



**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING  
Ukiah, CA**

**June 7, 2019**

**STAFF REPORT:** Legislative Update  
**STAFF:** Marivel Barajas, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs  
**SUBJECT:** California Legislation

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**Summary**

This report provides summary excerpts and status of bills that affect the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program. Information contained in this report is accurate as of May 17, 2019.

**CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION UPDATE**

**Senate Bill 402 (Borgeas): Vehicles: off-highway recreation: County of Inyo.**

**Summary:** This bill would extend the sunset on the Inyo County combined-use highway system pilot project from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2025. Additionally, this bill would require Inyo County, in consultation with the Department, California Highway Patrol, and CalTrans, to submit an additional report to the Legislature evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot project, no later than January 1, 2024.

**Status:** Senate Third Reading  
Senate Appropriations Committee – Passed (Ayes:4 Noes:0)  
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee – Passed (Ayes:6 Noes:2)  
Senate Transportation Committee – Passed (Ayes:10 Noes:2)

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**Senate Bill 767 (Glazer): Off-highway vehicular recreation: Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area: Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area.**

**Summary:** This bill would authorize the Department to divest approximately 3,100 acres of land within Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area for conservation purposes if the Department determines, through a public process, that disposal of the land is in the public interest. Additionally, this bill would exempt this transaction from the state's surplus property process.

**Status:** Senate Third Reading  
Senate Appropriations Committee – Passed (Ayes:4 Noes:2)  
Senate Appropriations Committee – Passed (Ayes:5 Noes:0)  
Senate Governmental Organization Committee – Passed (Ayes:10 Noes:3)  
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee – Passed (Ayes:6 Noes:2)

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**Senate Bill 785 (Committee on Natural Resources and Water): Public resources: parklands, freshwater resources, and coastal resources: off-highway motor vehicles: public lands.**

**Summary:** This committee omnibus bill contains two provisions affecting the Department: 1) would clarify the definition of public lands where certain off-highway vehicles are allowed to operate; and 2) would authorize a land-swap between San Diego County, the San Diego County Water Authority, and CalTrans, if specified conditions are met.

**Status:** Senate Third Reading  
Senate Appropriations Committee – Passed (Ayes:6 Noes:0)  
Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing – Passed (Ayes:5 Noes:0)  
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee – Passed (Ayes:9 Noes:0)

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## **2019 - 2020 116th US CONGRESS FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE**

### **S. 47 (Murkowski): John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act**

**Summary:** The final version of this bill incorporated provisions of S.67 (Feinstein): California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2019 and H.R. 376 (Cook): California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2019.

Specifically, this bill includes the Santa Ana Wash Land Exchange Act, the Helium Extraction Act, and the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act (previously known as the California Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act).

*The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:*

The Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange authorizes a land exchange of approximately 417 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for approximately 369 acres of land currently owned by the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District.

This legislation designates five Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Areas in the California desert as permanent Off-Highway Vehicle recreation areas: Dumont Dunes, El Mirage, Rasor, Spangler Hills, and Stoddard Valley, totaling 180,340 acres. The bill also expands the existing Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area by 20,240 acres. Combined with the nearly 100,000 acres that make up the existing Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area, this bill ensures that over 300,000 acres are permanently open for OHV use in the California Desert. Additionally, this bill conveys 934 acres of BLM land to the State of California to be included in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Lastly, this bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to complete several Special Resource studies that include stakeholders and state and local government input.

**Status:** 3/12/19 Signed into law by President Trump, Public Law No. 116-9

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### **S. 1109 (Harris): San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act**

**Summary:** This bill would establish the San Gabriel National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System in California.

*The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:*

The bill would establish a 22-member Advisory Council to include two members that would represent the interests of outdoor recreation, including off-highway vehicle recreation, within the San Gabriel National Recreation Area.

**Status:** 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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**S. 1110 (Harris): Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act**

**Summary:** This bill contains provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, conservation of, and recreational access to, certain public lands in Northern California.

*The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:*

This bill would designate the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail for use by off-highway vehicles or mountain bicycles, or both. The designation would require annual monitoring and evaluation for the effects of trail usage.

**Status:** 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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**S. 1111 (Harris): Central Coast Heritage Protection Act**

**Summary:** This bill would designate specified parcels of land in the Los Padres National Forest and the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management as wilderness areas.

*The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:*

The bill would require that not later than six years after the date of enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service) shall study the feasibility of opening a new trail, for vehicles measuring 50 inches or less, connecting Forest Service Highway 95 to the existing off-highway vehicle trail system, in the Ballinger Canyon off-highway vehicle area.

**Status:** 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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**H.R. 316 (LaMalfa): Guides and Outfitters Act**

**Summary:** This bill would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to allow the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue special recreation permits and fees for off-highway vehicle use on certain federal recreational lands, as defined. This bill is the successor to H.R. 289 of the 2017-2019 session.

**Status:** 2/07/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry

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## **H.R. 403 (Panetta): Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act**

**Summary:** This bill would establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in California, to promote environmentally responsible off-highway vehicle recreation and to support other recreational uses. This bill would direct the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to designate 21,000 acres of BLM land adjacent to Clear Creek as wilderness and would name this land the “Joaquin Rocks Wilderness”. It would also reopen the 63,000-acre Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno counties for public outdoor recreation, including off-road vehicles and hiking. This bill instructs the BLM to develop a rigorous plan to minimize the risk from asbestos exposure, including a hazards education program, to educate visitors about the naturally occurring asbestos, including off-highway vehicle recreation. This bill is the successor to H.R. 1913 of the 2017-2019 session.

**Status:** 2/05/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

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## **H.R. 2250 (Huffman): Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act**

**Summary:** This bill contains provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, conservation of, and recreational access to, certain public lands in Northern California.

*The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:*

This bill would designate the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail for use by off-highway vehicles or mountain bicycles, or both. The designation would require annual monitoring and evaluation for the effects of trail usage.

**Status:** 4/24/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

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### **Commission Action**

For information only

### **Attachments**

None – Links to the Bills are posted on the [ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov) website