

California Bureau of Land Management

Report to the California State OHV Commission

September 4, 2025

- **Presentation by Sky Zaffaranao, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Redding Field Office**
 - **Written report by Neil Hamada – BLM OHV / Travel & Transportation Mgt. Lead, BLM CA State Office**
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BLM OHV Grants

The [California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division](#) posted the “Intent to Award” for the G25 OHV Grants on August 4, 2025. Thirty-one BLM applications made it through the final process and included projects in the Ground Operations, Law Enforcement, Restoration, Education/Safety, and Planning categories. In total, the BLM may be funded approximately \$6.6 million if there are no changes following the protest period.

Bishop and Barstow field offices continue to work through the grant management process with the OHMVR Division staff to receive funds through Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants, which is funded from the Federal Highways Administration. Bishop is on track to begin maintenance and safety projects in fall and Barstow is working to get their projects for OHV area and trail maintenance through the Federal Highways Administration Process. Funding for the projects will be for a three-year performance period.

In addition to the OHV grants and RTP grants, Barstow Field Office also successfully competed for a Right Rider Access Funds OHV grant. They are currently in the procurement process to purchase a portable cement mixer and a water tank skid to fit into the bed of a pickup truck. Both pieces of equipment are expected to arrive in the fall and be used to install and upgrade educational kiosks in OHV areas managed by the Barstow Field Office during the next riding season.

The BLM would like to thank the Division and Commission for their continued financial support to provide high-quality public OHV recreation opportunities on BLM-managed lands.

For more information, visit: https://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164

Federal Lands Planning Program Funding

In July 2025, several CA BLM field offices successfully competed for funding through the Federal Lands Planning Program (FLPP). The FLPP program is funded through the Federal Highways Administration and provides funding for planning activities related to transportation. The timelines for competition and project implementation are extremely challenging, and the projects must meet specific guidelines. Five projects that supported OHV recreation and access were funded throughout the state totaling an investment of \$370,000. The funds will be used for planning efforts, and those planning efforts support future OHV staging area development, trail maintenance and re-routes, and trailhead improvements. There is also potential for the funds to be used as match for other grants.

For more information:

<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/planning>

Senate Bill-708 – Sanctioned Event Permit – OHV Motorcycles

Assistant Chief Jack Gorman, of the OHMVR Division, has been educating BLM staff, law enforcement, and OHV motorcycle racing clubs associated with American Motorcyclist Association Districts 36, 37, and 38 on this new law starting on January 1, 2026. BLM is working internally to ensure consistency in messaging and education across the state to OHV motorcycle riders, competitors, race organizers, BLM Rangers and BLM staff permitting races with OHV motorcycles.

For more information:

https://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21928

FIELD OFFICE REPORTS

Redding Field Office

On May 19, 2025, Sky Zaffarno, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Redding Field Office, conducted a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) site visit at Chappie-Shasta OHV Area. BLM botanist, wildlife biologist, and recreation specialists joined Michelle Mah, Environmental Specialist, and Megan Kalyankar, Senior Biologist/Environmental Analyst, from the OHMVR Division on a 50-mile tour of OHV routes within the Chappie-Shasta OHV Area via side-by-side. During the



Figure 1 - Megan and Michelle from the OHMVR Division inspecting plant species found in shale rock in Shasta County.

tour, special status plants were observed which provided an opportunity to discuss BLM's management actions to avoid any impacts to the species during trail maintenance activities. Other HMP monitoring efforts were also discussed and highlighted at various locations along the OHV project tour.

The outcome of the visit was positive, and the Redding Field Office staff continues to carry out routine OHV trail maintenance activities such as trail brushing and signing.

Eagle Lake Field Office

In May 2025, the Eagle Lake Field Office (ELFO) staff and the OHV State Parks Habitat Management Plan (HMP) review team convened at the Fort Sage OHV area to assess the plan's findings and gain a deeper understanding of ongoing projects that may affect local species. Utilizing UTVs and motorcycles, the team visited several grant-funded initiatives, including the new development at the Widowmaker Trailhead, ground operations, general maintenance, and active restoration efforts. This visit provided an opportunity for the BLM to pose specific questions regarding monitoring protocols for the HMP while also updating State Parks on the monitoring practices currently implemented in the area. The insights gained will contribute to the enhancement of future HMP protocols from State Parks.

The Eagle Lake Field Office (ELFO) recreation staff will commence Stage 2 development¹ of the Widowmaker Trailhead, following the damage caused by the 2020 Laura fire, which swept through the existing OHV staging area. Beginning in late October 2025, developments will feature several key enhancements, including the installation of two shade structures with a BBQ, table and fire ring, in addition to an interpretive sign, a double vault toilet, and strategic boulder placements around the trailhead and facilities. Additionally, we will construct approximately 0.10 miles of the Widowmaker trailhead green sticker road and expand the staging area by 0.30 acres in sections where native soil is present. Activities will consist of grading, graveling, compacting, and watering to ensure a durable and enjoyable space for off-highway vehicle visitors.



Figure 2 - After the 2020 Laura fire.

ELFO has partnered with the Lassen County Road Department to enhance access to the OHV trailheads by improving the Hackstaff and Fort Sage OHV green sticker legal roads. The project will start after Labor Day and will involve grading, compacting, and watering two miles of the 10-mile road system, ensuring smoother and safer access for OHV visitors. This is the first of a five-phase project and funding will be requested in separate grant applications for each phase.

¹ ELFO has a four-stage plan to rebuild the trailhead to meet the required OHV grant match for the project and ensure funding is spent within the project performance period. Stage one included a kiosk, shade structure, BBQ grills, tables, a loading ramp, and gravel in the parking area. Plans for stage three and four both include additional road improvements.

Ukiah Field Office

On July 10th, the management, recreation, and resources staff from the Ukiah Field Office met with Karen Feldheim, environmental scientist for the California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) grant program. The field visit included several OHV grant project sites and provided insight to the challenges they experience, and accomplishments the field office has achieved with CA OHV grant funds. The first stop was the Scotts Creek crossing in South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area where grant funds have been strategically used to mitigate OHV damage to sensitive species and habitats. At Walker Ridge Rd. in the Indian Valley Management Area, the group reviewed ongoing and recently completed OHV ground operations, restoration, and planning grant projects which included fencing, road maintenance, staging area maintenance, installation of signage and kiosks, installation of boulder barriers, invasive plant treatments, and restoration efforts. Discussion during the day also included strategies to streamline the OHV grant application process and potential changes the review team would like to see in Ukiah's Habitat Management Plan (HMP).

During the past spring and summer, the Ukiah Field Office staff has completed multiple weeks of trail brushing utilizing the ground operation grant.

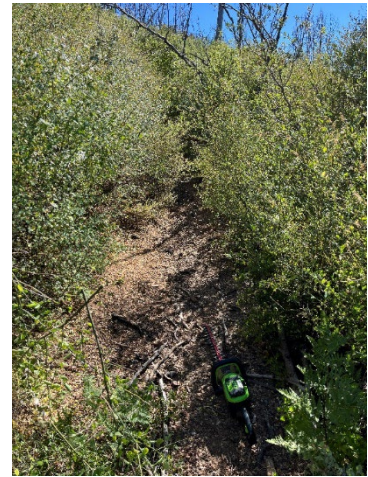


Figure 3 - Motorcycle trail before brushing work.



Figure 4 - Motorcycle Trail after trail brushing work completed with OHV grant funds.

Barstow Field Office

In FY25, the Barstow Field Office administered and monitored over 60 Special Recreation Permits (SRPs). These permits included vendor permits for the Johnson Valley, El Mirage, Stoddard Valley, and Dumont Dunes OHV areas. The SRPs encompassed a variety of recreational events, such as car and truck races, speed timing trials at El Mirage, sand drags at Dumont Dunes, UTV races, motorcycle races, dual sport rides, and vehicle testing, among others.

In April 2025, the Friends of Dumont Dunes successfully conducted a volunteer clean up event with the participation of approximately 100 volunteers. In November 2025, around 200 volunteers participated in the Stoddard Valley clean-up event organized by Clean-Dezert.

Work was completed in July 2025 on a federally funded Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads Program (ERFO) project, completing storm repairs and improvements to the Dumont Dunes Road to maintain safe access into Dumont Dunes OHV Area.

The Barstow Field Office continues work on the development of a draft Rasor OHV Area management plan (partially funded through an OHV planning grant) and publication is anticipated in FY26. Staff also continue to work on the Barstow Field Office Business Plan. This plan will reevaluate the fees at Dumont Dunes as well as fees at developed recreation areas. When the Business Plan is drafted, it will be available for public comment and presented to the Desert Advisory Committee.

Bishop Field Office

On July 25, 2025, Bishop Field Office (BIFO) staff met with the OHMVR Division to conduct a site visit for their current law enforcement grant project. They reviewed progress toward the accomplishment of project deliverables and discussed OHV related challenges and successes. A field tour was conducted showcasing OHV patrol areas in the northern portion of public lands managed by the BIFO. Site visits are routinely conducted every three years and allow OHMVR Division staff to meet with BLM personnel to better understand their OHV Law Enforcement Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Northern California District Resource Advisory Council

The Bureau of Land Management Northern California District Resource Advisory Council advises the BLM's field offices in Susanville, Alturas, Arcata, and Redding. They are planning to meet virtually on September 18. Agenda items will be announced online prior to the meeting.

Mr. Casey Bokavich is the current RAC appointee who represents OHV Interests through 03/6/2027 and Mr. Jeff Blewett represents Commercial Recreation through 9/21/2026.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/california/northern-california-rac-members>

PAST EVENTS

Central California District Resource Advisory Council

The Bureau of Land Management Central California District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) advises BLM officials for the Bakersfield, Bishop, Central Coast, Mother Lode and Ukiah field offices. They virtually met on May 8, 2025 and agenda items included reports from the District Manager and Central California Field Managers, USFS Christmas Tree Permits and Winter Recreation, Executive and Secretarial Orders. Meeting minutes are available at https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2025-06/CenCal_RAC_Notes_May_2025_508.pdf.

Mr. Michael Lueders and Mr. Reb Monaco are the current RAC appointees who represent OHV Interests through 2/9/2026.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/rac/california/central-california-rac>

California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee

The California Desert Advisory Committee (DAC) met virtually on July 12, 2025. The agenda included reports from the DAC members, a San Bernardino National Forest fee proposal, and BLM Field Office reports. The DAC advises BLM officials for the Barstow, El Centro, Needles, Palm Springs, and Ridgecrest field offices and consists of 10 to 15 members who represent stakeholder interests in public land management, such as conservationists, outdoor recreationists, ranchers, industry officials, tribal leaders, state and local government officers, academics, and others. Meeting minutes are available at www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2025-07/BLM%20California%20Desert%20Advisory%20Council%20Public%20Meeting_transcript.pdf

Mr. Ed Stovin is the current DAC appointee who represents OHV interests through 8/31/2026.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.blm.gov/site-page/get-involved-resource-advisory-council-california-california-desert-district-rac-members>

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