



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296

Armando Quintero, *Director*

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

Kings Beach, CA

June 12, 2025

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update
STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division
SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No Action Needed. For information only

II. BACKGROUND

Katie Metraux of the Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning and Recreational Services Division will present a report highlighting several planning efforts underway within State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs).

The update includes information regarding Ocotillo Wells and Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan projects and the OHV Access Initiative.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report
- SVRA General Plans Chart



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STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update

STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

Several planning projects are underway within State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). Ocotillo Wells and Hungry Valley SVRAs are updating their park general plans. The OHV Access Initiative examines the potential for expanding OHV recreation across the state. This report outlines each project's purpose, process, and milestones.

Discussion

The following summarizes recent SVRA and OHV planning projects and initiatives.

Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update will provide a comprehensive management strategy for the park's approximately 19,625 acres. It is a blueprint for future decisions regarding land use, facilities, recreational opportunities, and the management of natural and cultural resources. The General Plan Update addresses changing conditions, analyzes the latest information and data, and incorporates lands added to the park since the existing 1981 General Plan was adopted.

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan has a project website at www.PlanHungryValley.com to facilitate public involvement and communication. Interested parties should visit the project website and register to receive email notifications regarding project progress. The planning team is preparing the preliminary general plan and draft environmental impact report (EIR) for public review in summer 2025, and the draft general plan and final EIR for the OHMVR Commission in winter 2025 for review and consideration.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA Plan

Ocotillo Wells SVRA and the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office are developing a joint general plan for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA/Ocotillo Wells Special Recreation Management Area. This joint planning document will meet the



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State Park's General Plan and BLM land management requirements for a California State Park unit General Plan, a BLM Recreation Management Plan, and a California Desert Conservation Area Land Use Plan Amendment. The latter two plans are federal planning documents. The combined Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) will meet the requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the State and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the federal agency. The core team working on the joint plan comprises staff from State Parks, BLM, and AECOM (consultants).

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan project began in 2008 to incorporate properties added to the SVRA and update policies and resource management requirements since the 1981 General Plan. In 2015, State Parks and BLM agreed to develop a joint general plan as described above. The project paused in 2019 due to budgetary constraints and administrative direction. It started up again in 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

OHV Access Initiative

In September 2021, [Senate Bill 155](#) (Ch. 258, Statutes of 2021) amended Public Resources Code (PRC) Section (§) [5090.42](#), directing the California Department of Parks and Recreation, popularly known as State Parks, to explore the acquisition and development of properties and opportunities to expand off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation in new and existing facilities. This bill also recommended prioritizing opportunities that serve large urban areas such as the Bay Area and Central Valley, and offer potential recreational opportunities for OHV recreation and motorized access to nonmotorized recreation. State Parks have many options for expanding OHV recreation throughout the state – through acquisition, lease, land swap, partnership, donation, transfer, legislation, and other means as established in PRC §5005, 5006, et seq.

State Parks is currently meeting with public land managers (BLM, USFS, etc.) to refine a list of potential sites based on the site suitability analysis results and feedback from stakeholders. The Department prepared a preliminary report that described the project process, analysis, and potential areas to consider for OHV recreation. This report is available on the OHMVR Commission Meetings page and the OHV Access Initiative [website](#). The next steps for this project include continued discussions with public land managers and a site feasibility study.

Commission Action: For information only

Attachments: SVRA General Plans chart



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CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Status of SVRA General and Management Plans

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	Plan Status & Updates in Progress
Prairie City SVRA	2016 1991		Approved by the OHMVR Commission in September 2016
Carnegie SVRA	2024 2016 1981		The Commission approved the Draft GP and Draft EIR in October 2024.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012		The OHMVR Commission approved GP in June 2012
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011		The OHMVR Commission approved GP in December 2011
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981		Preparing the Preliminary GP and Draft EIR for public review in Spring/Summer 2025. Potential Commission consideration and action in late 2025.
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981		GP EIR/Environmental Impact Statement restarted in September 2023. It is anticipated to be brought to the Commission in Winter 2026 for consideration and action.
Onyx Ranch SVRA			Awaiting project funding.