

## **2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program BLM - Palm Springs South Coast 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.

## **Restoration: G26-01-13-R01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- No comment.

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

- The statement “this Project would augment fencing that was installed along the northwestern boundary of the ACEC with a grant awarded from the OHMVR in previous grant cycles” is inaccurate and needs to be revised or clarified. Applicant was not awarded funding from the OHMVR Grants program in the previous grant cycle.

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

- #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)...”. In addition, Applicant must clarify what is meant by “biological, botanical, and cultural monitoring in sensitive areas as needed,” as it is unclear how these activities relate to the Project.
- #3 – Any activities at a staging area are Ground Operations related and not a Restoration activity. Applicant must remove verbiage from deliverables as well as associated costs from the Project budget and scope of work.
- #4 – Applicants must provide a clear estimate of the mileage, linear feet, or other applicable measurements of fencing and/or barriers required for the western boundary of the Dos Palmas ACEC and along Dos Palmas Spring Road.
- #5 – This activity is not listed in the Project Cost Estimate section. Applicant must clarify how this activity aligns with the corresponding Project Deliverable and associated costs. In addition, “make visitor contact at the San Andreas Trailhead” appears 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.
- #8 – Applicant must provide additional details explaining why the existing fencing is inadequate and how often the barbed-wire and T-post fencing requires repair or replacement due to OHV activities. In addition, Applicant must move the verbiage to Deliverable #4 “Fencing/Barriers.”

### **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.

- (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.
- (G) Restoration Projects involving scientific and cultural studies... – This section is for Restoration Projects that involve scientific and cultural studies. Applicant must remove all language if the Project does not involve scientific and cultural studies and/or move it to the correct deliverable.

### **Project Cost Estimate**

- All Staff Line Items –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. In addition, 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 “Operations - Core Team” – Applicant must clarify what “includes maintenance & repairs of facilities, installation of route & trail signage that provide OHV Opportunities” means, as it appears to be a Ground Operations activity. In addition, the average number of work hours in a week is forty (40) hours. Applicants’ notes and/or the quantity (qty) are inaccurate and need to be revised. Furthermore, the rate seems excessive. Applicant must provide additional information on how the rate was determined.
- Staff #2 “Civil engineer” – It is unclear how the proposed “Civil Engineer” activities relate to the scope of this Restoration Project. Applicant should provide additional details on how it is related to the line items and Project Deliverables. In addition, Applicant must clarify what “working on the Ivanpah project” means. Furthermore, the hours seem excessive. Applicant must remove or reduce hours for the line item.
- Staff #4 “Wildlife Biologist” – Applicant must clarify the need for this line item. Applicant stated in the General Application Requirement: HMP Part 1, “the Project does not introduce any Risk Factors to special-status species or the habitats they rely upon”.
- Staff #6 “Natural Resource Specialist” – Applicant must clarify the need for this line item, as activities were not listed in the Project’s Deliverables. In addition, Applicant must add this activity to the appropriate Project Deliverable to ensure it is properly reflected in the scope of work.
- Materials / Supplies #1 “Fence” – “Work includes removal and disposal of old T post and wire fence” is ineligible for this line item. Applicant must remove the

related language and associated costs. In addition, Applicant must clarify what fencing material is being used for the Project, as it is unclear.

- Material/Supplies #3 “Signs” - Closed when wet signs are Ground Operation signs and not applicable to a Restoration Project. Applicant must revise line item and cost with the removal of those signs.
- Equipment Use Expenses #1-7 – Applicant must provide additional information on how the Equipment is used in the Project. In addition, Applicant is reminded that the use rate may never exceed the Grantee’s actual cost. Applicant must clarify how the quantity and rate were determined, as the cost appears excessive for the size and scope of the proposed Project. If the use rate includes maintenance, Applicant must revise the rate to remove associated costs. Regulations only cover maintenance on Grant purchased vehicles.
- Equipment Use Expenses #8 “Skidsteer Rental (2)” – Applicant must clarify how often, in terms of day(s), the piece of Equipment will be used on the Project.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Administrative Costs” – The cost appears excessive for the size and scope of the proposed Project and compared to like Projects. 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.

## **Law Enforcement: G26-01-13-L01**

### **Need Assessment**

- Item #2 – Applicant must provide additional details on number of trails, types of recreation vehicles that are being addressed while on patrol, and any MOUs, Land Manager Letters or other document present for patrol on other lands outside of agency jurisdiction.

### **Needs Enforcement Certification**

- #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 #1 “Supervisory Law Enforcement Ranger” – Applicant must explain the 55% increase in requested hours with same staffing level as previous grant cycle (G25 ask was 451, G26 ask is 700).