

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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Armando Quintero, Director

OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Sacramento, CA 95816

February 26, 2021

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update

STAFF: Katie Metraux, Planner

SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

Several planning efforts are underway within State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). Hungry Valley SVRA is in the process of updating its park general plan. The Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan, which has off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation components, is revising its general plan. 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.

Hungry Valley SVRA:

California State Parks initiated the General Plan Update process for Hungry Valley SVRA in 2016. The intent of this update is to address changes within the SVRA, keep up with new technologies, and incorporate lands that have been acquired since the existing General Plan was adopted in 1981. The General Plan Update will provide a comprehensive management plan that will guide the future of Hungry Valley SVRA for the next 20 to 30 years. It will serve as the blueprint for future decisions about land use, facilities, recreation opportunities, and management of natural, cultural, and physical resources, among other topics.

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.

State Parks has developed a set of Concept Alternatives based on public input received and evaluation of the existing conditions at Hungry Valley SVRA. These Concept Alternatives will be used to develop a Preferred Alternative, which will then be used as the basis for the updated General Plan. These Concepts explore the scope of potential land management uses, visitor experiences, natural and cultural resource management approaches, and park operations options. State Parks will hold two virtual public meetings to present the General Plan Draft Plan Concepts – one the week of February 22 and, one the first week of March, 2021. State Parks sent an email blast with virtual meeting information and links to the project website, where you can view the information packet, comment card, and virtual meeting materials.

Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach Public Works Plan

State Parks has prepared a Draft Public Works Plan (PWP) and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA for compliance with the California Coastal Act. The PWP describes specific Development Projects requiring approval under the Coastal Act and identifies Other Park Management Programs and Plans. The Draft Plan (Volume 1), Existing Conditions (Volume 2), and Draft EIR (Volume 3) are available for review at: www.oceanodunespwp.com/en/documents/draft-eir.

The Draft PWP and Draft EIR are available for public review and comment for 60 days, beginning December 31, 2020. Comments are due on March 2, 2021 at 5 p.m. However, if a California Coastal Commission hearing for these draft documents is scheduled after March 2, 2021, then the comment period will be extended to the hearing date.

Please submit written comments to:

California State Parks Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division 1725 23rd Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95816

There is a project website where the public can view documents and learn about public input opportunities, and sign up for updates. The project website is www.oceanodunespwp.com.

Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan:

The General Plan has a project website, www.redrockgp.com and a project email, info@redrockgp.com. Interested parties should visit the project website.

The planning team is developing the draft preliminary general plan and environmental impact report. These documents will be available for public review and comment in winter 2020. A summary of public comments for the October 2019 Revised Plan Concept public meetings is available on the project website at www.redrockgp.com/resources.

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.

Prairie City SVRA is completing the trail inventory and assessment towards the Road and Trail Management Plan. The next step is to draft trail alignment concepts for stakeholder review and input.

Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation and Over Snow Recreation – Demographic and Economic Impact Study (Study)

State Parks and California State University, Fresno, will kicked off the Study February 2021. The proposed study provides information on the characteristics of OHV/OSV users in California. The purpose of this project is to: 1) document the use levels, locations, and duration of visits to OHV/OSV sites; and 2) document economic impacts and benefits, and value of the OHV/OSV system. Phase I of the project will focus on the online survey of registered vehicle owners. Phase II will document via intercept surveys of users at selected event sites, and an online survey to government and businesses near active event sites. The project product will be a full report and analysis.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

None

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS SVRA PLANNING UPDATE

Park Unit	Adopted	Amend ed	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	2001	Approved by the OHMVR Commission in February 2001
Oceano Dunes SVRA (General Plan)	1975	1994	Approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission in February 1994
Oceano Dunes SVRA (Public Works Plan)			State Parks has prepared a Draft Public Works Plan (PWP) and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA for compliance with the California Coastal Act. The PWP describes specific Development Projects requiring approval under the Coastal Act and identifies Other Park Management Programs and Plans. The Draft Plan (Volume 1), Existing Conditions (Volume 2), and Draft EIR (Volume 3) are available for review at: www.oceanodunespwp.com/en/documents/draft-eir. Comments are due on March 2, 2021 at 5 p.m.
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981		General Plan (GP) update in progress. Virtual public meetings to present the General Plan Draft Plan Concepts will be held the week of February 22 and, one the first week of March, 2021
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981		General Plan Revision began in 2015 with a joint planning document with BLM and State Parks and was paused in 2019. The project will start again in 2021-2022.

State Vehicular Recreation Area Road and Trail Management Plans

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

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. Revised Plan Concepts meetings were held in October 23, 24, and 25, 2019.