**USFS - San Bernardino National Forest**

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**

* #2-5 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.
* #7b – Narrative does not support the selection. Applicant must clarify if Recreation Technicians have citation authority.
* #7c – Narrative does not support the selection. Applicant must clarify how the maps educate the public on “OHV trespass, including respect for private property”.
* #11a – Narrative does not support the selections. Applicant must clarify what free material is available that describes safe and responsible OHV practices. In addition, Applicant must state how kiosks provides information on “concerning safe and responsible OHV Recreation”.
* #11b – Narrative does not support the selection. Applicants must verify if the OHV programs/events are conducted onsite. In addition, OHV education programs must be hosted by the Applicant onsite to educate the public on safe and responsible OHV recreation practices.
* #13 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.

**Ground Operations G23-02-14-G01**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* In the previous year’s Application in the “Trail and Route Maintenance” section, Applicant states, “this year’s maintenance we intend to perform work on 5S09, 2N47, 3N14.” Applicant must clarify if work is still needed to be performed on these specific trails.
* Funding to test archaeology findings along and in OHV routes to determine if they are eligible to go into the National Register is considered an ineligible Project activity. Applicant must remove language and any cost associated with this activity from the Project Cost Estimate.

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

* No comment.

***Project Description – All Others***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Staff #1, 2, 3, 5, & 6 – Applicant must change the Unit of Measurement to “Hours”.
* Staff #2 “Assistant Program Manager” – Cost significantly increased compared to prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the cost. In addition, “general operations” appears to be an indirect activity as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must explain how this activity directly supports the Project or move the verbiage for this activity and the cost associated with it to the Indirect Costs category.
* Staff #6 “Engineering” – Cost significantly increased compared to prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the cost. In addition, “…and writing contracts to complete needed trail work with grant contract funds” appears to be an indirect Project activity. Applicant must explain how this activity directly supports Project Deliverables or move the costs associated with this activity to the Indirect Costs category.
* Materials / Supplies #1 “Riding PPE for OHV Technicians” – Applicant must confirm and clarify a need for this line item. Applicant stated in their previous year’s Application same quantity for five employees.
* Materials / Supplies #4 “Trail maintenance tools & supplies” – Cost significantly increased compared to prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the cost.
* Materials / Supplies #8 “Staging Area Loading Ramp” – Applicant must clarify how “Replace railroad ties on the ATV/MC loading ramp at the Cactus Flats Staging Area” is different from the previous year’s Application. This line item was also included in last year’s Application.
* Equipment Use Expenses #1 “Vehicle Use Per Year Costs” – Applicant combined all Fixed Operating Rates (FOR) into one line item. Applicant is reminded only actual costs for the FOR are reimbursed. Applicant must identify in the notes section a FOR rate for each vehicle type.
* Equipment Use Expenses #3 “ATV” – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. No Division comment was issued (per state comments).
* Equipment Purchases #1 “ATV Support Vehicle” – Applicant requested the purchase of two ATVs in the G22 Grant cycle. Applicant must confirm whether these have been or will be purchased; and if so, needs to explain the need for these additional ATVs.
* Others #1 “Trailer Maintenance” – Applicant is reminded that trailers not purchased through the Grants Program are not eligible for regular maintenance expenses. Applicant must clarify if trailers requiring regular maintenance were acquired through the Grants Program.
* Others #2 “New OHV Equipment Trailer” – A similar line item was also included in last year’s Application. Applicant must clarify how the purchase of this trailer is different from the previous year’s Application. In addition, cost appears excessive. Applicant must further define how the cost was determined.

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #3 – Narrative does not support the selection of “Maintaining trails that provide for multiuse”. Applicant must provide example(s) of the activities performed as part of the Project to support the selection.
* #4 – Narrative does not support the selection. Applicant must identify who the stakeholders are and how they are stakeholders to the Project.
* #6 – Narrative does not support the selection of “Protecting special-status species” or “Providing sanitary facilities”. Applicant must list a special-status species the work being accomplished is protecting. In addition, Applicant must provide example(s) of the activities performed as part of the Project to support the selection of ““Providing sanitary facilities”. of providing sanitary facilities. In addition, Applicant must list a special – status species the work being accomplished is protecting.
* #8 – Narratives do not support any of the selections. Applicant must provide examples, supported by the Project scope, that support the selections.

**Restoration G23-02-14-R01**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* No comment.

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

* No comment.

***Project Description – All Others***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Staff #2 “Restoration Technician” – Southern California Mountains Foundation has also applied for a Restoration Grant with a “Native plant nursey maintenance” at three (3) USFS San Bernardino National Forest nursey facilities. Applicant must clarify how this deliverable is different from the Project activities performed by the nonprofit. In addition, total hours exceed what three (3) full staff would work (3\*2080=6240, equivalent of 780 days). Applicant must revise the quantity.
* Staff #3 “Site Monitors - Deep Creek” – Applicant must clarify what "works closely with USFS Law Enforcement and other agency LEOs to conduct group enforcement" means and how it relates to this line item.
* Contracts #2 “Solar array installation” – Installing a solar array at Big Pine Flat Fire Station is not eligible as it does not have an OHV nexus. Applicant must remove this line item.
* Equipment Use Expenses #1-3 – Equipment fuel expenses are reimbursed based on actual cost, not per mile charge. Applicant must describe in the notes section how fuel costs were determined (a per mile charge provided for the methodology would be acceptable) and change the unit of measurement to “Each” or “Miscellaneous.”
* Equipment Use Expenses #4-6 – Applicant must clarify how they determined the use fee.
* Equipment Purchases #2 “dump trailer” – Applicant must move this line item to the “Others” category. In addition, cost appears excessive. Applicant must further define how the cost was determined.
* Others #3 “trailer maintenance” – Applicant is reminded trailer(s) not purchased through the Grants Program are not eligible for maintenance expenses. Applicant must clarify if utility trailer requiring maintenance was acquired through the Grants Program.

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #2 – Narrative does not support the selections. Applicant must explain the type and severity of impacts that might occur if the Project is not funded for the selections.
* #7 – Narrative does not support the selections. Applicant must provide the virtual platforms used for both the public and stakeholder meetings. In addition, Applicant must list number of participants that attended the public meeting. Lastly, Applicant must identify who the stakeholders are and how they are stakeholders to the Project.
* #8 – Narrative does not support the selection. Applicant must list each partner and Adopt-A-Trail-Club separately and provide a detailed explanation for how each partner will participate in the Project.
* #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., chunking/pitting/mulching) is occurring on lands greater than 10 acres.