

## REQUEST BY U.S. FOREST SERVICE FOR RE-SCOPE OF PROJECT AGREEMENT

ITEM: OR-2-SW-22 - Operation and Maintenance '03/'04  
Pacific Southwest Region

OR-2-SW-26 - Operation and Maintenance '04/'05  
Pacific Southwest Region

The USFS Regional Office has requested a major amendment to the scope of the above mentioned cooperative agreements. These two cooperative agreements were allocated monies by the Commission under the *2003 Regulations*. Per Article 5 – *Project Agreements, Amendments, & Rescopes*, (4970.26), grant applicants were required to submit in writing to the Division, their request for re-scope of the project agreement.

On December 5, 2003, the Commission allocated funds (OR-2-SW-22) to the Pacific Southwest Region for Conservation, Enforcement, Restoration and other activities which included salary and travel for the OHV Coordinator.

On December 3, 2004, the Commission allocated funds (OR-2-SW-26) to the Pacific Southwest Region for Enforcement and other activities which included salary and travel for the OHV Coordinator, planning and preparation of restoration plans and projects, as well as specialist consultations.

Under the original intent of both projects, the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service intended to hire a full time OHV Law Enforcement Officer to perform specific law enforcement tasks. Due to hiring difficulties there is a need modify the original project intent and deliverables for the remaining funding in OR-2-SW-22 and OR-2-SW-26. This modification to the original intent of the project will allow the flexibility to react to immediate needs within the Region. The shift of funds will occur within the C&E allocation and the Non-CESA

funding categories. Funding will be redistributed amongst a new set of deliverables which include: ecologist salary, OHV coordinator salary, aerial overflights in Congressionally Designated Wilderness, training for law enforcement, field enforcement for law enforcement “hotspots” on Forests throughout the region (as needed), enforcement specialist tasks, enforcement field visits, bail changes, violation charging policy, enforcement coordination for RO & Forests, salary, travel, California Vehicle Code and Code of Federal Regulations reviews and changes, violation data management, and LEO & FPO training, LEMARS training for field units to track violations and trends, completion of restoration strategy, continue programmatic monitoring.

Due to the inability to hire a Law Enforcement Officer and Assistant OHV Coordinator, the Pacific Southwest Region does not have the capacity to perform the complete set of deliverables as originally described, and meet the changing needs on the ground. As such, if the rescope is not approved, Wilderness intrusions may increase due to lack of overflights, slow down in development of LEO & FPO Law Enforcement Training for field season, progress made with the magistrate and organizations would be diminished, inability to complete restoration strategy, inability to proceed with portions of the programmatic monitoring.

There are no direct financial impacts to the OHMVR Division or Forest Service Units as a result of the proposed rescope. Approval of this rescope will provide supplemental funding for the Regional OHV Coordinator, Regional Ecologist and project specific consultants and/or specialists. Failure to approve funding could reduce the ability to pro-actively adjust to changes in OHV trends on the ground.