

Nevada Commission on OHV
Overview and Grant Program Update
2011 through March 1, 2017

**Commissioner Sue Baker and
Jenny Scanland, Executive Secretary**

The Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission was established by NRS effective **July 1, 2011** to promote the responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles pursuant to NRS 490. The Commission has granting authority for OHV registration fee proceeds, with grants given in accordance with approved regulations. Grants are currently provided for law enforcement, education/public awareness and OHV trail management and development. The Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles is currently made up of 11 voting members appointed by the Governor and nine non-voting members.

January/Feb. 2017 – New Commissioners appointed by Governor.

1. **Greg McKay, Chairman** – Washoe County - Represents snowmobile owners
 2. **Sue Baker, Vice Chairman** – Clark County Represents the Nevada Association of Counties
 3. **Charlie Cox** – Clark County – Represents ATV/OHV owners
 4. **VACANT** - Represents wildlife interests, NDOW recommendation pending
 5. **Eric Riemann** – Douglas County – Represents agricultural interests
 6. **Kerry Lee** - Lincoln County – Represents the Nevada Sheriff's and Chief's Association
 7. **Michael Gerow** – Carson City - Represents OHV dealers
 8. **Sean Berryman** – Washoe County - Represents OHV and motorcycle owners
 9. **Kevin Hill** – Carson City – Represents Conservation; scientific expert knowledgeable in the ecosystems of the Great Basin or Mojave Desert
- (Two positions are currently vacant and are proposed to be eliminated in upcoming legislation AB29)

State Budget will be presented at March 16th, 2017 meeting.

Condensed History of the Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles

June 2011 - Law establishing Commission.

Feb. 2012 - First Commission meeting. The next year of meetings was busy with determining size, color and placement of registration sticker; how the Commission would function; hiring of the executive secretary and job duties; general grant processes.

July 2012 - Program to register and title OHV's went into effect.

July 2013 - 85% of the first year's revenue went to DMV for their set up.

Fall 2013 - First round of grants pursued.

Jan 2014 - Grants attempted to be awarded.

- Potential lawsuit exposed lack of formal grant regulations to defend award decisions.
- The Commission was directed to cancel all grants.
- The Commission attempted to create the regulations and guidelines on their own, and eventually it was suggested they reach out and work with the Nevada Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management. Through a very long process, including support from the office of Deputy Attorney General, they were successful in developing the required regulations.

June, 2014 Audit - At direction of Executive Branch Audit Committee – an audit of the OHV Program was conducted beginning June, 2014.

March 2015 - Final draft regulations sent to the Legislative Counsel Bureau with formal adoption of regulations by OHV Commission - **June 15th**.

June 2015 - Law Enforcement grants awarded.

County/LE Grantee	Expiration Date	Closing Action	Award	Reimbursed-to-date	Remaining Balance
Douglas County	6/14/2016	closed	\$20,000.00	\$11,600.00	\$8,400.00
Humboldt County	Sept 31, 2017	extended	\$19,117.00	\$4,234.23	\$14,882.77
Lincoln County	6/14/2016	closed	\$25,500.00	\$25,500.00	\$0.00
Lyon County	6/14/2016	closed	\$26,453.00	\$26,453.00	\$0.00
Mesquite PD	6/14/2016	closed	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$0.00
Mineral County	6/14/2016	closed	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$0.00
Nevada Department of Wildlife	6/14/2016	closed	\$29,135.00	\$5,571.73	\$23,563.27
Washoe County SO	6/14/2016	closed	\$14,000.00	\$13,828.25	\$171.75
White Pine County	6/14/2016	closed	\$10,000.00	\$9,982.25	\$17.75
		Totals To Date	\$186,205.00	\$144,988.59	\$41,216.41
				Reimbursed-to-date 88%	Remaining Balance 22%

Law Enforcement grants were funded based on recommendations from the Office of Criminal Justice: There was a total of \$186,205 in law enforcement awards round with funds allocated towards salaries and overtime, as well as equipment. All of these grants are closed except for Humboldt who requested an extension through September, 2017. Completion rate of 88%.

June 9, 2015 - Senate Bill 492 passed and was approved by the Governor. The Department of Motor Vehicles now covers its expenses and transfers to the Commission all program revenues in excess of \$150,000 on a quarterly basis. This began in July 2015 and is proceeding as directed. It was anticipated at that time that the account revenue would be \$750,000 per year at current registration rates.

August 2015 - Legislative Committee approved granting regulations.

September - October 2015 - Commission released Request for Proposal. \$700,000 was made available to award grants under two categories: education/outreach, and trails. Trails include studies such as environmental, economic, or usage studies, new trail construction, rehabilitation, facilities, signage, etc. There was a noted lack of eligible project applications.

Jan. 14, 2016 the following Grants were awarded \$239,500.

Grant	Amount Educ. Outreach, Studies	Amount Trails	Amount Expended	Remaining
Nevada Outdoor School Road Show Education	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 00 Complete
ORBA/Economic Study (in progress, survey out)	\$ 36,500.00		\$ 34,621.32	\$ 1,878.68
ORBA/Genoa Road OHV Trails (Complete)		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 00 Complete
Partners in Conservation Logandale Trails Toilet <i>(confirmed federal funding match to increase to two toilets, construction in progress, extension requested)</i>		\$ 133,000.00	\$ 00	\$ 133,000.00

2016 Law Enforcement Grants awarded under a separate process in conjunction with the Office of Criminal Justice end of 2015/early 2016. Awarded June/July, 2016 under DCNR.

GRANT	Awarded	Spent to Date	Remaining
Mineral County	\$ 14,668.00	\$ 5,999.25	\$ 8,668.75
Nye County	\$ 84,580.00	\$ 58,450.62	\$ 26,129.38
Esmeralda County	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 00
Douglas County	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,159.90	\$ 15,840.10
Mesquite PD	\$ 32,800.00	\$ -	\$ 32,800.00
Elko County	\$ 33,442.00	\$ 33,441.65	\$ 0.35

These Grants are not closed until the end of year to receive reporting deliverables.

Early 2016, the Commission in partnership with the State Grants Office released an RFP for Grants with due date of June 24, 2016 with estimated \$600,000 available.

Audit Update - At direction of the Nevada State Executive Branch Audit Committee – an audit of the OHV Program was conducted beginning June, 2014. This audit closed summer of 2016. This audit resulted in the Governor placing the Commission on OHV's under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

May 2016 - The Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles was placed within the DCNR. This was done in part through an Interim Finance Committee action that created an executive budget for the OHV Commission within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources fiscal structure.

June 20, 2016 - DCNR hired a part-time classified staff person to manage the OHV grant program and act as executive secretary to the board.

- An analysis of the granting process and active outreach to applicants is occurring as the new staff member (executive secretary) within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources assumes the program.
- The goal is to increase the number of eligible applications for consideration and aggressively award funds.
- Staff has developed a grant tracking and reporting process which is based on a previous tracking and reporting system that has met with audit approval.

June 24, 2016 - Grant Application Due Date. Applications processed by DCNR executive secretary and brought to commission for scoring and vote on October 6.

July 15, 2016 - Executive secretary completed the audit response. **Audit closed.**

July/August, 2016 DCNR

- Pending law enforcement grant awards completed.
 - Legislative Report Completed.
 - An FY 18-19 Executive Budget for Budget Account 4285 was prepared by the DCNR Director's Office and is being considered by legislative committee as part of the 2017 Session of the Nevada Legislature. This will be the first time the proposed use of Commission funds will be considered both by the Executive and Legislative branches during a regular session.
 - The DCNR Director's Office prepared a Bill Draft Request that is now Assembly Bill 29 that complements the budget approach outlined in the Department's budget submittal.
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October 6, 2016 – Trails, Outreach and Education Grants Commission Decision. Grant agreements awarded and all in progress, no reimbursements to date.

Grant	Awarded Oct 2016	Description
Sierra Avalanche Center OHV Education and Safety Program	\$6,940	Certified avalanche education courses to Nevada's winter OHV snowmobile community. Two courses will be taught over the next two winters to provide certified avalanche education to Nevada based snowmobilers.
Treadlightly! - RIDE ON NEVADA Campaign	\$75,000	This grant pays for a full time Tread lightly state of Nevada position that will facilitate a public-private partnership to implement a statewide education, outreach and stewardship initiative under the umbrella of the RIDE ON Designated Routes campaign. Objectives: 1. Establish and maintain an interagency work group between Nevada specific partner agencies and Tread Lightly! 2. 10 trained volunteers: Stakeholder training key personnel and community outdoor educators in ethics education principles, communication techniques, and resource protection. 3. 2 Projects: Engage volunteers in stewardship activities annually, focused on off-road locations on public lands that have been adversely affected by irresponsible riding/driving.
Friends of NV Wilderness S. Nevada: Trail signing and restoration	\$40,450	Partnering with the BLM, local OHV groups and volunteers to prevent conflict between various types of users and continue to keep motorized access open to wilderness boundaries and cherry-stem roads. Most of the labor to execute the projects will be completed by volunteers and include the South McCullough Wilderness, which needs the most attention, Brownstone Basin in the Red Rock Canyon NCA and Arrow Canyon in the Arrow Canyon Wilderness. Volunteers will: install kiosks with interpretive and Tread Lightly information to ensure that riders are aware they are nearing a non-motorized recreation area. Affected routes will be naturalized to disguise and discourage use. Some sites may need barriers at wilderness boundaries. Outreach will occur with Tread Lightly vehicle.

December 13, 2016 – Commission Meeting. Last meeting for all Commissioners. All positions expiring Jan 1, 2017. Commissioners were briefed on DCNR processes and paperwork with the state of Nevada completed. Updates on budget, grant program and AB29 were presented.

January/Feb. 2017 – New Commissioners appointed by Governor.

Goals as we move forward:

Goals	Information	Progress
Including Staff and Commissioners: Active outreach for quality projects to all partners. Strive for projects that include and represent ‘responsible use’ and “respect Trails” Campaign..	This is on the March, 2017 Agenda	In progress
Partnering with agencies to have coordinated OHV message & goals for the grant program	Treadlightly Grant and Marketing Campaign	In Progress
Public Outreach to grow number of registrations:	Clark County Desert Conservation Program – Marketing plan and campaign on Responsible OHV use and promotion of OHV Registration program. Priority is getting out the message in Clark County – OHV commission to fund outreach outside of Clark County in future funding allocations (on the agenda in March, 2017)	In Progress
Unencumber funding silos in NRS	AB29 removes funding silos allowing for better quality projects to be funded)	Submitted and in the legislative process (March Agenda update)
Eliminate or greatly reduce late charge fee	AB 29 proposal reduces to \$10.00	Submitted and in the legislative process (March Agenda update)
Explore feasibility of state registration program for those here more than 15 days or/and not registered in another state.	TBD	
Explore opportunities to make certification of VIN number easier to encourage OHV registration.	TBD	