

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program USFS - Sierra 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: G26-02-17-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- Applicant has included specific Project Deliverable activities within the Project Description section. Applicant must relocate the duplicated information to the appropriate line item within the List of Project Deliverables section.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – It is unclear which specific trails within the “190 miles of motorized OHV trails” and which roads within the “173 miles of Green Sticker friendly roads” will receive Ground Disturbing Activities. Applicant must clarify the number of miles of trail and road maintenance that will be completed within each individual District, rather than reporting the total as a whole. In addition, Applicant must specify which trails and road within each District will be receiving maintenance. Furthermore, it is unclear whether the proposed work is duplicative of the prior year's Project, as the mileage reported remains the same and the reference to “trails reviewed in 2024 and ... 2025” was also included in the previous year's Application. Applicant must confirm that the proposed work is distinct from and not duplicative of the prior year's Grant-funded activities by clearly identifying which specific roads and trails will receive work under the current Application. Lastly, Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities should not be included in Project Deliverable #1 but must instead be listed under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #3 – Applicant is reminded that monitoring activities should not be included in Project Deliverable #1 but must instead be listed under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #5 & 6 – 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.

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 #1-6, 8, 14-16 – The percentage of staff time spent working on Project Deliverables #1 & 3 is unclear. Applicant must clarify what portion of staff time will be dedicated to the maintenance of OHV trails, roads, and open areas within the line item notes. In addition, Applicant is reminded that monitoring is not an eligible activity under Project Deliverable #1 or 3 but should be included under Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other. If trail or open area monitoring is included in these line items, Applicant must provide the percentage of time dedicated to the activity.
- Staff #1, 5, 7, 9-14 – The quantity of hours requested for these line items has increased, however the scope of the Project Deliverables has not significantly changed from the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide specific details that justify the increase in hours relative to the proposed scope of work.
- Staff #2 “OHV Rec Tech (1) GS-7” – Applicant must clarify which District this staff position will be working within under this proposed Project.
- Staff #9-13 & 17 – Compared to like Projects, the proposed quantity of hours for the specialist staff positions appears excessive. 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. In addition, the proposed quantity of hours for Staff Line Item #10 is significantly higher than the other specialist positions included in this Application. Applicant must provide additional details justifying the quantity of hours.
- Staff #15 “Volunteer Support” – 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.
- Staff #16 “Field Staff Days” – The proposed cost for this line item has significantly increased compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the increase and clarify how this line item is not duplicative of the field staff positions already included in this Application. In their response, Applicant must demonstrate that the proposed activities are distinct from and necessary in addition to the work being performed by the field staff positions. Lastly, Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the line item total was calculated, including how the quantity and unit rate were determined. The line item notes describing how the hours were calculated are not clear.
- Materials / Supplies #4 “FW - Trailhead Signs/Information” – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. Applicant must provide additional details for how the cost was determined, including the specific trailheads and/or intersections where the additional signs will be placed.
- Materials / Supplies #9 “HS OHV/OSV Motorcycle & Snowmo PPE” – The proposed rate for this line item appears inaccurate and must be revised. Applicant must ensure that the line item total is consistent with and accurately reflects the costs outlined in the line item notes.
- Material & Supplies #13 “Forest Wide-Motor Vehicle Use Maps” – Applicant must clarify why this line item is being requested as a Grant fund cost. The production

of these maps is typically covered by the U.S. Forest Service as part of their standard operating budget and may not be an appropriate use of Grant funds for this line item. In addition, Applicant must clarify what percentage of the Motor Vehicle Use Maps (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.

- Material / Supplies #15 “Forest Wide-Base Rock” – Applicant must identify the specific locations where the gabion baskets will be installed or repaired, as this activity is not currently referenced within this Application. In addition, Applicant must add this activity to the appropriate Project Deliverable to ensure the proposed work is accurately reflected in the Application.
- Equipment Use Expenses #3 “FW Heavy Equipment-Road Crew” – Applicant must clarify how the use fees were determined.
- Equipment Use Expenses #7 “Forest-Wide Diesel/Fuel” – Line item notes appear incomplete. Applicant must clarify the meaning of “NEED updates.” In addition, the proposed rate for this line item appears inaccurate and must be revised. Applicant must ensure that the line item total is consistent with and accurately reflects the costs outlined in the line item notes.
- Equipment Use Expenses #8 “ATV/UTV Supplies” – Line item appears duplicative of Equipment Use Expenses #7. Applicant must remove line item or clarify how the requests are different.
- Equipment Use Expenses #9 “OHV Fleet accessories” – Applicant must move this line item to the Others Cost category.
- Equipment Purchase #1 “Purchase BL 2 ATV 550” – The justification provided for this line item is insufficient. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation demonstrating the need for this Equipment, including the specific trails and total number of miles requiring repair in this proposed Project that necessitate this line item.
- Others #2 “Equipment Trailer” – Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost was determined, including the specific type of Trailer to be purchased.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Overhead expense” – Compared to like Projects, the cost 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. 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.
- Indirect Costs #2 “Grant Purchased Equipment/Service/Acc” – Applicant must either remove this zero cost line item from the Application or provide a clear justification for its inclusion.

Education and Safety: G26-02-17-S01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- Applicant must specify which social media platforms will be utilized and provide the links of where the messages will be posted. In addition, Applicant shall provide a link of where the classes will be advertised.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant shall clarify what “approximately four (4) classroom and/or off Forest trainings but within local schools and/or community events.” means as it is unclear what activities will be completed on during the Project. In addition, Applicant shall clarify the duration of the classroom or field trainings. Lastly, ‘Purchase... demonstration kits” is not supported by the Project Cost Estimate. Applicant shall remove this activity from the Project Deliverables section.
- #2 – Applicant shall clarify the types of events, how many, and the duration of each event. In addition, Applicant must specify which social media platforms that will be utilized and provide the links of where the messages will be posted.
- #3 – “Create up to date information for physical distribution...” Applicant shall clarify if the physical distribution is referring to maps, brochures, or guides. In addition, Applicant must specify which social media platforms that will be utilized and provide the links of where the messages will be posted. Furthermore, Applicant must clarify if new brochures will be created or if they will update existing brochures as “Improve existing or develop new brochures...” is unclear. Lastly, Deliverable is not supported by the Project Cost Estimate. Applicant shall remove this activity from the Project Deliverables section or clarify within this section.
- #4 – “Signs will provide name, length, direction of routes” appear to be Ground Operations activity. Applicant shall remove the language from the deliverable. In addition, Applicant shall clarify what “Bald Tower (arrow pointing) 2 miles” means as it is unclear.

Project Description – All Others

- Location where training/services will be conducted – Applicant needs to further clarify the location of training and services consistent with the List of Project Deliverables. Additionally, Applicant must clarify how the “Dinkey Creek Store” is part of this Project as it is not supported by the Project Deliverables section.
- If the proposed Project contains an Education element... – “The Forest currently has 2 certified Tread Lightly instructors and is increasing the number in 2025”. Applicant must remove this information as it is not applicable.

Project Cost Estimate

- All Staff Line Items – 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 #1-4 & 6 – Applicant shall clarify the GS level for each line item.
- Staff #1-3 – Applicant shall specify the duties being performed as “will do one or more of but not limited to...” is unclear.
- Staff #1 “District OHV Manager” – “Observe or inspect rider(s) of green sticker vehicle or operator(s)... appears to be a Law Enforcement activity. Applicant must provide additional information to clarify how these activities are related to OHV education. In addition, QTY increased from the prior year’s Application. Applicant must clarify the need for increased hours.
- Staff #5 “Volunteer Support” – Applicant shall provide additional details to support the line item as it is unclear how the current activities are supported by the Project Deliverables.
- Materials / Supplies #1 “Educational Items” –Applicant shall clarify the need for “Tread Trainer Certifications” and the type of books to be purchased. Some items do not appear to be tangible items needing to be purchased year after year.
- Materials / Supplies #2 “Educational Signage Material” –Line item appears duplicative with the Ground Operations Application Materials/Supplies #4 “FW-Trailhead Signs/Information boards”. Applicant shall provide additional information to clarify how this differs from the Ground Operations line item.
- Materials / Supplies #3 “Display Booth hand out supplies” – Line item appears duplicative of Materials / Supplies #1 and the proposed Ground Operations Materials and Supplies #4 “FW-Trailhead Signs/Information boards”. Applicant shall provide additional information to clarify how this differs from Materials / Supplies #1 and the Ground Operations line item. In addition, Applicant shall clarify whether the giveaway materials from other agencies are purchased or provided from the agencies. Lastly, Applicant’s notes are inaccurate. Applicant shall revise the notes section to reflect the listed rate in the line item.
- Equipment Use Expenses #1 “Forest Service Own Vehicle” – Applicant shall split each piece of equipment into its own line item.
- Others #1 “Per Diem” – Applicant shall clarify the need for the per diem costs as this activity is not supported by the Project Description and/or Deliverables. Per Diem is only allowed when staff is spiking out.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Overhead expense” – 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.