that no duplicative costs exist between the two.
- Materials / Supplies #2 & 3 – It is unclear how the proposed costs for these line items were determined. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost for each line item was calculated, including the unit price and quantity of signs and markers to be purchased that were used to determine each line item total.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Indirect Costs” – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for this line item 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 the 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.

## **Education and Safety: G26-01-09-S01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- o No comment.

## **Project Description – Project Description**

- o No comment.

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

- #6 – Applicant shall revise the deliverable to include more information to support what “OHV first responder activities related to OHV recreation...” entails.
- #7 – Applicant shall revise the deliverable to include more information to support what “OHV search and rescue activities related to OHV recreation...” entails.

## **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 #1 “Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)” – Applicant must clarify how many hours each staff member is expected to work. In addition, Applicant must update the narrative to include the GS/WG levels for each staff member.
- Staff #2 “Temp EMT’s for Holidays” – Applicant shall clarify if match will be used within the last line item, as the narrative states, “If match is used it would be from fee and/or appropriated funds”. Lastly, Applicant must update the line-item rate to match the rate of \$38 as stated in the narrative.
- Materials / Supplies #1 “EMS / Search & Rescue Supplies” – Cost appears excessive compared to last year’s Project. Applicant must provide the methodology to support the cost. In addition, Applicant must clarify the need for helicopter landing and signaling devices as they were requested within the G25 Project. Applicant must also clarify the need for tactical pouches. Furthermore, Applicant must clarify what the “communications equipment” is and how it will be utilized on the Project. Applicant shall also further clarify what rescue supplies includes. Lastly, the chest rigs are considered an indirect cost. Applicant must move the language and costs associated to the Indirect cost category.
- Indirect Costs #1 – The proposed cost for this line item 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. In addition, Applicant must clarify the need for additional medical supplies and rescue equipment as it is already requested in Materials / Supplies #1.

## **Law Enforcement: G26-01-09-L01**

### **Need Assessment**

- No comment.

### **Needs Enforcement Certification**

- #6 – Applicant must provide additional details identifying curriculum used to train personnel in OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection. Applicant must include a descriptor for, “special tactic”, training identified in Item #1 of the law enforcement needs application section.
- #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 #2 “Supervisory Law Enforcement Ranger” – Applicant must provide further detail on an over 190% increase in hours requested with a decrease in staff level. Line item went from 3 supervisors/ 420 total hours in G25 to 2 supervisors/1220 hours for G26.
- Staff #3 “Law Enforcement Technician” – Applicant must clarify how Law Enforcement Technician duties directly impact the law enforcement project. Law Enforcement Technician time solely focused on signage and outreach may be better suited in a Ground Operations Application.
- Staff #4 “Chief LE Ranger” – Line item appears duplicative of Staff Line #2. Applicant must revise to show the job duties of Chief Ranger as related to on-ground patrol. Applicant may only have one first-line supervisor as a direct cost.
- Staff #5 “Detailed Law Enforcement Rangers” – Applicant must clarify if this money includes per diem. If so, those costs need to be removed and included in the other category without increasing the overall grant request.