

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program USFS - Modoc 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: G26-02-45-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- No comment.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant must clarify the specific locations that will be undergoing maintenance under this Project. It is unclear which specific trails and roads account for the “15 miles” to be maintained and the “50 miles” to be graded. In addition, Applicant must specify which culverts, water crossings, water bars, and rolling dips will be installed or replaced, including the precise locations of each. Furthermore, Applicant must identify the specific “selected routes” within the 3,300-mile OHV network that will undergo tree removal activities. Lastly, Project Deliverable #1 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 identify and list the specific locations of all 37 vault toilets to be serviced under this Project. In addition, Applicant must clarify which specific OHV campgrounds, staging areas, trailheads, and other facilities will be maintained.
- #5-7 – It is unclear how the Applicant intends to maintain 3,300 miles or 1.6 million acres of Forest Service land through fencing, signing, and environmental requirements within a single Project performance period. Applicant must provide a more clearly defined Project scope with specific details, including the precise locations and amount of work to be completed, as it is unclear how such a large undertaking could realistically be accomplished within the proposed timeframe.
- #7 – Applicant must clarify the meaning of “Required monitoring for water quality,” as the connection to OHV Recreation is unclear and it is not evident how this activity directly relates to the proposed Project Deliverables. In addition, Applicant must clarify the reference to “heritage survey and approval as required,” as it is unclear why a heritage survey would be necessary given that the routes identified in this Project are existing OHV routes as indicated on the Motor Vehicle Use Map.

Project Description – All Others

- No comment.

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.
- Staff #1, 2 & 4 – The positions listed all appear to be at a first-line supervisory level. Applicant must provide a detailed description of the specific duties and activities each position will perform on the Project, and clearly indicate whether the work will be conducted in the field, in the office, or a combination of both. All positions appear to be only conducting field reconnaissance and not actual on-the-ground work.
- Staff #3-5 – 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 both monitoring activities and the maintenance of OHV trails and roads. In addition, Applicant must clarify what portion of Staff time is dedicated to monitoring activities for Staff line items #3 and 5.
- Staff #3 “Civil Engineering Tech” – Applicant must clarify the meaning of "oversight of other work as needed and as directed by the Forest Engineer," as it is unclear which specific Project activities are being referenced and how they directly relate to the proposed Project Deliverables.
- Staff #5 “Recreation Technicians” – The positions listed in this line item appear to be duplicative of the work proposed under Contract #1. Applicant must clarify how the proposed activities are not duplicative by providing a precise scope of work for each position that clearly distinguishes the work from the activities outlined in Contract #1.
- Contract #1 “Modoc County Farm Bureau Labor Contract” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive and has increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the contract cost was determined, including the precise scope, location, and amount of trail and/or road work to be conducted expressed in miles. In addition, the proposed 1,040 hours for the Archaeology staff position appears excessive when compared to like Projects. It is unclear why this level of staff is required as the roads were approved for OHV recreation during travel management. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the quantity of hours requested and demonstrate that the proposed costs are reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. Furthermore, Applicant must submit supporting documentation with the final Application substantiating the costs claimed, including documentation of the work to be completed that supports the proposed cost.
- Materials / Supplies #1 “Sign/Road Materials” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must separate signs and road materials into their own individual line items. Within the line item notes, Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost for each line item was determined, including the unit price and quantity of each item to be purchased used to calculate the line

item total. In addition, Applicant must specify the quantity of gravel to be purchased and the number of culverts to be installed under this Project.

- Equipment Use Expenses #4 & 5 – The proposed cost for these line items has increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed justification for the 110 days of equipment use being claimed, as only Staff #4 appears to be utilizing the equipment and the quantity of hours claimed does not appear proportionate to the level of use proposed for these two line items. In addition, Applicant must provide a specific description of how both the masticator and backhoe will be utilized under this Project, including a clear breakdown of how the proposed days of use were calculated in relation to the 65 miles of work outlined in this Application. The proposed usage appears excessive relative to the scope of work proposed and Applicant must demonstrate that the costs claimed are reasonable and proportionate to the Project Deliverables.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Miscellaneous Costs” – Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost for this line item 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. In addition, Applicant must provide additional details regarding the “appropriate training for staff” referenced in this line item, including the type of training to be conducted, the number of staff to be trained, and how the training is directly related to the Project Deliverables. Lastly, Applicant must further clarify the “OHV accessible recreation site water systems” referenced in this line item and provide a specific list of the locations where these systems are located.