



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Sacramento, CA 95814**

May 20, 2022

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update

STAFF: Alexandra Stehl, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

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 its general plan. This report describes each plan's purpose, process, and current milestones.

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 is 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 General Plan team and the BLM El Centro staff are working on restarting the project after it was put on hold in 2019.

Hungry Valley SVRA:

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Team and consultant presented the draft alternatives for the General Plan to the Department's Planning and Acquisition Committee (PAC) for approval. The PAC approved the alternatives and the Team has moved forward with preparing the General Plan's draft goals and guidelines, outline and

draft sections for the Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update and the associated Environmental Impact Report.

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.

Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan:

The Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan Update restarted in January 2018. The General Plan team is preparing the Preliminary Draft General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for public review in Summer 2022. The Final General Plan and EIR are anticipated to be brought in front of the State Park and Recreation Commission for review and approval in the fall/winter of 2022. Updates on the planning effort can be found at www.redrockgp.com.

Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update:

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division previously prepared a General Plan Revision and associated Program EIR for the original Carnegie SVRA and the adjacent 3,100-acre Alameda and Tesla Expansion Area in 2016. While the General Plan Revision was approved and the EIR certified by the OHMVR Commission in 2016, the Commission rescinded these decisions in 2021 due to several lawsuits. The lawsuits and subsequent legislation requiring that the Alameda and Tesla Expansion Area not be designated as an SVRA has resulted in the Department and the Division electing to prepare a standalone General Plan Update for the Carnegie SVRA. The Department will conduct a separate planning effort for the Alameda and Tesla Expansion Area to determine a suitable classification and future use of these properties.

This proposed General Plan Update and EIR are limited to the 1,575-acre original Carnegie SVRA and specifically exclude the Expansion Area. The classification of and planning for the Expansion Area will be addressed in the future under a separate planning effort.

The OHMVR Division prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This NOP informs agencies and the public that an EIR is being prepared to address potential impacts resulting from the approval and implementation of the General Plan Update. The Planning Division and consultant held a virtual public scoping meeting on April 19, 2022, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and the public comment period ended on April 30, 2022. Please visit the Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update webpage for project updates and to sign up to receive project email announcements.

OHV/OSV Economic Impact Study:

The survey for the OHV/OSV Economic Impact Study has gone through three rounds of review/revision and is considered final pending Commission review and approval to move forward. A map-based tool for respondents to select their most recent recreation location has been integrated. Once approved, a Spanish-language version will be created, and another version for special events will be finalized for collecting input

onsite at special events. Secondary data analysis has already begun, which includes DMV registration data. This will help correlate data collected in the survey.

Data collection is planned for the next year and includes, using an easily-remembered URL and a QR code:

- survey link posted on state parks webpages
- email invitation sent to OHV contact list (list in development, ~2000 contacts)
- postcard invitation to DMV-registered users
- posters at parks with QR code and survey link
- onsite data collection at recreation sites

Staff will continue to work with the OHMVR Commission to finalize the survey.

Commission Action

For information only.

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
SPRS & OHMVR DIVISION**

State Vehicular Recreation Area Plans Update, May 2022

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	Plan Status & Updates in Progress
Prairie City SVRA	2016 1991		Approved by the OHMVR Commission in September 2016
Carnegie SVRA	2016 1981		GP was approved by the OHMVR Commission in October 2016 and rescinded in 2021. General Plan (GP) Update for the 1575-acre original Carnegie property began in April 2022
Clay Pit SVRA	2012		GP was Approved by the OHMVR Commission in June 2012
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011		GP was approved by the OHMVR Commission in December 2011
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981		GP update in progress. Preparing the draft preliminary GP and draft environmental impact report (EIR) for public review
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981		GP EIR/Environmental Impact Statement restarted in 2022
Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA			GP and EIR project may begin in 2023
Red Rock Canyon State Park	1981		GP revision in progress. Preparing the draft preliminary GP and draft environmental impact report (EIR) for public review in summer 2022