

# Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area Road and Trail Management Plan

## Public Workshop #2 Summary



Prepared for  
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) and the consultant, Ascent, hosted an in-person public workshop on January 24, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Environmental Training Center (ETC) of Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) as part of the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) planning process. The workshop included a welcome, introduction, presentation, and small group discussions for participants to provide feedback on the Public Draft RTMP recommendations. A summary of the meeting is provided below, and a recording of the meeting is available on the RTMP project website here: [www.parks.ca.gov/PrairieCityRTMP](http://www.parks.ca.gov/PrairieCityRTMP).

# 2 PURPOSE

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The purpose of Public Workshop #2 was to provide an overview of the RTMP process and introduce the proposed recommendations, gather feedback, solicit input on any new recommendations and answer any questions during an interactive small group exercise.

# 3 ATTENDANCE

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The meeting was attended by State Parks staff and members of the consultant team from Ascent. A total of 13 community members were in attendance. Below is a list of those who attended and affiliations:

Name	Affiliation (If Known)
Amy Granat	Managing Director of California Off Road Vehicle Association (CORVA)
Celia Mitchell	
Brett Mitchell	
Travis Mitchell	
Bob Harawitz	Fatrac
Steve Schweigerdt	Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC)
John Barnhart	
Cynthia Cygan	Women Off Road Riders
Richard Cervantes	
Matt Wetter	Fatrac
Mark Girarel	Sierra Nevada Adventures
Michael Anzalone	CAMTB

State Parks Attendees	Ascent
Steve Hilton, Gold Fields District Superintendent	Adam Lewandowski, Project Manager
Peter Jones, Sector Manager	Jessica Mitchell, Senior Environmental Planner
McKenzie Boring, Environmental Scientist	Paul Kronser, Planner
Taylor Espenshade, Environmental Scientist	Angela Khermouch, Designer
Joleen Ossello, State Park Interpreter	
Jason Spann, Associate Landscape Architect	
Noelle Breitenbach, Staff Park and Recreation Specialist	
Sammy Reyes, Park and Recreation Specialist	
Tony Guzman, State Parks Peace Officer Supervisor	

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## 4 SUMMARY

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### 4.1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Steve Hilton, Gold Fields District Superintendent from State Parks, welcomed participants, shared introductory remarks, and provided a brief overview of the meeting's purpose. Peter Jones, Sector Manager for Prairie City SVRA, provided an overview of the meeting agenda and introduced the project team.

### 4.2 PRESENTATION

Following the welcome and introductions, the project team presented role of the RTMP at Prairie City SVRA, an overview of the planning process and schedule, previous outreach events, community feedback received, an overview of the Draft RTMP, and recommendations. These topics are summarized below.

#### 4.2.1 Role of the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP)

Taylor Espenshade, Environmental Scientist at Prairie City SVRA, presented an overview of Prairie City SVRA goals for the RTMP moving forward. Taylor summarized how the RTMP will guide future development, operation, and maintenance of the road and trail system through identifying new trail routes and recreational opportunities, change allowed uses for specific trails/zones, provide new facility improvements, and improve wayfinding while protecting natural and cultural resources.

#### 4.2.2 Planning Process and Schedule

Adam Lewandowski from Ascent provided an overview of the planning process and schedule, work and analysis accomplished to date, and the milestones anticipated through completion and approval of the RTMP.

#### 4.2.3 Public Outreach

Following the overview of the planning process and project schedule, Adam presented an overview of previous outreach events that have occurred since the start of the project in the spring 2023. A summary of the findings and feedback received was then presented, which includes the following:

- ▶ Expand the motocross practice track
- ▶ Improve safety and monitoring of the use of side-by-sides, ROVs, and UTVs
- ▶ Consider vehicle flags and separation of uses
- ▶ Improve trail maintenance through increases in staffing and funding
- ▶ Include mountain bikes and E-bikes in areas not suitable for OHV uses
- ▶ Visitors of the park live within 10-30 miles of Prairie City SVRA

#### 4.2.4 Draft RTMP Contents and Recommendations

Adam then provided a brief overview of the sections included in the Draft RTMP and explained how viewers can find the plan recommendations in Section 6. Following a plan introduction, Adam then provided an overview of key recommendations that were identified in the plan which included the following topics:

- ▶ Opportunities for motorized recreation in Zone 5 (Yost) and Zone 6 (Ehnisz)
- ▶ Overnight camping
- ▶ Motocross MX Practice Track expansion
- ▶ Process for defining trail riding in Zones 2, 3, and 4
- ▶ Change of use in motorized recreation zones

- ▶ Hiking access to vernal pool management areas
- ▶ Mountain biking opportunities in areas not conducive to OHV use
- ▶ Non-motorized recreation access locations

#### 4.2.5 Next Steps for Public Input

Before transitioning to the small group discussions, Adam identified ways for participants to stay informed and future opportunities to provide feedback on the draft RTMP, which will be available for public review and comments until February 8, 2024, followed by the draft environmental review document expected in spring/summer 2024.

Public comments from Workshop #2 will be addressed in a forthcoming public comment and response document.