# Department of Conservation and Natural Resources James Lawrence Director Dominique Etchegoyhen, Deputy Director



# STATE OF NEVADA Off-Highway Vehicles Program

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# NEVADA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES PROGRAM NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

#### NEVADA OHV GRANT APPLICATION

## **HIGH FIVES FOUNDATION**



## RETURN TO DIRT NEVADA

TO: NEVADA DEPT. OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES PROGRAM
ATTN: NIKHIL NARKHEDE
901 S. STEWART STREET, SUITE 1003
CARSON CITY, NV 89701

# NEVADA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

# Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

This application has FIVE sections which are all REQUIRED to be filled out in full. To avoid disqualification, all application areas must be concise and complete; certifications must be signed and dated.

SE	CCTION I - PROJECT AND APPLICANT INFORMATION						
1.	Project Name: Return to Dirt Nevada						
2.	Project Timeline: March 1st, 2023 to December 1st, 2024						
3.	Applicant Name: High Fives Foundation						
	Mailing address: 10775 Pioneer Trail #108, Truckee, CA 96161						
	Phone: (530) 587-4453						
	Email: ally@highfivesfoundation.org						
4.	Classification of Applicant: (check one)						
	Federal State County Local/Municipal Other:						
	Partnership X Non-profit for Profit Individual						
If t	he applicant is a corporate or legal entity, proof of good standing in the entity's state of						
inc	orporation is required. NAC 490.1345 (Note: grantees must have the capacity to implement and						
	complish proposed project and properly administer awarded funds).						
	ease see Exhibit A, "Certificate of Good Standing" for proof of status.						
_	12/19/2022						
	plicant Signature Date hairperson/President/Authorized Official)						
(	num personal resident authorized Official)						

## 5. Project Manager: Tim Burr, Return to Dirt Founder

Mailing address: 10775 Pioneer Trail #108, Truckee, CA 96161

Phone: (530) 587-4453

Email: tim@highfivesfoundation.org

Alternate Contact: Ally Karacozoff, Grants Coordinator

Mailing address: 10775 Pioneer Trail #108, Truckee, CA 96161

Phone: (530) 587-4453

Email: ally@highfivesfoundation.org

## 6. Classification of Land Control: (check all that apply)

Federally managed public land Private Land County City

X Other: Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Sierra Front Field Office 5665 Morgan Mill Rd. Carson City, NV 89701

Lease; Attach copy of lease with expiration date.

R&PP; Attach copy of lease with expiration date.

If the proposed project is to be carried out on public land, attach any applicable written agreement with any government entity having jurisdiction over that land, including permits, leases, easements, and rights-of-way. NAC 490.135

#### 7. Landowner: N/A

#### 8. THE LANDOWNER MUST PROVIDE A LETTER STATING THAT:

(See example Appendix B)

- a) Landowner has read the Request for Grant Application package.
- b) Landowner agrees with the application and the terms of the grant.
- c) Landowner holds an interest in the subject land that is sufficient in scope and authority to allow the applicant to complete the proposed project and operate and maintain the proposed project after its completion.
- d) Landowner is legally committing to maintain the trail/facility and will allow public motorized access to such trail/facilities for 25 years or the normal life of the project; and
- e) Landowner agrees to provide any match or other tasks in the application that are assigned to Landowner.

The State may require the landowner/agency to be co-grantee on the grant agreement/contract.

#### 9. PROJECT COSTS:

(grant request and matching funds directly related to the project)

State OHV Grant Request: \$82,231

Matching Funds: \$184,352

Total Project Amount: \$266,583

What are the sources or Partners for your leveraged (matching) funds?

o Federal o Private X In-kind o City/County o Other

Please <u>describe</u> additional funding source(s):

- High Fives match (see Section IV, "Budget" for specific details)
- Cash donations to the program
- In-kind product/supply donations:
  - Muc Off UTV cleaning and vehicle maintenance products
  - In a typical year, we receive in-kind product donations ranging from apparel, gear, and food/drinks from top brands such as Spy Optic, GoPro, YETI, Eddie Bauer, Darn Tough Socks, XTRATUF, Monster Energy, Zbroz Racing, SureGrip, EFX Tires, and more. These are not confirmed yet for 2023 or 2024, so they are not included in the budget as matched funds at this time.
- In-kind volunteer hours by High Fives community: estimated 20-30 volunteers per year

## 10. LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM PARTNERS are required:

- a) Confirming they agree to the terms of the grant; and
- b) That they are committed to providing match/cash or other tasks in the application that are assigned to them.

Additional Letters of Support may be attached at the end of this application (limit 3).

Please see Exhibit B, "Letters of Support" from our partners and stakeholders:

- Brady Owens, Bureau of Land Management Land manager
- Tim Burr, Return to Dirt Founder, High Fives athlete #78, spinal cord injury survivor
- Chris Bartkowski, Generikal Designs Contracted video production company
- Jarred Evans High Fives athlete #216, Return to Dirt participant and mentor, spinal cord injury survivor

# 11. Project Type(s) (NRS 490.069 Sec.2c) check all that apply:

Studies or planning for trails and facilities;

	o Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Studies.						
	Other studies						
Acc	Acquisition of land for trails and facilities						
Ma	Mapping and signing of trails and facilities						
Rec	construction, enhancement or	maintenance of existing trails	and facilities				
Cor	nstruction of new trails and fac	cilities					
Res	toration of areas that have been	en damaged by the use of off-	highway vehicles.				
The	construction of trail features,	trailheads, parking, or other	ancillary facilities which minimize				
impac	ts to environmentally sensitive	e areas or important wildlife	habitat areas.				
X Safe	ety training and education rela	ated to the use of off highway	vehicles and registration				
Cor	npliance and enforcement (Se	e Appendix C, Enforcement	Strategy example)				
			1 /				
12.	ALL TRAIL USERS: (	(check all that apply)					
	☐ Mountain Biking	☐ Hiking/Backpacking	☐ Equestrian				
	☐ Single track motorcycle	☐ Snowmobiling	☐ Snowshoe/ski				
	☐ ATV quads	☐ Dune buggy	X UTV Side by side				
	☐ Race Course	☐ Skills riding course					
	Please explain how you into	end to manage user interaction	ns:				
	High Fives Foundation (High Fives) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in 200 by Roy Tuscany and headquartered in Truckee, California, whose mission is to focus of preventing life-changing injuries and provide resources and hope if they happen. All 5' athletes and veterans from 44 states and Canada that High Fives serves have survived a lift changing injury (spinal cord injury [SCI], traumatic brain injury [TBI], amputation, or oth mobility-limiting injury). Approximately 75% of High Fives athletes have survived traumatic SCI. Through 100% free programs and resources, we break down barriers at bridge the gap between an individual's ambitions for recovery and achieving those goals a timely manner. Our qualified team consists of 13 staff members, a 17-member Board Directors, and 150+ volunteers annually.						
	Part 1: Return to Dirt Experience						
	Return to Dirt (R2D) is an adaptive motorsports program service of High Fives Foundatio Originally founded in 2018 and operated by High Fives athlete #78, Tim Burr, R2D's missic is to provide equipment and instruction for individuals with disabilities to pilot off-roavehicles into backcountry areas otherwise impossible to access because of a mobili impairment						

After three successful camps hosted in collaboration with R2D, High Fives acquired R2D in 2022 to expand the program as the needs and demands continue to grow. With 128 total athlete experiences, more than 5,000 UTV miles ridden, and infinite good times and new bonds formed, R2D has become an essential pillar of sport for High Fives athletes. With this funding from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) Program, High Fives will be able to expand R2D into Nevada for the 2023 and 2024 off-roading seasons by hosting several OHV days for a minimum of 10 adaptive athletes plus 20-30 mentoring participants and volunteers each year.

R2D puts disabled individuals behind the wheel of their own adventure. Whether it's just to twist throttle, or to see the sights, there is no wrong reason for physically impaired athletes to access their dreams off the beaten path. The purpose of these experiences is simple: get athletes of all ability levels into high-powered vehicles, allow them to engage with likeminded individuals who have faced similar life-challenges, build their community, and most importantly, get them somewhere they have never been, exploring the beauty of the outdoors.

#### **Part 2: Educational Videos**

A contracted production company for High Fives since 2015 and experienced education and safety video creator, Chris Barktowski, founder of Generikal Design (Generikal), will produce two to three 4-5 minute professional quality videos for High Fives Foundation's media channels to inform and educate the public about OHV safety, title and annual vehicle registration, and more. Generikal is a dedicated, capable, and proven company with past experience creating safety/education videos for Reno Area Dirtriders (RAD), Sierra Avalanche Center (SAC), Crossfit Avalance & Blizzard, and other top brands and corporations such as GoPro, Red Bull, Burton, ESPN, Vail Resorts, Ritz Carlton, Ski Journal, Palisades Tahoe (formerly Squaw Valley), Sierra Nevada Physical Therapy, and many more.

Potential video topics for R2D Nevada include:

- Trail Safety, Etiquette
- Trail Maintenance
- Pre-Ride Checklist: Know Your Gear
- Navigation: How to Find Riding Areas, Mapping, Using GPS
- How To Help: Get Involved
- 13. Scope of Work: Please describe *exactly* what work will be completed. Programs,

planning, NEPA, surveys, mapping, include miles of trail, trail type and other quantitative goals including a timeline for completing the work. NAC 490.1375. If purchase of equipment is included, please explain where/how it will be housed and maintained

High Fives Foundation requests \$82,231 for the 2023-2024 Return to Dirt (R2D) program, which includes the purchase of a new top-of-the-line Can-Am Commander Max XT-P Four-Seater Utility Task Vehicle (UTV), to be titled and annually registered within the state of Nevada. This impressive and capable vehicle is less racy than its two-seater counterpart—more suited for its utility and ability to hold larger equipment such as wheelchairs, which is necessary for mobility of our athletes.

Included in this ask is the after-market buildout of this vehicle. Customizations are crucial, as stock vehicles are not equipped with proper roll cages, not to mention the need for special adaptations for adaptive athlete use. The after-market buildout includes a roll cage, hand controls, steering assistance, and more.

This funding request also includes the creation of two-three safety/education videos by our dedicated production company, Generikal Designs, and additional resources to help R2D run smoothly as we expand into Nevada.

### **Part 1: Return to Dirt Experience**

R2D reunites a disabled athlete with a part of themselves that can only be found in nature. For many of our athletes, outdoor recreation is unattainable because of physical, financial, or social limitations. With our equipment, expertise, and teamwork, we can provide accessibility in otherwise inaccessible environments.

Trips are primarily need-based, awarded in fulfillment of the Return to Dirt's mission. Individuals who are interested in participating complete an online application form. Engagement and outreach for potential participants is done via High Fives' social media channels, Mailchimp email campaigns, and regular communications with High Fives athletes by our program and athlete managers. All are welcome to apply, provided the applicant meets the criteria below.

#### General requirements:

- 1. Applicants must reside in the United States or Canada, and they must complete the trip application in the United States or Canada. The accident/injury does not need to have occurred in the United States or Canada.
- 2. Effective January 1, 2014, to stay in compliance with the U.S. Government's Affordable Health Care Act, applicants must have current and up-to-date health care coverage.

#### Eligibility and Evaluation:

- 1. Any applicant who has significant limits accessing outdoor/nature locations caused by inaccessibility and demonstrates passion for outdoor experiences can be granted a trip.
- 2. A valid driver's license must be held by participants to be considered as a potential driver of the Return to Dirt equipment. Participants with a valid license are still only granted driving privileges by Return to Dirt staff discretion.
  - a. Athletes that don't have a driver's license can still be considered to receive a trip, but they will participate as passengers.
- 3. Trips are granted to those whose goals and dreams can be delivered upon by Return to Dirt.
- 4. Return to Dirt Nevada is based in Reno, Nevada and R2D days will be in that area. This means that participants must be able to travel and stay in the Reno area in order to be eligible.

#### Part 2: Educational Videos

Recommended by our dedicated video production company, Generikal Designs for its vast range of trails for different rider ability levels (from easy rides to technical routes) and accessibility for adaptive athletes, R2D Nevada will be held at the North Reno Recreation Area, also known as "Moon Rocks." According to OHV.nv.gov, this area covers over 19,000 acres

of public lands managed for motorized recreation by the Carson District Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Photo and video content highlighting trail etiquette, responsible OHV and land use, and more will be filmed at the North Reno Recreation Area. High Fives Foundation recognizes that not enough people know about the importance of OHV registrations and access to land and trails for all. These educational videos will help amplify this messaging to our broad social media following, detailed in Section V, Question #1 of this proposal. (See Exhibit D, "Photographs" for aerial- and trail-level views of the North Reno Recreation Area.)

# 14. Standards/Guidelines that will be applied to your project:

- o Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation A Design Guide
- X USFS Standard Specifications for Construction & Maintenance of Trails
- X BLM Handbook 9114-1 Trails
- X NOHVCC Handbooks

Other:		
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# 15. Has the applicant received funding from the OHV Program in the past?

X No o Yes

Number of projects funded: N/A

Amount of funding Received: \$ N/A Number of projects Completed: N/A

# **SECTION II – LOCATION, MAPS, PHOTOS**

# **Project Location:**

County: Washoe County

Nearest Municipality/Town/City: Reno, Nevada

Center of project: Latitude: 39.84897500346534 Longitude: -119.74135310185113

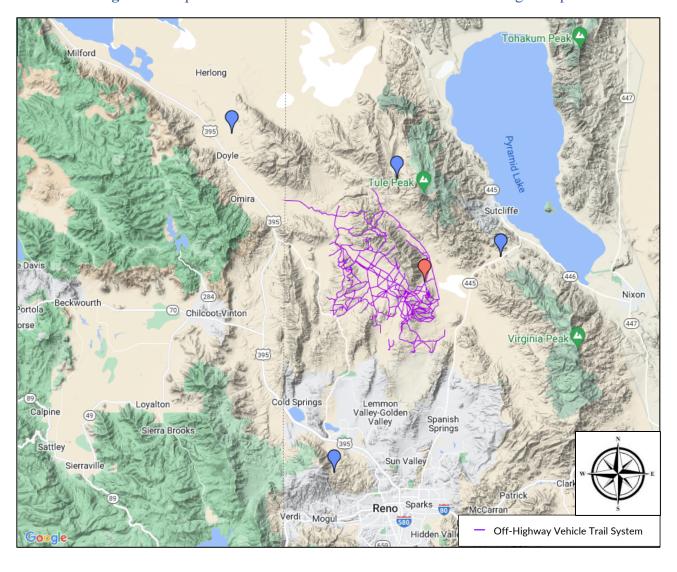
If the shape-files for the trail system are available, please submit them in the e-file. The shape-files of the trail will be required at project end. Program will assist in the collection of the data if needed.

MAPS ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE APPLICATION. THEY ARE REQUIRED AND CONSIDERED PART OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IF FUNDED.

# Required Maps: for all maps please include a legend, north arrow, scale, and map name. Topographic maps preferred. You may include *additional* aerial/google maps.

- X General location map (showing project area within the state or county)
- ☐ Detail map indicating specific project elements (e.g., structures, trail alignment)
  - Maps larger than 11x17 will not be accepted

Figure 1: Map View of the North Reno Recreation Area via Google Maps



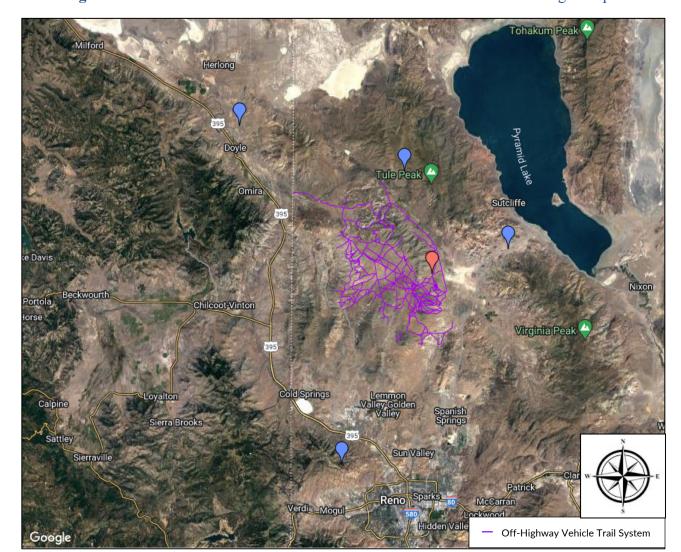


Figure 2: Satellite View of View of the North Reno Recreation Area on Google Maps

#### Please attach the following photographs:

X At least two (2) overviews of the project area from different angles and distances. (Good photographs at trail level and google aerials help the scoring committee to understand the location, depth and breadth of your project.)

See Exhibit D, "*Photographs*" for aerial- and trail-level views of the North Reno Recreation Area. This section also includes photographs of after-market hand control adaptations of Can-Am UTVs from 2022 Return to Dirt programming.

# **SECTION III - Federal Lands or Other**

#### **Federal Environmental Compliance**

A. If Federal funds or Land are a part of the project and NEPA was completed, indicate which
document was produced, and please attach the decision document to this application:
☐ Record of Decision (ROD)
☐ Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
☐ Categorical Exclusion (CX)
☐ SHPO 106 compliance/concurrence letter.
☐ Other compliance documents already completed. (do not attached the EA or EIS)
X Not applicable

If NEPA or planning is a part of the project describe the steps in the Scope Section I, #13.

### **SECTION IV - BUDGET**

**Proposed Budget**: Provide your budget details to include at a minimum the items in the following table. You may create your own spreadsheet.

- Your budget must align clearly with your scope of work from #13. Be specific, as your application will rate higher.
- Reminder: Include all sources of funds <u>for the completion of the project</u> including federal, in-kind, private/city/county and state funds.
- Attach copies of estimates to support your budget and identify what each contract will include.

Item Description	OHV Grant Request	Other Matching Funds	Total Cost
Contract: Generikal Video Production To produce and edit professional OHV safety/educational videos	\$20,000		\$20,000
Contract: Return to Dirt Program Management (Tim Burr) (High Fives Match: additional project staff costs)	\$26,000	\$78,262	\$104,262
<ul> <li>Equipment</li> <li>Can-Am Commander Max XT-P UTV</li> <li>Commodity surcharge</li> <li>After-market buildout and adaptations (See Exhibit C, "Estimates" for a sample quote and Exhibit D, "Photographs" for visualization of such adaptations on UTVs for 2022 programming)</li> <li>(High Fives Match: wheels, tires, replacement parts, additional buildouts/adaptations; roll cages; comms systems; batteries)</li> </ul>	\$32,835	\$44,022	\$76,857
Volunteer or donated labor/in-kind # Hrs. skilled labor @\$27.20/hr. (not required but is important for scoring higher) (High Fives Match: - Volunteer labor (20 volunteers, 8 hour per day) - Cash donations to R2D program - In-kind products (Muc Off vehicle cleaning and maintenance products))		\$36,904	\$36,904
Materials – Purchase or rental of materials for project Water sprayers, ice, waiver clipboards (High Fives Match: Tracking devices, tire replacements, helmets, meals, first aid)	\$292	\$20,124	\$20,416
Travel Costs, Hotel Nights, Per -diem Fuel for UTVs (High Fives Match: fuel for UTVs)	\$2,606	\$5,040	\$7,646
Other: Promotional/advertising	\$498		\$498
Totals	\$82,231	\$184,352	\$266,583
Percentages	31%	69%	100%

#### SECTION V – PRIORITIES AND SCORING NARRATIVE

Grants will be scored based on answers to the Ten (10) criteria listed below. Each criteria carries a weight determined by the OHV Commission, voted upon during the public meeting on 9/7/2021. Please reference scoring criteria form.

1. Law Enforcement Strategy that addresses registration enforcement, including Public Education & Outreach aimed at increasing renewals and new registrations: How will your project increase the number of OHV registrations on the district. How will the equipment and time be used to increase OHV safety and awareness? Please reference the Law Enforcement Statistics reporting form.

High Fives Foundation (High Fives) understands the goals and will comply with the requirements of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program. This project will increase the number of OHV registrations in two ways. First, all OHVs purchased with these grant funds will be titled and annually registered in the State of Nevada. Second, all safety and education materials will emphasize the importance of titles and annual registration of OHVs. In each video, we will be sure to highlight our Nevada OHV registration decal sticker to reinforce the importance of registration and to emphasis sustainability of this program.

Potential safety/education video topics proposed by Generikal Designs production company include:

- Trail Safety, Etiquette
- Trail Maintenance
- Pre-Ride Checklist: Know Your Gear
- Navigation: How to Find Riding Areas, Mapping, Using GPS
- How To Help: Get Involved

High Fives Foundation's videos have a substantial reach. By way of corollary, our B.A.S.I.C.S. (Being Aware Safe In Critical Situations) program was created as a way to engage young athletes to promote smart decision-making in the mountains. In the form of short, PSA-style videos, the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA)-approved, free online series is available to everyone from schoolaged children to industry professionals. As of November 2022, this program has more than 707,000 views.

Video and photo content captured during Return to Dirt (R2D) Nevada programming will be shared across all High Fives social media platforms, our website and blog, and through Mailchimp email campaigns. The current metrics for these communication channels, up to date as of October 2022, are as follows:

- Facebook: 17,690 followers with a reach of 5,903
- Instagram: 30,282 followers with a reach of 142,771
- Twitter: 5,043 followers with 3,705 impressions
- Mailchimp: 47,033 subscribers with 65 campaigns per year and an open rate of 33.2%
  - 2. Enhancement or Maintenance of existing trails and facilities: How will maintenance needs be prioritized and how often will your project hold a maintenance/trails enhancement event? HOW will your project be maintained and WHO has committed to the ongoing maintenance of the facility or trail (note: a minimum of 2 maintenance/trail events are required per year).

Please refer to Section I, Question #12, "Part 2: Educational Videos" and Exhibit C, "Estimates" for information on how trail maintenance and stewardship will be presented and prioritized for this project. We believe that our expansive reach will increase the awareness of and engagement with the priorities of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program among those who are interested in trail enhancement but don't know where to begin.

**3. Training:** Please describe the goals and objectives of your public safety training program. Is it a nationally recognized certification? What sets your safety training program apart from the others?

This safety/education video component of this project focuses primarily on educating the public on several topics relevant to the modern-day dirt bike user, narrated in the voice and from the perspective of experience dirt bike riders with engaging and informative content. This makes our videos unique and resonate well with the off-roading community—they are entertaining just as they are educational.

Beyond the video component specifics described in Question #1 above and in Section I, Questions #12 and #13, High Fives ensures safety by maintaining an average 3:1 ratio of adaptive riders to mentors, OHV experts, and volunteers at R2D days and overnight trips. Because participants range in abilities from first-time experiencers to seasoned riders, this ratio is crucial and typical of R2D programming in years past.

**4.** Trail mapping and signing of existing trails and facilities: If a mapping component is included in the grant, please describe how it will be integrated with the current web mapping application found on OHV.NV.GOV

Mapping is not within the scope of this proposal.

**5.** Connectivity/Loops: How will the project impact connectivity of OHV trails, facilities, and local communities? Please include maps of areas impacted by your project and describe those impacts.

"I definitely achieved my goal that day. My face hurts from smiling so much! It was so nice to be away from my wheelchair and cruising in the mountains and being so present. I especially enjoyed getting to know all the athletes and volunteers. So truly blessed Return to dirt joined with High Fives. You all know how to make memories that pierce the heart with a smile! Much love!!!" — Ricci K., High Fives athlete #119, Reno local, spinal cord injury survivor

Nevada holds the fourth-highest presence of High Fives athletes in the Unites States. For areas impacted by this project, please see responses to Section II, "Location, Maps, Photos" and Exhibit D, "Photographs." See responses to Question #7, "Access," below for information on how this project facilitates healing, connectivity, and inclusivity in off-roading among Nevada residents.

**6. Planning, Environmental Studies, Conservation:** Describe how the environmental studies, conservation and/or planning will mitigate resources impacted by OHV recreation. How will your project contribute to the conservation of our natural resources, while enhancing OHV opportunities?

Beyond the educational videos that help mitigate impacts to natural resources by emphasizing its importance and highlight obtaining proper titles and annual registration of OHVs, the following is a list of some values upheld during R2D experiences:

- Adherence to all trail signage
- Riders on trails only to minimize impact to terrain
- Minimize single-use plastic to reduce waste
- "Pack it out, pack it in" (leave the campsites cleaner than we found them)
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Enhance OHV though educational videos by teaching individuals how to find trails, safely navigate them, and generates interest in the sport through our broad reach
  - 7. Access: Please describe how your project improves OHV access in the project area. Explain what access/opportunities would be lost or restricted if the project does not occur.

Individuals with life-changing injuries such as SCIs have limits placed on them from the moment they get injured with overgeneralizing and devastating diagnoses like "You'll never walk again." For those who were particularly active in sports and recreation prior to their injury, this results in a loss of identity and poor self-image. While some of these statements might accurately describe an individual's physiological condition, these words take a significant toll on their mental and emotional health. Moreover, research is showing that these health states are not as immutable as once thought. Through working with our athletes, we have witnessed firsthand the improvements in overall physical, mental, and emotional health that occur when individuals with life-changing injuries experience how their life can still be awesome and active, and when they find a community of people who don't just sympathize but empathize with their life challenges. High Fives facilitates these connections and creates free opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities to reintegrate into outdoor recreation, adaptive sports, any other environment from which they have faced barriers to access.

Below are a few testimonials from recent R2D participants that help describe the positive impact of this program on individuals with life-changing injuries:

"The Return to Dirt camp was a game-changer to say the least. As a wheelchair user, uneven terrain can be extremely difficult to navigate and often is the limiting factor for participating in outdoor activities. The Return to Dirt camp completely flipped this notion on its head. Terrain immediately became an afterthought. Leaving my wheelchair behind and ripping down mountain trails was an indescribable, and honestly, transcendent experience. It definitely gave me a whole new perspective on what is possible. Reuniting with old friends and making a bunch of new ones was the icing on the cake. All in all, it was a pretty sweet day." – Ajay S., High Fives athlete #263, spinal cord injury survivor

"Return to Dirt gave me the opportunity to get out in nature and experience the trails in a way I never have before. The team is awesome and I'm stoked I got to be a part of it! All in all, it was a super fun experience and I can't wait til the next time." – Rocky B., High Fives athlete #349, spinal cord injury survivor

"R2D is synonymous with freedom. The smell of the dust and pine, the roar of the engine, the thrill of drifting around corners and floating over rough road... it's the most freeing experience I've had since my injury." – Taylor F., High Fives athlete #39, spinal cord injury survivor

The primary geographic focus of this program is Washoe County, Nevada, which has a population of approximately 493,000 (Census.gov 2021). 8.5% of the population under the age of 65 has a disability (Census.gov 2020). According to the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center "Facts and Figures," the number of individuals living with an SCI in the U.S. is approximately 300,000 people, with an annual incidence of roughly 18,000 new cases each year (NSCISC 2021). Importantly, per Betts, et al., individuals that have impaired mobility have a higher prevalence of obesity and associated chronic disease (Disability and Health Journal 2018). Further, the average yearly expenses for individuals with C1-C8 level SCIs (39% of High Fives athletes) is roughly \$1 million in the first year and \$170,000 for each subsequent year (NSCISC 2021). These findings highlight the need for free athletic and outdoor recreational programming for individuals with SCI.

Among the ~435 athletes with SCIs that High Fives serves, the injury types vary widely. The table below provides some metrics about these athletes.

Description	Frequency
SCI Type	Incomplete: 56%
	Complete: 44%
SCI Level	C1-C7: 39%
	T1-T6: 18%
	T7-T12: 33%
	L1-S1: 10%

According to Baehr, et al., physical activity is imperative for reducing the risk of secondary health complications and for psychological health after SCI, yet more than half of individuals with SCI report no regular physical activity (PLOS One 2022). High Fives athletes have expressed time and time again how, post-injury, they experienced a loss of identity as an athlete and that this takes a toll on their mental, emotional, and social wellbeing. High Fives endeavors to remove physical and financial barriers from the equation and give individuals the title of "athlete" again. As founder and CEO Roy Tuscany says, "Life will never be the same, but it will be awesome."

The Return to Dirt program is one of the only ways that members of the SCI community can get deep into nature and experience its beauty. Wheelchairs can be a mental confinement, so this experience liberates athletes from not only the physical confines of their chairs but frees the mind and allows for real healing to begin. As High Fives creates a universal shift in adventure sports that expands what is possible for those who have faced life-changing injuries, we need the support of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to continue our positive impact.

**8.** Partnering and Leverage: Who else is involved in this project? Please describe outreach with stakeholders, partners and local governments, that you have communicated with in planning this project.

Partners and stakeholders (please see Exhibit B, "Letters of Support"):

- Brady Owens, Bureau of Land Management Land manager
- Tim Burr, Return to Dirt Founder, High Fives athlete #78, spinal cord injury survivor
- Chris Bartkowski, Generikal Designs Contracted video production company
- Jarred Evans High Fives athlete #216, Return to Dirt participant and mentor, spinal cord injury survivor

After a successful partnership with Muc Off, who provided cleaning and vehicle maintenance products worth \$5,000 to R2D in 2022, we plan to partner with them again for 2023. In a typical year, we receive in-kind product donations ranging from apparel, gear, and food/drinks from top brands such as Spy Optic, GoPro, YETI, Eddie Bauer, Darn Tough Socks, XTRATUF, Monster Energy, Zbroz Racing, SureGrip, EFX Tires, and more. These are not confirmed yet for 2023 or 2024, so they are not included in the budget as matched funds at this time.

For information on outreach among participants, stakeholders, volunteers, and the general public, please see responses to Section I, Question #13, "Scope of Work" and Section V, Question #1.

**9. Economic Integration:** How will this project improve OHV recreation opportunities that help local, regional, or state economies grow?

All UTVs purchased for the Return to Dirt Nevada program will be titled and annually registered in the State of Nevada.

**10. Demand for New Facilities:** Please provide justification for **NEW** facility/program development: restrooms, trails, signs, and other amenities.

Facilities and amenities are not within the scope of this proposal.



# Secretary of State Certificate of Status

I, SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D., California Secretary of State, hereby certify:

Entity Name: HIGH FIVES NONPROFIT FOUNDATION

Entity No.: 3187180 Registration Date: 01/14/2009

Entity Type: Nonprofit Corporation - CA - Public Benefit

Formed In: CALIFORNIA

Status: Active

The above referenced entity is active on the Secretary of State's records and is authorized to exercise all its powers, rights and privileges in California.

This certificate relates to the status of the entity on the Secretary of State's records as of the date of this certificate and does not reflect documents that are pending review or other events that may impact status.

No information is available from this office regarding the financial condition, status of licenses, if any, business activities or practices of the entity.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I execute this certificate and affix the Great Seal of the State of California this day of December 02, 2022.

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.

Secretary of State

Certificate No.: 063453328

To verify the issuance of this Certificate, use the Certificate No. above with the Secretary of State Certification Verification Search available at **biz**fileOnline.sos.ca.gov.

# HIGH FIVES NONPROFIT FOUNDATION (3187180)





#### Request Certificate

Initial Filing Date 01/14/2009

Status Active

Standing - SOS Good

Standing - FTB Good

Standing - Agent Good

Standing - VCFCF Good

Formed In CALIFORNIA

Entity Type Nonprofit Corporation - CA -

Public Benefit

Principal Address 10775 PIONEER TRAIL STE

108

TRUCKEE, CA 96161

Mailing Address 10775 PIONEER TRAIL STE

108

TRUCKEE, CA96161

Statement of Info Due Date 01/31/2023

Agent

ent Individual 1582442

AMY MATCHAM

10775 PIONEER TRAIL STE

108

TRUCKEE, CA 96161



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Carson City District Office 5665 Morgan Mill Road Carson City, Nevada 89701

Phone: 775-885-6000 Fax: 775-885-6147 http://www.blm.gov/nevada

In Reply Refer To: 8300

Nevada Dept. of Conservation and National Resources Off-Highway Vehicles Program 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 1003 Carson City, Nevada 89701

Subject: High Fives Foundation 2023 Grant Proposal

Dear Committee,

This letter is provided in support of High Fives (HFF) proposed *Return to Dirt (R2D)* project in 2023. This two-part project would one, provide equipment and instruction for individuals with disabilities to pilot off-road vehicles into backcountry areas otherwise impossible to access because of a mobility impairment. And second produce three to five professional quality videos for High Fives Foundation's media channels to inform and educate the public about OHV safety and State of Nevada OHV registration requirements. I am committed to allowing continued motorized access on public lands outside of the emergency closure and believe that this project will support the terms of the closure without needing additional management actions. I agree to work with the Return to Dirt to complete appropriate clearances to facilitate project implementation.

The Sierra Front Field Office is committed to working with its partners to ensure equitable access to public lands

The proposed revegetation project, as proposed and implemented on federal land (BLM) will be in compliance with all applicable laws, including NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

Sincerely,

Brady Owens

Acting Sierra Front Field Office Manager

Nevada Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources Off-Highway Vehicles Program 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 1003 Carson City, NV 89701

December 8, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Good day to you! My name is Tim Burr, and I am the founder of Return to Dirt (R2D) and High Fives athlete #78.

In 2014, I suffered a serious spinal cord injury at the C5 level while backcountry skiing that left me paralyzed from the shoulders down. My number one recovery goal has been to reintegrate into the sports and activities that I loved pre-accident. I believe that we all face setbacks and challenges in life, and by shifting your outlook and taking action, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to. Immobility is only a perspective. It doesn't have to be a limit.

I founded R2D in 2018 as a way to enable individuals with life-changing injuries to access adaptive off-road equipment, safety training, and instruction for navigating backcountry trails that may otherwise be inaccessible because of mobility impairment or socioeconomic barriers. For many of our participants, adaptive equipment is the only way to experience nature, considering that natural settings are almost never wheelchair accessible. It's also way for adaptive athletes to connect with like-minded individuals and explore the beauty of the great outdoors in an exciting and adventurous way.

Since 2018, R2D has helped over 117 individuals with adaptive needs become leaders in their own adventure. After several successful years of R2D x High Fives Foundation adaptive camps hosted in Colorado and California, R2D officially became a program service of High Fives in the spring of 2022. Now, we are so excited to expand this essential program into the great state of Nevada. This development will no doubt improve the physical, mental, emotional, and social wellbeing of countless adaptive athletes while educating adaptive athletes on responsible exploration of public land.

Consider this letter to be in recognition of my full commitment to support High Fives Foundation as they apply to the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program this year, further expanding R2D to meet the growing needs and demands of this program. Please feel free to get in contact if you have any questions for me.

Sincerely,

7im Burr

Tim Burr tim@highfivesfoundation.org



Nevada Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources Off-Highway Vehicles Program 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 1003 Carson City, NV 89701

December 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello! My name is Chris Bartkowski, and I am the founder of video production company Generikal.

Based in the Reno-Tahoe area, I've been capturing the essence of High Fives Foundation since 2015. I've professionally produced photo and video content for High Fives media channels in a number of different settings, including charity golf tournaments, the Military to the Mountain program, and across all pillars of sport: skiing/snowboarding, biking, surfing, motocross, and fly-fishing. I've been capturing Return to Dirt videos since 2020. I am very familiar with the program and have witnessed first-hand what a positive impact this program has on individuals with life-changing injuries.

I also have previous experience with the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) Program. Earlier this year, the Reno Area Dirtriders (RAD) received a grant to produce education videos, for which my professional services were contracted. The videos focused on trail etiquette, maintenance, navigation, and the overall OHV community. Therefore, my expertise will be beneficial to High Fives Foundation as they work to increase access, inclusivity, and safety for Nevada off-roaders of all abilities and skill levels, leveraging the same successful approach and applications as with RAD.

Please consider this letter to be in recognition of my full support of High Fives Foundation as they apply to the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program this year and my commitment to fulfill my duties of producing professional educational video content for this project. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions for me. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Chris Bartkowski generikal@gmail.com

Nevada Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources Off-Highway Vehicles Program 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 1003 Carson City, NV 89701

December 10, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Good day to you! My name is Jarred Evans, and I am High Fives athlete #216 and a participant and mentor of Return to Dirt (R2D).

In 2004, I suffered a serious spinal cord injury of my C5-C6 vertebrae while surfing in Santa Monica, CA, resulting in paralysis from the chest down. This near-death experience was life-changing in many ways and revealed the essential elements of the recovery process throughout my healing journey.

Outdoor activities have always been a huge part of my life for physical, mental, and spiritual health, and that's still true to this day. Since I became a High Fives athlete in 2018, I've been able to regain accessibility to outdoor recreation again in a safe, supportive environment. Returning to sport after a life-changing injury is like being able to rediscover your identity.

I've participated in R2D camps since 2019. It's an awesome way to unplug, get out into nature on accessible and inclusive trail systems, take high-powered vehicles on long, windy tracks, and continue to inspire one another. One of the most rewarding parts of these trips is the sense of community. Getting to connect with other adaptive athletes and find social support among those who can truly empathize with my life experiences is a gamechanger.

These important camps increase the quality of life and sense of independence among athletes with life-changing injuries. And, these off-road vehicles are truly the only way members of the SCI community can get deep into nature, well off the concrete sidewalks and experience its majesty and beauty. I'm thrilled at the prospect of expanding R2D further into new spaces in Nevada so that more adaptive athletes can experience the healing powers of off-road adventures!

This letter is in recognition of my full support of High Fives Foundation as they apply to the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program this year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions for me.

Sincerely,

Jarred Evans

Jarred Evans jarredevans 7@yahoo.com



# PROPOSAL VIDEO & PHOTO PRODUCTION OHV SAFETY VIDEO SERIES

**Goal:** Create two 4-5 minute videos for social media to inform and educate the public about off-highway vehicle (OHV) safety and accessibility.

### **Potential video topics:**

- Trail Safety, Etiquette
- Trail Maintenance
- Pre-Ride Checklist: Know Your Gear
- Navigation: How to Find Riding Areas, Mapping, Using GPS
- How To Help: Get Involved

**Approach:** Work with the CEO and board of High Fives Foundation to determine content for each video. Videos to be storyboarded/outlined and approved prior to shooting. Estimated production of these videos will require two full days in and around the North Reno Recreation Area. Aerial/drone footage will also be captured during production. Generikal Design will provide appropriate models or talent for each production. Motion graphics will also be added once picture lock has been approved. Generikal Design will produce, edit, and deliver two finished 4-5 minute videos ready for social media distribution. Generikal Design will also capture photos of the camp.

**Usage:** Raw video assets may be purchased with unlimited rights for legacy/signature usage. Generikal Design has the right to use approved content and finished tear sheets for portfolio and personal promotional use. Generikal Design is a contracted employee and is held responsible for his own insurance and workers comp. Music will be licensed.

#### Rates:

Pre-Production: 15% Video Production: 25% Photo Production: 25% Other Expenses: 5%

<u>Total Per Year:</u> \$10,000 Grand Total: \$20,000

Timing: 2023-2024

 STATUS: QUOTE
 Quote #\_\_\_\_

 Open date: \_\_\_\_\_
 \_\_\_\_\_

Customer	Service Writer	VIN		Mileage1 Out	Mileage2 Out
High Fives Foundation Return to Dirt	Sales Type	Tag Number	Permit	Terms	Customer PO
	Year/Make/Model			Tax Code	Promised Date

Т	Req.	OEM	Item	Description	Amount
1	1.00	DEFAULT	PART	BACK SPORT C.GE	2,093
1	1.00	DEFAULT	PART	ALUMINUM OP FOR BACK SPORT	487
				CAGE	
1	1.00	WP019	PART	LOWER DOOR VISET IS BLACK	301
				FOR TOCK DOOLS	
L	6.00		LABOR	"" ALL "USP" NSION/WHEEL	396
				PAR S	
L	4.00		LABOR	'' JTALL RUGGED RADIO,	264
				SL `TS,HARNESSES	
L	4.00		LABC	NSTALL HAND CONTROL/E-	264
				POWER STEERING/DOOR INSERTS	
1	1.00	TR015	⊃^RT	SPORT V STEERING WHEEL 6 BOLT	63
I	1.00	TR015	'AR'	SPLINE ADAPTER/HUB KIT	126
S	1.00	FEES	N 'sC	4 SEAT BRAND WRAP	600
1	1.00	PU 64	PA 'T	BELT DRIVE G-FORCE C12	135

Estimated		Totals	
Initial:		Item	3,205
		Fee	600
		Labor	924
		Kit	0
		Misc	0
		Subtotal	4,729
Final:			
Filial.		Shop Fees	0
		Ship By Default	0
		Sales Tax	0
		Total Due	4,729
	Tracking No.	Total Paid	0
		Balance Due	4,729

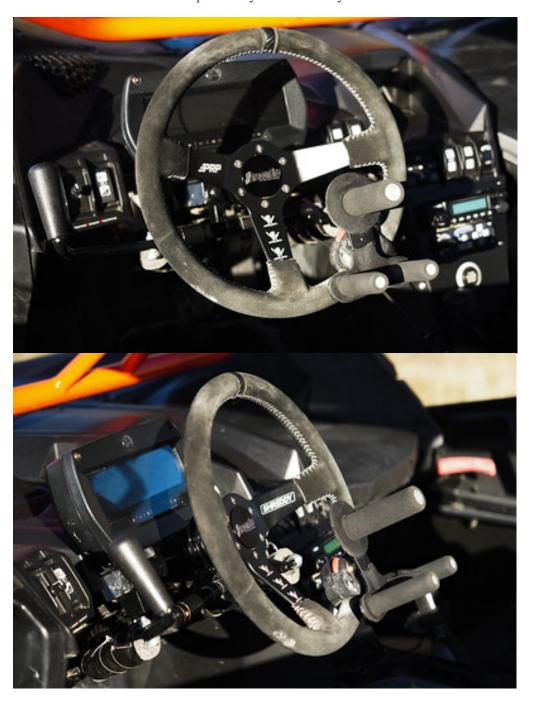
Figure 3: Aerial View of North Reno Recreation Area ("Moon Rocks") via Google Earth



Figure 4: Trail Level View of North Reno Recreation Area, captured by Generikal Designs



Figure 5: Can-Am UTV After-Market Hand Control Modifications for Adaptive Riders, captured by Brent Jacoby





# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Carson City District Office 5665 Morgan Mill Road Carson City, Nevada 89701

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