

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program USFS - Plumas 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: G26-02-13-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- Applicant must clarify what tools and equipment will be used to perform “log out” activities within the 72 miles of proposed non-ground disturbing work. Based on the current Project Description, it is unclear whether the described activities constitute Ground Disturbing Activity. In addition, Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how the work proposed under this Project is not duplicative of the work proposed under Plumas County's G26 Ground Operations Project, as there appears to be potential overlap between the two Projects.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant must identify the Ranger Districts and the specific trails where both the Ground Disturbing Activities (52 miles) and non-Ground Disturbing Activities (72 miles) will take place. As currently written, the figures are listed as totals without a breakdown by location, making it unclear where the work will be performed. This information may be provided within the Project Description or expanded upon in the “Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s)” section of the Application. In addition, Applicant must identify the specific location(s) where the proposed “OHV boardwalk, hard rock crossing, tread hardening, and retaining wall maintenance/repair” activities will be conducted. Furthermore, Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities should not be included under this Project Deliverable and must be relocated to Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable – Other.

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 #1-3,7-9 & 10 – 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 #1-10 – Applicant must clarify the number of staff members within the line item notes.

- Staff #4-6 – The proposed Staff line items appear to be duplicative. Applicant must clarify how the Staff line items differ from one another and specify whether each position operates in an office setting, a field setting, or both. In addition, Applicant must clarify what percentage of time within this line item is dedicated to updating and printing Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs) for Staff #6. Applicant must also clarify what percentage of the MVUMs included in this line item will be distributed specifically to OHV users during the Project performance period. It is unclear how the Applicant can ensure that non-OHV users, such as general forest visitors, Christmas tree cutting permit holders, and fuel wood permit holders, will not also be receiving these maps, as costs must be proportionate to OHV use.
- Staff #7 “Forest Road Manager (GS-11)” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive relative to the number of heavy equipment operator hours proposed under this Project. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation of how the cost was determined, including the approximate amount of time required to accomplish each of the tasks identified in the line item notes. In addition, Applicant must clarify what portion of this staff member's time will be spent in the field versus in the office.
- Staff #10 “Resource Specialists” – The OHV nexus for the Minerals Specialist position is unclear. Applicant must provide additional details describing what this position intends to accomplish under this Project and provide a detailed explanation of how the associated cost was determined.
- Contracts #1-4 – Applicant must clarify the number of vaults and the frequency of pumping within the line item notes. In addition, it has been noted that several of the campgrounds identified in these line items (e.g., Conklin, Laughlin, Rogers Cow) are currently listed as closed on the Forest's website. Applicant must confirm the operational status of these Facilities and clarify whether they will be restored to service prior to or during the Project performance period.
- Material / Supplies #4 “Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM)” – Compared to like Projects, the cost per unit appears excessive. Applicant must clarify how the cost was determined. Applicant must also clarify what percentage of the MVUMs included in this line item will be distributed specifically to OHV users during the Project performance period. It is unclear how the Applicant can ensure that non-OHV users, such as general forest visitors, Christmas tree cutting permit holders, and fuel wood permit holders, will not also be receiving these maps, as costs must be proportionate to OHV use.
- Materials / Supplies #6 “OHV Signs” – Applicant must clarify the meaning of "educational" signs and clearly demonstrate how the signs directly relate to the maintenance and operation of the OHV Facilities and are necessary to achieve the Project Deliverables.
- Equipment Use Expenses #3 “Backhoe” – Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how both the hourly rate and quantity of hours were determined for this line item.
- Equipment Use Expenses #4 “Service Truck” – Applicant must clarify how many vehicles are included in this line item and provide a clear explanation of how both the quantity of hours and mileage rate were determined.

- Equipment Purchase #1 “eMotorcycle w/ accessories” – Applicant must remove this line item. A Division Equipment inventory site visit confirmed that the agency currently has multiple dirt bikes with low mileage in its Equipment inventory, which appear sufficient to meet the needs of this Project. Furthermore, the Applicant's claim that "distance and logistical needs do not allow for borrowing" is inconsistent with the Applicant's own statement that the eMotorcycles will be made available to other Districts and Supervisor Office staff as needed, which suggests the Equipment is accessible across locations. Lastly, the need for a lighter motorcycle to maneuver over obstacles and downed trees does not constitute an eligible justification for the purchase of an eMotorcycle under this Grant. Trail debris obstructing public access should be cleared by forest staff rather than circumvented.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Grants Administration” – Compared to like Projects, the cost for this proposed line item is 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. In addition, the use of “etc.” in the line item notes does not provide sufficient detail to identify the items to be purchased. Applicant must specify each supply item to be purchased, as the current description does not clearly identify what materials are being requested.

Restoration: G26-02-13-R01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- The removal of hazardous trees from road and trail prisms to improve access, the installation of informational signage to direct visitors to legal OHV opportunities, and the identification of areas experiencing erosion or resource impacts for future trail and road maintenance appear to be Ground Operations activities rather than Restoration activities. Applicant must either provide additional information demonstrating how these activities meet Restoration Grant criteria or remove all Ground Operations-related language and associated costs from the Project budget and scope of work.

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 and/or patrolling efforts for each Project Area listed under Section D: “Size of the Specific Project Area(s)...”. In addition, Patrol is a Law Enforcement Activity. Applicant must clarify the meaning of “patrol activities” in this Project, as individuals without citation authority are not eligible to claim patrol hours.
- #3 – The statements “additional signs may be placed on existing posts and trail markers” and “reinforcing proper use of the trail system” appear to be Ground Operations activities rather than Restoration activities. Applicant must either provide additional information demonstrating how these activities meet Restoration Grant criteria or remove all Ground Operations-related language and associated costs from the Project budget and scope of work.
- #4 – Applicants must provide a clear estimate of the mileage, linear feet, or other applicable measurements of fencing and/or barriers required for the Project.

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 activities described as “directional hazard tree felling and camouflaging of illegal routes along approximately 30 miles of designated OHV roads and trails” appear to be duplicative of the G26 Ground Operation Project. Applicant must describe the methodology used to ensure there is no duplication of services between the two Projects. If duplication is identified, Applicant must remove all associated language and costs accordingly. 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... – This section is for Restoration Projects that involve scientific and cultural studies. Applicant must remove all language if the Project does not involve scientific and cultural studies.

- (l) Except for scientific and cultural studies or planning Projects, erosion control efforts... – The statement of “Erosion control efforts” and “soil survey” activities appears duplicative of the G26 Ground Operation Project. Applicant must describe the methodology used to ensure no duplication of services. If duplication is identified, Applicant must remove related language and associated costs. In addition, the location of “Erosion control efforts” and “soil survey” is unclear. Applicant must clarify the locations of these activities.

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. In addition, 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 “Staff-Volunteers and Stakeholders” – “Stakeholders also provide valuable feedback on recreation use patterns ...” is considered indirect as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move the language and the cost associated with it to the Indirect Cost category.
- Contracts #1 “Felling Mod/Restoration Crew” – It is unclear whether the line item is for an outside contractor or for internal staff, and how the cost was determined. Applicants must provide additional information and/or include the quote. In addition, “identifying and assisting ... within designated road and trail corridors” appears duplicative of the G26 Ground Operation Project. Applicant must describe the methodology used to ensure no duplication of services. If duplication is identified, Applicant must remove related language and associated costs. Furthermore, the percentage of staff time allocated to Project Deliverables is unclear in the contract. The 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.
- Materials / Supplies #4 “Signs, restor No OHV, stay on designated” – “Stay on designated...” sign is considered a Ground Operations activity. Applicant must remove the related language and associated costs. In addition, it is unclear whether the additional signs are duplicative of the G26 Ground Operation Project. Applicant must provide the locations of the signage and/or the methodology used to ensure no duplication of services. If duplication is identified, Applicant must remove the related language and associated costs.
- Equipment Use Expenses #1 “Fuel For UTV” – Applicant must provide additional information explaining how the “UTV and other equipment” are used in the Project. In addition, Applicant must list what “other equipment” includes in the narrative. Furthermore, Applicant may only claim fuel at a per-gallon rate, not a per-mile rate. Applicant must revise the line item to 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 #2 “Equipment maintenance” – The line item appears duplicative of the G26 Law Enforcement Project. Applicant must describe the methodology used to ensure no duplication of services. If duplication is identified, Applicant must remove related language and associated costs.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Contracting Officer Representative/partne” – The rate for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must revise the quantity (QTY) and rate, and/or clarify how the cost was determined.
- Indirect Costs #2 “Forest PIO” – The rate for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must revise the quantity (QTY) and rate, and/or clarify how the cost was determined.