

JANUARY 2017



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION PROGRAM REPORT

SUMMARY



OHMVR Mission Statement

The Mission of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is to provide leadership statewide in the area of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation; to acquire, develop, and operate state-owned vehicular recreation areas; and to otherwise provide for a statewide system of managed OHV recreational opportunities through funding to other public agencies. The OHMVR Division works to ensure quality recreational opportunities remain available for future generations by providing for education, conservation, and enforcement efforts that balance OHV recreation impacts with programs that conserve and protect cultural and natural resources.



Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission

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Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division



OHMVR Program

Sustainable Recreation and Resource Conservation

California is the nation's leader in the management off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation as a sustainable activity. California State Parks, through its Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division, has worked for over 45 years to develop management practices that reduce or prevent damage to the environment from OHV activity. Through direct management of OHV areas and collaboration with other 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 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 Program Goals

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



OHV Trust Fund

Loans, Transfers, and Redirects

Throughout the history of the OHMVR Program, monies have been borrowed or redirected from the OHV Trust Fund for purposes outside of the OHMVR Program. The total amount of monies borrowed or redirected from the OHV Trust Fund has reached approximately \$268 million. The following chart details those loans, transfers, and redirects.

Fiscal Year Action Occurs	Action	Amount of Loan	Amount of Transfer	Amount of Revenue Redirect	Amount of Repayment
1982/83	Transfer to General Fund (GF)		\$8.5 Million		
1983/84	Transfer to GF		\$13 Million		
1982/83	Authorize Loan to 51st District Ag. Assoc.	\$150,000			
1990/91	Loan to Fish and Game Preservation Fund	\$3 Million			\$3 Million (Loan) \$1.6 Million (Interest)
1992/93	Transfer to State Park and Recreation Fund (SPRF) and GF		\$10.444 Million		\$13.562 Million
1993/94	Transfer to SPRF and GF		\$13.141 Million	\$2.152 Million	Portion of repayment noted above
1994/95	Transfer to SPRF		\$1.959 Million	\$2.563 Million	
2008/09	Loan to GF	\$90 Million			\$90 Million
2009/10	Loan to GF	\$22 Million			\$22 Million
2010/11	Loan to GF	\$21 Million			\$21 Million
2011/12	Redirect from Motor Vehicle Fuel Account (MVFA) to GF ongoing			\$10 Million	
2012/13	Transfer from MVFA to SPRF		\$7 Million		
2016/17	Redirect of MVFA revenue to SPRF			\$31 Million	

The state's General Fund and the State Park and Recreation Fund have been the primary beneficiaries of these loans, transfers, and redirects. A considerable portion of these borrowed monies have been subsequently repaid, culminating with the Budget Act of 2016, signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on June 27, 2016, which repays the remaining outstanding OHV Trust Fund loans.

Vision Statement

The OHMVR Division will assure ongoing access to a wide variety of high quality OHV recreational opportunities through our commitment to prudent resource management, outdoor recreation, community education, and environmental stewardship.

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.

Annual Distribution of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Registration Fees
(Registrations are \$52.00 Biennially Effective January 1, 2009)

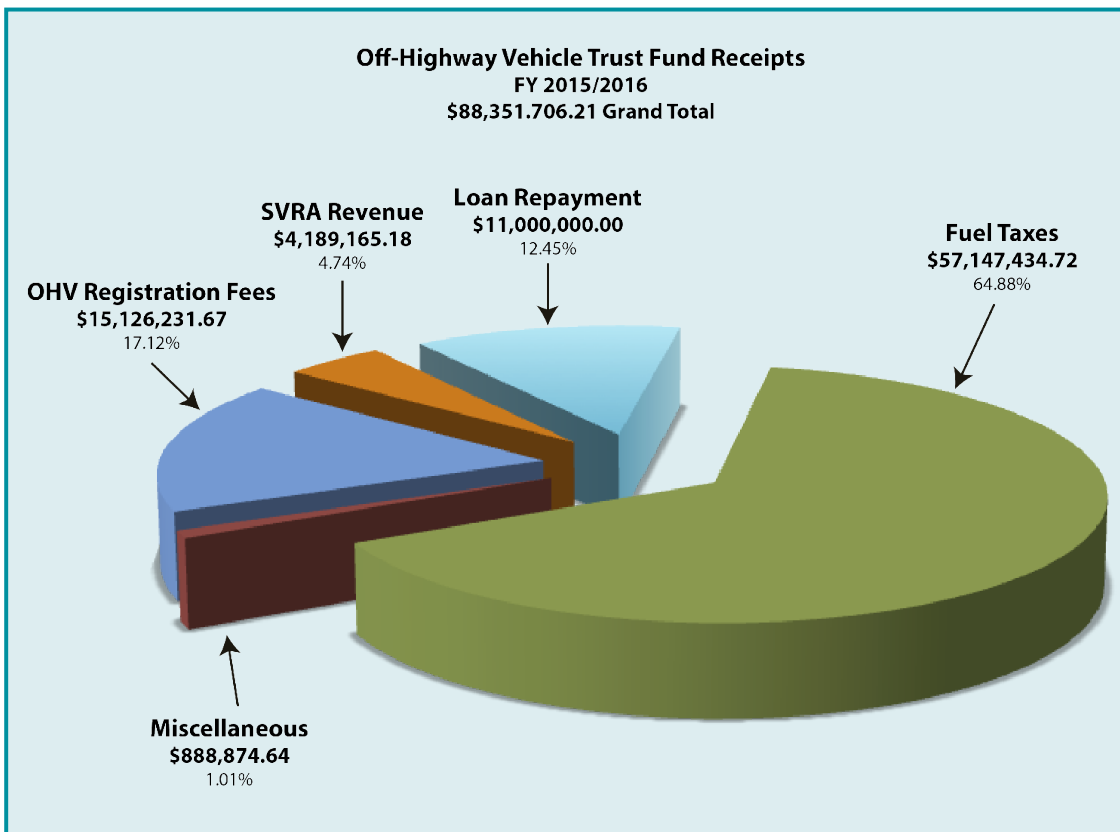


Did You Know?

In 2012, SVRA visitation totaled more than 2.7 million.

Did You Know?

More than \$20 billion is spent on OHV-related activities in California annually.



OHMVR Division Grants Program

Grants and Cooperative Agreements

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: 50%

Fifty percent of the funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be expended solely for grants and cooperative agreements for the acquisition, maintenance, operation, planning, development, or conservation of trails and facilities associated with the use of off-highway motor vehicles for recreation or motorized access to nonmotorized recreation.



Did You Know?

Since 2010, the BLM has been awarded more than \$76 million in grants from the OHV Trust Fund.

OHV Restoration: 25%

Twenty-five percent of the funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be expended solely for grants and cooperative agreements for projects that provide ecological restoration or repair to habitat damaged by either legal or illegal off-highway motor vehicle use.



OHV Law Enforcement: 20%

Twenty percent of the funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be available for law enforcement grants and cooperative agreements and shall be allocated to local and federal law enforcement entities for personnel and related equipment.



OHV Education and Safety: 5%

Five percent of the funds appropriated by the Legislature shall be available for grants and cooperative agreements that either provide comprehensive education that teaches off-highway motor vehicle safety, environmental responsibility, and respect for private property, or provide safety programs associated with off-highway motor vehicle recreation.

Did You Know?

The U.S. Forest Service has received more than \$216 million in grants from the OHV Trust Fund since 1980.



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

Providing an effective statewide educational curriculum is essential to ensuring OHV participants know how to recreate safely, are aware of legal places to recreate, respect private property, operate their vehicles in an environmentally responsible manner, and understand how their actions affect others around them.

Statewide Education Campaign

Engaging the Youth of California through OHV Recreation

With the increased interest in OHV recreation, the OHMVR Division has developed a comprehensive statewide education campaign to inform the public about California's diverse OHV opportunities, safe and responsible recreation, and the importance of natural and cultural resource stewardship. The OHMVR Division is proud to support public outreach, interpretation, and education efforts at the nine SVRAs through partnerships with organizations and schools, and through the OHMVR Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program.

The OHMVR Division outreach team and State Park interpreters at SVRAs offer an array of educational programs at parks, schools, fairs, and major OHV events. These programs use traditional and innovative methods to teach safe and responsible off-highway motorized recreation and the importance of conserving and protecting resources. SVRAs provide traditional programs like campfire programs, wildlife exhibits, Junior Ranger programs, school programs and outreach booths at special events. Popular programs also use geocaching and other technology to teach visitors about local plants and animals, geology, and park management practices used to balance OHV recreation and resource protection. Social media will continue to be an important method of relaying information about park conditions and communicating education messages.



Safe & Responsible Recreation

State park employees and certified safety instructors teach motorcycle, recreational off-highway vehicle (ROV), and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety classes at SVRAs. The OHMVR Division has partnered with the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, ATV Safety Institute®, Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association, and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to provide the training. Each of the SVRAs has at least one approved OHV training range.

In addition, the Division outreach team teaches recreational safety at OHV events, county fairs, and other community events using a variety of hands-on activities, such as:

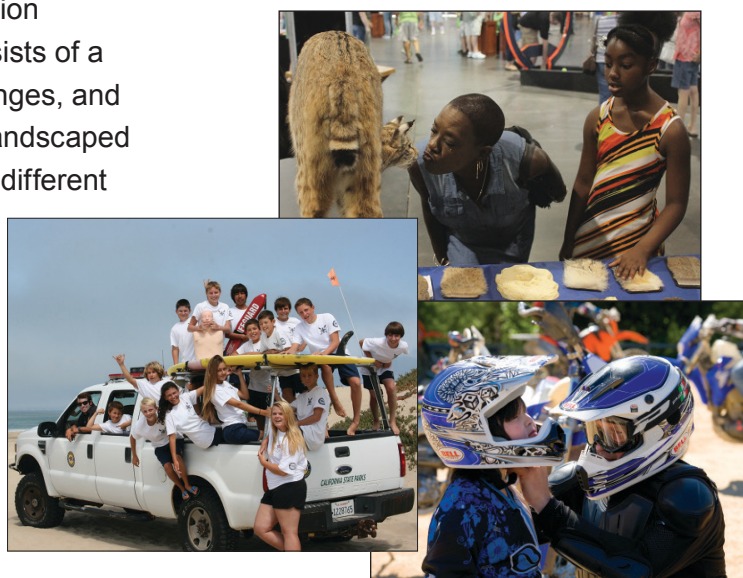
- **Ride Safe!**—A self-guided interactive computer simulation game teaches the fundamentals of using proper riding gear, choosing the right sized vehicle, conducting safety checks, and reinforces responsible recreation ethics.
- **OHV Safety Simulator** —A mechanical device that replicates the movements of an ATV. The simulator allows the rider to apply “active rider” techniques in a controlled environment guided by outreach program staff.
- **Radio Control Jeeps®** — Participants learn Tread Lightly!® principles and then apply them using radio controlled (RC) jeeps as they navigate through a course simulating the kinds of cross-county terrain four-wheel drive enthusiasts are likely to encounter.
- **The Environmental Training Center (ETC)** at Prairie City SVRA was designed to teach safe and environmentally responsible off-highway motorized recreation practices. The facility consists of a classroom, two training ranges, and a three-acre trail system landscaped with native plants from six different California ecosystems.

The Division’s statewide Education, Interpretation, and Outreach Program proved to be highly successful during 2015 serving more than 233,000 people.

Partnerships

The OHMVR Division collaborates with local and federal governments and organizations to provide fun activities that teach recreational safety and environmental stewardship while getting children outdoors in nature. The following are only a few examples:

- The Junior Lifeguard Program at Oceano Dunes SVRA is a fun and challenging aquatic course that teaches ocean recreation skills and environmental stewardship to local youth. The four-week program is open to children ages 9-16 who come from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds.
- The Youth Recreation Days event at the Castaic Lake Recreation Area is a collaborative partnership program with Los Angeles County; California State University, Northridge; Honda’s Colton Rider Education Center; and the OHMVR Division.



California OHV Adventure Map

The OHV Adventure Map identifies OHV recreation opportunities on state, local, and federal lands. Each individual OHV opportunity is listed on a legend that identifies the types of OHVs the facility accommodates. The map also acts as a guidebook highlighting safety, trail etiquette, and current laws and regulations relating to the OHMVR Program and the operation of OHVs on public lands.



Natural and Cultural Resources

Managing a Balanced OHV Recreation Program



Did You Know?

Each year, from March 1 through September 30, Oceano Dunes SVRA closes off approximately 300 acres to protect nesting habitat for western snowy plovers and California least terns that nest on the ground in open sand habitats.

Protecting natural and cultural resources is an essential part of managing balanced OHV recreation for long-term use. The OHMVR Division monitors the condition of resources at each SVRA pursuant to PRC Sections 5090.35(b)(1) and 5090.35(c). Cultural resources afford a high level of resource preservation and protection to comply with PRC Sections 5024, 5024.1(g), and 5024.5. In addition, ground-disturbing projects funded through the OHMVR Division Grants Program have the same resource monitoring and soil conservation requirements as the SVRAs.

Natural Resource Management

Environmental scientists at SVRAs continually monitor the condition of soils, wildlife, and vegetative resources to determine if soil standards and wildlife habitat protection programs (WHPP) are consistent with the goals of the OHMVR program. The type of monitoring conducted can be specific to determine the condition of an individual species, or broad to assess the health of an ecosystem. Monitoring practices differ greatly from SVRA to SVRA depending on climate, topography, and geology, and what species are present. Each SVRA developed WHPPs and prepare annual assessment reports to assist resource managers in maintaining and protecting current wildlife populations and to make informed decisions about an SVRA's individual habitat management needs.

Providing and maintaining long-term, sustained OHV recreation opportunities are dependent upon effective resource management practices. The OHMVR Division has monitoring programs in place to meet its mission and statutory requirements. Major programs include:

- effective trail layout, design, and maintenance;
- trail assessments and erosion control practices;
- stormwater management;
- air quality monitoring and dust control practices;
- ambient noise monitoring;
- invasive species management;
- monitoring programs that collect data on habitat, wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries;
- monitoring programs for protected species, such as flat-tailed horned lizard, California red legged frog, western spadefoot toad, California



least tern, and western snowy plover; and,

- extensive restoration programs that preserve habitat, conserve soils, and protect water quality.

The OHMVR Division is able to meet its management goals through the combined efforts of staff, local and state agencies, and stakeholder groups. At several SVRAs, stakeholders from different interest groups form advisory committees to assist in restoration projects, review draft plans and projects; and make recommendations to park managers.

The combined experience creates a greater understanding for, and appreciation of, the complexities of managing an OHV recreation program in a regulatory environment. These collaborative efforts provide the OHMVR Division and Districts with information needed to make informed management decisions and keep the OHMVR Program sustainable for the long term.

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural resources can include archaeological deposits, historic buildings, abandoned mines, and historic orchards. Archaeological sites have the potential to provide an understanding of past cultures—where we come from and how we are all connected. Cultural resources are often fragile,



non-renewable, and irreplaceable; once damaged their unique value to California's and our nation's heritage may be lost forever. Conducting cultural resource inventories is a critical tool for the OHMVR Division to identify cultural resources on land under its ownership, and occur in compliance with PRC Sections 5024 and 4024.1(g). OHMVR Division archaeologists implement several management practices to protect cultural resources that include:

- conducting thorough cultural resources inventories;
- evaluating identified cultural resources in terms of eligibility for listing on federal and state historic registries; and,
- consistent monitoring of significant historical resources.

OHMVR Division archaeologists rely on staff, archaeological volunteers from the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program, and Native American consultants in developing best management practices to protect cultural resources.

Did You Know?

Cultural resources can include isolated artifacts, archaeological sites, buildings, structures, or objects of art or decoration. Landscapes or culturally important natural features are also considered cultural resources.



Public Safety

OHV-Related Public Safety Program

The OHMVR Division Public Safety Program provides statewide leadership in OHV-related enforcement. Emphasis is placed on educating the public regarding OHV laws and regulations to encourage voluntary compliance and consistent enforcement to curb illegal activities and protect cultural and natural resources.



OHMVR Division law enforcement staff advise and assist city, county, and federal law enforcement agencies that provide public safety services related to OHV recreation. In addition to providing direct assistance through deployments to assist local law enforcement programs, they conduct training for these agencies to promote consistent statewide implementation of OHV laws. Staff also meet with stakeholders and law enforcement agencies around the state to identify issues, encourage partnerships, and resolutions to improve public safety.

Statewide OHV Law Enforcement and Sound Testing Training Classes

The OHMVR Division provides OHV law enforcement and sound testing training to local, county, state, and federal

agencies that offer OHV recreation opportunities to comply with PRC Section 5090.32 and Division 16.5 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC). The Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)-certified class applies toward the continued professional training requirement for law enforcement officers and is offered at no cost to the participants.

The six-hour POST-certified law enforcement class is intended for in-service law enforcement officers and other staff assigned to patrol, supervise or manage OHV areas, public safety, and educational programs. Through instructor presentation and hands-on activities, students learn how to apply California's OHV laws, OHV requirements, registration, equipment, spark arrestors, and an overview of the green sticker program.

The eight-hour POST-certified OHV sound testing class consists of instructor presentation and practical exercises. Participants learn the basics of human hearing and the effect of sound in the environment. They also learn how to use a sound meter and tachometer to



Did You Know?

From 2010 - 2016, law enforcement grant awards exceeded \$31 million.

measure sound levels on a variety of OHVs. Graduates of this course are qualified to provide court testimony for sound violations.

Law Enforcement Deployments

The OHMVR Division law enforcement staff collaborates with local and federal OHV programs to provide assistance during special events and busy weekends. Deployments provide additional law enforcement presence for education outreach and patrols that ensure a safe environment for OHV recreation. Special events and popular weekends include:

- King of the Hammers – an annual, weeklong event in Johnson Valley National OHV Recreation Area
- Hangtown MX – an annual motocross event in May at Prairie City SVRA



- Tierra del Sol – an annual 4x4 event spanning San Diego and Imperial Counties
- President’s Day weekend – a very popular weekend that draws thousands of people to BLM Imperial Sand Dunes OHV Area
- Summer on the Rubicon Trail – Holiday weekends in summer are popular days to enjoy this trail that runs through local towns in El Dorado County and the Eldorado National Forest



OHV recreation in California occurs in many areas, on lands administered by a wide variety of government agencies.

Managed use, overseen by trained and knowledgeable staff, is essential for all agencies in addressing the growing demand for OHV recreation opportunities statewide.

**Wildflowers
in the SVRAs**



California Poppy



Bentham Lupine



Coreopsis



Baby Blue Eyes



Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation

State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs)

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.

Carnegie SVRA

Located in Alameda and San Joaquin Counties. Serves California's thriving Bay Area communities with thrilling OHV hill climb opportunities.

Total Park Acreage: 5,058

Camping: Yes

Clay Pit SVRA

Located in Butte County. Clay Pit was formed when clay was mined for the Oroville Dam.

Total Park Acreage: 220

Camping: No

Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA

Located in Kern County. Second largest SVRA.

Total Park Acreage: 25,000

Camping: Yes

Heber Dunes SVRA

Located in Imperial County. Furthest southern SVRA, approximately 3 miles from the California/Mexico border.

Total Park Acreage: 341

Camping: No

Hollister Hills SVRA

Located in San Benito County. First SVRA, established 1976.

Total Park Acreage: 6,623

Camping: Yes

Hungry Valley SVRA

Located in Kern, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, it serves greater Los Angeles urban area.

Total Park Acreage: 19,000

Camping: Yes

Oceano Dunes SVRA

Located in San Luis Obispo County. Unique coastal dunes recreation.

Total Park Acreage: 3,600

Camping: Yes

Ocotillo Wells SVRA

Located in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Largest of the nine SVRAs.

Total Park Acreage: 85,000

Camping: Yes

Prairie City SVRA

Located in Sacramento County. Home to the world famous Hangtown MX event.

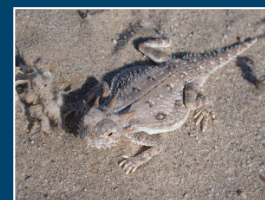
Total Park Acreage: 1,047

Camping: No

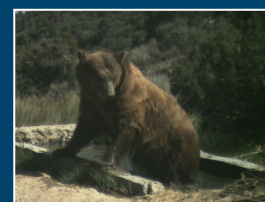
Wildlife in the SVRAs



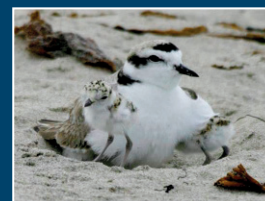
Mountain Lions



Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard

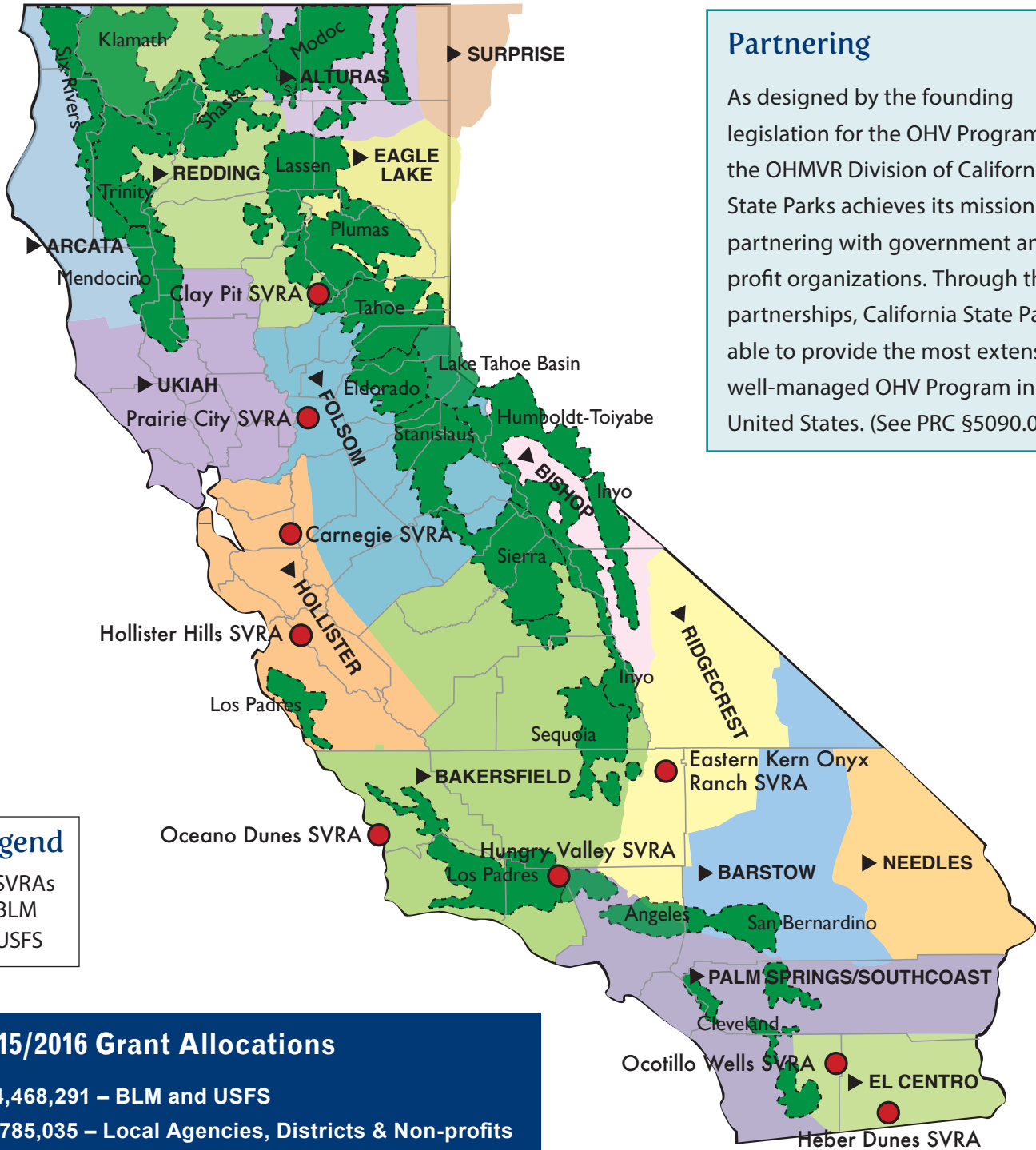


California Black Bear



Western Snowy Plover

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).)

Legend

- SVRAs
- ▲ BLM
- USFS

2015/2016 Grant Allocations

\$14,468,291 – BLM and USFS

\$8,785,035 – Local Agencies, Districts & Non-profits

**California State Parks
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division**

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