**Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.**

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**

* #11a – Narrative does not support the selections. Applicant must provide details to support both selections address safe and responsible OHV recreational practices/recreation.
* #13 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.
* #14 – Narrative did not support selections of “Has established an OHV Commission or stakeholder group…” and “Has secured land to be developed for OHV Recreation”. Applicant must confirm if “OHV Commission or Stakeholder Group” is established. In addition, Applicant must also clarify if land has been secured for OHV Recreation.

**Restoration G23-04-10-R01**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* No comment.

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

* Applicant states that approximately 3% of Project activities will be performed within BLM – Ridgecrest Field Office jurisdiction; however, Applicant did not submit a Land Manger’s letter required by Program regulation 4970.05.01.(k)(2). Therefore, the Applicant must remove 3% of total cost from Project activities relating to fence monitoring/repairs and invasive plant removal.
* #5 – Conducting "Nature Walks" is not an eligible Restoration activity. Applicant must remove this activity and all associated costs.
* #8 – Applicant must clarify what “remove trash and debris each Spring” is in order to verify its OHV nexus.

***Project Description – All Others***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Staff #4 “Volunteers” – Applicant must provide the duties and/or activities to be performed on the Project.
* Contracts #1 & 2 – Applicant must clarify the source of match.
* Contracts #1 “Botanist” – Compared to like Projects, cost appears excessive. Applicant must further define how the cost was determined.
* Contracts #2 “ACE Conservation Restoration Crews” – Applicant must provide the duties and/or activities to be performed on the Project.
* Others #1 & 2 – Line items are considered an Indirect Cost as they do not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move these line items to Indirect Cost category.
* Others #3 & 4 – Applicant is reminded the approved per mile rate cannot exceed the IRS rate of $.655. Applicant must revise.

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #2 – Narrative does not support the selections of “Soils…” & “Sensitive areas…”. Applicant must explain the type and severity of impacts that might occur if the Project is not funded, for these selections. In addition, Applicant must identify the number (e.g.,1, 2, 3) of “Sensitive areas”, “T&E listed species” and “Other special-status…” rather than the names in the boxes to the far right of the selections.
* #4 – Narrative does not support the selection of “Educational signage”. The signs installed in 2022 are not part of this Project. Applicant must provide additional information to support the selection.
* #7 – Narrative does not support the selection. Applicant listed a meeting that was greater than 12 months prior to the preliminary Application deadline. In addition, Applicant did not list the total number of the public who attended, who hosted the meeting, how the public was notified, and where the meeting was located.
* #8 – Applicant must provide additional information on what deliverables “Solar Environmental Conservancy” will contribute to and what type of organization they are.
* #9 – This Project is not for a scientific or cultural study. Applicant must remove the selections.
* #11 – Project Description section does not support “Greater than 10 acres…” of sensitive habitats which will be actively restored within the Project area. Applicant must provide additional details to support active restoration (i.e., vertical/horizontal mulching) is occurring on lands greater than 10 acres.
* #12 – Narrative does not support selection. Applicant must provide additional information to support current legal/illegal OHV Recreation is occurring in the Project Area.