

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION



Environmental Protection • Sustainability • Responsible Recreation • Education

Introduction

California is the nation's leader in the management of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation as a sustainable activity. California State Parks, through its Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division, has worked over 45 years to develop management practices that reduce or prevent damage to the environment from OHV activity. Through management of OHV areas and collaboration with local, state, and federal land managers, these practices have been applied to a statewide system of OHV recreation opportunities where visitors can fully enjoy California's spectacular outdoors.

The OHMVR Program has two main components. The first is a grants program that provides financial assistance to local, state, and federal agencies as well as to Native American tribes, nonprofits, and educational institutions for OHV recreation-related activities. This assistance enables these agencies to implement sustainable, environmentally responsible OHV recreational opportunities. Funds are also available to counties and local communities affected by OHV uses and impacts that require management, regulatory action, education, and law enforcement.

The second component is a system of nine state vehicular recreation areas (SVRAs) that provide motorized recreational opportunities on 145,000 acres of State Parks' owned and managed lands. ❖

OHMVR Program Goals

- ◆ Sustain Existing Opportunity
- ◆ Increase OHV Opportunity
- ◆ Staff Development
- ◆ Develop an Informed and Educated Community
- ◆ Cooperative Relationships
- ◆ Informed Decision Making

OHMVR Program History

In the 1971 Chappie-Z'berg Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Law (the Law), the Legislature addressed the growing use of motorized vehicles off-highway by adopting requirements for the registration and operation of these vehicles. In addition, it provided funding for administration of the OHMVR Program along with facilities for OHV recreation (California Vehicle Code (CVC) §38000 et seq.). The Law was founded on the principle that "effectively managed areas and adequate facilities for the use of OHVs and conservation and enforcement are essential for ecologically balanced recreation."

Since then, other laws have been enacted that revised the OHMVR program to:

- Expand, manage, and sustain existing OHV areas and support motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreational opportunities;
- Monitor, conserve, and maintain resources;
- Establish the OHMVR Division within California State Parks to administer the OHMVR Program;
- Increase funding to the OHV Trust Fund; and,
- Extend the OHMVR Program sunset to January 1, 2018. ❖



OHMVR Division

The OHMVR Division operates nine SVRAs located throughout California and supports local, state, and federal OHV recreation areas through financial and technical assistance and professional guidance. ❖

Program Funding

The OHMVR Program receives no direct support from the state's General Fund; all funding comes from the OHV Trust Fund. Monies deposited into the OHV Trust Fund are generated by user fees associated with OHV recreation, including:

- Fuel taxes from gasoline consumed during off-highway recreation on public lands.
- OHV registration fees.
- Entrance fees generated at the SVRAs.
- Interest and miscellaneous income.

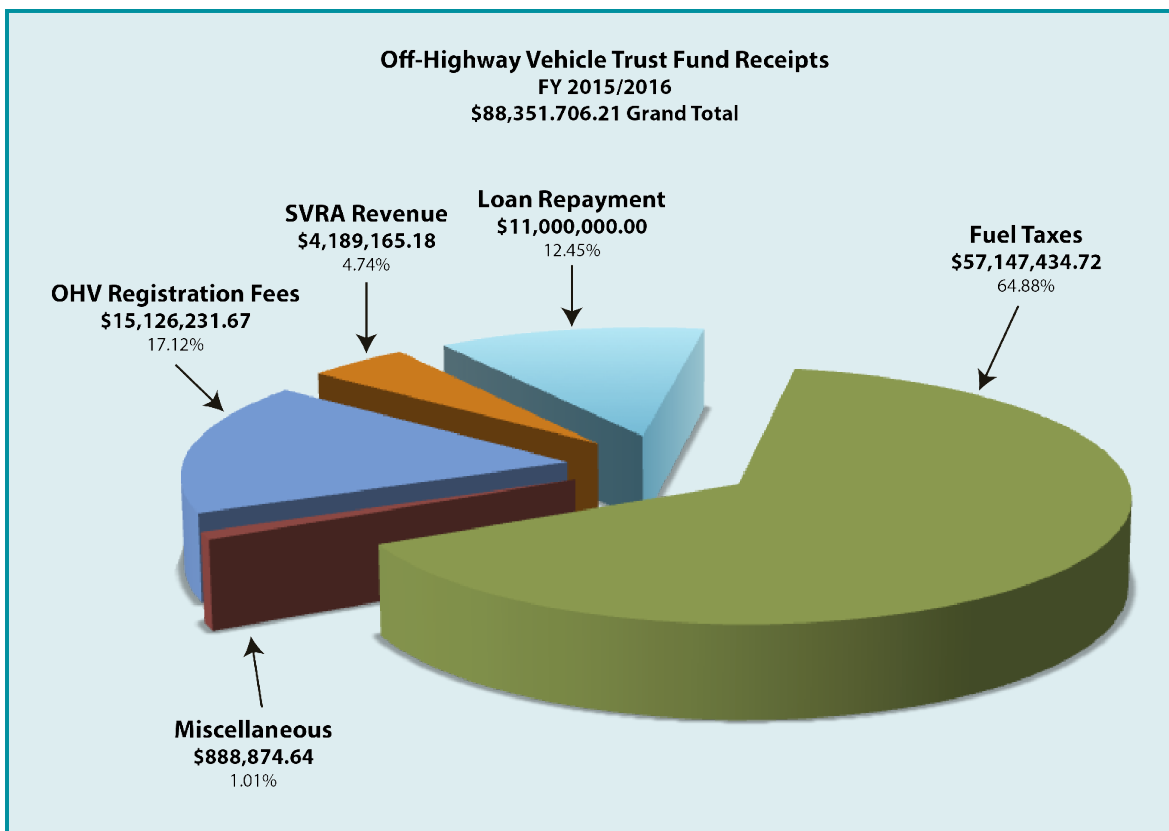
The funding model for the OHMVR Program is based around users funding the program primarily through gas taxes and registration fees, rather than relying on SVRA entrance fees. Entrance fees collected at the SVRAs are kept at a reasonable level to promote OHV enthusiasts use of the managed recreation opportunities, and not create a barrier for low-income visitors. ❖



OHMVR Commission

The OHMVR Act established the Commission (PRC § 5090.15 et seq.) to provide a public body of appointed members having expertise in various areas related to off-highway recreation and environmental protection. The Commission is dedicated to reviewing and commenting on Program implementation, encouraging public input on issues and concerns affecting the OHMVR Program, considering and approving general plans for SVRAs, and providing advice to the Division on the OHMVR Program.

The Commission is a nine member body consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, two by the Senate Committee on Rules, and two appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. ❖



Grants & Cooperative Agreements Program

The Grants & Cooperative Agreements Program (Grants Program) provides financial assistance to local, state, federal, and non-profit organizations for OHV-related activities. The Grants Program has four categories with distinct funding allocations appropriated by the Legislature (Public Resources Code (PRC) §5090.50(b)):



- **OHV Operations and Maintenance:** Fifty percent (50%) shall be expended for the acquisition, maintenance, operation, planning, development, or conservation of trails and facilities associated with the use of OHVs or motorized access to non-motorized recreation.
- **OHV Restoration:** Twenty-five percent (25%) shall be expended for projects that provide ecological restoration or repair to habitat damaged by either legal or illegal OHV use.
- **OHV Law Enforcement:** Twenty percent (20%) shall be available for grants and cooperative agreements to local and federal law enforcement entities for personnel and related equipment.
- **OHV Education and Safety:** Five percent (5%) shall be available for grants and cooperative agreements that either provide comprehensive education that teaches OHV safety, environmental responsibility, and respect for private property, or provide safety programs. ❖



State Vehicular Recreation Areas

State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) are established to provide the fullest public use for OHV recreation while implementing sound environmental programs to protect, preserve, and sustain lands for future generations. From the coast to the desert, the nine SVRAs have varied terrain and climates that provide recreational opportunities to visitors of all skill levels and vehicle types. In most locations, SVRAs have trails, tracks, and other OHV recreation; camping; interpretive and educational programs; and, resource management programs designed to sustain OHV opportunities and protect and enhance natural and cultural resources. Many SVRAs also offer non-motorized recreation such as mountain biking and hiking, camping, bird watching, and other activities.



SVRA Facts:

- Clay Pit SVRA is located two miles west of the town of Oroville. This 220+ acre SVRA provides a fenced open riding area for motorcycle, ATV, and 4x4 recreationists.
- Prairie City SVRA is an urban OHV park located 20 miles east of downtown Sacramento. The park offers a variety of interesting terrain and trails for motorcycles, ATVs, ROVs, and 4x4 vehicles.
- Carnegie SVRA is well known for its challenging hill climbs and scenic trail riding.
- Hollister Hills became the first SVRA in 1975. The SVRA offers recreation for motorcyclists, 4x4s, picnickers, and campers just an hour's drive from San Jose.
- Oceano Dunes SVRA offers OHV recreation and camping, as well as swimming, surfing, monarch butterfly viewing, and hiking in California's central coast sand dunes. Visitors have enjoyed all means of motor vehicle recreation on these beaches and dunes for over a hundred years.
- Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA is the second largest of the nine SVRAs with 26,000 acres.
- Hungry Valley SVRA offers 19,000 acres and over 130 miles of scenic trails for motorcycle, ATV, dune buggy, and 4x4 recreation.
- Ocotillo Wells is the largest SVRA with 85,000 acres. The SVRA offers a wide range of opportunities for OHV recreation in the Southern California Desert.
- Heber Dunes SVRA, located three miles north of the Mexican border in Imperial County, fulfills an important recreational need for local residents. ❖

OHMVR PROGRAM Facts

VOLUNTEERS
contributed
41,689
HOURS in 2011

From 2008-2016
approximately \$42 million
in law enforcement grants have been
awarded to local, state, & federal agencies

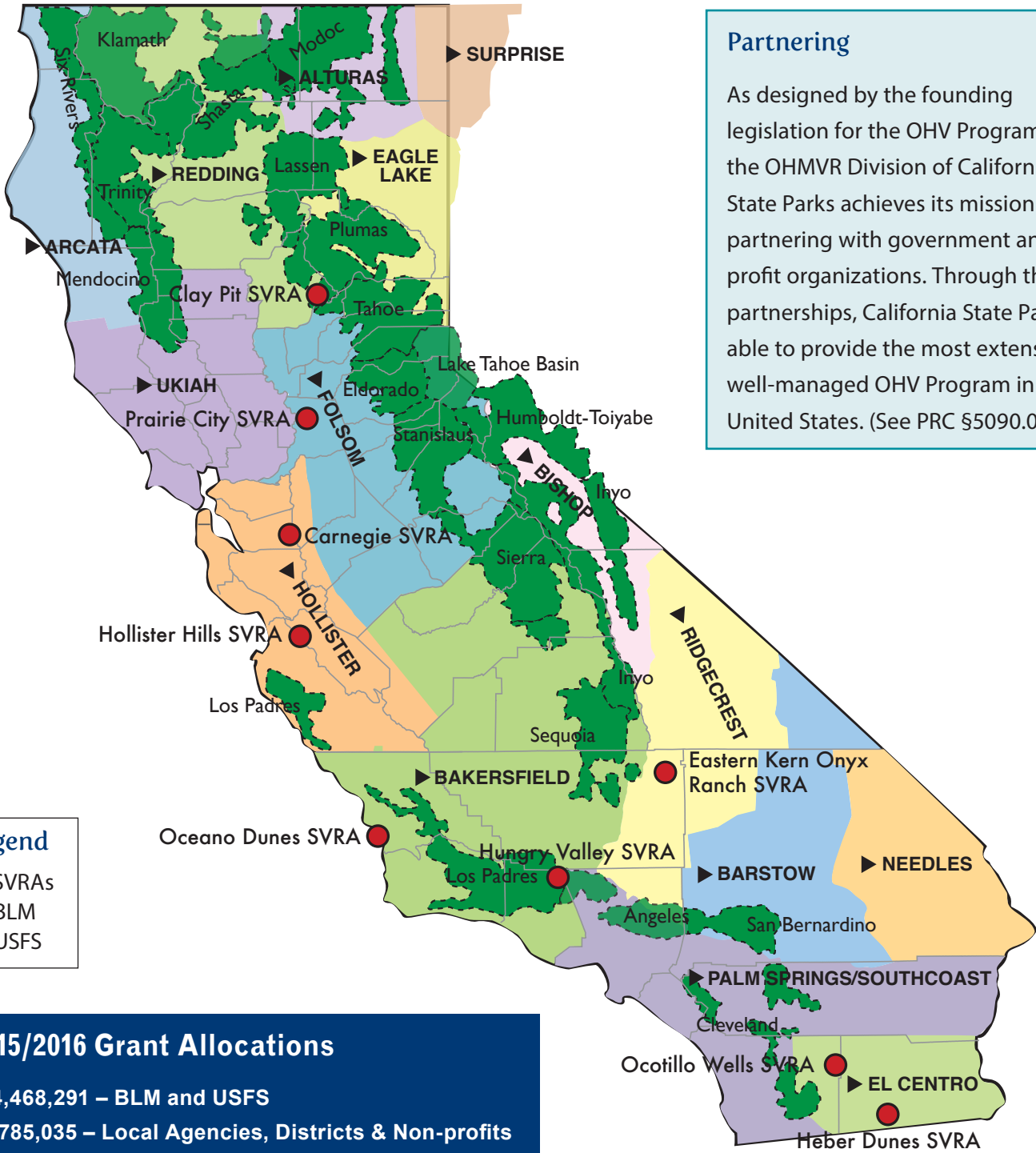
Since 1974, GRANT awards
to the two largest federal land managers in the state
(Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service)

EXCEEDED \$397 million

In 2012
OVER 2,000
students received
ATV Safety Training

Since 2008
awarded OVER
\$50 million
in Restoration Grants

Federal Agency Partnerships and SVRAs



Partnering

As designed by the founding legislation for the OHV Program, the OHMVR Division of California State Parks achieves its mission by partnering with government and non-profit organizations. Through these partnerships, California State Parks is able to provide the most extensive and well-managed OHV Program in the United States. (See PRC §5090.02(c)(6).)

California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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