

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program USFS - Sequoia 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: G26-02-15-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- No comment.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant must clarify which specific trails and roads within the “833 miles of single and multi-use OHV routes” will receive Ground Disturbing Activities under this proposed Project. It is unclear how the Applicant intends to perform maintenance on 833 miles of trail given the stated decrease in staff hours. In addition, Applicant must differentiate the specific number of miles of trails and roads to be maintained separately, as the current Application combines the total trail and road maintenance mileage into a single figure. Furthermore, Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities should not be included under this Project Deliverable but must instead be listed under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #2 – Applicant must clarify how frequently the “1.5 mile loop trail” will be maintained.

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 #1-4, 7-13, 17-18, 21-24 & 27 – The percentage of staff time spent working on Project Deliverables #1 & 2 is unclear. Applicant must clarify what portion of staff time will be dedicated to the maintenance of OHV trails, roads, and tracks within the line item notes.
- Staff #4 “HL - WG 5 Equipment Operator” – The proposed quantity of hours for this line item appears excessive relative to the Project Deliverables and requested amounts in the Equipment Use Expenses category. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the amount of hours and demonstrate that it is reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables.
- Staff # 5, 6, 14-15, 19-20, 26 – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for the specialist positions in this Application appears excessive. Applicant must

clearly define within each line item how the total number of hours was calculated and demonstrate that the quantity of hours requested is reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables.

- Staff #5 & 26 – Line items appear duplicative; Applicant must remove one line item or explain the need for separate line items. Additionally, there was only one (1) Archeologist in the previous year's Application. Applicant must clarify the need for the additional staff line item and must provide a detailed explanation justifying the QTY and demonstrate that it is reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables.
- Staff #8 & 18 – Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the line item cost was determined, including the specific locations and number of miles of roads and 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 and trail. Applicant is reminded that "trail surveys" are not an eligible activity under Project Deliverable #1 but should be included under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- Staff #16 & 17 – The positions listed 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 or remove one of the line items. In their response, Applicant must clearly indicate whether the work will be conducted in the field, in the office, or a combination of both.
- Staff #27 & Indirect Costs #17 – The proposed line items appear to be duplicative. Applicant must either remove one of the line items or provide a clear explanation justifying the need for each.
- Contracts #1 "Contracts-KR- Heavy Equipment Rental and Transport" – Applicant must clarify the number of miles maintained during each site visit.
- Contracts #5 "Storm Damage Road Repair Work" – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive based on the requested level of staff time and work outlined in the Project Deliverables. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the contract cost was determined, including the precise scope, location, and amount of work to be conducted. In addition, Applicant must justify the need for this line item related to the amount of Staff time requested relative to the Project Deliverables. Furthermore, Applicant must attach a copy of the supporting contract quote to the final Application submission.
- Contract #6 "Job Corp Student Interns" – Applicant must justify the need for this line item related to the amount of Staff time requested relative to the Project Deliverables. In addition, Applicant must attach a copy of the supporting contract quote to the final Application submission.
- Contracts #7 "HL Heavy Equipment Rental And Transport" – Applicant must move this line item to the Equipment Use category. In addition, Applicant must clarify how often, in terms of day(s), the piece of Equipment will be used on the Project or offer a justification for opting for a unit of measurement higher than daily usage, resulting in cost savings for the State. Supporting evidence must be provided to substantiate this reasoning. Lastly, Applicant must provide additional details for how the cost was determined.

- Materials / Supplies #8, 19-20, 29 & 30 – Applicant must move these line items to the Equipment Use Expenses category.
- Equipment Purchase #1 “KR UTV W/ Winch and Plow – Applicant must clarify whether the item being requested is manufactured and intended primarily for snow plowing, as it is expected the plow will be used for its intended purpose. Applicant must confirm how they will ensure this Equipment will not be used for snow plowing, as snow removal activities may duplicate the work of the State's OSV Program and would therefore not be an eligible Grant-funded use. Additionally, when compared to like Projects, a snow plow is not typically used for trail maintenance, and the proposed cost appears excessive relative to the Project Deliverables. Applicant must further clarify how the line item is necessary to accomplish the Project Deliverables.
- Others #7 “KR Chainsaw Maintenance”– The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation of how the cost was determined, including the specific number of chainsaws to be maintained and the associated costs for each.
- Others #8 “KR Mini Excavator Tracks” – The proposed cost for this line item has increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying this increase and clarify how many tracks will be purchased, including the individual unit price for each.
- Others #12 “Job Corps Intern Quarter” – Government housing is not an allowable expense for interns. Applicant must remove this line item.
- Indirect Costs #14 “Forest Recreation Program Manager” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive and duplicative with Staff #9, #16, #17, and #25, as well as Indirect Costs #15, #16, and #18. Applicant must either remove this line item or provide a detailed explanation demonstrating how it is not duplicative and justifying that the quantity of hours requested is reasonable and proportionate to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. In addition, the completion of the Grant Application is outside of the proposed Project performance period and is therefore not eligible for reimbursement. Applicant must remove all costs and verbiage related to the activity.