

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program Southern California Mountains Foundation'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:

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Restoration: G26-04-02-R01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- The statement of “Erratic weather systems and fires have caused further damage to the forest, leaving these areas vulnerable to unauthorized use,” and “If these sites continue to sustain damage without serious help, the Forest could be faced with closing them to off-highway vehicle use,” appears to be Ground Operations activities. Applicant must either provide additional information demonstrating how the Project meets Restoration criteria or remove any Ground Operation-related language and associated costs. In addition, some areas appear impacted by unauthorized motor vehicle use, but the boundaries and acreage needing restoration are not clearly defined. Applicant must provide additional information clarifying the exact location, extent, and size of the impacted area of the OHV.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – It is unclear what the size of the actual active restoration area will be. Applicant must verify the accuracy of this figure or provide a revised estimate that reflects the appropriate level of active restoration associated with illegal OHV incursion. In addition, Applicant must also separately identify any areas representing anticipated future incursions and provide distinct estimates for each. Furthermore, Applicant should ensure the List of Project Deliverables is accurate and precise, listing only those Project activities that pertain to the corresponding Project deliverable title. Applicant must relocate or remove all non-earth-moving activities (monitoring, signage, barriers, trash removal, etc.) to the correct Project Deliverable.
- #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 how duplication of restoration and monitoring work will be avoided across overlapping projects and funding sources, and must verify that proposed costs reflect only this Project’s activities and not work conducted under United States Forest Service (USFS) San Bernardino National Forest restoration or law enforcement monitoring efforts. In addition, Applicant must confirm whether the cost estimate reflects two or three years of monitoring, given that G24 funding ends in December 2027. Furthermore, must move “SCMF utilizes weekly volunteer education patrols...” to “Deliverable #5 “Public outreach/Visitor Services.”
- #3 – Due to the proximity of this Project area to the USFS San Bernardino NF G26 Restoration Project, Applicant must identify the methodology to ensure no duplication of services. Applicant must remove language and any cost associated with this activity from the line item if there is duplication of services.

- #4 – “Boulders will be placed at sites...” is not listed in the Project Cost Estimate section. Applicant must clarify how this activity aligns with the corresponding Project Deliverable and associated costs.
- #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, the deliverable appears duplicative of the G26 USFS San Bernardino NF Ground Operation Project. Applicant must provide additional information or remove the language and any associated costs from the line item if duplication of services exists.
- #6 – The Project appears to require cultural studies to be completed before any restoration activities can begin. Applicant may divide the proposal into two separate Restoration projects if desired. If the proposal is split, Applicant is reminded that the combined deliverables and total cost must remain consistent with the original Project.
- #9 – Based on the Land Manager’s responses for G26 San Bernardino NF, only two nurseries are identified. Applicant must justify the need for a third nursery or remove all associated language and costs related to the third nursery from the Project. In addition, Applicant must clarify how duplication of activities in the native plant nursery will be avoided across overlapping projects and funding sources.

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 – The goal of the Restoration Program is to aid the return of natural resource systems to their natural state. It is unclear whether the Project area will be allowed to continue progressing toward natural resource recovery or whether it will remain open to other non-OHV recreational uses such as camping or horseback riding. Applicant must clarify the intended long-term use and management of the restored area and how the other non-ohv recreation uses contribute to the Project’s restoration purpose. In addition, 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 shall... – Peer reviews must be completed by three experts from the scientific discipline or field related to the proposed Project prior to submission. Applicant must provide

additional information or remove this language if the Project does not qualify as a Restoration Project involving scientific or cultural studies. The inclusion of this study requires the Project to be a two-phased Project, where no groundwork may be completed until the study is finalized and the reports are submitted to the Division.

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, such as nursery.
- Staff #1 “Corpsmembers” – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must further define how the cost was determined and provide a detailed breakdown.
- Staff #2 “Resource Specialist” – The scope of work for this position requires further clarification. Specifically, it is not evident how this role directly contributes to completion of the Project, nor how its responsibilities are different from those described under Contract #1 “Archaeology/Cultural Surveys and Monitor.”
- Staff #3 “Restoration Site Coordinators” – Cost significantly increased compared to the G24 Restoration Project. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the increase, along with the need for three full-time staff. In addition, Applicant must clarify if the position's activities are directly related to impacts caused by illegal off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation.
- Staff #4 “Volunteers” – The cost appears excessive. Applicant must clarify how this cost was determined and provide a detailed breakdown.
- Staff #5 “Seasonal Interns” – Applicant must provide a more detailed description of what “assist with volunteer events” entails, including the nature of the work performed and how it directly supports the Project.
- Contracts #1 “Archaeology/Cultural Surveys and Monitor” – The cost appears excessive. Applicant must clarify how this cost was determined and provide a detailed breakdown.
- Materials / Supplies #1 “Signs” – The quantity of signs listed in this line item does not match the number identified in Deliverable #3. Applicant must revise the quantity to ensure consistency between the Project Cost Estimate and Deliverable #3.
- Materials / Supplies #2 “Personal Protective Equipment” – Cost significantly increased compared to the G24 Restoration Project. Applicant must provide a detailed cost breakdown that includes the number of staff the PPE is being purchased for and justifies the annual purchase rather than carryover from prior years.
- Materials / Supplies #4 “Fencing Supplies” – The cost per mile of fencing is inconsistent across Applicant's submitted Restoration Projects, with one Project listing \$57,000 per mile and another listing \$55,000 per mile. Applicant must

justify the higher rate or revise the cost to align with the \$55,000 per mile rate listed in the Rest 15 CVCC Restoration Project.

- Others #1 “Trailer Maintenance” – Applicant must clarify whether the trailer was purchased with Grant funds, as program regulations only permit the use of Grant funds for maintenance of Grant-funded equipment. In addition, Applicant is reminded that non-major repairs, regular maintenance per the manufacturer’s recommended maintenance schedule, and tire replacement must be performed by a licensed repair facility or by agency personnel possessing comparable qualifications.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Indirect Project 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. Additionally, Applicant must provide a more detailed description of what the employee training entails, including the type of training, its relevance to the Project, and how it supports the Project. In addition, Applicant must clearly list all activities referenced by the term “etc.”

Restoration: G26-04-02-R02

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- No comment.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – It is unclear what the size of the actual active restoration area will be. Applicant must verify the accuracy of this figure or provide a revised estimate that reflects the appropriate level of active restoration associated with illegal OHV incursion. In addition, Applicant must also separately identify any areas representing anticipated future incursions and provide distinct estimates for each. Furthermore, Applicant should ensure the List of Project Deliverables is accurate and precise, listing only those Project activities that pertain to the corresponding Project deliverable title. Applicant must relocate or remove all non-earth-moving activities (monitoring, signage, barriers, trash removal, etc.) to the correct Project Deliverable.
- #2 – Applicants must provide the anticipated number of monitoring visits for each Project Area listed under Section D: “Size of the Specific Project Areas(s)…”
- #5 – The activity listed in this deliverable is not listed in the Project Cost Estimate section. Applicant must clarify how this activity aligns with the corresponding Project Deliverable and associated costs.

- #8 – This Deliverable is not unique to Restoration Projects. Applicant must ensure that the items included within the section are in the corresponding Project Deliverables.

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 throughout the Project how the proposed “trash removal” activities relate to OHV Recreation. Applicant must provide an additional explanation describing how these activities are connected to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the associated resource damage. As defined in regulation, “OHV Recreation” means the activity of driving or riding motorized vehicles on lands to which CVC Division 16.5 applies, for leisure purposes, including motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation activities.
- (D) The size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles – Based on the Project map submitted by Applicant, several proposed boulder placements appear to be located within the proposed fenced restoration area. Applicant must provide clarification regarding the necessity of placing boulders in an area that will be fenced. Furthermore, 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. Lastly, Applicant must clarify if there are any authorized trails or roads in the Proposed area.

Project Cost Estimate

- Staff #1 “Corpsmembers” – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must clarify how this cost was determined and provide a detailed breakdown. In addition, Applicant must state how many staff will work on the Project, the number of days assigned to each day, and the duties.
- Staff #2, 3, 5, & 6 – Line items appear duplicative. Applicant must clarify whether they are different or the same. If they are the same, Applicant should explain why separate line items are necessary and how the associated costs differ.
- Staff #3 “Restoration Coordinator” – The percentage of staff time allocated to Project Deliverables is unclear. Applicant must clarify what portion of the staff member’s time will be dedicated to active restoration, monitoring, signage, fencing/barriers, public outreach, and other relevant restoration activities.

- Staff #4 “Equipment Specialist” – Cost seems excessive. Applicant must clarify the needs of 195 days for an eight-mile route, while the contract and Equipment rental are listed for 15 to 20 days.
- Staff #5 “CVCC Resource Manager” – Staff is not an employee of Southern California Mountains Foundation, and line items need to be moved to the Contracts Cost category. In addition, compared to like Projects, the rate for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost was determined.
- Staff #6 “CVCC Program Specialist” – Staff is not an employee of Southern California Mountains Foundation, and line items need to be moved to the Contracts Cost category.
- Materials / Supplies #2 “Gates” – Repairing and replacing the gates are an ineligible expense for Restoration Projects. Applicant must remove this line item.
- Materials / Supplies #4 “Boulders” – Applicant must clarify the purpose of placing boulders within the fenced area. In addition, the cost seems excessive. Applicant must provide additional information on how the cost was determined and who will be responsible for transporting the boulders to the site.
- Equipment Use Expenses #2 “Trailer Rental” – Trailers are not considered Equipment. Applicant must move this line item to the Other Cost category. In addition, Applicant must clarify how the cost was determined and the need to rent a cable and dump trailer, as Applicant already owns two trailers, as identified in the known OLGA inventory.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Indirect project 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. Additionally, Applicant must provide a more detailed description of what the employee training entails, including the type of training, its relevance to the Project, and how it supports the Project. In addition, Applicant must clearly list all activities referenced by the term “etc.”