U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
San Bernardino National Forest
601 S. Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909) 382-2600
http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf

News Update

For Immediate Release March 6, 2023 Media Contact: Adrian Escobido (909) 382-2788

Public comment period for off-highway vehicle grants now open

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif— Officials with San Bernardino National Forest are seeking comments from the public on two preliminary grants submitted to the State of California to help fund the forest's off-highway vehicle (OHV) operations. The draft applications, based on public and staff feedback given in February, seek to enhance ground operations and law enforcement functions:

- Ground operations requests funding for route monitoring and maintenance; facility operations and
 maintenance at five staging areas, six trailering sites and three campgrounds; habitat monitoring; soil
 conservation; archaeology site steward program; and new equipment to monitor trails.
- Restoration requests funding for staffing and equipment to restore natural habitats in and around OHV trails and staging areas.
- Law enforcement requests funding for staffing and equipment to enforce regulations.

Comments are required to be submitted to California State Parks via their website under the "Grants." Comments will be accepted from March 7 to May 1, 2023 (by 5:00 p.m. PDT).

Forest staff will review and consider the public comments, and then submit their final grant applications by June 5, 2022.

The full proposals can be read at California State Parks' OHV <u>website</u> on the <u>Grants and Cooperative</u> <u>Agreements Program webpage</u>. Use the "Public Review Instructions" guide on the left sidebar menu for help searching for applications and submitting comments.

Hard and digital copies of the grants are additionally available by contacting Kyle Silva at kyle.silva@usda.gov.

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