

Restoration

Project Description

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Background - Provide a brief description of the Applicant or Land Manager's organization/program (e.g., location and types of recreation available) - 4970.11(f)(A)

This project would monitor unauthorized/illegal routes and restore areas where incursions occur across the Forest. The Inyo National Forest was established on May 25, 1907 and includes much of the Eastern Sierra Nevada, and the White Mountains and Inyo Mountains of California and Nevada. The name "Inyo" comes from a Native American word meaning "dwelling place of the great spirit". The Inyo hosts several important landmarks, including Mount Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous United States; Boundary Peak, the highest point in Nevada; and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest that protects the oldest trees in the world. The Inyo also offers world class downhill skiing at Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain Ski Areas. The Forest, encompassing much of the Owens Valley, was established by Theodore Roosevelt as a way of protecting the watershed in order to deliver water to a growing population. This included sectioning off land to accommodate the Los Angeles Aqueduct project in 1907, making the Inyo National Forest one of the least wooded forests in the United States National Forest System.

The Inyo National Forest OHV program has 2,027 miles of OHV roads and trails which provide access to a variety of recreational opportunities. The Inyo provides five popular OHV accessible campgrounds (Hartley Springs, Glass Creek, Upper and Lower Deadman and Big Springs campground). The Inyo has nine OHV trailhead staging areas with OHV maps. All staging areas are located next to OHV routes and loops. The Inyo has approximately 118 miles of marked OHV loops (Mammoth to June, Mammoth Loop, Lookout Loop, Hartley Loop and Crater Loop.) All activities under Ground Operations occur within the jurisdiction of the United States Forest Service - Inyo National Forest.

The Inyo has an abundance of recreational activities, including camping, 4X4, hunting, backpacking, climbing, hiking, biking, fishing and backcountry skiing. Much of the Level 2 road system access these recreation opportunities. During the winter months there are approximately 250,000 acres of public lands available for OSV use. The Inyo grooms 90 miles of trail for OSV use, snowmobiling, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

Project Description - The Project Description shall provide sufficient clarity such that those not familiar with the Application or Project can understand what the Applicant intends to do - 4970.11(f)(1) Note: Do not add Project Deliverables in this box.

This project would monitor unauthorized/illegal routes and restore areas where incursions occur across the Forest. OHV technicians will monitor unauthorized routes Forestwide and will specifically focus on high recreation use areas such as Monache Meadows, Coyote Flat and the Mammoth Lakes area. Monitoring results as well as known existing restoration issues will help the Forest focus on OHV areas that are in high need of restoration work. This information will be gathered and stored using Survey123. Restoration work will include subsoiling unauthorized/illegal routes to promote faster vegetative recovery by allowing more moisture to get into the soil and create more ideal growing conditions for native plants. Subsoiling would also make the unauthorized/illegal route harder to drive on a less appealing to use. In addition to subsoiling, other restoration activities would include installing, replacing and maintaining OHV barriers blocking unauthorized/illegal routes, disguising unauthorized/illegal routes by mulching with native material, planting native plants and raking out areas of trespass. All of this work will be done using heavy equipment and OHV crews. Again this completed work will be gathered and stored using Survey123.

Project Description - 4970.11(f)(1)

List of Project Deliverables - 4970.11(f)(1)(B)

Provide a list of Project Deliverables the Applicant proposes to undertake

1. Is the Project seeking funding to complete CEQA and/or NEPA requirements and perform on the ground Project deliverables? Yes No

If Yes, list the CEQA/NEPA activities (Phase 1). If No, write N/A below.

N/A

Phase 2, if applicable. If not, fill out like regular Restoration Project.

#	Title	Project Deliverable Description
1.	Active Restoration Activities (earth moving)	Restoration of unauthorized routes that are receiving unauthorized use, including routes that have been previously identified and routes that are identified by monitoring during this project. Activities may include: - Planting native vegetation - Disguise unauthorized routes with native materials (e.g. vertical mulching) within line of sight of closure point or as determined by 2009 INF Travel Management Decision. - Breaking up (subsoiling) unauthorized route surfaces. - Repair drainage and sediment retention structures during previous restoration projects.
2.	Monitoring/Patrol	Restoration Site Monitoring: - Monitor current and planned restoration sites to detect changes in unauthorized OHV use, sufficiency of restoration measures, and to identify new restoration sites.
3.	Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and replace previously identified missing and damaged signs at access points to unauthorized OHV routes. • Repair, replace and install signs at locations that are identified by monitoring of unauthorized OHV routes. • Signs and markers will be outfitted with a reflective decal indicating the area behind the sign is closed to OHV.
4.	Fencing/Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilized fencing, barricades, boulders, and natural barriers to deter further illegal OHV use and encourage visitors to use designated OHV routes. • Repair and replace previously identified damaged barricades at access points to non-designated OHV routes and areas which are not designated for OHV. • Repair and replace additional damaged blocks that are identified by monitoring.
5.	Public Outreach/Visitor Services	Education will be conducted through public outreach at recreation sites, at visitor centers, on the Forest Service website and through the distribution of maps and literature by the Forest Service and partners. Forest Service personnel will engage and inform visitors about open routes and restoration activities. The Forest Service also will provide a free Motor Vehicle Use Maps, which are also available online. Kiosks at staging areas and campgrounds will include information about restoration activities, as well as maps that show open OHV routes.
6.	Scientific and Cultural Studies relating to OHV Recreation and its impacts	n/a
7.	Restoration Planning	n/a
8.	Other (unique to Restoration)	n/a
9.	Other (unique to Restoration)	n/a

10.	Other (unique to Restoration)	n/a
11.	Other (unique to Restoration)	n/a
12.	Other (unique to Restoration)	n/a
		n/a
		n/a
		n/a

Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage - 4970.11(f)(1)(C)

The routes proposed for restoration are currently closed per the 2009 Travel Management decision and Wilderness designations. The project area encompasses some of the highest use OHV locations across the Forest, and includes areas that are highly scenic and contain sensitive resources. A number of closed routes in these areas were not designated as part of the Forest's Travel Management Record of Decision (2009) because they were located within sensitive areas (for example meadow and riparian areas, sand dunes and sand flats with sensitive plant habitat, and cultural resource sites). Many of the routes that are not authorized for OHV use are still evident on the ground, though previous disguising and restoration efforts have accelerated their recovery to natural conditions. Monitoring has identified the closed routes with a high occurrence of vandalism and trespass.

Unauthorized travel by some OHV recreationists on closed routes has impacted water and soil resources, cultural and visual resources. Travel on closed routes has displaced soil leading to accelerated surface erosion and degradation of site quality. The steeper sections of the closed routes are especially prone to off-site erosion. In places, off-site erosion has covered native plants and led to stream sedimentation, negatively affecting riparian and aquatic habitat and downstream values such as municipal water supplies. Travel on closed routes has also alter natural drainage patterns in some areas by intercepting, diverting, blocking, and concentrating surface and subsurface flows. Trespass and vandalism of unauthorized routes retard the ability for the route to stabilize and re-vegetate and may introduce noxious/invasive weeds. Trespass into designated wilderness encourages further illegal motorized incursions and degrades wilderness character. In addition, some of the routes are located in highly visible areas where scenic quality has been impacted.

The intent of this project is to improve the Forest's response to off-route travel into closed areas. By immediately responding to new illegal trespass, disguising the damage, and reinforcing closures, it is hoped that other riders do not intentionally or inadvertently expand the illegal routes into a highly evident and damaging route. By repairing past closures as quickly as possible, the Forest should be able to prevent new recreational travel patterns from becoming entrenched. This project involves restoration activities that are an integral part of a safe and responsible, well-managed OHV program focused on providing a high-quality OHV recreation experience while minimizing impacts to natural resources. This project will reduce off-site erosion and sedimentation into waterbodies that provide water for the City of Los Angeles as well as for the Lee Vining, June Lake and Mammoth Lakes, to a lesser extent. Continued travel on closed routes or illegal incursions into closed areas such as designated wilderness by some OHV recreationists could result in responses by the public or the agency that would adversely affect OHV opportunities.

Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles - 4970.11(f)(1)(D)

The Project Areas will be implemented forest-wide they include (but are not limited to) the following key areas:

- *Glass Mountains Area*
- *Inyo Mountains Area*
- *Upper Buttermilk Area*
- *Coyote Flat Area*
- *Monache Meadows Area*
- *White Mountains Wilderness incursions*
- *Inyo Mountains wilderness incursions*
- *Owen's River Headwaters wilderness incursions*
- *Westgaard Pass Area*

- *Casa Diablo Area*
- *Mammoth-June OHV loops Area*

At the broadest scale, closed routes in other areas of the Forest may receive restoration treatments if monitoring shows new areas of resource impacts or new areas with trespass into closed areas. There are approximately 2027 miles of open OHV routes on the Forest in California, on approximately 1.1 million acres of non-wilderness land and Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA's) where issues of vandalism to existing closure structures and trespass into closed areas exist.

In addition to the direct acres restored and beneficial effects to additional acres including 9 acres in three Critical Aquatic Refugees (CAR's) which include habitat for Mountain Yellow Legged Frog and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, this project would directly restore habitat in the John Muir and Inyo Mountain Wildernesses by enhancing closures of routes that lead to these wildernesses. The Glass Mountain focus area contains a large number of meadows. Restoration proposed in this project would enhance meadow condition and hydrologic function.

Monitoring and Methodology - 4970.11(f)(1)(E)

Monitoring would be conducted by the Forest's OHV Technicians and volunteer organizations with direction from OHV Manager on a routine basis and by Forest resource specialists annually to determine the projects' effectiveness and need for additional treatments. The project will be successful if it meets the following criteria:

- No new impacts to heritage resource sites,
- No evidence of new (illegal) OHV use in closed/restored areas,
- Restored areas show signs of improved soil conditions, including reduced off-site soil erosion and vegetative recovery.

Monitoring would include the following methodologies:

Personnel would document observations (i.e. evidence of motorized vehicle incursions such as tire tracks, reports from the public or actual observations). If OHV use is still occurring or restoration areas are not showing signs of improvement, additional restoration work would be completed incorporating appropriate strategies to eliminate illegal OHV use and continue to improve resource conditions. These adaptive management strategies will ensure long-term success in these areas.

GPS recording and documentation in GIS will assist in tracking long-term trends in the effectiveness of closures in areas with recurring trespass or vandalism to closure points. Photo documentation of trespass, vandalism, and effectiveness monitoring (as recorded in photo-capable GPS units) will be recorded/stored in the GIS map layer directly.

Photo point monitoring and observations would determine if soil and vegetation conditions have improved. The Forest has developed a resource condition checklist that will be used to assess stability and recovery along closed routes. The checklist will be completed on a subset of routes to help determine if there are additional impacts to natural and cultural resources from unrestored closed routes. This is especially important in the Glass Mountains area due to sensitive spring and meadow habitats. Photo points would be established prior to the implementation of project activities. Pre- and post- project photos and observations would document the bare soil and vegetation conditions (i.e. percent ground cover, etc.). These photo points and observations would determine if vegetation cover is increasing as a result of project activities.

Formal site visits would occur on a subset of routes at least once per summer for the first two years following implementation. The Forest would prioritize monitoring routes within designated riparian conservation areas (RCAs) and complete the monitoring after snowmelt or a large rainfall event when evidence of erosion is most visible. The monitoring effort is expected to provide some indication of site stabilization and vegetation recovery to determine the success of the restoration projects or natural recovery. The Forest will conduct Best Management Practices (BMPs) effectiveness and validation monitoring (as described in 2011 Water Quality Management Handbook and BMP Evaluation Protocols and the 2012 National Core BMP's) and complete the "OHV Trail Condition Evaluation Form" as per the Soil Conservation Plan on a subset of closed routes to track the success of the restoration effort.

Depending on the success of the project, the restoration sites would be monitored at longer intervals during the next

10 years.

List of Reports - 4970.11(f)(1)(F)

Monitoring Report: Includes photo points and documented observations that would be produced and updated to include project planning (pre-project monitoring), implementation, and post project monitoring information. The monitoring report would also serve as an accomplishment report, and would describe the work that was completed.

Cultural Resources Report: This report by the Heritage Resource Specialist would review restoration efforts and re-enforcement of barriers near cultural sites to ensure project work does not cause additional damage.

Soil Conservation report and Best Management Practices (BMPs) reports: The Watershed Specialist would review and report on the condition of closed routes to document soil and vegetative recovery at project sites, and summarize results from the closed route checklist and photo monitoring. This information would be used for future restoration efforts to fine-tune techniques to match site conditions.

Botany report: The Forest Botanist's report would contain data on the areas that had been revegetated with either plants or seed from the native plant greenhouse, and the success rate of the revegetation. They would also note impacts to sensitive species and weeds in the area per Forest Service reporting requirements.

Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews - 4970.11(f)(1)(G)

The goals and objectives of this restoration project are to minimize trespass into unauthorized areas, increase vegetative recovery and eliminate impacts to soil and water resources caused by erosion occurring on unauthorized routes. To do this, Forest staff will assess past restoration efforts on unauthorized routes Forestwide as well as determine further restoration needs. If assessments show signs of trespass, lack of vegetative recovery and/or soil and water resource impacts from erosion then more restoration work will be prescribed and implemented on these unauthorized routes and areas. See the "monitoring and methodology" section for a more detailed explanation on methodology.

Plan for Protection of Restored Area - 4970.11(f)(1)(H)

The restoration areas would be a primary focus for patrols by OHV Technicians, Volunteers, OHV Manager, Forest Protection Officers, Forest Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs), and natural resource specialists as part of the ongoing monitoring, education, and enforcement efforts.

Most of the restoration areas are located in highly visible areas and would be patrolled regularly throughout the high use periods (May-October). In addition Forest personnel will visit a subset of restored routes to complete monitoring and evaluation throughout the high use periods (May-October).

As part of the restoration activities, barriers would be installed to keep motorized vehicles out of closed and restored areas. Signage would be installed and regularly maintained to ensure protection of the restored area. Monitoring, as described above, would also ensure project success.

Soil Control Efforts - 4970.11(f)(1)(I)

The Forest's Travel Management Record of Decision (ROD) (2009) largely explains displayed accelerated surface erosion, off-site erosion and stream sedimentation. The steeper sections of the closed routes are especially prone to off-site erosion. Soil control efforts will be designed to protect the riparian and aquatic habitat and municipal water supplies in these key areas. Restoration activities will be designed to reduce the amount of bare, compacted soil and allow for increased vegetative cover, both of which will increase on-site soil stability. Specific restoration techniques to protect soils include: blocking (using lumber or boulders), signage, subsoiling, native mulch, vertical mulching, planting native vegetation, and seeding areas with native plant seed. Revegetation of the native plant community is critical to minimize off-site erosion and stream sedimentation. Crews will re-vegetate the steeper sections of closed routes because these sections are especially prone to off-site erosion and stream sedimentation.

The monitoring and repair of barriers and previous restoration work will help deter new instances of trespass and

vandalism on unauthorized routes, which will increase the ability of routes to stabilize and re-vegetate. Routes that are revegetating also help prevent the introduction of noxious or invasive weeds. Invasive weeds are associated with adverse effects to soils.

The Forest has extensive experience in ensuring the effective application of restoration treatments and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the ground. Updating and refining BMP's is a result of knowledge gained from monitoring and evaluating previous applications. As stated in Section E (List of Reports), the Soil Conservation Report, the Best Management Practices report, the summary of the closed route checklist, and photo monitoring would document the implementation and effectiveness of erosion control efforts and resource concerns beyond the immediate closure point.

Through monitoring, adjustments to the restoration activities will be made as necessary throughout the life of this project.

District and County Information

California State Senate Districts

Select one or more of the California State Senate Districts where the proposed project activities will occur. Copy and Paste the URL (<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>) in your browser to determine the State Senate district(s).

- State Senate 04 State Senate 16

California State Assembly Districts

Select one or more of the California State Assembly Districts where the proposed project activities will occur. Copy and Paste the URL (<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>) in your browser to determine the State Assembly district(s).

- State Assembly 08 State Assembly 33

California Congressional Districts

Select one or more of the California Congressional Districts where the proposed project activities will occur. Copy and Paste the URL (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/CA#map>) in your browser to determine the Congressional district(s).

- Congressional District 3 Congressional District 20

County

Select one or more of the California Counties where the proposed project activities will occur.

- Inyo Mono Tulare

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Inyo National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G24-02-05-R01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Planning		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	This project would monitor unauthorized/illegal routes and restore areas where incursions occur across the Forest. OHV technicians will monitor unauthorized routes Forestwide and will specifically focus on high recreation use areas such as Monache Meadows, Coyote Flat and the Mammoth Lakes area. Monitoring results as well as known existing restoration issues will help the Forest focus on OHV areas that are in high need of restoration work. This information will be gathered and stored using Survey123. Restoration work will include subsoiling unauthorized/illegal routes to promote faster vegetative recovery by allowing more moisture to get into the soil and create more ideal growing conditions for native plants. Subsoiling would also make the unauthorized/illegal route harder to drive on a less appealing to use. In addition to subsoiling, other restoration activities would include installing, replacing and maintaining OHV barriers blocking unauthorized/illegal routes, disguising unauthorized/illegal routes by mulching with native material, planting native plants and raking out areas of trespass. All of this work will be done using heavy equipment and OHV crews. Again this completed work will be gathered and stored using Survey123.		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Total	Grant Req.	Match
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	1. Staff-OHV Restoration Technicians Notes : OHV Restoration Technicians forest-wide to monitor unauthorized routes, restore areas where OHV damage occurred, restore OHV incursions to closed routes. coordinate volunteer OHV restoration projects/activities. This would fund two Restoration OHV Techs for three	6234.0000	26.160	HRS	163,081.00	163,081.00	0.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2024
 Agency: USFS - Inyo National Forest
 Application: Restoration

3/1/2024

Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Total	Grant Req.	Match
years. Install signage to close roads and unauthorized routes. Educate visitors and public outreach to OHV recreationists. Install and repair fencing and barriers						
2. Staff-OHV Manager Notes : OHV manager coordinates and oversees all OHV restoration activities forest-wide. Ties to all deliverables \$14,984 per year for 3 years of restoration grant term. Response to division: OHV manager oversees day to day work activities of OHV restoration projects, plans, develops and executes OHV restoration work. They also provide field supervision, guidance of restoration technicians, and on the ground labor when necessary.	900.0000	50.340	HRS	45,306.00	35,306.00	10,000.00
3. Staff-Volunteer Restoration Projects Notes : Volunteers will install plants, barriers, signs and provide reports of OHV incursion into wilderness. Projects will occur in areas damaged by unauthorized OHV use.	900.0000	37.320	HRS	33,588.00	0.00	33,588.00
4. Staff-Botanist Notes : Botanist to oversee planting projects, growing of	300.0000	34.020	HRS	10,206.00	5,103.00	5,103.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Total	Grant Req.	Match
	native plants and works with OHV staff to plan restoration projects.						
	5. Staff-Archeologist Notes : Archeologist works with OHV staff to plan restoration projects. Checks the area to be restored for an archeological sites.	300.0000	34.020	HRS	10,206.00	5,103.00	5,103.00
	6. Staff-Wildlife Biologist Notes : Monitors threatened, endangered and sensitive habitats during OHV restoration projects.	125.0000	52.600	HRS	6,575.00	0.00	6,575.00
	7. Staff-Hydrologist	300.0000	52.600	HRS	15,780.00	0.00	15,780.00
Total for Staff					284,742.00	208,593.00	76,149.00
2	Contracts						
	1. Contracts-ACE Crew Notes : ACE crew or other would be used to complete work on the Inyo NF OHV program. The crew would be used to perform trail and road maintenance. Install rolling dips, cleaning out catch basins and lead off ditches. Install and fix OHV signs on loops and routes and signs on level 2 roads. Provide OHV data on projects needed and RYG monitoring.	1.0000	1000.000	EA	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	1. Materials / Supplies-Fencing, Barriers, Signs & Carsonite	3.0000	5000.000	EA	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2024
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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Total	Grant Req.	Match
<p>Notes : Purchase of barricades, fencing, and gates for closure and restoration of closed/illegal roads.</p> <p>Signage including carsonite stickers, reflective signs, wood signs, etc. to install on closed/illegal routes. to keep users on correct routes. These signs and stickers will directly be related to restoration projects.</p>						
<p>2. Materials / Supplies-Native plants, seed & planting supplies</p> <p>Notes : Inyo National Forest acquires native plants for restoration from a local cooperative native plant greenhouse. The facility propagates native grasses, forbs, and shrubs from locally collected seed for use in restoration projects. It is supported by the USFS, BLM, the University of CA, the CA Native Plant Society, and local tribes. Funds will support this effort through a paid agreement with the greenhouse operator. Providing planting soil, containers, facility maintenance supplies for planting, including stakes, seedling protector tubes, soil, fertilizer, water containers, etc. These supplies are for the growing of native plants at a cooperative partners greenhouse. Plants and seed developed through this program will be used to restore native plant communities on the closed routes.</p>	3.0000	3000.000	EA	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00
Total for Materials / Supplies				24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2024
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Total	Grant Req.	Match
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	1. Equipment Use Expenses-Fuel Notes : Fuel for UTVs and other equipment used during restoration projects.	1.0000	1000.000	EA	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
	2. Equipment Use Expenses-Equipment Maintenance Notes : Funding for equipment for UTVs and other equipment used during restoration projects.	1.0000	1500.000	EA	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Total for Equipment Use Expenses					2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
Total Program Expenses					312,242.00	236,093.00	76,149.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					312,242.00	236,093.00	76,149.00
INDIRECT EXPENSES							
Indirect Costs							
1	Indirect Costs						
	1. Indirect Costs-OHV Manager Administrative expenses Notes : Administrative costs covering salary, reporting, billing, mailing, etc. for forest-wide OHV Manager. Ties to all project deliverables	3.0000	6000.000	EA	18,000.00	15,000.00	3,000.00
	2. Indirect Costs-Forest Data Manager Notes : Forest Data Manager collects data on OHV users, trail conditions and areas that need restoration work.	150.0000	41.610	HRS	6,242.00	0.00	6,242.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2024
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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Total	Grant Req.	Match
3. Indirect Costs-Forest Public Affairs Officer Notes : Public Affairs Officer maintains the forest OHV webpage and social media. Attends public meetings and volunteer events.	75.0000	50.340	HRS	3,776.00	0.00	3,776.00
Total for Indirect Costs				28,018.00	15,000.00	13,018.00
Total Indirect Costs				28,018.00	15,000.00	13,018.00
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES				28,018.00	15,000.00	13,018.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				340,260.00	251,093.00	89,167.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2024
 Agency: USFS - Inyo National Forest
 Application: Restoration

3/1/2024

	Category	Total	Grant Req.	Match	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	284,742.00	208,593.00	76,149.00	
2	Contracts	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		312,242.00	236,093.00	76,149.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		312,242.00	236,093.00	76,149.00	
INDIRECT EXPENSES					
Indirect Costs					
1	Indirect Costs	28,018.00	15,000.00	13,018.00	
Total Indirect Costs		28,018.00	15,000.00	13,018.00	
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES		28,018.00	15,000.00	13,018.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		340,260.00	251,093.00	89,167.00	

Soil Conservation

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PART 1 - DETERMINE THE NEED FOR FULL SOIL CONSERVATION PLAN (SCP)

All Applicants submitting Projects involving Ground Disturbing Activities shall submit a Soil Conservation Plan that clearly identifies what proposed Project(s) will be addressed and how the Soil Conservation Standard will be achieved for each proposed Project. The Soil Conservation Plan must cover the combined Project Area of all proposed Projects with Ground Disturbing Activities.

Applicants able to certify that none of the proposed activities listed in the Application have potential to cause erosion or sedimentation which significantly affects resource values beyond the Facilities, or generate soil loss that exceeds restorability, shall submit the Soil Conservation Plan form only. Applicants who cannot certify that the proposed activities listed in the Application will have no potential to cause erosion or sedimentation which significantly affects resource values beyond the Facilities or generate soil loss that exceeds restorability shall submit the Soil Conservation Plan form and a Soil Conservation Plan (refer to 14 CCR Section 4970.06.3).

1. Do any of proposed Projects involve Ground Disturbing Activities? (If you checked YES, complete # Question 2. If you checked NO, stop here, and proceed to the Evaluation section). Yes No
2. Can the Applicant certify that none of the proposed Projects with Ground Disturbing Activities, including the OHV Recreation directly facilitated by these activities, have potential to cause erosion or sedimentation which significantly affects resource values beyond the Facilities, or generate soil loss that exceeds restorability? (If you checked YES complete SCP Form Item #2. If you checked NO, complete a Soil Conservation Plan at time of Final Application, and proceed to the Evaluation section). Yes No

SCP Form Item #2

Discuss the analysis and justification used to certify that the proposed Project, or OHV Recreation activity, does not have the potential to cause erosion or sedimentation which significantly affects resource values beyond the Facilities, or generate soil loss that exceeds restorability.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysis was completed for this project. In the 2009 Inyo National Forest Motorized Travel Management EIS, impacts from soil erosion and sedimentation were analyzed in depth. With the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) as stated in the EIS, it is not expected that there will be significant impacts from erosion and sedimentation. See attachments for further information.

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 2

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.)

- 76% or more (10 points)
 66% - 75% (7 points)
 51% - 65% (5 points)
 36% - 50% (4 points)
 26% - 35% (2 points)
 11% - 25% (1 point)
 10% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Cultural and Natural Resources that would be adversely impacted if the Project failed to be funded: 21

(Check all that apply)

- Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the National Register of Historic Places (3 points)
 Bodies of Water (e.g., stream, reservoir, canal, lake, etc.) (3 points)
 Soils- Potential for mass wasting (e.g., landslides, debris flow, excessive erosion, etc.) (2 points)
 Sensitive areas (e.g., Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, designated wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, etc.) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6)
[3]
 Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6)
[2]
 Other special-status species* (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3)
[3]
 Project is solely for Restoration Planning (No points)

Provide a detailed explanation regarding the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the item(s) checked:

This project occurs in watersheds which are tributaries of the Owen's River, which is a municipal water supply for Southern California. Many of the areas with closures occur in the vicinity of sensitive riparian and stream systems. This projects will monitor closed sites, repair vandalized closure structures, and previously disguised routes. The lack of vegetation cover and bare ground is leading to increased erosion, a potential decrease in site productivity and sedimentation into stream systems. If not funded impact in the John Muir, White Mountains, Owen's River Headwaters, and Inyo Mountains Wilderness areas; if not funded the following sensitive resources are effected: 2620 acres in 3 Critical Aquatic Refuges (CAR's); the project will help protect Mountain Yellow Legged Frogs and Federal Endangered Species Lahontan Cutthroat trout; A federally threatened species (refugia stock in O'harrell Creek) sensitive plant and animal species such as Mono Lake Lupine, Greater Sage Grouse and Wongs Spring snail.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. The primary reason for the Project is: 4

(Check the one most appropriate)

- Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
- Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
- OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
- Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
- Management decision (1 point)
- Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
- Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Provide a name and date of reference document that supports this Project:

The 2009 Inyo National Forest Travel Management EIS Chapter 3, Soil and Geologic Resources section pgs. 185-193, Water Resources section pgs 217-231 and botanical resources section pgs 263-27 outline the need to restore natural resource systems. The Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (2019) also describes the need to restore natural systems.

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation: 12

(Check all that apply) Provide a detailed explanation for each item checked below:

- Site monitoring to prevent additional damage (2 points)
[OHV technicians will periodically check on restoration sites to ensure OHV users are using the alternative routes and damaging the restoration area. Technicians will ensure signage and barricades are intact.]
- Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices (2 points)
[Project activities include maintenance and repair of vandalized barriers to limit and discourage motor vehicle incursions. Some of the barriers will be constructed of natural materials found on the forest. "H" barricades will be made of treated lumber. The Forest will be placing carsonite signs at closure points.]
- Use of native plants and materials (2 points)
[The Inyo National Forest has an agreement with the University of California and the Native Plant Society to grow native plants for OHV restoration projects. The White Mtn. Research center grows a variety of native plants for OHV restoration projects. Plants are planted by employees and volunteers while being supervised by the Inyo's Botanist.]
- Incorporation of universally recognized "Best Management Practices" (2 points)
[The Forest has extensive experience implementing Best Management Practices (BMP's). BMP's would be incorporated into barrier and additional disguising work to ensure water and soil quality as well as other forest resources are protected. BMP effectiveness and validation monitoring is conducted on a sub-set of restoration areas on a yearly basis to determine treatment effectiveness and to fine-tune treatment prescriptions.]
- Educational signage (2 points)
[The forest will be installing educational signage around restoration sites and cultural sites, letting OHV users know about the work going on. Tread Lightly! brochures will be available at visitor centers and OHV Campgrounds. Tread Lightly! information will be available at OHV staging areas in kiosk. The Forest will be placing carsonite signs at closure points.]
- Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area (2 points)
[Signature will direct OHV users away from restoration sites and on to correct MVUM (Motor Vehicle Use Map) routes.]
- Project is solely for Restoration Planning (No points)

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plan, route designation decision) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate)

- No (No points)
 Yes (5 points)

Provide name and date of the plan that supports the Project:

The 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act (wilderness). The Inyo National Forest Travel Management EIS Record of Decision (ROD, 2009); Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2004). Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan (2019). Joint Press release with BLM for public comments on OHV grants 2/13/2024.

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for all future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 3

(Check the one most appropriate)

- Applicant's or Land Manager's operational budget. Applicant will not apply for future Grants (5 points)
 Combination of OHV Trust Funds and operational budget (3 points)
 OHV Trust Funds (No points)

Provide a detailed explanation for checked statement:

It is anticipated that the Forest will utilize a variety of funding sources to support this project. The Forest has been actively utilizing internal funding sources such as Legacy Roads and Trails along with Watershed, Recreation and Knutson-Vandenberg (KV) funding to support these types of restoration projects. The Inyo N.F. will continue to utilize volunteers and partnerships to support future operational needs related to this project both with in-kind contributions and grant funding. Partners include Friends of the Inyo. Friends of the Inyo assist in coordinating volunteer opportunities for the Forest-wide OHV restoration activities.

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input prior to the preliminary Application filing deadline. Public input employed the following: 2

Provide a detailed explanation for each statement checked. Identify date(s) of meetings, location(s), participants, how public was notified of the meeting, and who hosted the meeting. Applicant must identify how distinct stakeholders are stakeholder to the Project. Do not include internal agency meetings or meetings that occurred more than 12 months prior to filing the preliminary Application:

Note: For any meeting held virtually, the Applicant must notify the Division prior to the virtual meeting by email at OHV.Grants@parks.ca.gov.

(Check all that apply)

- The Applicant initiated and conducted publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)

[OHV Public Meeting 02/21/2024 with BLM and partner Valley Outdoors. 14 members of the public attended the meeting. The Division was notified of the public meeting. Meeting was advertised on local radio, newspaper and on the Inyo National Forest webpage and Facebook page.]

- The Applicant held a meeting(s) with multiple distinct stakeholders separate from their general public meeting (1 point)
[OHV Stakeholders meeting 02/21/2024 with BLM and partner Valley Outdoors. Stakeholders included the Eastern Sierra 4WD Club, Mono County, Friends of the Inyo, Adventure Trails and The Dirt Ninjas. 11 stakeholders attended the meeting. Stakeholders were sent an email inviting them to the stakeholder meeting from the public affairs officer.]

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. Identify the number of organizations that will actively participate in the Project. Partners cannot include any unit of the OHVMR Division, subcontractors, any participant being paid by this OHV Grant and Cooperative agreement, or any Grantee receiving Grant funds for a Project in the Project Area as specified in this Application. 4

(Check the one most appropriate)

- 4 or more (4 points)
 2 to 3 (2 points)
 1 (1 point)
 None (No points)

List each partner organization(s) separately and provide a detailed explanation for how each partner will participate in the Project:

University of California & the California Native Plant Society will provide volunteer personnel and funding to assist in growing plants in the green house for the restoration effort.

Valley Outdoors will assist in fielding volunteers for OHV restoration projects. Including: labor, vertical mulch, replacing signs, monitoring, and providing work on OHV routes.

Eastern Sierra 4x4 Club will assist in fielding volunteers for OHV restoration projects. Including: labor, vertical mulch, replacing signs, monitoring, and providing work on OHV routes.

Tread Lightly! will provide education signage, posters and pamphlets for OHV users.

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will: (Respond ONLY if Restoration Project involves scientific and/or cultural studies.)

(Check all that apply) Provide a detailed explanation for each selection:

- Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
 Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
 Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
 Lead to direct management action (1 point)

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved (e.g., incursions are no longer occurring) prior to this Application: 3

(Check the one most appropriate)

- No (No points)
 Yes (3 points)

Provide a detailed explanation for the "Yes" response:

The cause of damage requiring restoration was the unmanaged off-trail and use of unauthorized routes in these areas. The 2009 Travel Management EIS designated a system of roads and motorized trails that essentially restricted motorized travel to designated routes. This project will help ensure that closed areas by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (Wilderness Act) of 2009 stay closed. Restricting motorized access to designated areas addresses the underlying issue of unrestricted access causing impacts to critical natural and cultural resources such as accelerated soil erosion, stream sedimentation, sensitive plant populations as well as Wilderness areas. Some barricades and signage have already been implemented, addressing the off-trail use, but additional restoration is required.

11. Size of Sensitive Habitats - Q 11.

11. The size of sensitive habitats (e.g., Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, designated wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, meadows, wetlands, etc.) which will be actively restored through the Project will be: 5

(Check the one most appropriate)

- Greater than 10 acres within the Project Area (5 points)
 1 – 10 acres within the Project Area (3 points)
 Less than 1 acre within the Project Area (1 point)
 No sensitive habitat will be restored within the Project Area (No points)

12. Cause of Restoration activity - Q12

- 12 Is the majority of the restoration activity being performed in the Project Area caused by current legal/illegal OHV Recreation? 20

(Check the one most appropriate)

- Yes (20 Points)
 No (No points)

Provide a detailed explanation for the "Yes" response:

This project would address hundreds of illegal/unauthorized OHV incursions forest-wide that are continuing to occur. Many routes require disguising, signage, and other restoration activities to make them unnoticeable or to notify users of the appropriate use for each one. Once restoration efforts have been implemented it will be expected to continue monitoring these sites to ensure areas are completely restored.