

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 3:02 p.m.

Orange County Fair and Event Center
Admissions Building, The Orange County Room
88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Paul Slavik, Chair
Breene Kerr, Vice Chair
E. Theodore Cabral
Kevin Murphy
Edward Patrovsky
Diana Pérez
M. Teresa Villegas

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

OHMVR DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director
Phil Jenkins, Division Chief
Maria Mowrey, Administrative Chief
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel

OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 a.m.

- (B) Roll Call – Seven Commissioners present at time of roll call. Two Commission Member appointments vacant.
- (A) Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Patrovsky

AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Commissioner Kerr and seconded by Commissioner Villegas. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM III (A) – APPROVAL OF MAY 3, 2013, MINUTES

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Villegas and seconded by Commissioner Kerr. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM III (B) – APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2013, MINUTES

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Patrovsky and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion carried with Commissioner Kerr abstaining.

AGENDA ITEM IV – COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- Commissioner Cabral reported that he has been talking with the U.S. Forest Service about a number of issues, including the Statewide OHV Trail, reclassification of roads, and volunteerism. He also reported that he and Commissioner Pérez participated in a tour of the Clear Creek Management Area that showcased the status of the closure and provided background on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) position. He further stated Congressman Farr's proposed legislation may be the best approach for reopening the area to OHV recreation. He encouraged the OHV community to contact Congressman Farr's office and express their interest in reopening the area.
- Commissioner Patrovsky reported that he met with Ken Anderson, assistant to San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood, to discuss the creation of an OHV Commission that would look at the existing ordinance to see how it could be improved or modified. He has also been involved with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) law enforcement program.
- Commissioner Villegas reported that she and Commissioner Pérez scheduled a number of meetings on August 14 and 15 in Sacramento to discuss payback of loans from the OHV Trust Fund. Although she was unable to attend the meetings with key staff from the Senate and Assembly, she made some contacts and had numerous follow-ups with key staff and members of the Assembly and Senate Budget Committee. She reported that Commissioner Pérez obtained letters from the Department of Justice stating the Commissioners were not out of line requesting payback of the funds. Commissioners Villegas and Pérez have also scheduled meetings with staff from the Latino Caucus, and on October 3 a follow-up tour at Oceano Dunes with Catherine Freeman from the Senate Budget Committee.
- Commissioner Kerr spoke about the increase in sales of entry-level motorcycles and that quite a few new riders are not comfortable riding on the streets when they first get their licenses. He has been asked on numerous occasions if there were opportunities available where they could learn how to ride. He speculated on whether or not the SVRAs could provide this type of environment for first-time riders, on- or off-highway licensed, and felt it could be beneficial to everyone. He suggested including this topic in a future agenda.
- Commissioner Slavik reported on the following:
 - He thanked the Sand Sports Super Show staff, in particular Don Murphy and Sean Parker, for their help integrating the OHMVR Commission meeting into the show's events. He also acknowledged Bob Mason, American Sand Association, and told the Commissioners Mr. Mason would be giving a short presentation after the close of the meeting.

- He went on a site visit with Rob Edelman to San Gabriel Canyon, a small Los Angeles County park funded through the OHV Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program (Grants Program).
 - He attended the Rubicon Jeepers Jamboree event. A short slideshow with event photos was presented.
 - He and Tina Williams, OHMVR Division staff member, met with Martin Payne, a staff member from Senator Mimi Walters office, and presented an overview of the OHMVR program. Chair Slavik stated that Mr. Payne would be presenting certificates to several nonprofit organizations during the meeting.
 - He attended a LA County meeting where discussions were held about the proposal for a new OHV park outside the town of Littlerock.
 - He noted he had invited local legislators to the meeting, but they were all too busy. He acknowledged the following people attending today's meeting: Dan Knapp, Los Angeles Conservation Corps; Paul Patrono, ROHVA; Gary Higgins, American Honda; and Martin Payne, Senator Walters' office.
- Commissioner Pérez reported on the following:
 - She attended a tour of Clear Creek Management area with Commissioner Cabral, General Jackson, Deputy Director Conlin, and Congressman Farr.
 - She attended the funeral of Paul Teixeira, San Luis Obispo County Supervisor.
 - She has made efforts to meet with the Director of the Sierra Club, Andrew Christy, but he has been unavailable.
 - She met with some legislators and asked them about the repayment of the loans.
 - She met with Deputy Director Conlin and Chief Aaron Robertson.
 - She would be attending the October 3 Oceano Dunes tour with Commissioner Villegas and Catherine Freeman, Budget and Fiscal Review Committee analyst.
 - Commissioner Murphy thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Chair Slavik thanked the Commissioners for their reports. He informed the public that there would be a tour of the Sand Sports Super Show after the meeting adjourned.

Chair Slavik encouraged the public to participate in the Meet and Greet that would be held in the Courtyard on Saturday, September 21.

AGENDA ITEM V – BUSINESS ITEMS – TRIENNIAL REPORT

OHMVR Division Planning Manager, Dan Canfield, provided an update on the 2014 Triennial Report. The OHMVR Commission has the responsibility of reporting to the Governor and the Legislature on the status of California's OHMVR Program every three years. The Triennial Report is due January 1, 2014. Chair Slavik and Commissioner Pérez are on the subcommittee.

Mr. Canfield spoke about the progress of the Report, indicating that more photos, charts, and graphs would be included in the next draft. He also said additional content is under development for Report Requirements 2 and 3.

He asked the Commissioners for feedback on the following items:

- Provide staff with a single overriding strategic report theme that could be used to tie the various sections together.
- Provide feedback on any additional content that may need to be developed.
- Provide feedback on specific content that should be included in the Executive Summary document—the second document the Commission has asked for that will summarize the formal report.

The Commissioners submitted the following suggestions / comments regarding the report:

Commissioner Kerr:

- Include information on attendance at the SVRAs.
- He congratulated staff on the contents and progress of the report to date, and felt it will be a very valuable reference document.
- Include information on the loss of OHV recreation opportunities.

Chair Slavik:

- Suggested attendance information be included in the “statistics” box located at the beginning of each SVRA overview.
- Include attendance in the Executive Summary document.
- Include information about the reduction of land available for OHV recreation.
- Include a feature on the Clear Creek Management Area.

Commissioner Murphy:

- Place attendance information in a chart for comparison purposes.
- Include photos highlighting families, natural resources, and wildlife.
- Include a feature on the Clear Creek Management Area.

Commissioner Pérez:

- Include attendance in the Executive Summary document.
- Include California map showing SVRA locations.
- More photos showing cultural diversity.

Commissioner Cabral:

- Include information on the economic impact of OHV recreation.

Commissioner Villegas:

- She liked the natural resources section.
- Include information on best management practices (BMPs) illustrating good land stewardship.

Discussion was held on the inclusion of attendance information in the report.

Mr. Canfield recommended adding the information to the “statistics” box and creating a comparison chart so the Commissioners can take a look at the different methods of presentation and provide feedback during the Draft 2 review process.

Discussion was held on the economic impact content. Chair Slavik said the information, as currently presented, was somewhat confusing. The content will be revised and a chart or graph added. Chair Slavik thanked the Motorcycle Industry Council for providing some of the economic impact data.

Mr. Canfield acknowledged Commissioner Villegas' request to include BMP information. He suggested a feature in Report Requirement 4 about Hungry Valley SVRA's monitoring practices and how it differs from the bird monitoring at Carnegie SVRA.

Discussion was held about adding more information regarding the trends in cultural diversity and the increase in Hispanic visitation. Commissioner Villegas suggested including this information in the attendance analysis. Chair Slavik commented on the fact that approximately 80 to 90 percent of the visitors to the San Gabriel Off-Highway Vehicle Area are Hispanic which demonstrates a definite cultural shift from 15-20 years ago.

Discussion was held about including information on the reduction in OHV recreation opportunities. Chair Slavik and Commissioner Kerr requested this information be included in the Executive Summary. Commissioner Kerr suggested a graphical depiction of green sticker registrations and available OHV opportunities. He felt this information would show legislators the deficits in their districts and specific areas of the state like Los Angeles and San Diego. Commissioner Murphy concurred and suggested incorporating information on the increase in OHV recreation over the past 10-20 years. He stated this information could demonstrate the need for more recreation areas and how that would benefit the environment by dispersing the activities over a larger area.

Commissioner Cabral would like to emphasize the need for more urban area parks. He felt it was important to have areas like the dirt bike training center at Prairie City SVRA where beginners and youth can learn how to properly operate OHVs and be taught the importance of environmental responsibility.

In response to comments about limiting report content to the SVRAs, Mr. Canfield stated the report is an update on the statewide system which includes SVRAs, BLM and USFS lands, as well as local parks.

In response to a request to include a feature on the Clear Creek Management Area, Chief Jenkins suggested a brief status update. Deputy Director Conlin proposed including this information in the discussion on the decrease in recreational opportunities. He also recommended discussing the need to develop new opportunities closer to population density centers with high green sticker registration.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TRIENNIAL REPORT

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Ed Waldheim, CTUC, Friends of Jawbone, and Friends of El Mirage
- Jim Bramham
- Tom Tammone

AGENDA ITEM VI(A) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director Conlin thanked the Commissioners and the public for their continued participation and involvement in the OHMVR Program. He also thanked the staff from

the Sand Sports Super Show, the American Sand Association, the United Desert Gateway, and the Orange County Fair Event Center for hosting the meeting.

He encouraged members of the public attending the Sand Sports Super Show on Saturday to stop by the Meet and Greet area where they will have an opportunity to talk with the Commissioners and staff.

AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) – BUDGET UPDATE

OHMVR Division Administrative Chief, Maria Mowrey, provided a budget update recapping the following items:

- Governor Brown signed the 2013/14 budget on February 27, 2013.
- \$59 million allocated for support of the OHMVR Division and SVRAs.
- \$26 million appropriated for the Grants Program.
- No new capital outlay projects were approved.
- Two capital outlay projects were re-appropriated:
 - \$30 million for a Southern California opportunity purchase.
 - \$600,000 to continue the Carnegie Road Reconstruction Project.
- Repayment of a 2010 loan of \$21 million was extended from June 30, 2014, to June 30, 2016.

In response to Commissioner Kerr's inquiry about the Hollister Hills SVRA water and sewer system project delay, Matthew Allen, Hollister Hills SVRA District Services Manager, said staff requested the delay because the project would impact all three campgrounds in the Lower Ranch. The bid process will begin in the spring with construction starting in June when the Park has lower visitation.

In response to Chair Slavik's question about the re-appropriated \$30 million capital outlay, Ms. Mowrey confirmed the funds are for the Onyx purchase.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's question about receiving more detailed information on the loan transfers, Ms. Mowrey directed him to Addendum A, OHV Trust Fund Loans, Transfers, and Redirects, attached to the Budget Report. The Addendum lists the fiscal year the action occurred, the amount, repayment dates, and legislative language. Deputy Director Conlin stated it would be a good tool to use if the Commissioners had an opportunity to talk to legislators about the loans. He also stated that in order to ensure the Program is fiscally sound, the OHMVR Division plans to develop a repayment plan to present to the Legislature.

Commissioner Villegas requested a list of all major and minor projects be presented at the next Commission meeting. She would also like to know the difference between a major and minor project.

In response to Commissioner Kerr's concerns that no additional acquisitions were listed in this year's budget, Deputy Director Conlin assured him that the Onyx Ranch purchase does not have a negative impact on other potential acquisitions. He stated the General wants to open more urban-type parks, and the OHMVR Division has received encouragement from the Department to look for potential opportunity purchases.

Commissioner Kerr expressed a desire to open at least one more park in San Diego County, and potentially Los Angeles County, sometime in the next five years.

Commissioner Pérez expressed a desire to see more improvements on existing SVRAs. Chief Jenkins provided a brief overview of the project planning and funding process.

Commissioner Cabral expressed concerns about the OHMVR Program's ability to maintain fiscal sustainability. He suggested the issuance of a specialized license plate for street legal vehicles that also recreate off-highway in order to generate funds from that recreation group.

In response to Chair Slavik's interest in researching potential urban park locations, Chief Jenkins briefly mentioned three projects that will be highlighted in more detail during the Grants Program Report. He further stated that the Grants Program and law enforcement teams frequently meet with local community leaders to discuss the development of these types of legal riding opportunities.

AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) – EASTERN KERN COUNTY ACQUISITION UPDATE

Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presented a report on the Proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition, formerly known as Onyx Ranch. Funding for the acquisition was re-appropriated in the 2013/14 Budget Act, and staff is working with California's Public Works Board to obtain their approval for the project. The CEQA EIR will be finalized and published soon.

AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) – OCEANO DUNES PMRP UPDATE

Brent Marshall, Oceano Dunes SVRA District Superintendent, presented a report on the Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP). The SVRA encompasses about 3,600 acres with approximately 1,500 acres open to OHV recreation. The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) identifies OHV use on the 1,500 acres as the primary source of elevated particulate matter. As a result, in November 2011 the APCD issued Rule 1001 that established a rigorous compliance schedule which, if unmet, could result in fines up to \$1,000 per day. No fines have been levied to-date because all tasks outlined in the compliance schedule have been met. Tasks included the installation of temporary monitoring towers and equipment designed to map wind patterns and dust producing processes. Temporary monitoring has been completed and collected data is being analyzed. District Superintendent Marshall noted concerns exist about future compliance given unreasonable time allowances for agency review. He further noted that given concerns about Rule 1001 and Rule 302, which governs permit fees, the Attorney General's Office was filing a petition to the Court of Appeals requesting a stay of the pending appeal to allow time for mediation with the California Air Resources Board.

Commissioner Pérez inquired about the implications of the permit to operate, and Commissioner Kerr requested a report on the status of complying with the permit fee requirement. In response, Deputy Director Conlin spoke about the precedent setting language in Rule 1001 defining the SVRA as a pollution-creating entity that needs a Permit to Operate, and how this may have statewide implications for any state-owned entity.

Even though the OHMVR Division applied (under letter of protest) for a Permit to Operate by the July 31, 2013, deadline, the Division and the SVRA continue to offer alternate approaches to comply with Rule 1001. These alternate approaches include operating under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for dust control activities and implementing BMPs that have been successful in reducing dust in other SVRAs. In addition, the OHMVR Division is a partner in an appeal regarding the court's ruling finding Rule 1001 valid.

In response to Commissioner Villegas' inquiry about how many other parks operate under an MOU, Deputy Director Conlin told her Ocotillo Wells and Hollister Hills SVRAs have MOUs with their local APCDs for mitigation of dust.

Discussion was held regarding the number of visitors utilizing Oceano Dunes SVRA each year and the tremendous economic stimulus to the surrounding communities. Deputy Director Conlin said the level of OHV activity and the size of the area being used for OHV recreation has diminished over the years. He further stated, with the population increase on the Mesa there has also been significant deforestation in the area. The detailed wind mapping data will provide information to compare OHV recreation areas with non-recreation areas. Because this is a naturally-forming dune complex that results from a combination of tides, waves, and dramatic wind, dust control may be impossible.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Jim Bramham
- John Ellis
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Mesonika Piecuch, Kern County ORV Watch and Alliance for Responsible Recreation
- Ed Waldheim, CTUC, Friends of Jawbone, and Friends of El Mirage
- Tom Tammone

In response to public comment regarding the emissions legislation, Commissioner Cabral stated he was completely confident that with the technology and fuel injection currently available, OHV recreation vehicles will be able to meet the smog standards.

Commissioner Slavik was encouraged with the improvement in communications between State Parks and the OHMVR Division.

In response to public comment regarding the Parks Forward Commission, Deputy Director Conlin reminded everyone Parks Forward was created by the Legislature and still forming its charter. He also discussed the DRECP and said he was the representative for all of State Parks.

AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) – SVRA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Dan Canfield, Planning Manager, presented a status update on the General Plans stating there are currently three active General Plan projects—Prairie City SVRA,

Ocotillo Wells SVRA, and Carnegie SVRA. In response to the Commission's request to be more involved in the General Plan process, Mr. Canfield said the Carnegie SVRA preferred planning concept will be available for public review during the next scheduled Commission meeting. This will provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear public comment and provide feedback on the project.

In response to Commissioner Kerr's inquiry about the status of Prairie City's General Plan, Mr. Canfield said the General Plan EIR Notice of Preparation was issued June 18. Prairie City SVRA is in the preliminary phases of the General Plan update. The project team is currently conducting a visitor-use survey on the General Plan website—PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com. Completion of the General Plan is targeted for 2015. He also stated that General Plan updates are not necessary prior to an acquisition, but need to be completed if there are proposed changes to land uses.

Responding to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry about attendance at the June 10, 2013, Carnegie General Plan meeting, Mr. Canfield stated 205 people attended the meeting and more than 800 public comments were received through the project website. Chief Jenkins commented that the intent of General Plan public meetings is to provide an unbiased opportunity to allow everyone to have input into the process.

A brief discussion was held regarding East Bay Regional Park District's interest in the Carnegie General Plan. Deputy Director Conlin stated he, along with State Parks' senior leadership, would be meeting with them in about a week to discuss the issues.

Discussion was held regarding the next steps for the Carnegie General Plan. Mr. Canfield said the team was in the process of looking at all the input and developing a preferred concept, which was scheduled to be released in October. In response to Commissioner Kerr's inquiry, Mr. Canfield said the General Plan may be ready for the Commission's review and adoption in the spring of 2014. Discussion was held on how soon the Park could begin infrastructure improvements after adoption of the General Plan. The first step will be the development of a master plan, then the OHMVR Division will have to work through the State budgeting process to obtain funding for projects.

AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) – GRANT REGULATION CHANGES / AWARD UPDATES

Noelle Nichols, OHMVR Division Grant Administrator, presented a report on the update to the Grants Program Regulations. Submission of the final Regulations to the Office of Administrative Law is expected to occur in October in order to have the new Regulations ready before the 2014 Grants Program cycle begins in January.

Discussion was held on the challenges facing federal agencies due to the sequestration and recent forest fires. Deputy Director Conlin stated these challenges have created a more urgent need for the Grants Program, and the OHMVR Division's continued support of the federal partners. He further stated the Grants team has been meeting with potential applicants to educate them about the Program. They are also focusing on potential restoration projects and encouraging nonprofits to apply for grants.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry about the Grants Program Regulations providing ways for the Division to recoup Grants Program monies if an area closes to

OHV recreation, Deputy Director Conlin said the Division would look at each situation on a case-by-case basis and could potentially request a pro rata return of funds.

Discussion was held on the percentage of funds available for Grants Program application categories and subcategories.

Ms. Nichols presented an update on the Grants Program final awards. She called attention to three projects that meet the criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 5090.24 (f), which states the Commission has a responsibility to review all plans for new and expanded local and regional vehicle recreation areas that are funded through the Grants Program.

Discussion was held on the rate increase at Imperial Sand Dunes.

AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(2) – LEGISLATION UPDATE

Tina Williams, OHMVR Division Public Relations and Communications, presented an update on legislation. She reported that Senate Bill (SB) 234 was signed by the Governor and chaptered. SB 234, authored by Senator Mimi Waters, is known as the ROV bill.

AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(3) – PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Mike Lair, OHMVR Division Public Safety Section, reported on the POST-certified law enforcement classes held at different locations throughout the state. Since January, 43 officers from six different agencies have been trained. The classes focus on laws specific to OHV recreation to ensure consistent application of these laws throughout the state.

Mr. Lair briefed the Commissioners on upcoming law enforcement / outreach deployments. During the week of Thanksgiving, the team would be in the Red Rock / Jawbone area. Discussions are on-going with Johnson Valley BLM law enforcement staff regarding providing assistance at the 2014 King of the Hammers event.

Final law enforcement Grants Program awards were made to 67 applicants totaling approximately \$6 million.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Tom Tammone
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Ed Waldheim, CTUC, Friends of Jawbone, and Friends of El Mirage
- Jim Bramham
- Mesonika Piecuch, Kern County ORV Watch and Alliance for Responsible Recreation
- Helen Baker, California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA)
- Paul Vitrano, Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA)

In response to public comment regarding lack of four-wheel drive opportunities in the Carnegie SVRA General Plan, Deputy Director Conlin reminded commenters of the need to work together as the planning process proceeds.

AGENDA ITEM VI(C) – U.S. FOREST SERVICE REPORT

Kathleen Mick, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Regional Office, introduced Ramiro Villalvazo, Director for Public Services, Recreation Lands and Special Uses. Mr. Villalvazo expressed gratitude for the relationship the Forest Service has with the Division and the Commissioners. He discussed the challenges they face each year trying to maintain and manage the recreation areas and the importance of OHV Grants. He also discussed the Rim Fire and the restoration work that will be needed. Mr. Villalvazo expressed appreciation for the trail riders who volunteer their time to help with restoration, maintenance, and trail use education. He acknowledged the economic benefit OHV recreationists contribute to the national economy—approximately \$346 billion last year. In closing, he announced that Randy Moore, Regional Forester, will sign a proclamation in support of the California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights.

In response to Commissioner Murphy’s concern that existing trails in the Rim Fire area may not be reopened, Mr. Villalvazo assured the Commission there is a commitment to the designated trails and routes that have been identified as appropriate within Travel Management Plans, but temporary closures may occur due to loss of vegetation. If routes were going to close, the Forest Service would need to go through the NEPA process, which would give the public an opportunity to get involved.

A brief discussion was held about the difficulties with legal OHV access between the Los Padres National Forest and Hungry Valley SVRA. Chair Slavik requested the situation be brought to the attention of Randy Moore.

Mr. Villalvazo expressed his sympathy regarding the fatality involving Shane Krogan, President of the High Sierra Trail Volunteer Association.

Deb Costa, San Bernardino National Forest, presented a slideshow highlighting Grant-funded projects. She also discussed the importance of their partnerships with numerous organizations. They currently have ten active Grants projects totaling approximately \$1.3 million; one of their partners, Southern California Mountain Foundation (formerly San Bernardino National Forest Association), has four active Grants totaling \$1.8 million. Grant funds are used for trail maintenance, green sticker road maintenance, restoration, facilities and work centers, habitat and soil monitoring, law enforcement, and staff for the volunteer program. Grants Program funds are also used for educational tours presented twice a year by the Program Field Manager.

Ms. Costa spoke about the Adopt-a-Trail Program which provided 18,000 volunteer hours in 2012 from approximately 52 associations and agencies. An Adopt-a-Trail Junior Ranger program has also been developed.

Kathleen Mick provided an update on Travel Management and discussed the different subparts of the 2005 Travel Management Rule. Subpart A deals with the travel analysis process; Subpart B is route designation; and Subpart C involves the snow program.

The U.S. Forest Service has initiated Subpart A. At the end of the travel analysis process, a Travel Analysis Report will be released which will contain the methodology for the analysis, as well as maps outlining opportunities for changes to a National Forest transportation system. Only those opportunities proposed for actual changes on the ground would be analyzed under NEPA. Phase 1 of Subpart B has been completed and prohibits cross-country travel throughout the State unless it's in an area designated for such travel. Ms. Mick also provided an update on subsequent Subpart B actions, including that the Eldorado National Forest 42 routes project would soon be reopening 24 routes.

She discussed the Regional Forester's decision to settle the lawsuit against the Travel Management Rule specific to Subpart C. They are proceeding with an appropriate NEPA analysis that will identify snow trails for grooming and address plowing activities relating to parking lots and trailheads. The analysis will consider a range of alternative actions that would result in varying levels of use. The draft of the NEPA documents is due by May 2015. As part of the settlement, snowmobile group have specifically been granted the opportunity to submit alternatives.

Ms. Mick reported on the Forest Plan Revision identifying three forests currently interacting with the new planning rule—the Sierra, the Inyo, and the Sequoia. She also suggested interested parties read Chapter 9 which deals with motorized recreation.

She also reported on the Government Office of Accountability (GOA) national audit and provided a summary sheet outlining the reasons for the study and its recommendations. She said trail and road systems are discussed and, sometime in the future, the Forest Service may need to prepare a trail master plan.

Another item of interest that could affect the OHV community is U.S. Forest Service CEs (categorical exclusions). A news release and list of frequently asked questions were presented to the Commissioners. The CEs allow the Forest Service to do on-the-ground-work to restore lands that are not part of the route system.

Ms. Mick addressed the challenges the Forest Service faces in order to provide recreation opportunities for side-by-sides. Currently, side-by-sides can recreate on trails that are 50 inches or greater in width, and on Level 2 roads.

She also spoke briefly about the Rim Fire stating that there will be both short-term and long-term closures to the trail system to ensure public safety while they work on restoration projects. Additional discussions were held about other temporary and permanent trail closures, and the conversion of over 100 miles of road from Level 3 to Level 2 on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest to provide additional OHV opportunities and connectivity with existing routes. A brief discussion was also held on the possible return of Grant funds if staging areas and trails are permanently closed. It was noted that each situation had to be looked at on case-by-case basis.

AGENDA ITEM VI(B) – BLM REPORT

Jane Arteaga, OHV Lead, California BLM, provided the following updates:

- They are still waiting for congressional action on the Johnson Valley / Marine Corps acquisition.
- The Washington office is still reviewing the protest resolutions regarding the Clear Creek Management Area.
- Additional budget cuts of five to eight percent will occur for the next fiscal year. In addition, they have been directed to not fill vacant positions.
- Ms. Arteaga worked with the field offices on their Grants applications to make sure BLM could meet the required fund matching and had adequate staff to implement the project. She expressed appreciation for the funding that allowed the BLM to fill OHV positions.
- She spoke about the new seasonal permit that's been implemented at Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, and the role it plays in providing services to recreationists. They are continuing to look at ways to reduce costs without impacting the public.
- Ms. Arteaga reported on the Desert Renewal Energy Conservation Project (DRECP), one of the largest landscape-level conservation planning efforts in the desert. It is an innovative collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies to streamline permitting for renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and geothermal, as well as installation of transmission lines across 22.5 million acres of public and private lands while conserving biological and natural resources. In an effort to identify and mitigate impacts on recreation, the planning document has identified special recreation management areas (SRMAs). The SRMAs are utilized to preserve recreational areas which may include developed campgrounds, trails, interpretive sites, visitor centers, and other facilities, including OHV areas. The draft is expected to be released this winter. She encouraged the public to review the document and provide feedback.
- Ms. Arteaga acknowledged the BLM partners, like Friends of Jawbone, for their assistance with the program.

In subsequent discussion, Ms. Arteaga noted there has been an increase in use throughout the desert and requested that she be informed of specific issues or problems.

AGENDA ITEM VI(D) – LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Robert Edelman, Park Planner, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation presented a report on a proposed 550-acre OHV park near Littlerock. The County applied for an OHV Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$350,000. The Grant has been approved, and the County hopes to move forward with the land purchase in the very near future.

Chair Slavik asked Sergeant Roger Wallace to provide a brief law enforcement overview regarding the proposed project. Sergeant Wallace has been involved with OHV law enforcement in Los Angeles County for 8 to 10 years. The new park would be patrolled

by the three one-man patrol cars that currently handle Antelope Valley. In addition, he suggested dedicated law enforcement patrolling on motorcycles in the park as well as within a three to four mile area around the park to prevent illegal trespass. He also felt this project would be a tremendous opportunity for Los Angeles County.

A website has been developed that provides updates on the status of the project. Mr. Edelman and Sergeant Wallace offered to arrange site visits for any interested parties.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS VI(B-D)

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Nicole Nicholas Gilles, American Sand Association
- Tom Tammone
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Ed Waldheim, CTUC, Friends of Jawbone, and Friends of El Mirage
- Jim Bramham

Discussion was held on the possibility of re-establishing the Education Committee.

Martin Payne, District Director for California State Senator Mimi Walters, presented the United Desert Gateway, the Southern California Mountains Foundation, the Friends of Jawbone, and the American Sand Association with certificates of appreciation.

Commissioner Cabral moved and Commissioner Patrovsky seconded to adjourn the Commission meeting at 3:02 pm. Motion carried.