



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Redding, CA

March 24, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Oceano Dunes District Update

STAFF: Ronnie Glick, Acting District Superintendent

SUBJECT: Oceano Dunes District Update

Summary

Operational updates for the Oceano Dunes District including Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.

Discussion

District Structure

The Oceano Dunes District operates the contiguous Oceano Dunes SVRA, Pismo State Beach, and the Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve sub-unit. In 2022 the district welcomed over 1.5 million visitors.

Within the District, more than 150 full-time, intermittent, and seasonal employees provide vital public service and are responsible for administration; facilities management; public safety; interpretation and education; and natural and cultural resources management. Staff share responsibilities across the park unit boundaries and the district maintains detailed accounting procedures to track the expenditure of public funds.

By jointly managing two park units in a single district, the Department continues to invest in staff through job and task sharing, co-training, and shared knowledge and resources to accomplish the mission at individual park units.

General Park Information

Oceano Dunes SVRA consists of 3,600 acres of sandy beach and coastal dunes of which approximately 800 acres are open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation and camping. Pismo State Beach consists of approximately 1,400 acres of sandy beach and coastal dunes that include approximately 700 acres of the Pismo Dunes Natural

Preserve. Approximately 22 linear miles of fencing helps to define the areas open to riding and camping while protecting sensitive habitat areas and other buffer areas from impacts.

In addition to motorized recreation, Oceano Dunes SVRA provides a wide array of non-motorized recreation opportunities including hiking, nature walks, horseback riding, kite surfing, and bird watching. One popular area is Oso Flaco Lake located in the southern portion of Oceano Dunes SVRA. Visitors can enjoy a moderate walk along the one-mile Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible boardwalk, with areas to observe wildlife, native flora, and sweeping views at the beach overlook. This area is an important stopover for waterfowl traveling along the Pacific Flyway.

Oceano Dunes SVRA continues to be one of the most popular parks in the State Park System and the most visited SVRA.

Presentation

This presentation will focus on many ongoing efforts in the Oceano Dunes District with input from the core program areas including Law Enforcement/Public Safety; Natural and Cultural Resource Management; Interpretation and Education; Administration; Park Planning and Facilities Management.

There will be updates on key issues including ongoing dust control efforts; endangered species management activities; public safety and emergency response; facilities management; hazard reduction program; and other issues as discussed during the January 2023 Ad Hoc Committee meeting on Oceano Dunes SVRA.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

None