



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Redding, CA

March 24, 2023

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). Carnegie SVRA, 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, was adopted and certified by the State Park and Recreation Commission on March 3, 2023. There are also several OHV-related studies in the process, including an economic and demographic study and a study to expand OHV recreation in the State. This report describes each plan's purpose, process, and current milestones.

Discussion

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

Carnegie SVRA General Plan Update:

This proposed General Plan Update and EIR are limited to the 1,575-acre original Carnegie SVRA and 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) under Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The Planning Division and consultant held a virtual public scoping meeting on April 19, 2022, 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. The team anticipates the draft updated general plan and EIR to be released for public review in Spring/Summer 2023.

Hungry Valley SVRA:

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan has a project website (www.PlanHungryValley.com) to facilitate public involvement and communication. Interested parties should visit the project website and register to receive email

notifications regarding project progress. The planning team is preparing the administrative draft general plan and EIR for public review in Summer 2023.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA:

The General Plan was put on hold in 2019 and will restart in April 2023.

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan team, in collaboration with the 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 the following:

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

Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan:

The State Park and Recreation Commission adopted the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan and certified the Environmental Impact Report (the Plan) at a hearing on March 3, 2023. Sierra View Road and Red Rock Wash will provide non-street legal OHVs ingress and egress between the Ricardo Campground loop trail to Onyx Ranch SVRA and between popular BLM OHV areas that adjoin the Park.

OHV/OSV Economic Impact Study:

Field work for the survey (one research component of the OHV/OSV Economic Impact Study) has been ongoing at State Park, US Forest Services, and BLM OHV areas throughout the state. The survey and all outreach materials (email, posters, postcards) are in English and Spanish. Data collection for the special events version of the survey began in 2022 to include Hangtown in June 2023. Secondary data analysis includes DMV registration data to help correlate data collected in the survey. The online and telephone survey will continue through August 2023, and a draft report is expected in Spring 2024.

Data Collection In Process:

- postcard invitation with QR code and survey link mailed to ~3000 DMV-registered users
- posters with QR codes and survey links posted at recreation sites
- onsite data collection and postcard distribution at recreation sites
- survey links posted on State Park webpages
- email invitation sent to OHV contact list (~2000 contacts)

- onsite data collection about the impact of special events

OHV Access Project

In September 2021, [Senate Bill 155](#) (Ch. 258, Statutes of 2021) amended Public Resources Code Section [5090.42](#), directing the California Department of Parks and Recreation, popularly known as State Parks, to explore the acquisition and development of properties and opportunities to expand off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation in new and existing facilities. This bill also recommended prioritizing opportunities that serve large urban areas such as the Bay Area and Central Valley and offer potential recreational opportunities for OHV recreation and motorized access to nonmotorized recreation. State Parks has many options for expanding OHV recreation throughout the state – through acquisition, lease, land swap, partnership, donation, transfer, legislation, and other means as established in Public Resources Code Sections 5005, 5006, et seq.

The first step in this process – where we are now -- is to gather information through public outreach and research. Then, State Parks will prepare a preliminary report, feasibility study, and the OHV Recreation Action Plan. Once these steps are complete, the department will work on strategies to implement the OHV Recreation Access Plan recommendations.

The Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division will manage this project's planning phase in conjunction with the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division and OHMVR Commission.

Upcoming Meetings

There will be several opportunities to be involved in this project, including virtual and in-person meetings in 2023 and beyond. The next in-person meeting will occur at the California Trails & Greenways Conference on March 31, 2023, at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel, 888 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, 92262.

Project Webpage and Online Survey

State Parks has a website for the [OHV Access Project](#). Check the page for more information about the planning process and upcoming meetings. We also created a survey that asks about locations, OHV recreational experiences, and potential partnerships State Parks should consider for the OHV Access Project. Please click on the link to access the [Off-Highway Vehicle Access Project Survey](#).

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

SVRA General Plans chart

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
OHMVR DIVISION**

State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plans Update March 2023

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	General Plan (GP) Status & Updates in Progress
Prairie City SVRA	2016 1991		Approved by the OHMVR Commission September 2016
Carnegie SVRA	1981		The Draft General Plan Revision will be available for public review in Summer 2023.
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	1975	1991	-
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981	-	Preparing draft GP and EIR for internal review. The Draft GP and DEIR will be available for public review in Fall 2023.
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981	-	GP update in progress including newly acquired properties. GP update includes federal component in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management.
Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA	-	-	GP or Master Plan pending funding.