



California State Parks

Quick Facts



California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

- The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD) was established in 1971 by the Chappie-Z'berg Act.
- The Division is funded by sources directly related to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use such as fuel tax revenue, OHV registration fees, and day use and camping fees at State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). These funds are listed separately from those of California State Parks in the Governor's budget, and are used to support OHV recreation statewide.
- The OHMVR Commission was established by the Legislature in 1982. New legislation, passed in 2008, changed the makeup of the Commission to nine members; five are appointed by the Governor, two by the Senate Rules Committee, and two by the Speaker of the Assembly. The legislation also changed the duties of the Commission to be primarily advisory in nature, although they still approve General Plans for the SVRAs and provide a forum for public input.
- The eight SVRAs, 29 snowmobile trailheads and 19 Sno-Parks offer a wide variety of opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation.
- Management of the SVRAs is done with a focus on long term sustainability. Resource protection actions include, but are not limited to:
 - Wildlife monitoring and adaptive resource management
 - Conducting surveys and inventories of plant and animal communities
 - Conserving and restoring natural areas
 - Identification and monitoring of cultural resources
- Off-Road PALS is a partnership between the OHMVR Division and the Police Activities League. The program teaches safe, responsible operation of OHVs to at-risk children, with special focus on environmental values.
- Annual visitation to the SVRAs has increased from 1,720,548 to 4,160,989 over the last 10 years.
- In collaboration with the ATV Safety Institute, SVRAs provide on-site ATV safety training and certification.
- Over half the property managed by Oceano Dunes SVRA is set aside for resource protection. These lands are available for less intensive recreational uses such as hiking and bird watching.
- Prairie City SVRA is home to the Environmental Training Center. This facility is part of an outreach and education effort, and includes OHV training grounds and a classroom. The office and classroom building was constructed using energy efficient designs and is equipped with solar (photovoltaic) panels that provide the electrical power used at the Center.
- At the Ocotillo Wells District Office you will find a native plant garden and an exhibit featuring seven desert habitats.
- Several alternative fuel vehicles are being tested by the OHMVR Division and SVRA staff. From electric dirt bikes and ATVs to side-by-sides that run on vegetable oil – the OHV program is going green.



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- The coal mines at Tesla, part of Carnegie SVRA, were serviced by the Alameda and San Joaquin Railroad. This railroad was later expanded by owner Walter J. Bartnett and business associate Arthur Keddie into the giant Western Pacific Railroad.
- The State Vehicular Recreation Areas are home to a wide range of plant and animal life. Those who take the time to explore will see wildflowers, the tracks of countless small mammals and insects, and a variety of birds, which may include hawks, owls, pelicans, or gulls flying overhead.
- Clay Pit SVRA started out as a barrow pit where clay was mined and used in the construction of the Oroville Dam.
- On the Renz property at Hollister Hills SVRA, trails are designed to be sustainable and not interfere with existing water drainage patterns. Riders are routed away from sensitive habitat, and trails are closed seasonally to protect the migratory route of the California Tiger Salamander.
- Heber Dunes is the southern most SVRA, unique because it is a diverse sand oasis located in the middle of agricultural land just 3 miles north of the Mexican Border.
- Ocotillo Wells SVRA participates in an active geocaching program. Geocache tour brochures are available at the Ranger Stations.
- Carnegie SVRA worked in conjunction with the Office of Surface Mining and the Department of Conservation to recently install bat gates on many open mines within the park. These gates allow for bat habitat while protecting the public.
- The San Andreas Fault slices through Hollister Hills SVRA, marking the boundary between the North American continental plate and the Pacific oceanic plate.
- Oceano Dunes SVRA offers many recreation options for individuals with disabilities:
 - Vehicle access to the beach to get right to the water's edge.
 - Sand wheelchairs available at the park entrance.
 - A concessionaire offers an accessible dune buggy with all hand controls.
 - A mile long accessible boardwalk at Oso Flaco Lake.
- At the end of 2007, there were 1,135,000 off-highway registered OHVs and 4,134,000 highway registered 4x4's in California.
- Wildlife surveys are conducted at all of the SVRAs. Recent surveys of wildlife include:
 - Flat-tailed Horned Lizard
 - Western Snowy Plover
 - California Least Tern
 - California Tiger Salamander
 - California Red-legged Frog
 - California Horned Lizard
- Each May brings the Hang Town Motocross Classic to Prairie City SVRA. 30,000 spectators come out to watch this nationally televised event which showcases the start of the professional outdoor motocross season.
- 73% of OHV use occurs on weekends.
- Hungry Valley SVRA publishes a wildflower tour brochure which visitors can pick up each spring to tour the park's Poppy Preserve.



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- In 2006, Oceano Dunes celebrated 100 years of motorized recreation occurring on the beach.
- California has more than twice the number of registered OHVs than any other state in the nation.
- For more information about OHV recreation and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, go to: www.ohv.parks.ca.gov or call 916-324-4442

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