



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Redding, CA

March 24, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Federal Legislative Update
STAFF: Marival Barajas, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs
SUBJECT: Federal Legislation Affecting California

Summary

This report provides summary excerpts and status of bills that impact the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program. Information contained in this report is accurate as of February 9, 2023.

2021 - 2023 117th US CONGRESS FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

S. 904 (Risch): Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act (MAPLand) Act

Summary: This bill directs the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to jointly develop and adopt interagency standards to ensure compatibility and interoperability among federal databases for the collection and dissemination of outdoor recreation data and digital maps related to federal lands. This is a companion bill to H.R. 3113.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would make available, within three years after enactment, digital maps that indicate the types of vehicles that are allowed on each segment of the roads and trails on Federal lands, including the permissibility of off-highway vehicles.

Status: 4/29/22 The provisions of this bill were incorporated into H.R. 3113 which was signed by the President into law.

S. 1459 (Padilla): Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act

Summary: This bill sets forth provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, and conservation of, and recreational access to, certain public lands in California. This is a companion bill to H.R. 803 and H.R. 878.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

As related to the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail managed by the U.S. Forest Service in Del Norte County, the bill would designate and require monitoring of the trail for use by mountain bicycles and off-highway vehicles.

Status: 1/2/23 The bill did not receive a vote and died in the 117th session of Congress.

S. 1527 (Lee): A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide that State law shall apply to the use of motor vehicles on roads within a System unit

Summary: This bill would amend Title 54 of United States Code to require that the State in which a National Park System unit is located shall apply to the use of motor vehicles (including off-highway vehicles) on roads within a system unit.

Status: 1/2/23 The bill did not receive a vote and died in the 117th session of Congress.

H.R. 693 (Chu): San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act

Summary: This bill would establish the San Gabriel National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System in California.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would establish a 22-member Advisory Council to include two members that would represent the interests of outdoor recreation, including off-highway vehicle recreation, within the San Gabriel National Recreation Area.

Status: 1/2/23 The bill did not receive a vote and died in the 117th session of Congress.

H.R. 803 (DeGette): Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act

Summary: This bill sets forth provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, and conservation of, and recreational access to, certain public lands in California. This is a companion bill to S. 1459 and essentially similar to H.R. 878.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

As related to the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail managed by the U.S. Forest Service in Del Norte County, the bill would designate and require monitoring of the trail for use by mountain bicycles and off-highway vehicles.

Status: 2/26/21 The bill passed the House and was sent to the Senate for consideration. As of 1/2/23, the bill did not receive a vote in the Senate and died in the 117th session of Congress.

H.R. 878 (Huffman): Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act

Summary: This bill contains provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, conservation of, and recreational access to, certain public lands in Northern California. This is the companion bill to S. 1459 and essentially similar to H.R. 803.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would designate the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail in Del Norte County for off-highway vehicle or mountain bike usage. The bill would additionally require the Secretary of the Interior to annually assess the effects of off-highway vehicle and mountain bicycle use on the trail, land in close proximity to the trail, as well as plants, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Status: 1/2/23 The bill did not receive a vote and died in the 117th session of Congress.

H.R. 973 (Carbajal): Central Coast Heritage Protection Act

Summary: This bill would designate specified parcels of land in the Los Padres National Forest and the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management as wilderness areas.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would require that not later than six years after the date of enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service) shall study the feasibility of opening a new trail, for vehicles measuring 50 inches or less, connecting Forest Service Highway 95 to the existing off-highway vehicle trail system, in the Ballinger Canyon off-highway vehicle area.

Status: 1/2/23 The bill did not receive a vote and died in the 117th session of Congress.

H.R. 1864 (Welch): RTP Full Funding Act of 2021

Summary: This bill would amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to funding the recreational trails program, to require a study to determine the best available estimate of the total amount of nonhighway recreational fuel taxes received by the Secretary of the Treasury, and for other purposes.

Status: 1/2/23 The bill did not receive a vote and died in the 117th session of Congress.

H.R. 3113 (Moore): Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act (MAPLand) Act

Summary: This bill directs the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to jointly develop and adopt interagency standards to ensure compatibility and interoperability among federal databases for the collection and dissemination of outdoor recreation data and digital maps related to federal lands. This is a companion bill to S. 904.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would make available, within three years after enactment, digital maps that indicate the types of vehicles that are allowed on each segment of the roads and trails on Federal lands, including the permissibility of off-highway vehicles.

Status: 4/29/22 The bill was signed by the President into law.

H.R. 5355 (Oberholte): Desert Community Lands Act

Summary: This bill would convey certain Federal land to to the cities/towns of Apple Valley, Twentynine Palms, Barstow, and Victorville California.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would convey 4,630 acres of land to the Town of Apple Valley to be known as the Apple Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area. The purpose of conveyance would be to establish a centralized off-highway vehicle recreational park to discourage the use of off-highway vehicles on other lands designated as environmentally sensitive. The bill would convey easements to other cities/towns for other uses.

Status: 1/2/23 The bill did not receive a vote and died in the 117th session of Congress.

2023 - 2025 118th US CONGRESS FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

There is no Federal legislation affecting off-highway vehicle travel in California currently pending in the new 2023 – 2025 118th session of Congress as of February 9, 2023.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

None