

DRAFT—PSSC FO 2008 OHMVR GRANTS

2008 Trail Maintenance Project

The Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office (PSSC FO) extends from the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean and south to the Mexican border, encompassing some 1.65 million acres of public lands located in close proximity to California's highest population density urban areas of Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties.

The PSSC FO is responsible for the signing and maintenance of public lands in rural areas as well as in the urban interface where growth is occurring. The management and maintenance of those lands directly affects the quality of life for the large and growing population of Southern California. Population growth and the continuing demands for OHV recreation in Southern California has led to increased use on public lands and OHV impacts to areas, which were once backcountry regions and are now considered front country areas easily accessible by many new communities. Each year more OHV users seek out public lands not yet discovered to utilize their machines and participate in an activity they enjoy. Lands managed by the PSSC FO, are comprised of designated recreational routes of travel only.

Location and description of existing OHV Opportunities:

Funding for this grant would support signing, maintenance, and grooming of the primary and secondary routes within the following two land plans.

The Northern & Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan (NECO), are lands extending from the Coachella Valley continuing to the edge of the California Desert District near the Colorado River. Within the land plan, approximately 1500 miles of trail systems are available for recreational use. The Meccacopia Special Recreation Area is located within this region. Its unique mixture of stunning landscapes, tectonic formations with specialized plant and animal life draw large numbers of visitors to the area each year. The location offers ideal camping and OHV touring opportunities, receiving its heaviest use during the winter holiday seasons when OHV patrols are brought in for safety and compliance.

The California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (CDCA-CV) and adjacent areas are parcels of public lands heavily fragmented by privately owned sections. Many route designated within the immediate valley are no longer than one mile in length, longer segments are located to the east end of valley near the interface with the NECO plan. Recreation and Law Enforcement staffs work closely with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments OHV Task Force which partners with other agencies to ensure that Off-Highway Vehicles operate only in those areas designated for use and to prevent conflict between users. Signing of these areas, public outreach, and compliance are extremely important within the Coachella Valley.

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Description of activities:

Park Technicians will be responsible for learning the NECO route system and the monitoring of environmental and public needs along these routes. The team will be responsible for the collecting of data from Trafx traffic counters, minimizing impacts off of designed routes, and conducting low level trail grooming using a DR Power Grader purchased with OR-1-CD-373 2007 NECO Signing Equipment Grant funding. They will also monitor campsites and measure the area of impact. First Aid and CPR are required of all field staff in order to assist in cases of emergency. They will accompany full time staff with public contact and compliance visits during busy holiday seasons, assisting with campfire visits and informing the public of the unique areas in which they choose to visit.

Park Technicians will also implement the NECO designated route system through signing. Steel 4x4" posts mark the intersection of all primary routes; secondary routes receive flexible carsonite signs plus immediate replacement of missing or damaged signs. Decals on both signs indicating the route is on public lands, the route name, the number, and OHMVR logo.

How project relates to OHV Recreation and will add to, enhance, or otherwise sustain OHV opportunity:

Recreational use within conservation areas is always a challenge for any land agency. Within the PSSC FO, we have developed a designated trail system in order to access the vast expanses of public lands. The NECO designated trail system considered the recreational need for viewing these unique points of interest. Many of the routes were originally military roads, old prospector trails, and even developed stagecoach lines. The designated routes of travel on public lands often run parallel or in the footprint of many of the original routes.

It is the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office OHV Program goal to enhance recreational opportunities on public lands and decrease OHV use occurring off designated routes of travel. The maintenance of authorized OHV recreational roads and trails will enhance OHV riding opportunities, preventing the possibility of temporary closure to OHV activities.

Anticipated Timeline:

Maintenance will be address on primarily and associated secondary routes in the order of years listed:

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<u>Route Name</u>	12/2007	12/2008	12/2009
Amy's Wash Road	X	X	X
Arlington Mine Road			X
Ashley Flats		X	X
Augustine Pass Rd			X
Blythe-Vidal Road			X
Bradshaw Trail	X	X	X
Charcoal Kiln		X	X
Chuckwalla Peak Rd		X	X
Chuckwalla Springs Rd		X	X
Corn Springs Rd		X	X
Devers-PaloVerde Rd	X	X	X
Dupont Rd		X	X
Giant Intaglios	X	X	X
Gasline Rd	X	X	X
Gerdes Trail		X	X
Godwin Wash Trail	X	X	X
Government Pass		X	X
Graham Pass		X	X
Gucci Springs	X	X	X
Hotel California	X	X	X
Little Box Canyon Trail	X	X	X
McLane Point	X	X	X
McCoy Springs Rd			X
Meccacopia Trail	X	X	X
Meccacopia North	X	X	X
Midland Access Road			X
Midland-Videl			X
Painted Canyon Road	X	X	X
Palen Dunes			X
Palen Pass Road			X
Patton's Cabin Road			X
Pinkham Trail	X	X	X
Red Canyon Jeep Trail	X	X	X
Red Cloud Road	X	X	X
Rice-Midland Road			X
Rice Valley Dunes			X
Summit Road	X	X	X
Summit Flats	X	X	X
Wiley Well Wash Rd		X	X
Worthington Trail			X
Seven Washes Rd			X