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Version # _____

APP # _____

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

This project requests funds to provide a law enforcement presence that includes three BLM law enforcement (LE) rangers at Samoa Dunes Recreation Area. Approximately 175,000 visitors recreate in this area annually. Of this amount, approximately 28,000 visits are OHV related. Nearly 30 miles of OHV trails traverse the area, most of which are nearby sensitive habitat areas that BLM has fenced off and closed to OHV use. The entire area is considered one patrol area, and patrols occur throughout the 400 acres. All roads, trails, the waveslope, and facility locations are patrolled. The BLM outdoor recreation planner, BLM maintenance worker, and resident volunteer caretaker also patrol the area to make sure signs and vehicle barriers are intact, and that OHV riders are abiding by the rules and regulations.

A frequent BLM law enforcement presence is vital at this extremely popular recreation area in order to sustain long-term OHV recreation. The increased law enforcement presence over the last few years has provided a deterrent to deviant behavior. Riders fully expect to see a BLM ranger each time they visit the area, and nearly all riders abide by the regulations because of this proactive activity. Three kiosks are located throughout the area and maps showing the location of open and closed areas are posted. Educational and safety materials are also posted on the kiosks at the entrance to the area, the OHV staging area, and the jetty parking and picnic area. This proactive education effort is highly effective in increasing compliance. The brochure for the area is also available at these kiosks. A map and a list of rules and regulations can be obtained for free and kept on-hand with each rider throughout their stay. Numerous signs are posted along the perimeter of the closed areas, which are also physically barricaded with posts and cable. These closed areas contain endangered plants and sensitive species habitat, and because these signs and barriers are easily seen and described on the kiosks and the brochure, OHV users are fully aware of their locations and they realize the importance of keeping their vehicles out of these areas so that resource values can be protected. The brochure also describes the many other recreation activities that occur in the area so that OHV users are fully aware that they are likely to see other visitors during their riding experience. This knowledge reduces user conflicts because riders know beforehand when to slow down or change directions so as to avoid or reduce interactions with hikers on the waveslope or in the dunes. Speed limit, caution, and slow signs are posted in areas where other recreation activities occur. This proactive measure minimizes conflicts with other user groups.

The BLM LE rangers enforce all OHV related laws and regulations, including but not limited to: 1) spark arresters; 2) maximum noise level; 3) prevention of illegal activity that may result in resource damage; 4) prevention of trespass activity and violation of closed areas; 5) driving under the influence and/or possession of open containers; 6) trespass onto private property; 7) ATV safety certification; 8) ATV double riding; 9) flag requirement; 10) registration; and 11) violations related to vehicle operation or equipment. Ranger contacts emphasize educating OHV riders of the area's rules and regulations before they begin riding, as most of the contacts are made at the OHV Staging Area where most riders first arrive.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

The project area (Samoa Dunes Recreation Area) contains nearly 400 acres and the entire area is patrolled at least 3 times per week. Approximately 25% of the trail mileage is patrolled on each visit.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

The project area is patrolled at least 3 days per week, including patrols on weekends and holidays.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

Three law enforcement rangers would be deployed for the purposes of this project. The outdoor recreation planner, maintenance worker, and resident volunteer caretaker also patrol the area and collect and report relevant information to the rangers.