

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program Institute for Wildlife Studies' 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:

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Restoration: G26-04-57-R01

Project Description – Background

- Applicant should ensure the Background is accurate and precise, listing only a brief description of the Applicant or Land Manager's organization/program. Applicant must relocate any activity related to the Project in the Project Description section and/or remove any redundant language and irrelevant information.

Project Description – Project Description

- It is unclear how these studies relate to the purpose of a Restoration Project as found in Regulation Section 4970.11(a). Scientific studies must directly address the impacts of OHV use on natural resources and support restoration or restoration planning efforts. Please clarify how the proposed scientific studies are connected to OHV-related impacts and how they contribute to the Project's restoration objectives. In addition, it is unclear how trash found at the study sites will be distinguished between OHV users and non-OHV users. Applicant must clarify the method for identifying whether trash is attributable to OHV recreation, non-OHV recreation, or other sources. In addition, Applicant must describe how trash and human food subsidies influence wildlife presence or behavior, and how this relates to OHV-associated impacts. Furthermore, Applicant must revise the narrative to remove non-essential background information and present the description in a clearer, more concise manner that focuses on what the Applicant intends to do. The content should be written for a broad public audience, avoiding overly scientific language and ensuring the Project Description is easy to understand.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #6 – Applicant must provide additional information on how the quantified non-ohv recreation use relates to OHV recreation, and its impacts.
- #7 – Applicant must provide additional information demonstrating how the proposed planning activities directly support future on the ground restoration actions. Restoration planning must clearly identify how the work will lead to, inform, or prepare for restoration of areas impacted by OHV use. If the Project does not involve a Restoration Planning, Applicant must remove.

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.

- (C) How the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation... – It is unclear how the Project relates to OHV recreation or how OHV recreation has caused the specific resource damage the Project intends to address. Applicant must clearly identify what OHV use did, where the OHV related damage occurred, and how OHV activity caused the specific impacts the Project proposes to study. Applicant is also reminded that the content should be written for a broad public audience, avoiding overly scientific language and ensuring the narrative is easy to understand.
- (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.
- (E) Except for scientific and cultural studies or planning Projects, describe the monitoring... – This section applies only to Restoration efforts and is not applicable to scientific studies, cultural studies, or planning Projects. Applicant must remove this content from this section and place it in the appropriate part of the application.

Project Cost Estimate

- Staff #1 & 2 – The cost appears excessive. Applicant must clarify how this cost was determined and provide a detailed breakdown.
- Staff #3 & 4 – The Line items are considered indirect costs because the activities do not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must explain how this activity directly supports the Project or moves the verbiage for this activity and the cost associated with it to the Indirect Cost category.
- Equipment Use Expenses #1 “Mileage reimbursement” – Applicant may charge a maximum of one hundred fifty (150) miles per day for Equipment operating costs during Project activities. Any mileage exceeding the 150-mile daily limit may only be claimed as match. Applicant must clarify how many miles per day the vehicle will be used for the Project or revise the line item to reflect the allowable maximum daily mileage and associated match cost.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Overhead costs” – The Cost appears excessive for the size and scope of the proposed Project. Applicant must further define how the 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. In addition, Applicant must clarify what is meant by “supporting staff indirectly associated with the Project,” including how these staff support completion of the Project and how their roles differ from those of Staff #3 and #4.