

## **2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program BLM - Ridgecrest 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: G26-01-15-G01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- No comment.

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

- It is unclear how the proposed maintenance of 2,800 miles of OHV trails will be achieved within the Project performance period. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation of the methodology to be used to accomplish the proposed mileage and demonstrate that the scope of work is reasonable and proportionate to the Project Deliverables. In addition, it is unclear how the proposed trail work does not overlap with the efforts of Friends of Jawbone. Applicant must clarify the distinct scope of work to be performed under this Project and demonstrate that no duplicative activities exist between the two entities given the expansive size of the Project Area(s).

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

- #1 – Applicant must ensure that the list of Project Deliverables is accurate and that each activity listed directly corresponds to the applicable Project Deliverable. The maintenance of 6 miles within the Spangler Hills OHV Open Area does not pertain to Project Deliverable #1 and must be relocated to Project Deliverable #3. In addition, it is unclear where within the Spangler Hills OHV Open Area the proposed 6 miles of Ground Disturbing Activity will take place. Applicant must identify the specific locations where this work will be performed and ensure they are clearly reflected under Project Deliverable #3. Furthermore, 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 – 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 – Applicant must clarify why work is being proposed within the “Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area,” as this area appears to be closed to OHV recreation and may not be an eligible Project Area under this Grant Program. In addition, Applicant must confirm that the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area falls within their land management jurisdiction. Lastly, Applicant must indicate the number of dumpsters. Only information about the roll-off dumpsters was provided.
- #6 – Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities are not eligible under this Project Deliverable and must be removed and relocated to Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other. In addition, Applicant must clarify the specific amount of staff time dedicated to monitoring the boundary fence and provide a detailed description of all associated activities to be performed. Lastly, it is unclear whether the proposed scope of work for the monitoring and maintenance

of boundary fences is more appropriately categorized as a Restoration Project Deliverable. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of the need for the activities and how it relates to this proposed Ground Operations Project.

- #7 – It is unclear why Archaeological Protection Monitoring is proposed throughout the entire Project Area rather than being limited to the specific locations where Ground Disturbing Activity will take place. Applicant must provide additional details to justify this scope of work or revise this Project Deliverable and Project Cost Estimate to ensure that Archaeological Protection Monitoring is limited only to those areas where Ground Disturbing Activity is proposed.

### **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 #1-3 & 7-9 – The percentage of staff time dedicated to Project Deliverables #1 and 3 is unclear. Applicant must clarify within the line item notes what portion of each staff position's time will be specifically dedicated to the maintenance of OHV trails, roads, and open areas. In addition, it is unclear what portion of time Staff #1 and #3 will be dedicating to assisting the Equipment Operator, and how the associated staff hours were determined in relation to the 6 miles of grader work proposed within Spangler Hills. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the hours for these activities were calculated and demonstrate that the proposed costs are reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. Lastly, the amount of Staff time dedicated to monitoring is unclear for each position. Applicant must specify within the line item notes the precise percentage of time each staff member will be dedicated to monitoring activities.
- Staff #1 “Park Ranger” – The maintenance of TrafX counters is an Indirect activity, as it does not directly contribute to the completion of the Project Deliverables. The maintenance of TrafX counters is an Indirect activity, as it does not directly contribute to the completion of the Project Deliverables. Applicant must relocate all costs and associated language related to this activity to the Indirect Cost category.
- Staff #3 “Maintenance Lead” – The proposed quantity of hours for this line item appears excessive relative to the scope of work described within the line item notes. Applicant must provide a detailed breakdown of all activities to be performed by this position, including the specific quantity of hours dedicated to each activity, and demonstrate that the proposed cost is reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. In addition, the duties for this position primarily appear to be Indirect, as they do not directly contribute to the accomplishment of on-the-ground Project Deliverables. Applicant must further clarify how the proposed activities directly accomplish the

Project Deliverables or relocate all Indirect activities and associated costs to the Indirect Cost category.

- Staff #4 “Outdoor Recreation Planner” – The analysis of data from TrafX counters is an Indirect activity, as it does not directly contribute to the completion of the Project Deliverables. Applicant must relocate all costs and associated language related to this activity to the Indirect Cost category.
- Staff #5 “Field Archaeologist” – The proposed quantity of hours for this line item appears excessive relative to the amount of Ground Disturbing Activity proposed under this Project. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the quantity of hours was determined and demonstrate that the proposed cost is reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables.
- Staff #6 “Resource Staff” – It is unclear how many staff positions are encompassed within this line item. Applicant must clarify the total number of staff positions included and provide a detailed breakdown of the specific scope of work and quantity of hours dedicated to each position within the line item notes. In addition, it is unclear how the Lead Archaeologist position is not duplicative of the Staff #6 line item. Applicant must clarify the distinct scope of work to be performed by each position and demonstrate that no duplicative activities exist between the two line items. Furthermore, the OHV nexus for the Geologist position is unclear. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of the specific duties to be performed by the Geologist and demonstrate how these activities directly support the completion of the Project Deliverables.
- Staff #7 “Recreation Branch Chief” – It is unclear why the Recreation Branch Chief is necessary to perform field work activities such as installing signage, monitoring, and creating maps, as described within the line item notes. Applicant must provide a clear justification for the inclusion of this position and a detailed explanation of how the quantity of hours was determined, including the specific locations where signage will be installed and the precise amount of staff time dedicated to each activity. In addition, the creation of maps as described under this line item appears to be duplicative of the scope of work outlined under Staff #4. Applicant must clarify the distinct scope of mapping work to be performed by each position and demonstrate that no duplicative activities exist between the two line items. Furthermore, it is unclear whether the maps produced under this Project will be distributed exclusively to OHV users or made available to other user groups as well. Applicant must clarify the intended distribution of all maps produced and ensure that the associated costs are proportionate to OHV use. Lastly, Applicant must move the cost and language for “Moose Anderson Days” to the Indirect cost category, as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project Deliverables.
- Staff #8 “Volunteers” – The proposed quantity of volunteer hours has increased significantly compared to the prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the increase. In addition, it is unclear whether the volunteers proposed under this line item are qualified to conduct HMP monitoring. Applicant must clarify the specific qualifications of the volunteers assigned to perform monitoring activities and provide a detailed breakdown of the amount of staff time dedicated to the activity.

- Contracts #1 “CXT Cleaning” – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the contract cost was determined, including the precise scope, location, and amount of work to be conducted. In addition, Applicant must attach a copy of the supporting contract quote to the final Application submission.
- Contracts #2 “CXT Annual Pumping” – Applicant must attach a copy of the supporting contract quote to the final Application submission.
- Contract #5 “Maintenance of Trona Pinnacles Routes” – Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the contract cost was determined, including the precise scope, location, and amount of work to be conducted. In addition, the proposed use of seven pieces of Heavy Equipment appears excessive relative to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. Applicant must provide a clear justification for the number of Heavy Equipment pieces required and demonstrate that this quantity is necessary to successfully accomplish the Project Deliverables. Lastly, Applicant must attach a copy of the supporting contract quote to the final Application submission.
- Equipment Use Expenses #1 & 2 – The proposed cost for these line items appears excessive when compared to like Projects. It is unclear why a monthly equipment rental is necessary to complete 6 miles of trail work. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation within the line item notes of how the equipment will be utilized, including the specific plan for deployment and the amount of work the operators are able to accomplish per work day. In addition, it is unclear why the proposed costs for these line items are approximately the same as the prior year's Application, given that the proposed scope of work reflects a reduction of approximately 66% in trail mileage compared to the prior year. Applicant must provide a clear explanation justifying the proposed costs in light of the significantly reduced scope of work and demonstrate that the proposed costs are reasonable and proportionate to the Project Deliverables.
- Others #2 “Interpretive Printing” – 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. The statement that the increase is due to an anticipated need to print additional maps is not a sufficient justification and lacks the necessary detail to support the requested cost. Applicant must provide specific information regarding the number of additional maps to be printed, and the unit cost associated with each to substantiate the proposed increase. In addition, it is unclear whether the interpretive materials to be printed will be distributed exclusively to OHV users or made available to other user groups as well. Applicant must clarify the intended distribution of all interpretive materials produced and ensure that the associated costs are proportionate to OHV use or revise the requested amount accordingly.
- 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 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. Furthermore, the use of "etc." within the line item notes does not provide sufficient detail to identify all costs anticipated under this line item. Applicant must specify each cost individually, as the current description does not clearly demonstrate the eligibility of the proposed expenses.

## **Development: G26-01-15-D01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- No comment.

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

- Applicant must clarify the acreage that is planned to be worked on. In addition, Applicant must add “re-aligning fenceline” to the Project deliverable section.

### **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.
- Staff #3 “Resource Staff” – Applicant must clarify the rate, as the Ground Operations Application has a rate of \$76 for the Resource Staff.
- Staff #5 “Equipment Operators” – Applicant must revise the QTY of hours being requested, as per the notes crew shall work for 3 weeks, which is approximately 504 hours. In addition, Applicant must clarify the rate, as the Ground Operations Application has a rate of \$65 for the Equipment Operator. Lastly, Applicant shall clarify how many equipment operators will be working on the Project.
- Staff #6 & 7 – Line item Project activities appear duplicative. Applicant must remove one line item or explain the need for separate line items.
- Contracts #1 “Class 2 Aggregate Road Base” – Cost and QTY appear excessive for the size of the space being worked on and compared to similar Projects. Applicant must clarify the methodology. In addition, Applicant shall clarify who they are contracting for the aggregate road base.
- Contracts #2 “Rock riprap” – Applicant must clarify the OHV nexus of this line item.
- Contracts #3 “Geo-synthetic material” – Cost appears excessive. Applicant shall clarify how much material is required for the area.

- Materials / Supplies #1 “Field Supplies” – “Not foreseen but needed” is not eligible, Division will only pay for supplies required to complete the Project. Applicant shall reduce the line item request to only support what is needed. In addition, Applicant shall separate out safety gear and put it in its own line item.
- Equipment Use Expenses #2 “Fuel for Equipment Rental” – Applicant must clarify the QTY and rate for the fuel to support the requested cost.
- Others #1 “Employee Travel” – Applicant shall update the notes section to support the need for Employee Travel as it is unclear.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Indirect Costs” – 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 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: G26-01-15-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.
- Staff #1 “Law Enforcement” – Applicant shall clarify the increase in hours from the G25 Project. In addition, Applicant shall clarify the difference in rates as the proposed Law Enforcement Application Ranger has a Rate of \$90.
- Materials / Supplies #1 “Brochures/Handouts” – Applicant shall revise the narrative to provide the methodology to support the brochures and handouts.

- Materials / Supplies #2 “Promotional Items” – Applicant shall revise the narrative to provide the methodology to support the promotional items.
- Indirect Costs #1 – 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: G26-01-15-L01**

### **Need Assessment**

- Item #1 – Applicant must provide a concise overview of the agency and responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Team including a detail of any educational outreach related to OHV Recreation. Additionally, Applicant must define the geographical area served, specifying size of the county/field office, etc. and note relevant topographical features.
- Item #1 – Applicant is advised that patrolling for anything other than OHV Recreational activities is not eligible for Project activities as they do not have an OHV nexus. For example, patrolling for the following is not eligible: illegal shooting, health and safety codes, municipal codes, penal codes, California Vehicles Codes not related to §38000, noise control not related to OHVs, trespassing, etc.
- Item #1 – Applicant is reminded that all OHV Enforcement activities must have and OHV Recreation Nexus.

### **Needs Enforcement Certification**

- No comment.

### **Project Cost Estimate**

- Staff #1 & 2 – Staff hours significantly increased from G25. Applicant must explain the need for significant increase in staff time compared to previous grant cycle.