

A. Statement of Planning Objectives

This grant application to the OHMVR Division covers work to be undertaken by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) natural resource and recreation specialists to prepare assessments of environmental and societal conditions for OHV project areas on public lands. For the 2009/2010 grant cycle, BLM California is initiating systematic assessments of OHV project areas, focusing first in eastern California (east of the Sierra Nevada). BLM staff will produce at least two project area assessments: the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area (Ridgecrest Field Office) in San Bernardino County and the Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area (Eagle Lake Field Office) in Lassen County. Because BLM California is making these two areas models for 21st century OHV management in the region, these project areas are in need of assessment. The grant from this application would also build the institutional capacity of BLM staff to complete assessments with support from the BLM California State Ecologist.

The objective for this grant application is to improve access for BLM employees to diverse sources of information in multiple disciplines upon which to base good decision making for the benefit of OHV recreation and resource conservation in OHV project areas. Workloads for BLM staff rarely permit time for them to research and keep up with the latest and best information on the environmental and societal factors that bear on excellent OHV projects. Assessments, updated regularly, will be lasting references for BLM staff, partner agencies, and the public about site conditions.

Assessing OHV project areas to support decision making for OHV recreation projects aligns Bureau resource management for public lands with Section 2.3 of the 2008 Soil Conservation Guidelines produced by the Division. The Soil Standard and Guidelines document is available on the website of the OHMVR Division at:

<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/1140/files/2008%20soil%20cons.%20standard%20and%20guidelines.pdf>

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California State Office, and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation jointly develop and sustain OHV recreational riding opportunities on public lands. The context for OHV recreation is long-term and consistent with multiple-use resource mandates and environmental quality protections required by federal and State of California laws.

BLM A foundation for sustained motorized recreation in healthy ecosystems is the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard and its related Guidelines. Section 2.3 of the Soil Conservation Guidelines covers the process of assessment the environmental and societal conditions in which OHV recreation project areas

The model for OHV project development, implementation, and long-term maintenance, as envisioned by the Division in the 2008 Soil Conservation Guidelines, is an invaluable tool for OHV recreation program managers at BLM field offices. As societal changes and expectations for motorized evolves in the coming decade present BLM and the Division with technical innovations and environmental changes from global warming, the agencies and the public will have at hand organized information that guides discussion for project development for sustainable OHV recreation. With more available information, the public will also have greater ability to participate in decision making with land managers.

C. Statement of Activities

Activities in regard to the two project area assessments will begin concurrently in 2009/2010. The contents of the assessment contain at a minimum all of the topics covered Section 2.3 of the 2008 Soil Conservation Guidelines. Document organization will follow the structure proposed by the California Watershed Assessment Manual (CWAM, volumes 1 and 2, 2006 and 2008 respectively). Additional guidance comes from the BLM and US Forest Service watershed assessment manuals.

Steps for the OHV Site Assessment are as follows:

1. Establish objectives, goals, and special concerns for each OHV Site Assessment with BLM field office staff

2. Identify and prioritize major information gaps in greatest need of filling for BLM recreation planners, law enforcement officers, earth scientists, restoration ecologists, and wildlife biologists
3. Locate technical and scientific sources and valid datasets relating to the needs of BLM staff
4. Organize multi-disciplinary information into an ArcGIS geodatabase for the BLM corporate geographic information system (GIS)
5. Prepare assessment chapters in the following order: watershed description of physical and biological processes and conditions; societal environment and human land uses (including OHV recreation); natural disturbances and sources of erosion; environmental hazards and contaminants, public concerns and issues; analysis of focal areas in need of more intensive management.
6. Send draft assessments to the BLM national science team in Denver, CO, for technical review
7. Post draft assessments, after internal review, on-line on the BLM California State Office Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation website for public review and solicitation of public comments and supplementary information
8. Document BLM responses to public comments and resulting changes to assessment content in an appendix to the assessment.
9. Review contents every two years for updating and adding new information and issues of concern to consider in OHV project planning.

D. List of Reports

This project will produce two draft OHV area assessments for public review - one each for the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area and the Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area. These drafts will be available for public review and comment for a 30-day period. They will appear on the OHV recreation webpage of the BLM California State Office site (www.ca.blm.gov) and on the websites of the Ridgecrest and Eagle Lake field offices respectively.

Final drafts will appear on the websites for the State Office and the respective field office for the use of BLM staff and benefit of the interested public.

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1. Timeline for Completion

Attachments:

[Time Line for OHV Area Assessments for Red Mountain and Fort Sage](#)

2. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents

3. Optional Project-specific Maps

Attachments:

[Red Mountain OHV Planning Area and Vicintiy
Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: BLM - California State Office
 Application: BLM OHV Site Analyses for Field Office Staff Support

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - California State Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	BLM OHV Site Analyses for Field Office Staff Support	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>This grant application to the OHMVR Division covers work to be undertaken by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) natural resource and recreation specialists to prepare assessments of environmental and societal conditions for OHV project areas on public lands. For the 2009/2010 grant cycle, BLM California is initiating systematic assessments of OHV project areas, focusing first in eastern California (east of the Sierra Nevada). BLM staff will produce at least two project area assessments: the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area (Ridgecrest Field Office) in San Bernardino County and the Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area (Eagle Lake Field Office) in Lassen County. Because BLM California is making these two areas models for 21st century OHV management in the region, these project areas are in need of assessment. The grant from this application would also build the institutional capacity of BLM staff to complete assessments with support from the BLM California State Ecologist.</p> <p>The objective for this grant application is to improve access for BLM employees to diverse sources of information in multiple disciplines upon which to base good decision making for the benefit of OHV recreation and resource conservation in OHV project areas. Workloads for BLM staff rarely permit time for them to research and keep up with the latest and best information on the environmental and societal factors that bear on excellent OHV projects. Assessments, updated regularly, will be lasting references for BLM staff, partner agencies, and the public about site conditions.</p> <p>Assessing OHV project areas to support decision making for OHV recreation projects aligns Bureau resource management for public lands with Section 2.3 of the 2008 Soil Conservation Guidelines produced by the Division. The Soil Standard and Guidelines document is available on the website of the OHMVR Division at:</p> <p>http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/1140/files/2008%20soil%20cons.%20standard%20and%20guidelines.pdf</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Ecologist	640.000	68.710	HRS	32,974.00	11,000.00	43,974.00
	Restoration Specialist	160.000	41.020	HRS	0.00	6,563.00	6,563.00
	Resources Staff	200.000	36.330	HRS	0.00	7,266.00	7,266.00
	GIS Specialist	120.000	55.040	HRS	0.00	6,605.00	6,605.00
	Other-CA OHV Porgram Mgr	40.000	71.500	HRS	0.00	2,860.00	2,860.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: BLM - California State Office
 Application: BLM OHV Site Analyses for Field Office Staff Support

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Management and Admin Staff	10.000	41.020	HRS	0.00	410.00	410.00
	Other-Graphic Artist	40.000	54.760		0.00	2,190.00	2,190.00
	Total for Staff				32,974.00	36,894.00	69,868.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Field Vehicle	2200.000	0.500		0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
	Total Program Expenses				32,974.00	37,994.00	70,968.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				32,974.00	37,994.00	70,968.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				32,974.00	37,994.00	70,968.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: BLM - California State Office
 Application: BLM OHV Site Analyses for Field Office Staff Support

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	32,974.00	36,894.00	69,868.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		32,974.00	37,994.00	70,968.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		32,974.00	37,994.00	70,968.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		32,974.00	37,994.00	70,968.00	

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

Completing watershed assessments for the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area and the Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area would incorporate existing and new information about the hydrology of these areas. Springs and seeps and ephemeral streams are present in both areas. Red Mountain OHV Planning Area contains Mohave Ground Squirrel and Desert Tortoise habitats. Swainson's Hawk, a BLM Sensitive Species and State of California Threatened Species, has nested at Fort Sage in the past. An assessment of needed measures to protect these listed species as well as of all other BLM sensitive species and DFG species of special concern will be part of the overall watershed assessments.

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

Cumulative impacts of conducting watershed assessments at all important OHV recreation areas on BLM lands in California will serve the mission of the OHMVR Division and BLM to furnish sustainable opportunities for OHV recreation in natural landscapes for current and future generations. These assessments, recommended to grant recipients by the Division in its 2008 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines, provide BLM staff and the public with a definitive source of environmental, social, and economic information relating to the OHV recreation lands. Each assessment consolidates information from diverse and often difficult-to-access sources for easy reference so that BLM and the public can craft informed and thoughtful decisions for OHV recreation on BLM lands.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

The propose activity to prepare watershed assessments does not directly affect soils on steep slopes or soils naturally sensitive to wind and water erosion. Mapping integrated information about the soils of the watershed will lead to decision support for management choices that eventually may have significant effects on the conservation of soils at Fort Sage and Red Mountain.

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

No California scenic highways occur within viewsheds of BLM lands in either Kern or Lassen counties. Potential damage is not possible.

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

- Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

No Cortese List sites are present in or around the Fort Sage SRMA.

Two Cortese List sites are present within the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area: the China Lake Naval Weapons Air Station and the Cuddeback Lake Air Force Gunnery Range. These are military installations and do not contain BLM lands. No public OHV entry is permitted to the China Lake Station. OHV trails traverse the Gunnery Range. The Range was in use until 1983. The risk at the Range concerns explosives and lead in the soil.

Also, BLM mining geologists discovered on private property near Randsberg mining waste piles with high arsenic content. Flows of sediment from the piles may be contaminating BLM lands where OHV recreation occurs. The mining waste sites are not on the Cortese List.

The presence of these sites emphasizes the need for watershed and basin assessments for the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area to gather key information so that BLM staff planners can make excellent decisions for OHV recreation in the area.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

The project may have indirect impacts on OHV opportunity in that information available to the public in the watershed assessment for Red Mountain concerning hazardous materials may deter OHV riders from riding in the Red Mountain OHV planning area, at least in the near term. However, with information from the assessments, BLM recreation planners can make excellent decisions for recreation opportunities that fully protect OHV riders in the Red Mountain area.

No indirect impacts are foreseeable for the Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[09 Site Analyses CX](#)

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 76% or more (10 points) 51% - 75% (5 points)
 26% - 50% (3 points) 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Planning Project - Q 2.

A Planning Project - Page 1

2. The Planning Project would address the following 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Potential effects of OHV Recreation on special-status species habitats
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on cultural resources
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on soil conditions
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on water quality
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on other recreation uses
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on adjacent lands.
 Potential impact to relationships between OHV Recreation and local residents
 Toxic or hazardous materials within a Project Area or adjacent property that may impact OHV Recreation
 Trail issues such as traffic patterns, trails closures, appropriate uses, etc.

B. Planning Project - Page 2

Explain each statement that was checked

Special Status Species Habitats: These assessments will search out past locations and identify habitats of these species. Ground-dwelling animal species of special concern include Desert Tortoise and Burrowing Owl (Red Mountain) and American Badger plus non-ground dwelling Swainson's Hawk (Fort Sage)

Cultural Resources; Assessments discuss general information about cultural resources but do not publish locations of cultural resources.

Soil Conditions: The assessments will incorporate best information available from USDA NRCS soil surveys and land use applications for soil types in regard to OHV facility development and risks of slope instability and soil erosion.

Water Quality: Assessments identify resources such as springs and groundwater basins that will benefit from OHV recreation management to avoid impacts to water quality and flow.

Toxics: Both areas supported profitable mining in the past.

Local Residents: Analysis of societal conditions and local economies from OHV recreation

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 6 or more items checked (4 points) 4 to 5 items checked (3 points)
 2 to 3 items checked (2 points) 1 or no items checked (No points)

3. Motorized Access - Q 3.

3. The Project would lead to improved facilities that provide motorized access to the following nonmotorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- Camping Birding

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project proposal was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
 Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
 Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Meetings with members of the Lahonton Regional Quality Control Board and conference calls with the BLM CA OHV Program Manager, and OHV recreation staff and restoration ecologists at the Bishop, Needles, Ridgecrest and Eagle Lake field office to determine priority sites for preparing watershed / landscape assessments for OHV recreation sites and facilities

5. Stakeholder Input - Q 5.

5. If the Project were approved, the planning process would incorporate substantial stakeholder input: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (5 points)

If 'Yes', explain, specifically, how it would be 'substantial'. Identify stakeholders

After a technical review by BLM subject experts and the science staff at the OHMVR Division, BLM will publish a first public draft to solicit comments from stakeholders: local residents, OHV riders, environmental advocates, and other interested persons. Their comments will become part of the watershed / landscape assessments for the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area and the Fort Sage OHV Recreation Area. Other potential stakeholders in the Jawbone Canyon area include Red Rock State Park, City of California City, and the Sequoia National Forest. Potential stakeholders in the Eagle Lake Field Office area could include the Lassen National Forest, and the Susanville Motorcycle club.

6. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 6.

6. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 4 or more (4 points) 2 to 3 (2 points)
 1 (1 point) None (No points)

List partner organization(s)

BLM Ridgecrest
Friends of Jawbone, Red Rock State Park, Sequoia National Forest, City of California City

Eagle Lake field office
Lassen National Forest, Alturas BLM Field Office, Surprise Field Office

7. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 7.

7. The Planning Project sustains OHV Opportunity in the following manner 7

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Project will develop management plans for existing OHV Opportunity (4 points)
- Project will complete environmental review for an OHV Development Project (3 points)
- Project supports development of OHV Opportunities adjacent to population centers (3 points)
- Project supports development of OHV Opportunities in areas that lack legal OHV Opportunity (2 points)
- Project will develop a system of designated OHV routes for an existing OHV Opportunity (2 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

From the data and analysis contained in the watershed / landscape of the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area and the Fort Sage OHV Area, BLM OHV staff will base management actions and plans to present to the public review in the NEPA environmental review process. Especially in the case of the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area, preparing assessments will emphasize how BLM OHV planning in the area can support the OHV tourism and ecotourism developed by businesses in the communities of Randsburg, Johannesburg, and Atolia along Highway 395 at the Kern-San Bernardino county line.

8. Identification of Funding Sources - Q 8.

8. Funds for implementing the completed plan have been identified 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Planning for both OHV facilities will utilize the assessments prepared under this grant applications, but the planning and implementation work will be funded by appropriations to BLM from the US Congress

Reference Document

United States Budget

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management Appropriation (Management of Lands and Resources Appropriation)

9. Offsite Impacts - Q 9.

9. The Planning Project would address offsite impacts relative to the Project Area (e.g., sound, fugitive dust, runoff): 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Both watershed and landscape approaches are a part of BLM assessments of OHV facilities. Downstream effects of sediment flows toward Cuddeback Lake and Koehn Lake will be critical to address for the Red Mountain OHV Planning Area. Dust is a problem for many people in the area between California City and Ridgecrest just to the east of the Planning Area. This issue must be addressed especially because people in the region have health concerns about particulate matter in the air. At Fort Sage, where the landscape is remote from towns, landscapes viewsheds and the impacts of wildfire are concerns to people. Offsite impacts are anticipated to be comparatively minor at Fort Sage but will be discussed with an eye to emerging problems of invasive plants and their sources from highways outside the Fort Sage OHV Area.