



File Code: 2350

Date: March 7, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

As an advocate of recreation and resource management activities on the Mendocino National Forest, you are receiving this correspondence due to an expressed interest in the motorized recreation program. On behalf of the Mendocino National Forest, I am requesting your comments regarding our request for State Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) grant funding for the current Grants and Cooperative Agreements cycle. Following is a summary of the proposed projects for which we are seeking your input.

### **1. Ground Operations**

This request includes funding ongoing facility maintenance for the infrastructure supporting the Mendocino National Forest's world-class OHV program. OHV grant funds directly support operations at seven (7) OHV staging areas, campgrounds, and associated water systems, and RV dump stations, including cleaning, vault toilet pumping and garbage collection.

During routine facility maintenance and patrol, OHV and recreation technicians will provide hazard reduction, public service, information and education. Numerous signs, bulletin boards, interpretive kiosks, brochure and map dispensers are located at developed facilities and visitor information centers. These will be maintained to provide up-to-date, self-service public information.

The Ground Operations project also includes funding for trail maintenance activities. The amount requested will cover over 241 miles of designated OHV trails, supporting maintenance and conservation work using a combination of hand labor and mechanized equipment to meet established standards and guidelines. Costs include volunteer coordination and supervision in administering adopt-a-trail projects. Work will include repair of water control features along trails, restoring trail tread, and removal of trees and other vegetation from trail surfaces. Mechanical work will be accomplished using SWECO mini-trail dozers, mini-excavators and other equipment as needed. This request also includes funding assistance needed to accomplish associated wildlife habitat and soils monitoring programs required by OHV Grant and Cooperative Agreement Program regulations. All signing needs on designated routes will be covered by this request.

### **2. Restoration**

State OHV grant funding is also being requested to close and repair unauthorized trails within the 8,000 acre Goat Mountain area of the Grindstone Ranger District. Damage to natural and cultural resources, increased erosion, threats to water quality and wildlife habitat, as well as



increasing illegal route proliferation have led to the need for additional action to stop unauthorized, off-route use from occurring in this area. This project supports comprehensive resource management needs by eliminating identified OHV resource damage and repairing damage caused by unauthorized motor vehicle activities.

### **3. Planning**

One Planning grant is being developed for submittal with this funding request. This grant will provide design, layout, and environmental review associated with reroute of Trail 44 (Auk Auk Ridge) away from private lands. Reroute of this trail will allow for increased connectivity of motorized trails on the Grindstone Ranger District.

### **4. Law Enforcement**

This funding request, being submitted by the Forest Service Patrol Unit covering the Mendocino National Forest is for one year of law enforcement funding assistance to supplement ongoing OHV management operations. Activities will include providing public information, education and enforcement, incident management, resource monitoring and protection patrols, crime prevention, and signing consistent with the OHV Law Enforcement Plan for the Mendocino National Forest.

The Mendocino National Forest, with the assistance of Cooperative Agreements and other contributions, intends to meet its goals of maintaining a sustainable system of motorized routes for the public's use and enjoyment now and into the future. Your interest and input in the grant process is important in meeting these forest goals, and will assist us in continuing to provide high quality, sustainable off-highway vehicle recreation on the Forest.

From March 8 through April 4, the Preliminary grant applications may be viewed on the State of California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division website, at [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov). Instructions for viewing and commenting on grant applications may be obtained on the State website. Additionally, a link to the State website may be found on the Mendocino National Forest website at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino). The Mendocino National Forest would appreciate receiving your comments regarding these proposed grant requests.

If you have any questions regarding the Cooperative Agreement applications or the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation program on the Mendocino National Forest, please contact Forest Recreation Officer Tricia Christofferson at (530) 934-1167.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Thomas A. Contreras*  
THOMAS A. CONTRERAS  
Forest Supervisor