



## OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Graeagle, CA 96103-1466

June 3, 2016

**STAFF REPORT:** California Statewide Motorized Trail  
**STAFF:** Katie Metraux, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** California Statewide Motorized Trail Overview

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### Summary

Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 5090.44 directs the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to assist in designating corridors for the California Statewide Motorized Trail (CSMT). The CSMT would consist of corridors that are designated and maintained for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. This report describes CSMT statutory requirements, and provides an historical overview and related efforts.

### Discussion

The requirement for the CSMT is contained within the PRC Section 5090.44:

*The division shall assist in the designation of corridors for a California Statewide Motorized Trail. The California Statewide Motorized Trail shall consist of corridors that are designated and maintained for recreational travel by off-highway motor vehicles, as defined in Section 38006 of the Vehicle Code, and that are designated for off-highway motor vehicle travel by the owner of, or other person or public entity having control over, the property traversed by the corridor. Portions of the California Statewide Motorized Trail may include lands designated and maintained as trailheads. The California Statewide Motorized Trail shall be selected and managed in accordance with this chapter. Trails designated pursuant to this section may be known as the California Statewide Motorized Trail.*

The CSMT (circa 2002) was not the first example of state law indicating the need for a statewide motorized trail approach. The California Recreational Trails Act of 1974 (PRC Section 5070) required the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to develop the California Recreational Trails (CRT) System plan. The CRT is comprised of seven recreation elements, one of which provided for OHV recreation areas and trail corridors. In compliance with the California Recreational Trails Act, DPR and the OHMVR Division produced a series of reports, proposed routes, and studies including the OHV element to the CRT with a contractor in the early 1980s. These reports provided the foundation for developing the OHMVR program we have today.

In the 1990s, the OHMVR Division participated in the effort to develop the California Backcountry Discovery Trail (CBDT) with other agencies and interest groups. The vision

of the CBDT was to provide a network of recreational trails from the Mexican border to the Oregon border. The multi-use trails would be open to OHVs, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians to provide access to other recreational areas, facilities, and scenic destinations. The OHMVR Division signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 1989 to coordinate and evaluate routes for the CBDT. In 1997, the OHMVR Division produced a CBDT strategy and trail use analysis. To date, the USFS developed several Back Country Discovery Trails in California that include access to limited OHV recreation opportunities.

In 2002, the California Legislature passed the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act (PRC Section 5090.01 et seq.), which reauthorized the OHMVR program and included the California Statewide Motorized Trail as a program element. The OHMVR Commission created an ad hoc committee in 2013 to gather information about the process of planning, designing, land acquisition, cost, and environmental documentation for the CSMT.

Several ongoing local and regional motorized trail efforts could potentially assist the CSMT. As an example, funding through the OHMVR Division Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program assisted in the designation of a motorized corridor for the Rubicon Trail, located in El Dorado County and the Eldorado National Forest. A list of local and regional motorized trail efforts is attached to this report (Attachment 1).

### ***Current Efforts***

Several stakeholder groups advocate for the planning, development, and maintenance of OHV trails, including the CSMT. The California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC) produces California OHV trail riding maps that include BLM, USFS, State Vehicular Recreation Areas, and local OHV trails, while promoting interagency collaboration in support of OHV recreation.

Going forward, a potential multi-year planning effort is envisioned to identify CSMT corridors and evaluate existing conditions of roads and trails that could allow OHV recreation. Public input would help determine CSMT uses, facilities, and potential trail corridors. In addition, environmental assessment of the CSMT program would be required to evaluate potential significant environmental impacts associated with the identified trail corridors.

### **Commission Action**

For information only.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1: CSMT Local and Regional Efforts Matrix

Agency or Interest Group	Trail Name	Description	Reference
Backcountry Discovery Routes	Currently developing the California Backcountry Discovery Route	“Backcountry Discovery Routes is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization whose mission is to establish and preserve off-highway routes for dual-sport and adventure motorcycle travel.” The organization works with agencies and land managers to keep lands open for motorcycle riding; promotes motorcycle safety and responsible riding; produces route maps, GPS tracks and trail advice; and keeps a photo and video archive of routes. There are Backcountry Discovery Routes in Utah, Washington, Colorado, Arizona, and Idaho.	<a href="http://www.backcountrydiscoveryroutes.com/CA/BDR">www.backcountrydiscoveryroutes.com/CA/BDR</a>
California Trail Users Coalition	Statewide Motorized Trail System	California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that promotes use of recreational trails on public lands. CTUC produces a series of maps that cover large portions of central and southern California. The CTUC maps indicate motorized routes that are a component of a “Statewide Motorized Trail System.”	<a href="http://www.ctuc.info/ctuc/index.php/maps">www.ctuc.info/ctuc/index.php/maps</a>
Inyo County Adventure Trails	Combined use designation of OHV trails	The designated trails would allow OHVs on some highways to provide riders access to businesses in Bishop, CA and the Owens Valley. This is a partnership between USFS, BLM, and Inyo County. The Board of Supervisors considered the Adventure Trails Project at a public hearing on January 22, 2014. According to the Inyo County website, “The Board certified the Environmental Impact Report for the project and at the request of the applicants approved 7 of the 38 proposed routes.”	<a href="http://inyoplanning.org/projects/AdventureTrails.htm">inyoplanning.org/projects/AdventureTrails.htm</a>
Lassen Land and Trails Trust	Modoc Line Rail Trail	The 85-mile rail trail runs from eastern Lassen County to southern Modoc County. The trail connects BLM lands at Biscar Reservoir to the Tule Mountain Wildlife Study Area. It is open to high-clearance highway vehicles, hikers, bikes, and equestrians. OHMVR Division grants assist in funding ground operations for the trail.	<a href="http://www.lassenlandandtrailstrust.org/modoc-line-rail-trail.html">www.lassenlandandtrailstrust.org/modoc-line-rail-trail.html</a>

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Oregon Off-Highway Vehicle Association	Oregon Backcountry Discovery System	The Oregon Off-Highway Vehicle Association (OOVA) manages the 1,500-mile Oregon OHV trail system. An Oregon State Parks grant program paid for the initial work on the trail system. OOVA worked with federal agencies and land managers to complete and sign the trail system. The association provides maps and other information.	<a href="http://www.oohva.org/">www.oohva.org/</a>
Siskiyou County, CA and Siskiyou County Off-Road Riders	State of Jefferson Trade Route	Working with the OHMVR Division, USFS, and CHP to develop a plan for the OHV trail, including crossing points on highways.	<a href="http://www.themccloudblog.com/everything/the-state-of-jefferson-trade-route/">www.themccloudblog.com/everything/the-state-of-jefferson-trade-route/</a>
Recreation Outdoors Coalition	Share the Dream Trail	The proposed 109-mile mixed use trail will encircle Lassen Volcanic National Park and is in addition to the Lassen Backcountry Byway.	
USFS	Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail	The 187-mile trail is divided into five sections; each section has an interpretive theme and discovery points. A Recreational Trail Program (RTP) motorized grant helped fund a detailed, 63-page <i>Lassen National Forest Backcountry Discovery Trail</i> guidebook (2007).	<a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5190656.pdf">www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5190656.pdf</a>
USFS	Modoc Backcountry Discovery Trail	The 200-mile trail lies within the Modoc National Forest and has 42 miles of alternate (more challenging) trails. Much of the trail is single lane and unpaved. The trail goes through public lands and private property. There are 22 discovery points along this trail.	<a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5319748">www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5319748</a>

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USFS	Plumas Backcountry Discovery Trail	The 150-mile trail goes through the Plumas National Forest. The mostly unpaved roads are maintained for four-wheel-drive (4WD) and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV). There are 71 miles of alternate, more challenging trails and 30 discovery points along this trail. An RTP-motorized grant helped fund a detailed, 62-page <i>Plumas National Forest Backcountry Discovery Trail</i> guidebook (2013).	<a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5428383.pdf">www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5428383.pdf</a>
USFS	Six Rivers and Mendocino National Forest segments of the California Backcountry Discovery Trail	The California Backcountry Discovery Trail goes through the Six Rivers and Mendocino National Forests. The trail segment is roughly 200 miles in length and has discovery points.	<a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mendocino/recreation/recarea/?recid=25232">www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mendocino/recreation/recarea/?recid=25232</a>
USFS	Travel Management Planning	In the mid-2000s, the OHMVR Grants Program authorized a series of planning grants to fund USFS travel management efforts.	<a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/travelmanagement">www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/travelmanagement</a>
USFS and El Dorado County	Rubicon Trail	The historic and challenging 22-mile 4x4 trail goes through Placer and El Dorado Counties. In 2010, water quality concerns and easement issues threatened to close the trail along the portion of the Rubicon Trail from the Wentworth Springs Campground to the El Dorado County (County) line. The County and USFS applied for funding through the OHMVR Division Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program to fund acquisition and planning activities that assisted in the designation of the trail corridor. The OHMVR Division also provides law enforcement patrol, education, and outreach efforts as part of a Memorandum of Understanding with the County and the USFS to maintain the trail corridor.	<a href="http://www.edcgov.us/Government/Rubicon/Video_-_The_Rubicon_Trail_Easement.aspx">www.edcgov.us/Government/Rubicon/Video - The Rubicon Trail Easement.aspx</a>