

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program USFS - Mendocino National Forest'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:

- No comment.

Ground Operations: G26-02-10-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- No comment.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant must specify which “ninety-five (95) miles of trail and Level 2 roads” will be maintained for OHV vehicles. In their clarification, Applicant must separate out the miles of trail and road to provide two separate metrics and provide specific road numbers broken out by ranger district. In addition, Applicant must provide the specific locations where culverts will be “installed” or “replaced.” Applicant may include this information in the Project Description or expand on their response in the “Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s)” section of their Application. Additionally, Applicant is reminded that monitoring is not an eligible activity under Project Deliverable #1 but should be included in Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #6 – Applicant must clarify where they intend to install or maintain 5,930 linear feet of fencing. In their response, Applicant must also clarify approximately how much of the proposed fencing will consist of new installation versus maintenance of existing fencing.

Project Description – All Others

- “Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles” – Applicant is reminded that installing fencing to address user-created trails is consistent with Restoration Project activities and not eligible for Ground Operations Projects. Any fencing and/or barrier work must be intended to delineate the riding areas and not to address land that was damaged by illegal OHV use. In addition, Applicant must clarify whether the two designated “open” riding opportunities are being maintained under this Project. If so, Applicant must add the associated information and activities under Project Deliverable #3.

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. In addition, the percentage of Staff time dedicated to Project Deliverable #1 is unclear. Applicant must clarify within the line item notes what portion of Staff time will be specifically dedicated to the maintenance of OHV trails and roads.

- Staff #1–2, 10–15 – Compared to like Projects, the proposed quantity of hours appears excessive. Applicant must provide a detailed breakdown of how the hours were determined for each position and demonstrate that the proposed hours are reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables.
- Staff #1, 3, 8, 10, 12 & 19 – The GYR monitoring activities described across these positions appear to be duplicative. It is unclear why each position is performing the same monitoring tasks and how the associated responsibilities are distinguished from one another. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how the monitoring activities assigned to each position are distinct and non-overlapping, and specify the precise amount of time each position will dedicate to GYR monitoring activities.
- Staff #3 "ULRD OHV - Technician GS-5/6/7" – Applicant must clarify the number of positions in this line item. It is unclear as the line item states "5/6/7".
- Staff #4–7, 16 & 17 – The proposed quantity of hours for the equipment operator positions appears excessive when compared to similar Projects and relative to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. Applicant must provide a detailed breakdown of how the hours were determined for each position and demonstrate that the proposed hours are reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. In addition, it is unclear how the full year's salary being claimed for Staff #4 is justified, given that dirt work activities are not conducted year around due various weather related matters. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the quantity of hours claimed for this position accurately reflects the actual time to be spent on Project-related activities. Furthermore, the line item notes for Staff #5 are inaccurate and must be revised, as the proposed hours have not increased compared to the prior year's Application.
- Staff #8 "ULRD Volunteers" – Applicant must include the specific locations and number of miles of roads or trails to be maintained in relation to Project Deliverable #1. It is unclear from the Project Description which agencies are responsible for maintaining which specific miles of road or trail.
- Staff #9 "Inmate Labor Crews" – Applicant has clarified that the inmates are paid and not volunteers. Applicant may not charge costs (Grant or match) that are higher than their actual costs. Applicant must relocate this line item to the Contracts cost category and update the rate and line item notes to reflect the actual Inmate crew rates.
- Staff 18 "ULRD Volunteers" - The proposed hourly rate exceeds the California Independent Sector volunteer hourly rate of \$40.14 as established at the start of this Grants Cycle. Applicant must adjust the hourly rate to an amount equal to or less than an hourly rate of \$40.14.
- Contracts #1 & 3 – Applicant must state which specific campgrounds will be serviced and how many vault toilets will be pumped under these line items.
- Contracts #4 "GRD Water System Operation" – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive when compared to similar Projects. Applicant must clarify how the cost was determined, including the precise scope of work. In addition,

Applicant must verify the percentage of costs attributable to public OHV use versus servicing the Forest's work center.

- Materials / Supplies #2 & 9 – It appears that several items listed under these line items are intended for the maintenance of facilities that are not open to the public. Applicant must relocate all costs and associated language related to the maintenance of Forest Service facilities to the Indirect Cost category. In addition, “insecticide/rodenticide” are considered Indirect costs and are not eligible as a direct Project expense. Applicant must relocate the costs and associated language for these items to the Indirect Cost category.
- Materials / Supplies #13 "Vehicle Control Barriers" – The activity described as "harden low water crossings" was included in this line item in the prior year's Application. Applicant must clarify why this activity is being proposed again in the current Application and provide a detailed explanation demonstrating how the scope of work differs from that of the prior year, or remove the associated costs and language from the Application. In addition, if the activity is to be performed again, Applicant must identify the specific location(s) of the low water crossings to be hardened.
- Materials / Supplies #14 "GRD Water System" - It is unclear why the Applicant listed "Additional funding requested for needed repairs to the system" as it was on the prior year's Application. Applicant must clarify if additional repairs are needed or remove the duplicated costs and language from this line item.
- Equipment Use Expenses #1, 2, 6-8 – Applicant has indicated that the Equipment listed in these line items is not used exclusively for OHV-related activities. Applicant must reduce the associated costs by a minimum of 25% to ensure that only costs related to the completion of the Project Deliverables are being requested. In addition, the proposed costs for Equipment Use Expenses #1 and 6 increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the increase for the line items.
- Equipment Use Expenses #5, 14, 15 - Applicant must clarify how the cost was determined by providing justification for how the QTY of gallons was determined. The line item should be updated show a per gallon quantity, rate and a UOM of each without increasing the line item total. Additionally, Applicant is reminded that fuel receipts must be submitted to justify fuel costs.
- Equipment Use Expenses #16 "Trailers - Jacobson" - Applicant must move this line item to the “Others” category.
- Indirect Costs #1 "Indirect OHV Program Activities" - 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.