



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

West Sacramento, CA

July 28, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Resources Update – Soil Conservation Plans at SVRAs

STAFF: Ryan Miller, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist

SUBJECT: Progress Update on Soil Conservation Plans for SVRAs

Summary

2020 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines Background

As required by legislation from Senate Bill (SB) 249, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD) together with the Natural Resources Division (NRD) completed the review and update of the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines (the Guidelines). The purpose of this document is to define the standard to which SVRAs, and applicable OHV grant-funded projects manage OHV facilities while additionally providing guidelines and management considerations with the intent of reducing erosion and sedimentation and ensuring overall soil conservation. Written into the Guidelines as part of the 2020 update was the requirement for SVRAs to draft Soil Conservation Plans (SCPs). The 2020 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines can be found on the [Resource Management](#) webpage.

Soil Conservation Plans at SVRAs

While Soil Conservation Plans (SCPs) have previously been implemented at some SVRAs, updated SCPs that reflect changes from SB 249 were necessary to meet several changes in statute. The updated SCPs are intended to demonstrate how a SVRA complies with the Soil Conservation Standard by implementing an adaptive management framework that consists of performing assessments of OHV roads, trails, and facilities, implementing maintenance actions, and monitoring the outcome of the actions taken.

Discussion

SCP Development Process

OHMVRD began working with all nine SVRAs updating SVRA SCPs in March of 2021. A core working group consisting of representatives from OHMVRD and NRD meet periodically with SVRA staff representatives to produce a working draft SCP containing the elements described in the 2020 Guidelines. All SVRAs are anticipated to complete

their working draft SCPs by the end of 2023. The Department and Division review and approval process is presented below, including where each SVRA is in that process.

SCP Review Procedures

Working Drafts-

The core working group for each SVRA routinely meets and works together to draft, review and edit an updated SCP using the 2020 Guidelines and the Department's Best Available Science Guidelines. The following SVRAs are working towards completing an updated working draft SCP.

- Oceano Dunes, Clay Pit, Carnegie and Hollister Hills

Peer Review-

Once a working draft SCP is complete, the draft is then reviewed by a team of specialists within the Department and OHMVRD. The purpose of the peer review is to gain additional perspective to ensure the working draft SCPs meet statutory requirements. The core working group then address and/or incorporate peer reviewed comments into the SCP drafts. The following SVRAs have a peer reviewed draft.

- Hungry Valley, Prairie City, and Ocotillo Wells

Legal Office Review-

The Department's Legal Office reviews each SCP and provides comment. The following SVRAs have been reviewed by the Legal Office.

- Eastern Kern Onyx Ranch, Heber Dunes

Public Comment-

As required by PRC each plan is subject to public comment. Opportunities for public comment will be made available at yet to be determined dates through public announcement and Division interested party listings.

Best Available Science Review-

Each SCP is subject to Best Available Science determination, following the BAS Guidelines developed by NRD.

Division Approval-

Final approval of the draft SCP is made by the OHMVRD.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments