



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, California 94296  
Telephone: (916) 902-8598

Armando Quintero, *Director*

## OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Santa Clarita, CA

February 26, 2026

**STAFF REPORT:** Education, Interpretation, and Outreach Program

**STAFF:** Taylour Unzicker, State Park Interpreter III

**SUBJECT:** 2025 Annual Commission Report

---

### Summary

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division provides a progressive statewide education, interpretation, and outreach program with a focus on safe, lawful, and responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. The 2025 Education, Interpretation and Outreach report focuses on programs and projects, program changes, and partnerships with other state park units and the OHV community to reach a broad audience.

Park interpreters, rangers, seasonal staff, volunteers, and OHV community members work together to provide the public with engaging education and interpretation programs. Continuing to be the most effective method for engagement, outreach events took place at a variety of venues that include OHV events, sports events, county fairs, community events, safety fairs, youth events, school programs, and career fairs. For 2025, interpretive staff within the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) and as part of the OHMVR Statewide Outreach and Education Program engaged over 53,270 contacts through 458 programs.

	# of Programs	# of Contacts
OHMVR Statewide Outreach & Education	16	15,138
Clay Pit SVRA	0	Not reported
Prairie City SVRA	56	2,878
Carnegie SVRA	45	2,003
Hollister Hills SVRA	50	11,782
Hungry Valley SVRA	24	1,401
Oceano Dunes SVRA	99	3,061
Eastern Kern County Onyx Ranch	0	Not reported
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	145	16,304
Heber Dunes SVRA	23	703

## Discussion

### Statewide Outreach Team

The OHMVR Division Statewide Outreach and Education program team continued to outreach at events with a strong OHV nexus. Outreach activities supported the goal of ensuring quality recreational opportunities remain available for future generations by educating the public about responsible OHV recreation. Outreach took place at 14 major events, including Camp RZR, King of the Hammers, and the International Sportsmen's Expo. The team returned to Sand Sport Super Show this year, after being unable to attend in previous years. OHV outreach booths reached over 15,000 people and provided information on OHV recreation opportunities, OHV safety best practices, and sustainable recreation. The radio-controlled (RC) crawler program continues to expand, with refreshed messaging incorporating best practices for different OHV activities and areas. A refreshed RC course and a new tabletop course will be implemented in the coming season. Interpreters were also able to join law enforcement on the Rubicon Trail this year to provide roving interpretation. Moving forward, the team will continue to perform more roving interpretation along OHV trails.



Additionally, the *Beyond the Blacktop* podcast continues to host conversations about OHV-related topics. This year's topics included a discussion on helmet safety ratings, Over the Snow (OSV) recreation, Glamis Dunes, and trail stewardship in the Lost Sierra. The team also continues to develop Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) programming to bring OHV recreation into the classroom for K-12 students. Programs will use simple physics lessons to demonstrate the importance of safe OHV recreation.

### Clay Pit SVRA

Clay Pit SVRA was set to host their first annual *Visitor Appreciation Day* during OHV Safety Week in November. Unfortunately, the event had to be canceled due to inclement weather. The Clay Pit team looks forward to rolling out this event in 2026.

### Prairie City SVRA

Interpretation staff at Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area participated in fifty-six outreach activities. These included educational tours, Jr. Ranger programs, OHV safety training, park roving, and outreach at both OHV competitions and state park-sponsored events. The total number of person-to-person contacts made was 2,878.

Prairie City's special event highlight was holding their first *Ride to Ride to Ride Again Run* for motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle riders during OHV Safety Week. Participants rode a two-mile course through the park, stopping at five stations, learning about pre and post vehicle safety inspections. The event fostered a new community collaboration between four motorcycle clubs (Dirt Diggers North MC, Sierra Old Timers MC, Nevada

County Woods Riders, Women's Dirt Bike Racing Association), Prairie City SVRA, and Auburn SRA (Mammoth Bar OHV). An off-site special event highlight was an outreach booth at *Cantina for the Con*, a fundraiser for the Rubicon Trail Foundation. This 4x4 event, notably advantageous for outreach, delivered high attendance and engagement between the public and government land managers on-site at Robb's Resort in the Sierra Nevada high country.



In addition, Sacramento's KCRA Channel 3 featured Prairie City on their Explore Outdoors news segment. Interpretive staff were able to provide a great interview promoting the recreation opportunities available at the SVRA. And finally, back by popular demand, the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society (SVAS) held a Star Party in the 4x4 Area during October's *Visitor Appreciation Day* festivities.

### Carnegie SVRA

The Carnegie SVRA interpretive program had a strong year, offering consistent interpretive programming both in and outside the park. Interpretive staff hosted family rides, Jr. Ranger programs, roving programs, and attended special events.



The interpretive team interacted with the public at hill climb events throughout the year by setting up an outreach booth. They had multiple themed activities for the youth throughout the season with hill climb-themed crafts, displays of animal hides and skulls to interpret the local fauna, a program about bats, and pumpkin carving at the Carnegie Classic. Carnegie's 13<sup>th</sup> annual *Visitor Appreciation Day* was held in April, and the interpretation team joined nine other groups with

booths for the public. In October, the team ventured to Hollister Hills to represent Carnegie at the Hollister Hills SVRA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.

Finally, the Carnegie team partnered with the Prairie City team to participate in *Snakefest* at Prairie City SVRA. The team was able to educate attendees on how to stay safe in the parks and protect snakes while recreating.

### Hollister Hills SVRA

Following years of staff shortages, Hollister Hills SVRA increased its interpretive programming in 2025. Hollister Hills has three seasonal staff members in interpretation providing the public with a variety of free programs, including public outreach, evening programs, Jr. Ranger programs, school field trips, in-person school visits, roving interpretation, and park-sponsored events. The team interacted with 11,782 people during the year.

2025 marked Hollister Hills' 50th anniversary. An event was held on October 11<sup>th</sup> celebrating the state's first SVRA, drawing over a thousand visitors. The interpretation team set up a booth for the day's event, and staff interacted with 250 visitors.

Hollister Hills again participated in the State Parks Adventure Pass Program. Adventure Pass funding was used to enhance the interpretive program. New pelts, skulls, and giveaways were purchased for the fourth-grade school groups that visited Hollister Hills. 162 fourth-grade students attended interpretive programs.

Additionally, fourth and fifth grade students were guided on a field trip across the Bird Creek watershed as part of the *Becoming a Wildlife Detective* program. Students were instructed on how to observe and find evidence of local fauna. The students also learned about the park's stewardship efforts as well as the recreational activities available at Hollister Hills SVRA. The Hollister Hills Off-Road Association provided free transportation to local elementary schools in Hollister to tour the park and engage in the program. The SVRA was able to engage many students from underserved communities in the city of Hollister.

### Oceano Dunes SVRA

The Oceano Dunes SVRA interpretation team was pleased to maintain the *Discovering the Dunes* PORTS program as a virtual alternative to on-site activities. Broadcast live from the Oceano Dunes SVRA, this digital experience teaches students about the geological formation of coastal dunes via the rock cycle, as well as the specialized adaptations of local flora and fauna. The curriculum highlighted the conservation of at-risk species like the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover while also exploring the balance between resource management and public recreation. Another offering, the *Chumash Education Program*, is available in-park as a two-hour program. It offers a guided trek around the Oceano Lagoon, showcasing the natural materials utilized by the Chumash people. These collective educational efforts reached over 2,000 students during 2025.

Staff continued Pismo clam outreach efforts with their annual training with CDFW to educate docents and staff on the biology of the Pismo clam and the rules and regulations of clamming and possession of undersize clams. Docents and staff roved the shoreline talking to visitors and locals about the importance of the clams and how we can help their population grow by respecting the rules and regulations. Outreach efforts were focused during the busy summer months to reach people that may be unaware of the regulations.



Oceano interpretive staff continue to set up safety-themed pop-ups over the summer to reach kids in the SVRA and teach them riding tips such as how to properly strap a helmet and what proper riding gear looks like. Unfortunately, due to heavy storms during OHV Safety Week, the scheduled *Dune Safety Day* had to be canceled.

## Hungry Valley SVRA

Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) interpretive staff are ensuring important safety topics, resource protection, and recreational opportunities are communicated effectively to the OHV community. Interpretive staff offered Junior Ranger programs both in the park and at the Frazier Park Branch of the Kern County Library and onsite school tours for K-12 students from the local area, including Peak to Peak Mountain Charter School and El Tejon Elementary School. State Park Rangers and interpretive staff provided outreach at the Pine Mountain Club Christmas Parade and the three-day Fiesta Days event in the nearby community of Frazier Park.

The interpretive staff at Hungry Valley SVRA provided 12 Junior Ranger programs highlighting the plants, animals, indigenous cultures of the area, and recreational safety for approximately 113 children throughout the year at the local Frazier Park Library and in the campgrounds. They attended outreach events including Fiesta Days and the El Tejon AYSO Soccer Day in the local communities of Lebec and Frazier Park and at the Cesar Chavez National Monument's Conexion Verde event, providing information on the recreation opportunities in the park to approximately 1,000 people. A school tour for the Peak To Peak Mountain Charter School featured a hike through the park for 80 students and teachers. The interpretive staff and state park peace officers provided roving interpretation for visitors to the park on safe recreation, natural and cultural resources, and the indigenous peoples of the area.

Hungry Valley SVRA staff and the Department of Parks and Recreation Partnership Office are working with the nonprofit group Friends of Hungry Valley to establish a Cooperating Association for the park to support interpretation and education programs.

## Eastern Kern County Onyx Ranch SVRA

Eastern Kern County Onyx Ranch State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) is laid out in a checkerboard fashion surrounded by mostly Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that offers over 26,000 acres of scenic and challenging terrain for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), motorcycles, recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs), and 4x4 vehicles. A portion of the Pacific Crest Trail passes through the northwest corner of the park. State Parks Peace Officers provide roving interpretation focusing on recreational opportunities, safety messaging, and resource protection in the park.

Recent storms causing flash flooding damaged sections of Jawbone Canyon Road, one of the entrances to the park, and routes to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) off-highway vehicle recreation areas north of the park, like Dove Springs. These areas were quickly repaired by BLM and California State Parks staff.

## Ocotillo Wells SVRA

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA Interpretation team made 16,304 public contacts in 2025. The bulk of public interactions occurred in the park at our mobile interpretation pop-ups at hotspots like Pumpkin Patch and Gas Domes. The interpretation team continues to set up pop-up canopies in the park to make public contacts, be a presence in the park, and share safety messaging. In addition, programs were offered to multiple school groups, Night Sky and Scorpion Search



programs were expanded, and Junior Ranger programs were offered almost every Saturday. Interpretation has also teamed up with the state park peace officers to offer *Coffee with a Ranger* on the Discovery Center deck. The team celebrated the end of 2025 with the first *Coffee with a Ranger* program on New Year's Eve morning and have many planned for 2026.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA strengthened its partnership with the Imperial County Department of Probation's ASPIRE afterschool program. Through the ASPIRE program, the team was able to work closely with 4th-7th grade participants to cover subjects like desert safety and sustainable recreation. Further engagement with the Imperial Valley occurred by attending multiple career days at local schools. Partnerships with the Desert Recreation District were also formed and sustained throughout the year, offering programs about natural resources and environmental stewardship to elementary-aged youth in the Coachella Valley. Additionally, the team has partnered with community groups in Bombay Beach and Shelter Valley to provide similar programs.

Staff have developed multiple RC car Jr. Ranger programs that utilize the Ocotillo Wells SVRA RC Crawler course and a table-top RC course for a 1:43 scale RC car. These programs have been vital in teaching vehicle maintenance, trip preparation, T.R.E.A.D. Lightly principles, and safe use of recreational vehicles. The team will continue to incorporate additional OHV-themed offerings into future programs.

## Heber Dunes SVRA

Interpretive staff made regular visits to Heber Dunes SVRA throughout 2025. Using the mobile interpretation model developed at Ocotillo Wells SVRA, staff hosted pop-up canopy programs on most Sundays to engage visitors. Through these efforts, staff interacted with 703 park visitors, sharing information on local wildlife, safe recreation practices, and park stewardship. Interpretive staff also provided park orientation and safety information to participants of the ATV Safety Institute, supporting an ongoing partnership that enables multiple training sessions at the park's track.



A notable highlight in the fall was interpretive staff support for a night sky program held by a local community group, which created opportunities for future collaborative programming. Planning is currently underway to expand evening interpretive experiences and increase Junior Ranger program offerings. Additionally, in cooperation with the Ocotillo Wells District Resources team, one cleanup event was organized in support of the park's Habitat Protection Plan.

**Commission Action**

For information only

**Attachments**

None