



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Kings Beach, CA 96143**

August 15, 2019

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update
STAFF: Katie Metraux, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

Several planning efforts are underway within State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). Ocotillo Wells SVRA and Hungry Valley SVRA are in the process of updating their park general plans. The Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan, which has off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation components, is revising their general plan. Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach are developing a public works plan (PWP), and three SVRAs are developing Road and Trail Management Plans. This report describes each plan's purpose, process, and current milestone.

Discussion

Following is a summary of recent SVRA/OHV general plan developments.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA:

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan team, in collaboration with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office staff are developing a new land management plan for Ocotillo Wells SVRA/Ocotillo Wells Special Recreation Management Area. For compliance with both state and federal land management policies, the long-term land management plan for Ocotillo Wells SVRA is envisioned to be comprised of:

- a California State Park unit General Plan,
- a BLM Recreation Area Management Plan, and
- a California Desert Conservation Area Land Use Plan Amendment.

Presently, the SVRA General Plan team and the BLM El Centro staff are in discussions regarding recreation land use issues such as camping, special events, and target shooting. A consistent approach to these issues by both the state and federal governments is crucial for the continued development of a useful and practical long-term land management plan. The mutual decisions growing out of this process may

necessitate revisions to the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two entities.

Hungry Valley SVRA:

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan has a project website at www.PlanHungryValley.com to facilitate public involvement in the planning process. Interested parties should visit the project website and register to receive email notifications regarding project progress.

The first public meetings were held in Ventura and Newhall on February 15 and 16, 2017 and in Frazier Park and Bakersfield on February 22 and 23, 2017. The next opportunity to provide input will be for the discussion of draft guiding statements and draft planning concepts in fall 2019. This information will help guide the planning process and provide the baseline for developing alternatives for site use.

Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan:

The Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan Update restarted in January 2018. The General Plan team held environmental scoping meetings on October 23 and 24, 2018 in Ridgecrest and Lancaster. Both meetings were well attended and the team received several hundred comments as a result. The General Plan has a new project website, www.redrockgp.com, and a project email, info@redrockgp.com. Interested parties should visit the project website. The team is meeting with stakeholders, agencies, and conducting tribal consultation.

State Parks held two public meetings to present Draft Planning Concepts in March 2019. These concepts explore a broad spectrum of visitor experiences, natural and cultural resource management approaches, and park operations options. The first meeting was held Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in Lancaster from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The second meeting was held in Ridgecrest on March 27, 2019 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The public comment period for the Draft Planning Concepts is open until August 1, 2019.

Road and Trail Management Plans

Following is a summary of recent SVRA Road and Trail Management Plans.

Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA began work on a Road and Trail Management Plan in May 2018. The planning team is working on gathering existing trail conditions. There will be several opportunities for public input in the near future.

Prairie City SVRA and Carnegie SVRAs are conducting trail inventories for their Road and Trail Management Plans. Prairie City SVRA held two stakeholder meetings and conducted an online survey. Carnegie SVRA will hold stakeholder meetings once their trail inventory project is complete.

Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA Public Works Plan

California State Parks is developing a Public Works Plan (PWP) for Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach. A PWP is a long-range land use and development plan.

It analyzes existing conditions for park operations, recreation opportunities, coastal access, and environmental compliance; makes recommendations for improvement; and, includes future development projects and programs. The California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission) reviews and certifies PWPs in the same manner as Local Coastal Plans as defined in Chapter 6 of the Coastal Act (starting with Public Resources Code Section 3050).

The PWP has several opportunities for public input and review throughout plan development, document review, and the environmental document review. The Coastal Commission will hold a public hearing for the draft and final plan. A contractor is preparing the PWP. There is a project website where the public can view documents, provide comments, learn about public input opportunities, and sign up for updates. The project website and email address are – www.oceanodunespwp.com, and info@oceanodunespwp.com.

State Parks held public meetings in mid-February to discuss overarching project goals and present draft concepts. The first meeting was held on Monday, February 11, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in Pismo Beach and the second meeting was held on February 19, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in Tulare.

In July 2019, State Parks held focused stakeholder meetings with organizations that commented on the draft project concepts. These meetings provided an opportunity for the planning team to gather more input from organizations representing OHV enthusiasts, environmental groups, residents, and local businesses. One meeting was held in Sacramento and two at Oceano Dunes District and over 60 people attended. The planning team and the stakeholders enjoyed open and candid conversation about the PWP, Habitat Conservation Plan, and the Particulate Matter Reduction Plan; the outcome of the July 2019 Coastal Commission hearing; management actions under consideration in the PWP; and more specific details about the draft concepts. The next opportunity for public input will occur in fall 2019 when State Parks will present Revised Concept Alternatives.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

Attachment 1: SVRA Plans Update – August 2019

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
SVRA PLANNING UPDATE**

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	Plan Status & Updates in Progress
Prairie City SVRA	2016 1991		Approved by the OHMVR Commission September 2016
Carnegie SVRA	2016 1981		Approved by the OHMVR Commission October 2016
Clay Pit SVRA	2012		Approved by the OHMVR Commission June 2012.
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011		Approved by the OHMVR Commission December 2011.
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	
Oceano Dunes SVRA (General Plan)	1975	1991	
Oceano Dunes SVRA (Public Works Plan)			Public Works Plan. Project Concepts Meetings occurred in February 2019. Next step is to develop draft plan and Revised Concept Alternatives in Fall 2019.
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981		General Plan (GP) update in progress. Next milestone will be project guiding statements and draft plan concepts
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981		GP EIR/EIS review in process.

**State Vehicular Recreation Area Road and Trail Management Plans
February 2019**

Park Unit	Plan Status & Updates in Progress
Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA	Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) project began May 2018. Next milestone is conducting a trail inventory.
Carnegie SVRA	RTMP began in July 2018. Trail inventory in process.
Prairie City SVRA	RTMP began in April 2017. Trail inventory in process. First stakeholder meetings, consultation, and visitor survey completed.

**Regional Planning Efforts
February 2019**

Park Unit	Adopted	Plan Status & Updates in Progress
Red Rock Canyon State Park	January 1982	General Plan Update. Project restarted in January 2018. Environmental Scoping Meetings occurred in October 2018. Plan Concept Meetings held on March 25 and 26, 2019. Comment period ended on August 1, 2019 for Plan Concepts.