**BLM - Ridgecrest Field Office**

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.

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).

Failure by Applicant to respond to any OHMVR Division comment of their preliminary Application may be cause for eliminating that item from the Applicant’s Application.

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 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)(10).

**General Evaluation Criteria**

* #2-5 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.
* #8b – Narrative does not support the selection. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation on the “Ongoing survey/inventory of species” & “Ongoing survey/inventory of archeological sites”.
* #13 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.

**Ground Operations G23-01-15-G01**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* No comment.

***Project Description – List of Project Deliverables***

* #8 – Conducting educational talks at the local museum is considered an Education & Safety Project activity and is ineligible for a Ground Operations Project. Applicant must revise this Application to remove this activity and all associated costs with this activity from the Application.

***Project Description – All Others***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Contracts #5 “JSVC Parking Lot Sealant” – Cost appears excessive. Applicant must further define how the cost was determined.
* Materials / Supplies #3 “CXT Supplies” – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. Costs did not increase from previous year’s Application.
* Equipment Use Expenses #1 & 3 – Applicant must clarify how often in day(s) the piece of Equipment is expected to be used on the Project within a monthly basis.
* Equipment Use Expenses #2 “Dump and Water Truck Rentals” – Rate significantly increased compared to prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the rate. In addition, Applicant must clarify how often in day(s) the piece of Equipment is expected to be used on the Project within a monthly basis.
* Others #1 “Safety and Riding Gear” – Medical supplies are considered an indirect cost as they do not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move the verbiage for these items and the cost associated with them to the Indirect Cost category. In addition, Applicant must clarify the need for “Safety Gear” as it was in the previous year’s Application.

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #3 – Narrative does not support the selections of “Maintaining trails that provide for multiuse”, “Maintaining trail or road tread for single vehicle use”, and “Providing varied levels of riding”. Applicant must provide example(s) of the activities performed as part of the Project to support the selections.
* #4 – Narrative does not support the selections. Applicant must identify the location for both the public and stakeholder meetings.
* #5 – Narrative does not support the selection. “Maturango Museum” is not a partner in the Project as they are not performing an eligible Project activity on this Project.
* #6 – Narrative does not support the selection of “Protecting water quality” and “Protecting cultural site(s)”. Applicant must provide example(s) of the activities that will be performed in the Project that support the selections. Applicant states, “where needed” and “when/where possible” which is not a guarantee the activity will be performed. In addition, narrative does not support the selection of “Protecting special-status species”. Applicant must list a special-status species the work being accomplished is protecting.
* #8 – Background and/ or Project Description sections do not support the selections. Applicant states non-motorized recreational opportunities within BLM – Ridgecrest Field Office but does not clearly state if those opportunities are accessed by motorized use within the Project Area where trail maintenance is being performed.

**Restoration G23-01-15-R01**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* Applicant currently has active G21 and G22 Restoration Projects within the proposed Project Areas performing like Project activities. Applicant must clarify how these Projects are distinct and are not duplicative of each other.

***Project Description – List of Project Deliverables***

* #3 – Applicant must clarify what “Open routes will be signed to keep riders on route” is, as it appears to be a Ground Operations activity. In addition, Applicant must clarify what "OHV route signage" is, as that type of signage is used on a Ground Operations Project.
* #4 – Applicant must clarify what “delineate campsites and trailheads” is, as it appears to be a Ground Operations activity.

***Project Description – All Others***

* Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles – Project Area(s) identified are inconsistent with the area described in Project Deliverable #1. Applicant states “approximately 3-5 acres of trails and roads” in Project deliverable #1, however, in this section, the Project Area incorporates “approximately 4-8 acres”. Applicant must clarify the size of Project Area(s) to ensure consistency with Project Deliverable #1 and the correlating expenses in the Project Cost Estimate section.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Staff #4 “Resource Staff” – Applicant must list the quantity of staff for each unique position within the notes.
* Staff #6 “Volunteer Hours” – Applicant must add additional information to clarify how “removing old fencing where it is no longer needed” relates to the purpose of a Restoration Project.

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #2 – Narrative does not support the selection of “archeological and historic resources”. Applicant must identify at least one archeological and/or historical resource identified within either the California Register of Historical Resources or the National Register of Historic Places.
* #4 – The narrative does not support the selections of “Educational signage” and “identification of alternative…”. It is unclear if these activities will be performed in this proposed Project.
* #7 – Narrative does not support the selections. Applicant must list the location of the in-person meeting(s) and identify if the public and stakeholder meetings were separate.

**Law Enforcement G23-01-15-L01**

***Needs Assessment***

* No comment.

***Project Certification***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Staff #1 & 2 – Positions appear to be a first-line supervisor. Applicant must provide additional information of the duties and/or activities to be performed on the Project and if the work is in the field, office, or both.
* Staff #1 “Chief Ranger” – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. Cost did not increase from previous year’s Application.
* Staff #2 “Field Supervisory Ranger” – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. This line item was not in previous year’s Application, so cost did not increase.
* Staff #3 “Field Staff LE Ranger” – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. No public comment was received as Application was submitted prior to public comment period.
* Materials /Supplies #1 “Wrap & Decals” – Line item is considered indirect as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move this line item to Indirect Cost category.
* Equipment Purchases #1 “Dirt Bikes” – Applicant must identify what percentage of use Equipment will be used for on the Project and adjust line-item cost accordingly to reflect that percentage.
* Others #1 “Dirt Bike Carrier” – Applicant must clarify the need for dirt bike carriers.