

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program USFS - Stanislaus 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: G26-02-19-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- No comment.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant must specify which "15 miles of roads and 28 miles of trails" will be maintained for OHV vehicles. In addition, the statement "Many more miles will be monitored and evaluated for..." is not an eligible activity under Project Deliverable #1, as this Deliverable is intended for on-the-ground trail and road maintenance activities only. Applicant must relocate the language related to monitoring to Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #4 – Applicant must list which campgrounds will be maintained and include the number of toilets that will be pumped.
- #9 - Applicant must remove any costs associated with snow removal at OSV parking and staging areas as it is not an eligible expense under this Grants program.

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 & 6 – The percentage of staff time dedicated to Project Deliverable #1 and 11 is unclear. Applicant must clarify within the line item notes what portion of each staff position's time will be specifically dedicated to the maintenance of OHV trails or roads versus monitoring activities.
- Staff #4 "Fire Prevention" – It is unclear why logging out is included as a duty for a Fire Prevention staff position, as this activity is not typically associated with fire prevention responsibilities. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of the specific duties to be performed by this position, including a detailed justification for the need of this line item, the specific areas where work will be conducted, and the total amount of trail to be cleared expressed in miles.
- Staff #6 "Volunteer" – The proposed cost for this line item has increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the increase in cost, including the names of all

volunteer groups to be utilized and the specific amount of work to be completed by each group. In addition, Applicant must identify the specific locations and number of miles of roads or trails to be maintained by each volunteer group in relation to Project Deliverable #1 and ensure that this information is clearly reflected within the line item notes. It is unclear from the Project Description which agencies are responsible for maintaining which specific miles of road or trail.

- Contracts #1 & 2 – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for these line items appears excessive. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the contract cost was determined, including the precise scope, location, and amount of miles to be maintained.
- Materials / Supplies #4 “Erosion Control” – The proposed cost has increased significantly from the prior year's application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying this increase and demonstrate that it is reasonable relative to the Project Deliverables. In addition, Applicant must identify the "specific extensively damaged OHV routes" to undergo treatment.
- Materials / Supplies #5 “Bollards / Boulders” – The proposed cost for this line item has increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the increase, including a clear explanation of how the cost was determined and the unit price and quantity of bollards and boulders to be purchased that were used to calculate the line item total.
- Materials / Supplies #9 “Hedger / Auger” – It is unclear how the proposed cost for this line item was determined. Applicant must provide a clear explanation of how the cost was calculated, including the unit price and quantity of each item to be purchased that were used to determine the line item total.
- Equipment Use Expenses #3 “OHV Fuel” – The line item notes are inaccurate and must be revised. The proposed cost for this line item has increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must remove all costs and associated language related to chainsaw fuel and oil from this line item, as the \$1,300 in costs associated with these items is duplicative of those already reflected under Others #1.
- Equipment Purchase #1 & 2 – The proposed cost for these line items is excessive relative to the limited scope of trail maintenance outlined in this Project. In addition, it is unclear why equipment of this size and capacity is necessary to accomplish the proposed Project Deliverables, as the scale of the machinery is not consistent with the maintenance of an OHV trail system. Applicant must remove these line items from the Project Cost Estimate.
- Indirect Costs #1 “Administration Match” – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for this line item 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.

Development: G26-02-19-D01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- Applicant shall revise the Project Description to better explain the scope of the Project as it is unclear what the goal of the Project and how it will be achieved is.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – “Several trees may need to be removed...” is unclear. Applicant shall specify how many trees will need to be removed.
- #2 – 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 remove the activity.

Project Description – All Others

- No comment.

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.
- Contracts #1 “Vault Toilet Accessibility Improvements” – A contract cannot be paid and contribute match. Applicant must clarify the source of match. In addition, Applicant shall revise the title of this line item as it is unclear whether improvements will be made on existing vault toilets or if new vault toilets will be installed.

Restoration: G26-02-19-R01

Project Description – Background

- Applicant should ensure the Background is accurate and precise, listing only a brief description of the Applicant or Land Manager’s organization/program. Applicant must relocate any activity related to the Project in the Project Description section and/or remove any redundant language and irrelevant information.

Project Description – Project Description

- The G26 Project Area appears potentially duplicative of the Applicant’s G23 Restoration Project, which also remains active through December 2026. Applicant must clarify how the G26 Project Area is geographically distinct and identify the methodology used to ensure that no restoration sites, monitoring

zones, or costs overlap with those funded under G23. Applicant must remove language and any cost associated with this activity from the Project if there is duplication of services.

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.
- #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. In addition, 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-fencing/barriers to the correct Project Deliverable.
- #9 – 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 to the correct Project Deliverable.

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 – 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.

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 # 2 & 3 – The duties described for the Restoration Technician and OHV Manager appear to overlap. Applicant must clarify whether these two positions perform distinct functions or if they are essentially carrying out the same ground tasks. If the roles are duplicative, Applicant must explain why two staff members are required and how their responsibilities differ in practice.
- Contracts #1 “Restoration Crew” – It is unclear how the cost was determined. Applicant must clarify how this cost was determined and provide a detailed breakdown.