

Application: Western Riverside Kiosk Project

Project Description for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2010/2011

Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office

A. Statement of Development Activity

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office (PSSC FO) manages some 1.65 million acres of public lands extending from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean and south to the Mexican border. These public lands are adjacent to California's most densely populated urban areas and include lands within Riverside, San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties.

The OHV Safety and/or Western Riverside Kiosk Project requests funding to design six new interpretive kiosks, twelve signs, and various brochures. The development and placement of interpretive signs will inform the public of important boundaries, recreational opportunities and natural resources to support the protection of restoration sites. Law enforcement patrol and monitoring of these sites will encourage OHV compliance.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

The mandate of multiple use management challenges the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to balance the ever-increasing demand for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreational opportunities with conservation efforts in a way that protects valuable cultural, biological and wilderness resources. Resource damage, such as destruction of protected habitat caused by a limited number of OHV users, has led to the criticism of the entire OHV community. The BLM is incorporating a multifaceted approach to facilitate responsible OHV recreational opportunities, including law enforcement, public outreach, signage of legal routes, closure of unauthorized routes, and restoration of lands damaged by illegal OHV activity.

The OHV Safety and/or Western Riverside Kiosk Project requests funding to build six kiosks, and to design twelve new interpretive signs and brochures. Currently there are no kiosks or brochures covering these smaller disconnected areas which are closer to densely populated urban areas than the areas currently with kiosks in Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office (PSSC FO). Eighteen years ago, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) grants supported the design and construction of 23 kiosks currently found throughout eastern Riverside County. By developing the kiosk panels and brochures, with designated routes and current OHV regulation, it is the hope of the BLM that we can ensure that OHV users are informed and riding safely. The added map and interpretive area on the kiosk panels will provide additional space upon which to educate the visitor about the region and how to enjoy it in a responsible manner. Developing the new kiosks in this Eastern Riverside area will assist in sustaining and enhancing OHV recreational opportunities. The Recreational Planner will write and develop the kiosk panels and

brochures. The Maintenance staff and the Technicians will install all kiosks and panels over a two-month period.

C. Size of the proposed development

The OHV Safety and/or Western Riverside Kiosk Project requests funding to build six kiosks, and to design twelve new interpretive signs and brochures. These will each cover smaller sections of heavily visited OHV areas, such as Whitewater Canyon. These Kiosks are four feet wide and ten feet tall. They will have interpretive panels on both sides.

D. Timeline for Project Completion

Attachments:

E. Location and Description of OHV Opportunities

The six kiosks will be located throughout BLM property in western Riverside County. One will be located on Whitewater Canyon Road, Whitewater, CA 92282, just north of the San Geronio Pass on Interstate 10. The remaining kiosks will be located south of Highway 60, east of Interstate 215, and North of highway 79. These areas provide contact opportunities in short-duration-use but heavily-visited locations, where the impact of informal kiosks can have a profound effect on users. Developing the kiosk panels and brochures with designated routes and current OHV regulations will help ensure that OHV users are informed of the regulations and are riding safely.