

2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program USFS - Tahoe 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: G26-02-20-G01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- No comment.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #1 – Applicant must clarify the specific location(s) of the "491 miles of OHV trails and approximately 50 miles of dirt roads" referenced in this Project Deliverable. In providing this clarification, Applicant must separate the trail and road mileage into two distinct metrics and identify specific road numbers broken out by ranger district. This information may be incorporated into the Project Description or provided within the "Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s)" section of the Application. In addition, Applicant must clarify why the "creation of a gravel turnpike" continues to be proposed in the current Application, as this activity has been included in the Application for several consecutive years and appears to be achievable under the Applicant's active G25 Ground Operations Project. Applicant must either provide a detailed justification for why this activity cannot be completed under the existing G25 Project or remove the associated costs and language from this Application. Furthermore, Applicant is reminded that monitoring should not be included in Project Deliverable #1 but listed in Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #2 – Applicant must clarify how frequent the "1-mile motocross style track" will be maintained. In addition, Applicant is reminded that monitoring should not be included in Project Deliverable #2 but listed in Project Deliverable #7 or Project Deliverable - Other.
- #3 – Applicant must clarify where specifically 19 OHV staging areas and OHV campgrounds are located. In their clarification, Applicant must separate out staging areas and OHV campgrounds so there is a number known for each. Applicant may include this information in the Project Description or expand on their response in the "Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s)" section of their Application. In addition, Applicant is reminded that monitoring should not be included in Project Deliverable #3 but listed in 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 #1-6, 11-14, 21-25, 29, 31-34, 36-38 – The percentage of staff time dedicated to Project Deliverable #1, 2 and 3 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, roads, tracks, and open area. In addition, Applicant must also clarify in the line item notes what portion of time will be spent monitoring as described in the line item notes for Staff #3-5, 11-13, 21, 25 and 29.
- Staff #1, 11 & 21 – Applicant must remove these line items from the Project Cost Estimate if the positions are not filled by the time of the final Application submission, as the Division funded these vacant positions in the prior year and they have yet been filled. If the Project is funded, Applicant may choose to submit a Project Cost Estimate reallocation request to reallocate funds to this staff position at time of hiring.
- Staff #7 & 8 – The proposed line items appear to be duplicative. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how each position performs distinct, non-overlapping functions and justify why both positions are necessary to accomplish the Project Deliverables, or remove one of the line items. In addition, Staff #8 appears to be a new line item. Applicant must clarify the need as the Project Deliverables did not significantly change.
- Staff #9 & 10 - The proposed line items appear to be duplicative. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how each position performs distinct, non-overlapping functions and justify why both positions are necessary to accomplish the Project Deliverables, or remove one of the line items. In addition, Staff #10 appears to be a new line item. Applicant must clarify the need as the Project Deliverables did not significantly change.
- Staff #13 & 25 – The proposed line items appear to be duplicative. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how each position performs distinct, non-overlapping functions and justify why both positions are necessary to accomplish the Project Deliverables. In addition, it appears that additional Season staff were hired for Staff#13 compared to the prior year's Project. Applicant must clarify why there is an increase in positions when the Project Deliverables did not significantly change.
- Staff #14 "SV/TK Recreation Officer" – Applicant's notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. The hourly rate did not increase from G25.
- Staff #15 & 16 – The proposed line items appear to be duplicative. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how each position performs distinct, non-overlapping functions and justify why both positions are necessary to accomplish the Project Deliverables, or remove one of the line items. In addition, the proposed quantity of hours for this position has increased significantly for Staff #15 compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must

provide a detailed explanation justifying the increase in hours. Furthermore, Staff #16 appears to be a new line item. Applicant must clarify the need as the Project Deliverables did not significantly change.

- Staff #17 & 18 – The proposed line items appear to be duplicative. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how each position performs distinct, non-overlapping functions and justify why both positions are necessary to accomplish the Project Deliverables, or remove one of the line items. In addition, the proposed quantity of hours for this position has increased significantly for Staff #17 compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the increase in hours. Furthermore, Staff #18 appears to be a new line item. Applicant must clarify the need as the Project Deliverables did not significantly change.
- Staff #22 "YR Crew Lead" – It appears this staff position was funded last year although the position has been vacant. Applicant must remove the line item from the Project Cost Estimate if the position is not filled by the time of the final Application submission. If the Project is funded, Applicant may choose to submit a Project Cost Estimate reallocation request to reallocate funds to this staff position at the time of hiring.
- Staff #27 & 28 – The proposed line items appear to be duplicative. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how each position performs distinct, non-overlapping functions and justify why both positions are necessary to accomplish the Project Deliverables, or remove one of the line items. In addition, Staff #28 appears to be a new line item. Applicant must clarify the need as the Project Deliverables did not significantly change.
- Staff #38 "YR Friends of Fordyce" – "Educating users..." and "distribute oil spill kits" appears to be duplicative of those proposed under the Staff #10 line item of the Applicant's Education and Safety Project. Applicant must provide a clear explanation demonstrating how the activities across these two line items are distinct and non-overlapping, and justify why both line items are necessary to accomplish the respective Project Deliverables.
- Contracts #1-2 - 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, it appears the roads will be used primarily for logging operations. Applicant must confirm if the roads will be open to the public during the timber activities for OHV recreation.
- Contracts #4 "Special Use Permit Rubicon Toilets" – Applicant must clarify if this match is related to a private special event. If so, Applicant must remove line item as event is not open to the public.
- Materials / Supplies #12 "AR Gravel for Loop 1 Turnpike" – This line item has been included in the Application for several consecutive years. Applicant must clarify the continued need for this line item and provide a detailed explanation demonstrating how the scope of work differs from that proposed in prior year Applications. In addition, Applicant must clarify why the proposed cost remains unchanged from the prior year, as no justification has been provided to support

the same cost being requested annually. Lastly, Applicant must clarify why the gravel materials currently allocated under the active G25 Ground Operations Project are not sufficient to complete this activity, or remove the associated costs and language from this Application.

- Equipment Use Expenses #19 & 20 – Line items are duplicative of Tahoe Patrol District Equipment Use Expenses #10 & 11. Applicant must clarify why repair monies are needed in both Project Applications as total request is excessive.
- Equipment Use Expenses #22, 31, 38, & 41 – The proposed costs for these line items have increased significantly compared to the prior year's Application. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation justifying the increase for each line item.
- Equipment Use Expenses #42 & 43 – Applicant must clarify whether the Equipment referenced in these line items corresponds to the two CRF 230's identified as recently disposed of in the notes of Project Deliverable #11.
- Equipment Purchase #1 "AR Technical Trail Dirt Bikes" – The Equipment proposed under this line item consists of closed course competition motorcycles, which are restricted to use on public lands only during sanctioned events and are required to display a competition sticker. The proposed Equipment is therefore not permitted for use in completing the Project Deliverables and not an eligible Project cost. Applicant must remove the associated costs and language for this line item from the Application.
- Other #5 "Facility Garbage Service" – The line item notes appear to be inaccurate and need to be revised. Applicant must update the line item notes to ensure they are consistent with the Rate stated in line item total.
- Indirect Costs #1 "TNF Grant Administrative Assistant" – Compared to like Projects, the proposed cost for this line item appears excessive. It is unclear how a single staff position could dedicate half of a year solely to the administration of this Project. Applicant must provide a clear and detailed explanation of how the cost was determined, including a comprehensive breakdown of the specific duties and tasks that justify the proposed quantity of hours requested for this position.
- Indirect Costs #2 "TNF Grant Indirect Costs" – Compared to like Projects and the prior year's Application, 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. In addition, the use of "etc." within the line item notes does not provide sufficient detail to identify all costs anticipated under this line item. Applicant must specify each cost individually, as the current description does not clearly demonstrate the eligibility of the proposed expenses.
- Indirect Costs #6 "Battery Replacements OHV Equipment" – 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

specific quantity and unit cost of each battery to be purchased and a detailed justification demonstrating why the proposed quantity is necessary to support the Project. In addition, Applicant must clarify whether the OHV Equipment associated with this line item was acquired with funds from this Grants Program.

Development: G26-02-20-D01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- Applicant shall remove information not related to this Project. Paragraphs one through three (1-3), except for the last sentence “With the completion of phase 1...” shall either be removed or moved to the Project Background section.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- No comment.

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.
- Staff 1-3 & 6-7 – Applicant must update the narrative to include the GS/WG levels for each staff member.
- Staff #1 “East Zone Trail Manager” – Applicant must clarify how much time is going to be utilized reflagging the trail.
- Staff #2 “TKRD Asst. Trail Manager” – Activities appear duplicative of Staff #1, Applicant must provide additional details to support the line item.
- Staff #5 “Public Volunteer Days” – Applicant shall clarify the difference between this line item and the Contracts 1 & 2 line items.
- Contracts #1 & 2 – Applicant must clarify the need for two separate line items. In addition, Applicant must provide additional information to support the cost (i.e., what duties).
- Materials / Supplies #3 “Shooting Prohibition Signage” – This type of signage is considered an indirect cost. Applicant shall move the line item and costs associated to the Indirect Costs category.
- Materials / Supplies #4 “Trail Sign Posts and Hardware” – Applicant shall revise the notes section to indicate approximately how many posts and the type of hardware being requested.

- Equipment Use Expenses #2 “Mini Excavator” – Applicant must clarify the need for renting a mini excavator, as per the Division’s Equipment Inventory log, Applicant purchased a mini excavator in their G17 Ground Operations Project and the G19 Development Project.
- Indirect Costs 1 & 2 – Line items appear duplicative, Applicant shall combine the two. In addition, 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: G26-02-20-D02

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- No comment.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- #3 & 4 – Applicant shall move this language to deliverable #1.

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.
- Staff #1 & 2 – Applicant must update the narrative to include the GS levels for each staff member.
- Staff #6 “Forest Service Certified Blaster (PD3)” – Applicant must clarify why the blaster is being sourced from out of state.
- Contracts #1 “Trail Partner Trail Construction” – Applicant shall clarify who the trail partner is.
- Others #1 “Per diem for Blaster (PD3)” – Applicant shall provide the breakdown for how the cost was determined as per the General Service Administration (GSA) per diem rates the cost comes out to \$161 (\$110 lodging and \$51 meals and incidentals).

- Indirect Costs #1 & 2 – 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.

Education and Safety: G26-02-20-S01

Project Description – Background

- No comment.

Project Description – Project Description

- Applicant shall remove all information that is duplicative of the Project Background section. Applicant is also reminded to remove all Project Deliverables from the Project Description section. In addition, Applicant shall remove “Washington Area...educate OHV users... the potential future legal... will explore” from the Project Description and Project Cost Estimate sections as they do not appear to be related to Education Projects. Furthermore, Applicant shall clarify “Have up to 3 OHV staff take the Motorcycle Safety Institute...” as the Project Cost Estimate only indicates one staff member. Applicant shall also clarify the need for additional staff training as the activity was listed in the prior year’s Application. Lastly, Applicant must clarify if “Provide ATV and motorcycle training to the public...” will occur as it is not supported by the Project Cost Estimate.

Project Description – List of Project Deliverables

- All Deliverables – Applicant shall ensure that the Deliverables listed are consistent with the activities outlined in the Project Description and Project Cost Estimate sections.
- #1 – Applicant must clarify “...training classes (ASI) available to the public and partners...” as the trainings must be specific to training the public.
- #2 – Applicant shall include the specific areas where educational outreach will be performed. 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 – Applicant shall clarify what applications or websites the electronic maps will be uploaded.
- #4 – Applicant must specify the content of the educational signs.

Project Description – All Others

- Identify of the needs the Project will address – Applicant must clarify what “travel management decisions” means.

Project Cost Estimate

- Staff All 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. In addition, Applicant shall review all staff line item titles ensuring that the deliverables listed are accurate and precise.
- Staff #1-8 – Applicant shall clarify the GS levels for each line item.
- Staff #1 “AR Trails Manager” – Applicant must clarify the difference in rates as the Ground Operations Application lists the AR Trails Manager’s Rate as \$50. In addition, Applicant must remove this line item from the Project Cost Estimate if the position is not filled by the time of the final Application submission, as the Division funded this vacant position in the prior year and it has not yet been filled. If the Project is funded, Applicant may choose to submit a Project Cost Estimate reallocation request to reallocate funds to this staff position at that time.
- Staff #2 “AR Trails Assistant” – Applicant must clarify the difference in rates as the Ground Operations Application lists the AR Trails Assistant as \$47.04.
- Staff #3-5 – “set their schedules, coordinate and supply the volunteer campground hosts...” appears to be indirect activities. Applicant shall move the activities and costs associated to the Indirect Costs category.
- Staff #4 “SV OHV Tech (PD#2,3,4) – Applicant must clarify the methodology to support the increase in hours. In addition, Applicant shall remove “Sharp increase in OHV use spurred on by the COVID epidemic...” as this information is no longer applicable.
- Staff #6 “YR Trails Manager (PD#2,3,4) –Staff “leads educational rides” activity is not consistent with the List of Project Deliverables, remove activity and all associated costs. In addition, Applicant must remove this line item from the Project Cost Estimate if the position is not filled by the time of the final Application submission, as the Division funded this vacant position in the prior year and it has not yet been filled. If the Project is funded, Applicant may choose to submit a Project Cost Estimate reallocation request to reallocate funds to this staff position at that time.
- Staff #8 “OHV Program Manager (PD#1,2,5) – Applicant shall clarify the need for this position to receive additional training as this activity was listed in the previous year’s Application. In addition, training is considered an indirect activity. Applicant shall move these activities and associated costs to the Indirect Cost category. Lastly, Applicant shall clarify which district the program manager is assigned to.
- Staff #10 “Vol. Friends of Fordyce (PD#2) – Applicant must remove “using peer pressure to foster good trail behavior” as it is not an eligible duty. In addition, Applicant must provide additional information to support the line item as it appears duplicative of the activities being completed in the Ground Operations Project under Staff line item #38 “YR Friends of Fordyce”.
- Staff #11 “Vol. Campground/Trailhead Hosts (PD#2)” – The proposed cost for this line item appears excessive compared to like Projects and relative to the scope of work outlined in the Project Deliverables. It is unclear how 40% of the hosts’ time will be spent directly providing educational information to OHV users, as this does not appear to be a typical representation of how Campground Host spend

their time. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation of the specific activities the hosts will perform, including a clear breakdown of how their time will be allocated across each activity, the content of the educational information to be provided, and how each activity directly supports the completion of the Project Deliverables. In addition, Applicant must clarify the duration of time the hosts will be present at each campground and trailhead relative to the total time each location is seasonally open.

- Materials / Supplies #1 “AR Signs (PD#4) – The signs described (“Yield to horses... 2-way traffic, blind corner”) appear to be duplicative of those requested in the Ground Operations Project. Applicant shall provide additional information to clarify these signs or remove the related language and associated costs.
- Materials / Supplies #2 “AR Sign Posts (PD#4) – Applicant must provide additional information to clarify what educational messages the signs will capture.
- Materials / Supplies #3 “ARRD Maps (PD#4) – Applicant shall revise the note “Increased rate from G24...” to “G25”.
- Materials / Supplies #4 “EZ Signs (PD#4) – The signs described (“Yield to horses... 2-way traffic, blind corner”) appear to be duplicative of those requested in the Ground Operations project. Applicant shall provide additional information to clarify these signs or remove the related language and costs.
- Materials / Supplies #5 “YR Maps (PD#3) – Applicant shall revise the note “Increased rate from G24...” to “G25”.
- Materials / Supplies #7 “Human Waste Bags (PD#2) – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate. Applicant shall revise the notes section to reflect the listed QTY in the notes section. In addition, cost appears excessive. Applicant shall provide the source of the bags to support the cost.
- Equipment Use All Line Items – Applicant may only claim fuel at a per gallon rate, not a per mile rate. Applicant must revise 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 #1 & 2 – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate. Applicant shall revise the notes section to reflect the listed QTY in the notes section.
- Equipment Use #2 “EZ Vehicle Mileage Class 251” – Applicant shall provide further information to support the line item as it is unclear how the equipment usage pertains to Education.
- Indirect Costs #2 “EZ Trailhead Host Stipends (PD#2) – In accordance with Division Regulation 4970.08(3)&(4), Applicant shall clarify the duration of the trailhead host’s stay throughout the Project performance period. In addition, Applicant shall provide the methodology to support the requested cost. Lastly, line item is duplicative of Staff #11. Applicant shall provide additional details to clarify why both line items are necessary.
- Indirect Costs #3 “EZ OHV Uniforms (PD#2) – Applicant shall clarify the need for additional jerseys as they were requested last in the prior year’s Application and the current Application indicates vacant staff positions.
- Indirect Costs #4 “YR Vol. Trail Ranger Jerseys (PD#2) – Applicant shall clarify the need for additional jerseys as they were requested last in the prior year’s Application.

- Indirect Costs #5 “Training Salary” – It is unclear why the OHV Program Manager requires a training salary, as the training was requested in the prior year’s Application. In addition, rate increased from the prior year’s Application. Applicant shall provide additional information to support the increase in costs. Furthermore, Applicant shall revise the QTY and rate to reflect an hourly rate and the amount of hours to be worked. Lastly, due to Staff #8’s training activities being relocated to Indirect Costs, this activity is now duplicative. Applicant shall remove one of the line items or clarify the need for separate line items.