DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION West Sacramento, CA

October 26, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Prairie City SVRA Road and Trail Management Plan

STAFF: Peter Jones

SUBJECT: Prairie City SVRA Road and Trail Management Plan Update

Summary

Prairie City SVRA (PCSVRA) is currently working with Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division on a Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) which is on schedule to be complete in the Fall of 2024. The RTMP is a comprehensive planning document that will provide guidance and direction for implementing the 2016 Prairie City General Plan directives and will examine the SVRA's existing road and trail system to provide specific guidance and direction for their long-term construction, maintenance, and management. It considers current and potential public use, park operations, and the protection and enhancement of cultural and natural resources to ensure recreational trail opportunities are available at their fullest potential. The PCSVRA RTMP will include the Yost and Ehnisz Properties which are currently closed to the public but were purchased to expand OHV recreation and the Barton Property which was purchased for water quality storm management but might be suitable for limited non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Discussion

Trails are a key component of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation and are critical to fulfilling the mission of California State Parks and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program. Roads and trails provide access to most, if not all, motorized recreation opportunities within State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). Sound trail management requires implementing a variety of actions, including:

- maintaining trails that provide interesting and environmentally sustainable places for the public to recreate;
- conserving and protecting natural and cultural resources by applying soil conservation standards and other best management practices (BMPs) to sustain lands for OHV recreation;
- educating the public in safe and environmentally responsible OHV use and land management;

- restoring sensitive ecological areas that have been impacted and damaged by OHV use; and,
- restoring trails and areas that do not meet the 2020 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines (Soil Standards) and the OHV Best Management Practices Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control (OHV BMP Manual).

The OHMVR Division is committed to providing the highest quality trails for a diverse group of recreational users by planning and developing trails pursuant to California State Parks Trails Policy:

The Department of Parks and Recreation, through a public planning process, will strive to meet the recreational, educational, and interpretation needs of its diverse trail users by developing trails within state park units consistent with unit classification, general plan directives, cultural and natural resource protection, public safety, accessibility, use compatibility, and other legal and policy mandates. Multi-use trails and trail connectivity with adjacent public trail systems will be considered in the development of trail plans or individual trails (Departmental Policy Notice no. 2005-06).

Commission Action

None

Attachments

None