

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION

COMMISSION PROGRAM REPORT

SUMMARY



JANUARY 2014

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

Paul Slavik, Chair

Diana Pérez, Vice Chair

E. Theodore Cabral

Breene Kerr

Kevin Murphy

Edward Patrovsky

M. Teresa Villegas

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Retired)
Director
California State Parks

Colonel Christopher C. Conlin, USMC (Retired)
Deputy Director
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division



OHMVR Program Description

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 40 years to establish management practices that reduce or prevent damage to the environment from OHV activity. Through direct management of OHV areas and by partnering with other local, state and federal land managers, these principles of responsible OHV recreation have been applied to a statewide system of OHV recreation opportunities where visitors can fully enjoy California's spectacular outdoors.

The following pages contain many things that should make us proud. The early vision of Legislators Gene Chappie and Ed Z'berg are manifest in a vibrant statewide network of recreation areas, education tools, and resource management programs that have become models for others. The vast majority of our OHMVR areas are characterized by responsible recreation and resource conservation. This result has been the product of a host of devoted volunteers, State Park staff, federal partners, state agencies, academic institutions, recreation advocates, and state and local representatives.

Under the leadership of California State Parks Director Major General Anthony L. Jackson (Retired) and our new OHMVR Division Deputy Director Christopher Conlin, OHV recreation's future in California is brighter than ever. Since the passage of Senate Bill 742 in 2007, the reconstituted OHMVR Commission has had a successful

working relationship with State Park's OHMVR Division staff which has resulted in a win-win for all the citizens of California. We are moving forward with land acquisition projects needed to accommodate expanded ecologically balanced OHV recreation desired by Californians. Funding for the land acquisition projects has been set aside in the OHV Trust Fund.

In 2014, California's OHMVR Program will be faced with many opportunities. The demand for outdoor recreational opportunities by California citizens continues to increase. OHV recreation is a substantial economic engine in California, supporting jobs, local enterprise, and national, state, and local tax revenue. Providing authorized areas for OHV recreation diminishes OHV trespass on private and public lands. Additionally, OHV recreation gives people with mobility challenges access to public lands they might not otherwise be able to experience. California's continued support of the OHMVR Program ensures that managed ecologically balanced OHV recreation opportunities remain available.

In closing, the OHMVR Commission hopes that the 2014 OHMVR Commission Program Report will be a valuable tool for decision makers in our government and provide comprehensive information to those individuals who are engaged in public land issues. We firmly believe in the importance of OHV recreation to our families, especially in this age of electronic media. As California State Parks commemorates its 150 year anniversary, we join with our colleagues in that celebration as OHV recreation is one important part of that great history. ❖

OHMVR Program Goals

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



Vision Statement

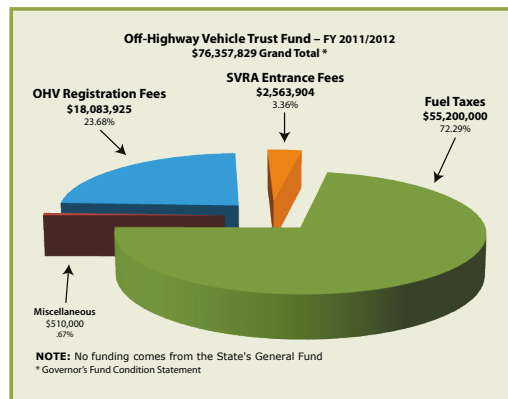
The OHMVR Division will assure ongoing access to a wide variety of high quality OHV recreational opportunities through our commitment to prudent resource management, outdoor recreation, community education, and environmental stewardship.

Program Funding

OHV Trust Fund

The OHMVR Program receives no 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
- OHV registration fees
- Entrance fees collected at the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs)



Fuel tax transfers to the OHV Trust Fund were once calculated based on statewide studies that estimated the total gallons of gasoline burned in the course of OHV recreation. Legislation passed in 2007 (SB 742) established that future transfers would be based on the percentage of fuel taxes transferred in 2007, rather than depending on studies to estimate the amount of gasoline burned by OHVs. In 2011, legislation was passed that reduced these transfers by \$10 million annually.

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



OHV registration is commonly referred to as a "Green Sticker." In 2007, with the passage of SB 742, OHV registration fees were doubled from \$25 to \$50 for a two year registration. This 100% increase in registration fees was supported by OHV and environmental organizations. In 2009, the OHV registration fees were raised another \$2 to bolster the portion of the fees directed to the CHP (the OHV registration fees transferred to CHP have

no restrictions related to uses associated with OHV recreation or enforcement). OHV registration fees are currently \$52 every two years. Of this amount, \$33 is directed to the OHV Trust Fund, and the remainder is distributed to the CHP, California Department of Motor Vehicles, and to counties (in-lieu of property taxes).

The funding model for the OHV Program is based around users funding the program primarily through gas taxes and registration fees, rather than relying on gate fees. Gate 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. ❖

Governor's Proposed Budget Restores OHV Trust Fund

The Wall of Debt is the state's most immediate liability constraining the ability of the state to emerge from its fiscal troubles.

*The Budget reduces this debt by more than \$11 billion this year, and fully eliminates it by 2017-18. No longer will billions each year be needed to pay for the expenses of the past, instead of meeting current needs.**

Figure INT-06
Budget Plan Would Eliminate the Wall of Debt
(Dollars in Billions)

	End of 2010-11 ^{1/}	End of 2013-14 ^{2/}	End of 2014-15 ^{3/}	End of 2017-18 ^{3/}
Deferred payments to schools and community colleges	\$10.4	\$6.1	\$0.0	\$0.0
Economic Recovery Bonds	7.1	3.9	0.0	0.0
Loans from Special Funds	5.1	3.9	2.9	0.0
Unpaid costs to local governments, schools and community colleges for state mandates	4.3	5.4	5.4	0.0
Underfunding of Proposition 98	3.0	2.4	1.8	0.0
Borrowing from local governments (Proposition 1A)	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deferred Medi-Cal Costs	1.2	1.8	1.7	0.0
Deferral of state payroll costs from June to July	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0
Deferred payments to CalPERS	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0
Borrowing from transportation funds (Proposition 42)	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0
Total	\$34.7	\$24.9	\$13.1	\$0.0

^{1/} As of 2011-12 May Revision

^{2/} Based on 2013 Budget Act policies

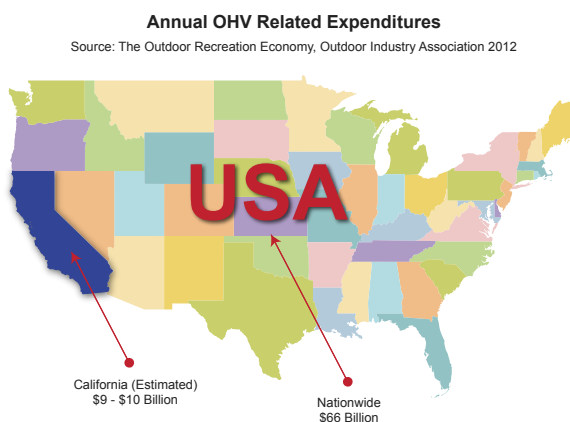
^{3/} As of 2014-15 Governor's Budget

* Governor's Budget Summary 2014-15, Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Economic Benefits

California's OHMVR Program—A 40-Year-Old Economic Generator

OHV recreation is essential to the American economy with an estimated \$66 billion in direct annual OHV-related expenditures nationwide. (Source: Outdoor Industry Association, 2012.) The benefit to California's economy is evident in the sales of OHVs, Recreational Vehicles (RVs), trailers, toy haulers, and parts/accessories. OHV recreationists occupy hotel rooms and campgrounds, and buy groceries and fuel throughout California. ❖



Did You Know?

In 2012, SVRA visitation totaled more than 2.7 million.

Did You Know?

More than \$9 billion is spent on OHV-related activities in California annually.



Did You Know?

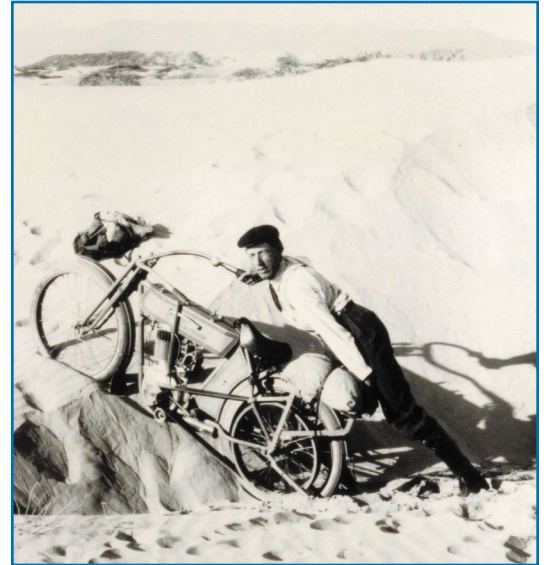
Each year, from March 1 through September 30, Oceano Dunes SVRA closes off approximately 300 acres to protect nesting habitat for western snowy plovers and California least terns that nest on the ground in open sand habitats.

OHV Program History

40 Years of Responsible Stewardship

When the OHV Program was created in 1971, it was set up as a temporary program with a sunset date. The sunset date has been extended numerous times. The most recent extension of the program was a ten-year extension included in SB 742, authorizing the Program to continue until 2018. By that date, the OHV Program will have been in existence for nearly 50 years. The Program is now well established, with a long history of providing for high-quality motorized recreation opportunities while ensuring long term environmental sustainability. The OHV Program is an integral component of achieving the mission and vision of California State Parks, which is:

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued



natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

With a new State Parks leadership team firmly in place, and the Parks Forward initiative well underway, California's OHMVR Program continues to serve the people of California. ❖





MILESTONES OF THE OHMVR PROGRAM 1971-2013

1950-1960

1953 First Jeepers Jamboree run on Rubicon Trail

1968 Honda motorcycle sales exceed 1 million

1970

1971 Chappie-Z Berg Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act

1972 OHV Gas Tax Act

1974 First OHV Grants awarded to local governments

1975 Hollister Hills SVRA opens

1976 Ocotillo Wells SVRA created

1977 OHV Grants authorized for federal agencies

1979 First OHV Grants awarded to BLM & USFS

1980 Hungry Valley & Carnegie SVRAs opened

1981 Clay Pit SVRA opens; Ocotillo Wells opens & General Plan adopted

1982 OHMVR Division & Commission created; Oceano Dunes SVRA opens

1983

1985 OHV registration fees increased from \$15 to \$20

1986 Safety & Education Grants authorized

1987 ATV training required

1989 Prairie City SVRA opened

1990

1991 Prairie City SVRA General Plan adopted; Oceano Dunes SVRA General Plan amended

1994 OHV registration fees increased from \$20 to \$21; OHV Trust Fund established

1996 Class action lawsuit required repayment of \$9.6 million taken from OHV Fund

1996 CA Desert Protection Act established reducing OHV recreation lands by 6.4 million acres

1997 Non-emission compliant OHVs issued Red Stickers

1998 Nonresident OHV Use Permits required for all out-of-state unregistered OHVs

2000 Off-Highway Vehicle Stakeholders Roundtable created

2001 Hollister Hills SVRA General Plan amended

2002 Off-Highway Vehicle Act of 2003 enacted

2003 CHP increases OHV registration fees from \$21 to \$25

2004 1991 Soil Conservation Guidelines / Standards revised

2005 Law enacted prohibiting OHV operation in federal and state wilderness areas

2006 Parents can be cited for allowing their children under age 14 to operate an ATV without supervision or a safety certificate

2007 OHV registration fees doubled from \$25 to \$50; Heber Dunes SVRA opens

2007 SB 742 enacted

2008 Renz Property at Hollister Hills SVRA opened

2009 OHMVR Division Strategic Plan published; OHV registration fees increased from \$50 to \$52

2009 \$22 million loan to General Fund

2010 \$21 million loan to General Fund

2011 Heber Dunes SVRA General Plan adopted

2011 \$10 million from Motor Vehicle Fund Account redirected to General Fund

2012 Clay Pit SVRA General Plan adopted; OHMVR Program 40th Anniversary

2013 ROV helmet law enacted

2010 2011 Commission Program Report published

2010 \$7 million from Motor Vehicle Fund Account redirected to State Parks & Recreation Fund

2010 Rubicon Trail easement agreement between El Dorado County & USFS

2010 Grants Program launched internet-based Grant Management System (OLGA)

2010 Number of OHMVR Commissioners increased from 7 to 9

2010 Avoid Sensitive Areas

2010 Do Your Part

2010 TreadLightly!

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OHMVR Division Grants Program

Grants and Cooperative Agreements

To achieve the various goals and mandates of the OHMVR Program, the Division makes grants and cooperative agreements available to local, state, and federal entities, Native American tribes, educational institutions, and eligible non-profit organizations through the Grants Program. Division staff ensure the appropriate use of these funds and monitor projects for OHMVR Program compliance. Staff also work with and provide technical assistance to the various entities to identify appropriate projects for future funding, help identify solutions to OHV related issues, and provide training to assist with the grant application process.

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 2011, the BLM has been awarded more than \$4.6 million in grants from the OHV Trust Fund for restoration projects.

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 \$170 million in grants from the OHV Trust Fund since 1974.



OHMVR Program Facts

Since 1974
awarded **OVER \$454,544,000**
in GRANTS

Administered
3,079
GRANTS since 1974

In 2013
OVER 2,000
students received
ATV Safety Training

VOLUNTEERS *contributed*
41,689 HOURS
in 2011

AWARDED OVER \$6,000,000
in *Grant Funding* TO
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES in 2013

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.

Public Outreach

Education and Hands-on Training Programs

With the increased interest in OHV recreation, the Division has developed a comprehensive, statewide education campaign that is essential to increasing understanding and appreciation for California's diverse OHV opportunities, natural and cultural resources, and the importance of recreating responsibly.

Education, interpretation, and outreach are accomplished through a variety of programs, activities, and special events. This includes campfire programs, guided riding tours, desert animal exhibits, 4x4 history tours, and the Junior Ranger Program.

The 2013 OHMVR Education Program focused on attracting audiences through use of mechanical devices, hands-on interactive curriculum, and a Tread Lightly!® component to teach safe, environmentally responsible and ethical OHV operation to parents and children.

OHV Safety Simulator



The safety simulator is a mechanical device that hydraulically replicates the angular movements of an OHV traveling uphill, downhill, traversing hills left and right, and cornering. Regardless of the type of OHV, the simulator allows the rider to apply "active-rider" techniques in a controlled environment.

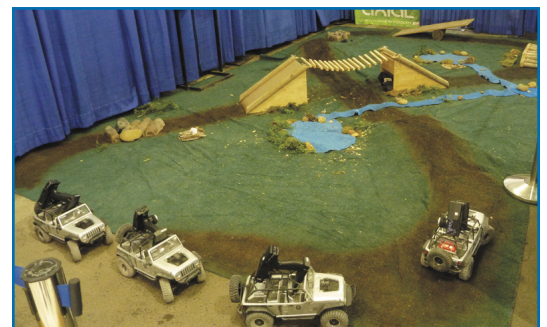
Ride Safe!

An OHV safety-themed interactive video game was developed by OHMVR Division staff. The Ride Safe! educational computer game is used to supplement OHMVR Division outreach efforts and teach safe, environmentally responsible OHV recreation practices.



Remote Control (R/C) Jeep® Tread Lightly!®

Children learn Tread Lightly! principles and then apply them using R/C Jeeps® as they navigate through a course simulating the kinds of 4x4 terrain drivers are likely to encounter. ❖



Public Safety

OHV-Related Public Safety Program

The OHMVR Division Public Safety Program staff of rangers and superintendents provide 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 aimed at curbing illegal activities. Staff members 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 implementation of OHV laws. Staff members also meet with stakeholders and law enforcement agencies around the state to identify issues, encourage cooperation, and facilitate solutions. ❖



Resource Protection

Natural and Cultural Resources

Natural Resources

The Division is mandated to ensure that OHV recreational areas are managed for long term environmental sus-



tainability, and comply with applicable environmental laws, guidelines, and regulations. State Park environmental scientists continually monitor conditions in the SVRAs and develop and implement sound resource management practices. Responsibilities include monitoring the condition of soils and wildlife habitat, habitat restoration, and project planning and assessment for compliance with applicable laws. Adaptive management techniques are incorporated into on-site management activities within the SVRAs. Activities also include reviewing and monitoring grant and cooperative

agreement funded projects, and providing expertise and assistance to grantees and other providers of OHV recreation throughout the state.

Cultural Resources

To preserve and protect the many pre-historic and historic cultural resources located throughout the SVRAs, the Division employs cultural resource specialists to inventory, record, and monitor these non-renewable assets.

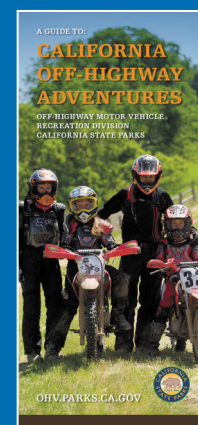
Cultural resource specialists work directly with SVRA managers to ensure such sites and values are protected on an ongoing



basis. These specialists ensure Division compliance with state and federal cultural resources protection mandates. ❖

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.



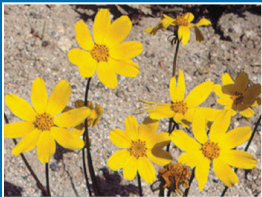
**Wildflowers
in the SVRAs**



California Poppy



Bentham Lupine



Coreopsis



Baby Blue Eyes



Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation

State Vehicular Recreation Areas

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

2012 Annual Visitation: 77,965

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

2012 Annual Visitation: 17,559

Camping: No

Heber Dunes SVRA

Located in Imperial County. Furthest southern SVRA, approximately 3 miles from the California/Mexico border. Recreational oasis in an area dominated by agricultural fields.

Total Park Acreage: 341

2012 Annual Visitation: 21,945

Camping: No

Hollister Hills SVRA

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

Total Park Acreage: 6,623

2012 Annual Visitation: 147,898

Camping: Yes

Hungry Valley SVRA

Located in Kern, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Serves greater Los Angeles urban area, provides recreational connection to Los Padres National Forest.

Total Park Acreage: 19,000

2012 Annual Visitation: 143,976

Camping: Yes

Oceano Dunes SVRA

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

Total Park Acreage: 3,600

2012 Annual Visitation: 1,674,386

Camping: Yes

Ocotillo Wells SVRA

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

Total Park Acreage: 85,000

2012 Annual Visitation: 506,250

Camping: Yes

Prairie City SVRA

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

Total Park Acreage: 1,047

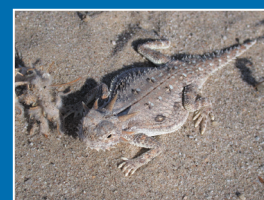
2012 Annual Visitation: 115,378

Camping: No

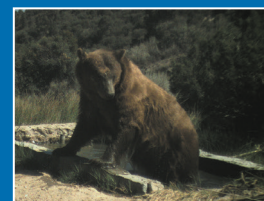
Wildlife in the SVRAs



Mountain Lions



Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard



California Black Bear



Western Snowy Plover

See map on back cover.

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.

OHMVR Division Grants Program

Grant Funding Recipients During the 2012/2013 Grant Cycle

Local Agencies

Alameda County Sheriff's Office
 Alpine County Sheriff's Office
 Amador County Sheriff's Office
 Butte County Sheriff's Office
 Calaveras County Sheriff's Department
 City of California City
 City of Hesperia Police Department
 City of Lompoc
 City of Porterville Parks and Leisure Services
 Colusa County Sheriff's Office
 El Dorado County Sheriff's Department
 El Dorado County Transportation Department
 Fresno County Sheriff's Office
 Humboldt County Sheriff's Office
 Imperial County Sheriff's Office
 Inyo County Public Works Department
 Inyo County Sheriff's Department
 Kern County Sheriff's Office
 Lake County Sheriff's Office
 Lassen County Sheriff's Department
 Lompoc Valley Park & Recreation Pool
 Foundation
 Los Angeles County Department of Parks
 and Recreation
 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
 Los Angeles Police Department
 Madera County Sheriff's Department
 Mendocino County Sheriff's Office
 Mono County Sheriff's Department
 Napa County Sheriff's Office
 Nevada County Sheriff's Office
 Placer County Department of Public Works
 Placer County Sheriff's Office
 Plumas County Sheriff's Office
 Ridgecrest Police Department
 Riverside County Sheriff's Department
 San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
 San Diego County Sheriff's Department
 San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department
 Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation
 Department
 Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation
 Department
 Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department
 Yolo County Sheriff's Office
 Yucca Valley Police Department

Districts

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Nonprofit Organizations

California Recreation Alliance
 California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC)
 CEMX INC
 Desert Group Search and Rescue Volunteer Inc.
 Eastern Sierra Atv Adventure Trails
 Friends of El Mirage
 Friends of Jawbone
 Lassen Land and Trails Trust
 Los Exploradores Search and Rescue Inc
 Rescue 3 Inc.
 Sierra Avalanche Center
 Southern California Mountains Foundation
 Student Conservation Association
 The Watershed Research and Training Center

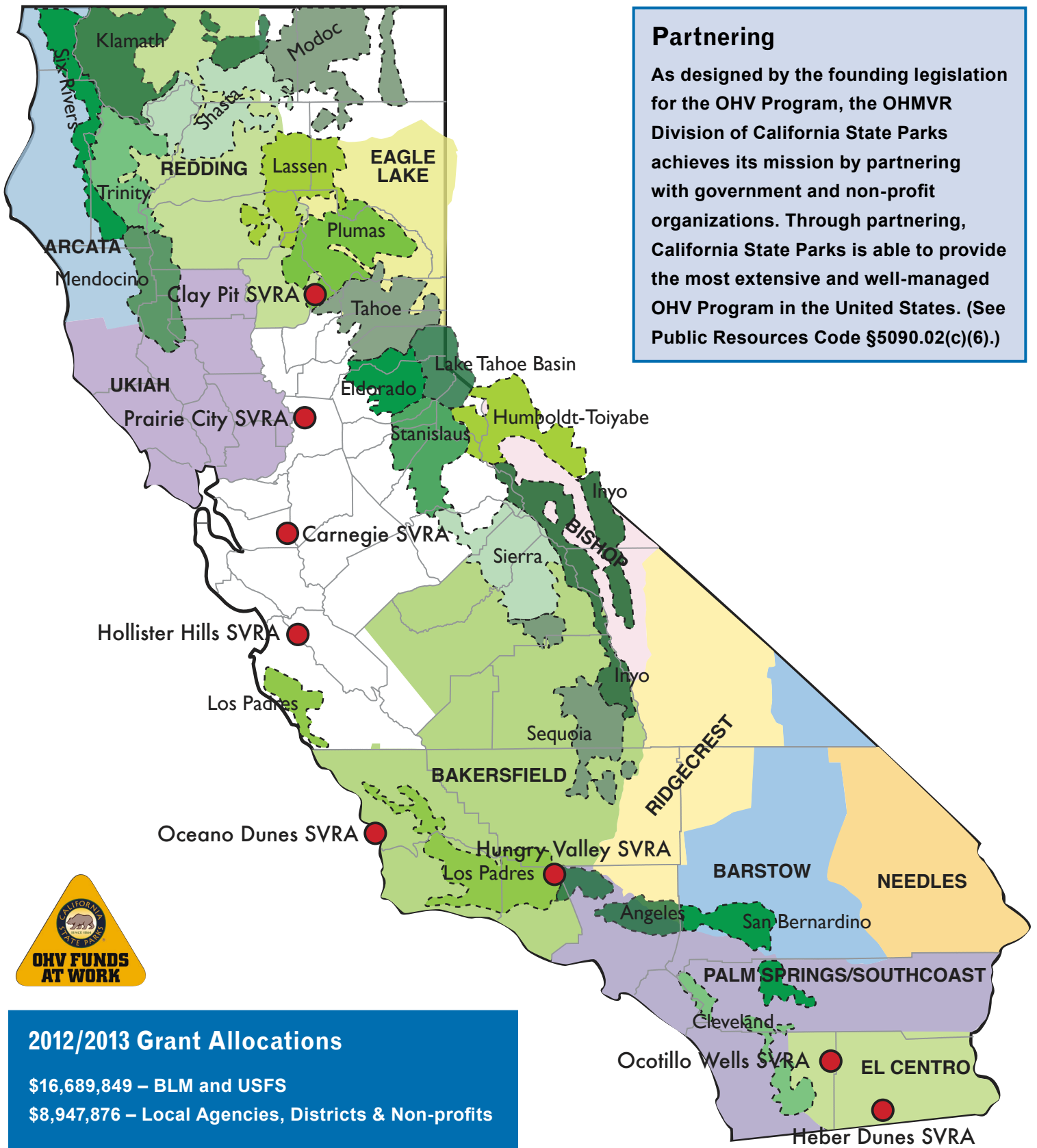
BLM

Arcata Field Office
 Bakersfield Field Office
 Barstow Field Office
 Bishop Field Office
 Eagle Lake Field Office
 El Centro Field Office
 Needles Field Office
 Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
 Redding Field Office
 Ridgecrest Field Office
 Ukiah Field Office

USFS

Angeles National Forest
 Cleveland National Forest
 Eldorado National Forest
 Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
 Inyo National Forest
 Klamath National Forest
 Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
 Lassen National Forest
 Los Padres National Forest
 Mendocino National Forest
 Pacific Southwest Region
 Plumas National Forest
 San Bernardino National Forest
 Sequoia National Forest
 Shasta-Trinity National Forest
 Sierra National Forest
 Six Rivers National Forest
 Stanislaus National Forest
 Tahoe National Forest

Federal Agency Partnerships and SVRAs



California State Parks
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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