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OHMVR Commission Triennial Program Report Standing Committee Report 10/1/2021

Based on discussion at the July and August OHMVR Commission meetings, Commission Cabral and Ross-Leech were asked to work on an outline of new content representing interests of the Commission and the OHV community. Below is a draft outline of the proposed content for public and Commission review and comment at the October 27-28, 2021, OHMVR Commission meeting and workshop.

This proposed content would address Report Requirement 6 to address the importance of OHV recreation for physical and mental health, family bonding, and connecting with people outdoors.

The Faces of OHV

The Commissioners expressed a lot of interest in showing who OHV-ers are today – including families, disabled persons, young people and the varied diversity of backgrounds, ethnicity, geography, age, etc. The Ad Hoc Committee decided to identify potential recreationists to interview, develop a survey questionnaire and to compile the results, verbatim comments and personal photographs of individuals recreating into this new section.

Participants were identified based on the Commissioner's personal knowledge of both OHV recreationists as well as non-motorized recreationists. A larger pool of potential participants will be selected to get a good sample size. Commissioner Cabral is leading this effort.

Survey Questions

The following draft survey questions were developed for the interviews:

- What does OHV recreation mean to you?
- How did you get started?
- Do you enjoy OHV recreation as a family?
- What type of OHVs do you use? How many do you own? Do you rent OHVs?



- Have you or a family member experienced an electric powered OHV?
- Do you belong to a club or organization?
- What other forms of outdoor recreation do you participate in?
- Have you used an OHV to access non-motorized recreation?
- Have you preformed volunteer work on public lands?
- Are you aware of California's OHV Safety Week?
- Have you attended an OHV safety course?
- Are you aware of the environmental protections embedded in California's OHV program?
- How do you want to see the OHV recreation program develop in the future?

Federal Agency Partners

In addition to interviewing OHV and non-motorized recreationists, the Ad Hoc Committee thought it would be timely and important to include perspectives from our major federal agency partners - the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. In conversations with both agency's OHMVR liaisons, the huge wildfire threats throughout the state, as well as impacts from the drought and climate change seemed like a very timely topic to address. The Ad Hoc Committee has developed suggested questions for the federal agencies to address these reemerging resource issues, how it is impacting their road and trail management work and how the OHMVR Grants Program has helped them to tackle these challenges. Based on this information, a summary will be prepared to incorporate into this section of the Program Report. Commissioner Ross-Leech is leading this effort.

Survey Questions

The following draft survey questions were developed for the interviews:

- How has wildfire, drought, flooding, extreme heat and other extreme environmental factors changed how your agency plans and implements your road and trail management work?
- How has this changed the visitor experience and visitor safety concerns?
- What is your agency planning to do differently to adapt to these changing environmental conditions?
- What are the next steps and what should visitors expect on their favorite BLM or USFS roads or trails?
- How has the OHV Grants Program benefitted your agency?
- What suggestions do you have to improve or enhance the OHV Grants Program to adapt to these environmental conditions on the ground?
- Anything else you would like to comment on for the OHMVR Triennial Report?



Environmental Stakeholders

Finally, the Ad Hoc Committee re-visited the participants of the SB249 stakeholder process which made recommendations on the purpose and make-up of the OHMVR Commission. The Ad Hoc Committee sent emails and followed up with phone calls to all the stakeholders who participated in this process to invite them to discuss their perspective on how SB249 has been implemented within the OHMVR Division and Commission. Commissioner Ross-Leech is leading this effort and is scheduling meetings with the various representatives. Based on these interviews, a summary will be developed to incorporate into this section of the Program Report.