

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

James Lawrence Director

Dominique Etchegoyhen, Deputy Director



**STATE OF NEVADA
Off-Highway Vehicles Program**

901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1003

Carson City, Nevada 89701

Telephone (775) 684-2794

Facsimile (775) 684-2715

OHV.NV.GOV



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

NEVADA OHV GRANT APPLICATION
(REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS, APPENDIX A)

APPLICATIONS DUE:
December 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM, PST

SUBMIT: ONE FULL COLOR COPY
BY MAIL OR HAND DELIVERY
(8.5" X 11" ONLY. MAPS MAY BE 11"X17" NO LARGER)

AND

ONE SINGLE ELECTRONIC FILE; PDF VIA EMAIL NNarkhede@ohv.nv.gov
OR MEMORY DEVICE ENCLOSED WITH APPLICATION

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.

SECTION I - PROJECT AND APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Wilson Canyon BLM OHV Remediation, Phase 2

2. Project Timeline: February 2022 – December 2023

3. Applicant Name: Walker Basin Conservancy

Mailing address: 615 Riverside Dr., STE C, Reno, NV 89503

Phone: 775-463-9887

Email: peter.stanton@walkerbasin.org

4. Classification of Applicant: (check one)

☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local/Municipal ☐ Other: _____

☐ Partnership ☒ Non-profit ☐ for Profit ☐ Individual

If the applicant is a corporate or legal entity, proof of good standing in the entity's state of incorporation is required. NAC 490.1345 (Note: grantees must have the capacity to implement and accomplish proposed project and properly administer awarded funds).



Applicant Signature
(Chairperson/President/Authorized Official)

December 16, 2022
Date

5. Project Manager: Miguel Gonzales

Mailing address: 615 Riverside Dr., STE C, Reno, NV 89503

Phone: 775-463-9887 x110

Email: miguel.gonzales@walkerbasin.org

Alternate Contact: Peter Stanton

Mailing address: 615 Riverside Dr., STE C, Reno, NV 89503

Phone: 775-463-9887

Email: peter.stanton@walkerbasin.org

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

☒ Federally managed public land ☐ Private Land ☐ County ☐ City

☐ Other: _____

☐ 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 Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District, Sierra Front Field Office

Mailing address: 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701

Phone: 775-885-6177

Email: pfuselier@blm.gov

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.



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: Walker Basin Conservancy 2023 Grant Proposal

Dear Committee,

This letter is provided in support of Walker Basin Conservancy's (WBC) proposed *Wilson Canyon BLM OHV Remediation, Phase 2* project in 2023. This project would place barriers and signs that would physically close the emergency closure area to illegal off-highway vehicle incursions and ensuring natural revegetation of the impacted riparian zone can take place. 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 WBC and Nevada Off-road Association complete appropriate clearances to facilitate project implementation.

Walker Basin Conservancy has established a positive partnership with the BLM in Wilson Canyon and in the larger Walker River watershed. BLM looks forward to working with the organization in Wilson Canyon as well as other areas where we share common values and ecosystem management goals. The Sierra Front Field Office is committed to working with its partners to ensure the maintenance of this project into the future.

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

9. PROJECT COSTS:

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

State OHV Grant Request: \$62,629

Matching Funds: \$21,066

Total Project Amount : \$83,695

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

☒ Federal ☐ Private ☒ In-kind ☐ City/County ☐ Other

Please describe additional funding source(s):

Type here: Matching funds will come largely from a Federal AmeriCorps grant that supports Walker Basin Conservancy Restoration Teams and Bureau of Reclamation funding through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that supports general operations and administration of the Conservancy. In-kind and volunteers labor will come largely through partnership with the Nevada Offroad Association and Pine Nut Mountain Trails Association along with community volunteers during public volunteer days for the sign installation and another for restoration planting components of this grant that will be hosted by the Conservancy and partners at Wilson Canyon.

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).



29 November 2022

November 29, 2022

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

Subject: Walker Basin Conservancy

The Nevada Offroad Association (NVORA) supports the grant application submitted by the Walker Basin Conservancy for rehabilitation and protective barrier efforts along the West Walker River in Wilson Canyon. Recreation areas on federal and state managed lands are experiencing damage from high use by campers, anglers, and OHV riders.

NVORA enthusiastically encourages and supports motorized and non-motorized recreation stakeholders to work collaboratively to identify high quality projects that meet the land management sustainable recreation mission. Truly successful recreation projects bring user, management, and conservation groups together under the common goal to create more opportunities for responsible recreation, while affording users safe and well managed locations to park, camp, ride, fish, hike, and explore. This project, and others in development, add high quality value to Nevada recreation programs, and demonstrates the broad use and care for our Public Lands.

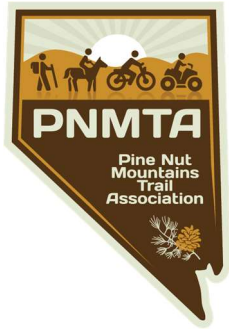
It is through the efforts of partnership identified projects, like the Wilson Canyon Rehabilitation Project, that we create a genuine force multiplier to our federal agencies tasked with managing vast amounts of Nevada's Public Lands.

Regards,

Respectfully,

Mathew Giltner
Executive Director
Nevada Offroad Association

Nevada Offroad Association
PO Box 1111 • Carson City NV 89701
Nevadaoffroad.us • Info@nevadaoffroad.us • 775.430.0000



The Pine Nut Mountains Trail Association

P.O. Box 3012
Gardnerville, NV 89410

December 15, 2022

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

Subject: Wilson Canyon Remediation Project-Phase 2

To Whom It May Concern:

The Pine Nut Mountains Trail Association (PNMTA) supports the Walker Basin Conservancy's grant request to continue their rehabilitation of Wilson Canyon on the south side of the river (Phase 2) from damage due to overuse, campers, and OHV users.

The simple task of reintroducing native plants will enhance the esthetics and aid in reducing the runoff that naturally occurs from entering the river. Additionally, renewing the old worn signage and improving the kiosks will allow groups, such as PNMTA with our partners at Tread Lightly!, the opportunity to provide information on trails and proper stewardship values.

PNMTA believes that positive actions with the groups who are conservation focused, like the Walker Basin Conservancy, can make improvements where the OHV community will embrace those efforts.

Creating more opportunities for responsible recreation, while affording users safe, well managed locations to park, camp, and ride, adds immeasurable value to the recreation community, and demonstrates the broad use of our Public Lands.

Sincerely yours,

Jon Allen
President
info@pnmta.org

The Pine Nut Mountains Trails Association is chartered with the mission to promote activity reasonably related to the preservation and promotion of public access, including motorized vehicles, equestrian and human powered activities. Promotion and preservation of motorized vehicle access includes trail maintenance and construction, trash removal, fund raising, education of the public, promotion of trail etiquette and responsible use, safety awareness, fun rides, family and group activities.

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

- ☐ Studies or planning for trails and facilities;
 - Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Studies.
 - Other studies _____
- ☐ Acquisition of land for trails and facilities
- ☐ Mapping and signing of trails and facilities
- ☐ Reconstruction, enhancement or maintenance of existing trails and facilities
- ☐ Construction of new trails and facilities
- ☐ Restoration of areas that have been damaged by the use of off-highway vehicles.
- ☐ The construction of trail features, trailheads, parking, or other ancillary facilities which minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas or important wildlife habitat areas.
- ☐ Safety training and education related to the use of off highway vehicles and registration
- ☐ Compliance and enforcement (See Appendix C, Enforcement Strategy example)

12. ALL TRAIL USERS: (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/Backpacking | <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single track motorcycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoe/ski |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATV quads | <input type="checkbox"/> Dune buggy | <input type="checkbox"/> UTV Side by side |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Race Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Skills riding course | |

Please explain how you intend to manage user interactions:

Most user interactions will be in staging, trailhead, and camping areas directly adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) closure area. Non-motorized access to the closure area is still allowed under the terms of the emergency closure and existing access to the river and riparian corridor will be maintained for non-motorized users while excluding motorized use through a combination of barriers and signage as described below. Additionally, the larger interpretive and informational signs will contain maps that describe the emergency closure area, areas on broader BLM and US Forest Service land in the Wilson Canyon region that is designated for motorized and non-motorized use, as well as indicating specific trailheads, trails, and motorized routes in the area.

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

Walker Basin Conservancy (Conservancy), in partnership with the Nevada Offroad Association (NVORA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), proposes to conduct Phase 2 of restoration within the 2003 BLM Emergency Closure at Wilson Canyon in Lyon County, Nevada. The purpose of this work is to remediate impacts from motorized use in and prevent further degradation of the sensitive riparian zone along the West Walker River in keeping with the emergency closure. The emergency closure was put in place “in order to prevent further adverse effects to soils, vegetation, water resources, visual resources, wildlife, and wildlife habitat” that were the result of motorized incursions into the riparian corridor. Work under this grant is considered Phase 2 of the project and will focus on the most heavily impacted areas south of Walker River and north of NV 208 at the west end of Wilson Canyon. Phase 1 included the areas north of the river and the bulk of that on-the-ground work has been successfully completed. Future phases may focus on surrounding BLM land and adjacent US Forest Service (USFS) land. The Conservancy proposes three main actions to restore and protect the closed area: installation of protective barriers, restoration of degraded areas, and installation of signage.

The first step will be the installation of barriers to prevent motorized incursions and limit further degradation. Proposed barriers will fall into two broad categories: tight and loose barriers. Tight barriers will be installed in areas of direct, significant, and repeated incursions with the purpose of preventing further use of routes into the closure by motorized vehicles. Tight barriers will include a combination railroad tie barriers and large rocks. This combination of railroad ties and large rocks has proven to be an effective barrier to most motorized vehicles, a sufficient deterrent to prevent removal, and cost effective while maintaining a low maintenance need, longevity, and more natural aesthetic in an area that see significant recreation and camping. As they will be installed in areas of significant and repeated incursion, tight barriers will be more robust in construction and installation, having a spacing between features of less than 32 inches, above ground height of at least 18 inches, and a below ground depth of at least 12 inches. The spacing and robustness of tight barriers will be such that they prevent access to any vehicle ATV sized or larger, deter dirt bike sized vehicles, and are impractical to remove by a normal user while still allowing pedestrian access to the river. Tight barrier installation is anticipated along approximately 750 feet of the closure boundary. Loose barriers will be installed along closure boundaries near high-traffic areas or areas of existing disturbance that do not yet have significant intrusions into the closure, such as along routes or staging areas adjacent to the closure. The purpose of loose barriers is to inhibit and discourage potential intrusions and gradual expansion into sensitive areas protected by the closure. Loose barriers will include large rocks installed in a similar manner to the Phase 1 work. Since they are being installed as discouragement in areas that still have significant vegetative growth within the closure, loose barriers can be lower profile in construction and installation, having a spacing between features of less than 70 inches, above ground height of at least 12 inches, and a below ground depth of at least 12 inches. The spacing and size of loose barriers will be such that they

prevent access to any normal sized vehicles or trailers and, along with existing vegetation, inhibit easy access to ATV and UTV users. Loose barriers installation is proposed along approximately 2,500 feet of the closure boundary. Barrier installation will be conducted by Conservancy staff and AmeriCorps members during the spring and summer of 2023 and before restoration work begins. Proposed areas for both tight and loose barriers are designated on the attached maps.

The second step in the remediation process will be installation of regulatory, informational, and interpretive signs. Regulatory signs will be installed along with tight barriers, along major ingress and staging points, and periodically spaced along loose barriers to inform users of the emergency closure and associated restrictions. Informational signs will give users general information about legal uses of the area; existing routes, trailheads, and camping areas; more detailed information about the closure and why it was enacted; and provide maps of the area that will include the emergency closure. Interpretive signs will provide additional information about the remediation work being done in the closure, the importance of protecting sensitive riparian zones, and other interpretive information about the river, watershed, wildlife, and natural/cultural history of the area to help user better understand the importance of the river and riparian corridor. All signs will conform to BLM design, material, and installation standards. The Conservancy is also partnering with Tread Lightly through to provide standardized signage for Tread Lightly principles, recreational guidelines, and sign design. Signs may be a mixture of materials and styles, such as posts, placards, and large panel kiosks. The majority of sign installation will be conducted by Conservancy staff and AmeriCorps members along with a volunteer day engaging members of the public and local groups like NVORA and the Pine Nut Mountain Trails Association (PNMTA). Sign installation will occur in conjunction with or immediately following barrier installation to keep the public informed about the project and the reason for closure of areas to motorized traffic.

The final step in the process will be restoration of heavily impacted riparian areas within the closure. These areas will be revegetated with native plant species approximately matching the density and composition of native plants within the surrounding undisturbed riparian zones. Plants will be sourced locally and propagated from locally adapted seed or stock to ensure maximum compatibility with local climate conditions. Where feasible, some forbs and grasses may be seeded, but most woody vegetation will be propagated in a nursery and then planted as seedlings. Native plants used will include Willow (various), Buffalo Berry, Greasewood, Four-wing Saltbush, Basin Big Sage, Quailbush, and Rubber Rabbitbrush. Planting density will be designed such that it adequately covers the restoration area with a mixture of plants to begin soil stabilization, provides adequate seeds sources for native recruitment of additional plants, and is dense enough to accommodate expected mortality while still meeting restoration objectives. Plants will be monitored and watered for the first 1-2 years to ensure adequate survival and development. If any restoration area experiences significant mortality such that it

will undermine the restoration effort, supplemental planting will occur as necessary. In areas with significant erosion issues caused by the denuding of vegetation and heavy motorized use, restoration will also include the installation of erosion control structures such as riprap, single rock structures, media lunas, or check dams. These structures will be designed and installed such that concentrated water flows created by heavy erosion will be slowed and dispersed to a more natural sheet flow and incised channels will be gradually stepped down and naturally backfilled with sediment. Restoration areas that currently allow for non-motorized access to the river will be designed such that a trail or path will be maintained post restoration to provide continued access as allowed under the closure while minimizing and concentrating user impact through the riparian zone. Restoration is expected to take place on approximately 1.75 acres within the closure with approximately 1,750 native plants going into the ground. Restoration work will take place after barriers are installed and is planned to occur during the fall of 2023 to accommodate for the required grow out period of the plant stock and to utilize the most successful planting window for native species. The majority of restoration will be conducted by Conservancy staff and AmeriCorps members but will also include a volunteer day for engaging members of the public and local groups like NVORA and PNMTA on the revegetation process and to educate them about the conservation benefits of the work. Proposed areas of restoration are designated on the attached maps.

The Conservancy is committed to working with the BLM and NVORA on these remediation efforts at Wilson Canyon. The BLM completed NEPA and cultural clearances for the entire project area prior to beginning Phase 1 and issued a Categorical Exclusion for all work to be completed within this proposal. Through the combined installation of barriers, restoration of impacted areas, and installation of signs, the Conservancy believes that significant violations of the emergency closure can be prevented and the sensitive riparian zone the closure protects can be adequately restored while maintaining pedestrian access to the river.

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

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

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

- ☐ No ☒ Yes
- Number of projects funded: 1
- Amount of funding Received: \$ 99,391
- Number of projects Completed: 0

SECTION II – LOCATION, MAPS, PHOTOS

Project Location:

County: Lyon County, NV

Nearest Municipality/Town/City: Smith and Yerington, NV

Center of project: Latitude: 38.808946, Longitude: -119.229416

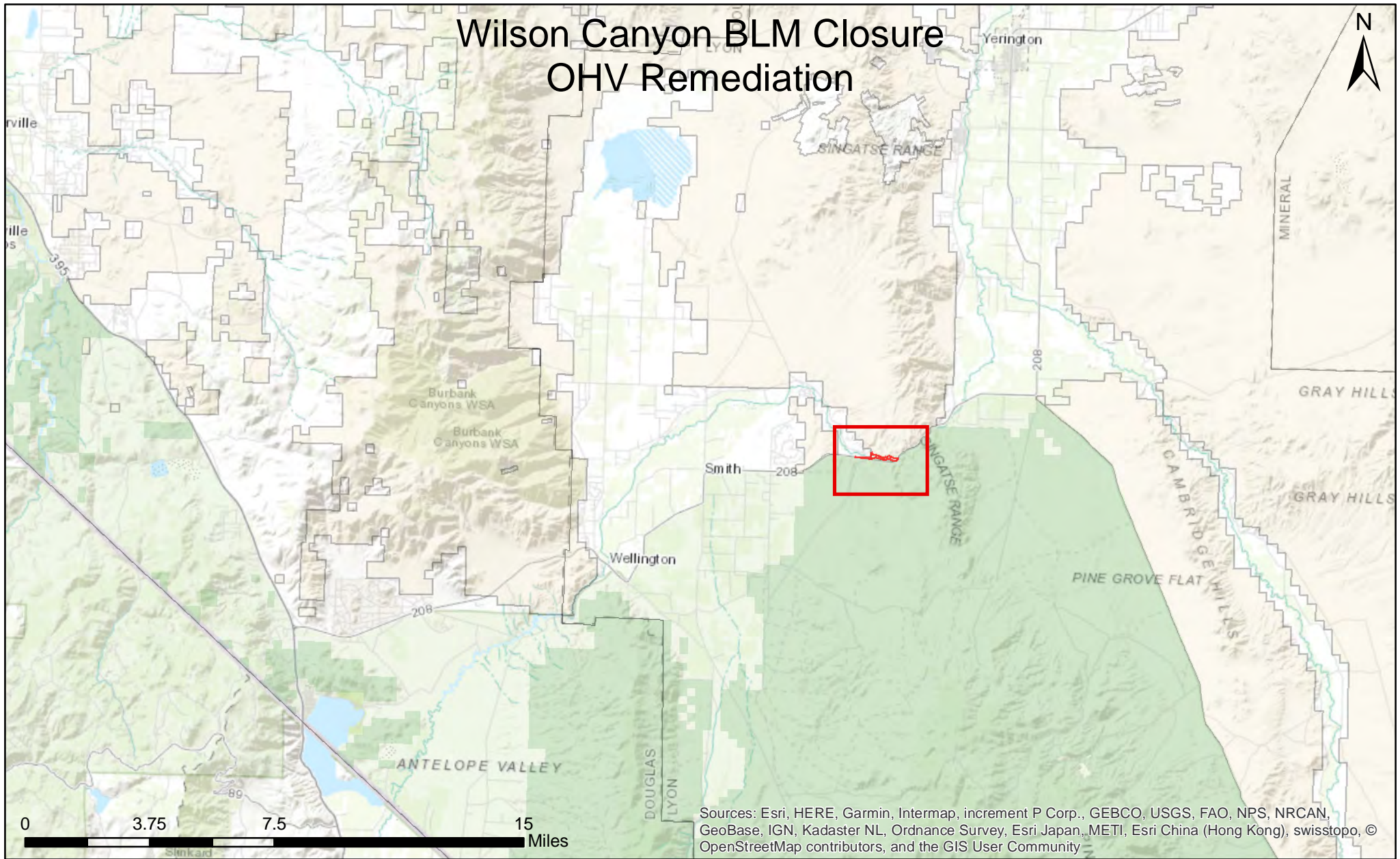
If the shape-files for the trail system are available, please submit them in the e-file. The shape-files of the trail will be required at project end. Program will assist in the collection of the data if needed.

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.

- ☐ 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






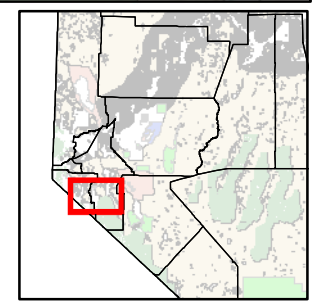
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 **Walker
Basin
Conservancy**

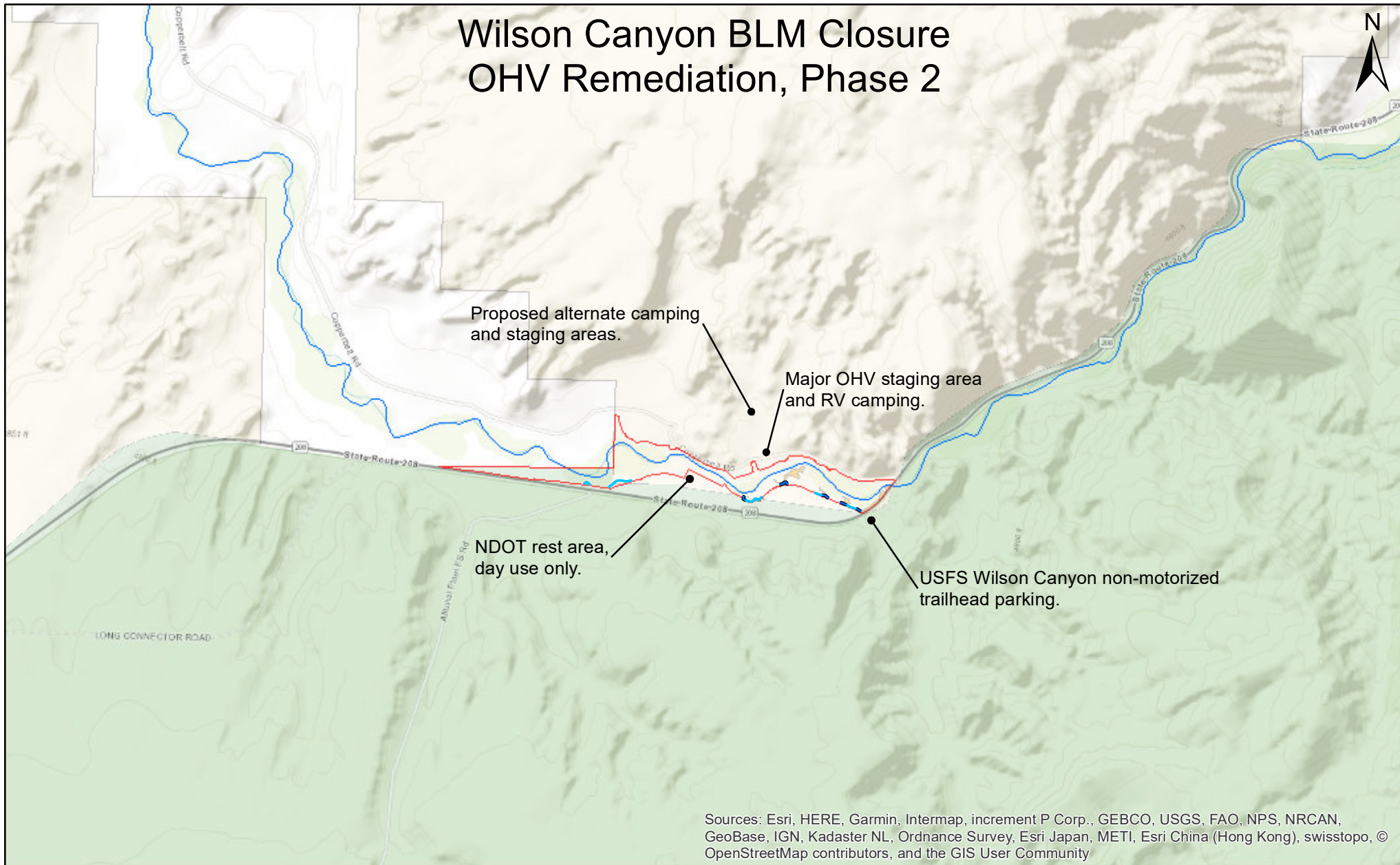
Walker Basin Conservancy makes no guarantee as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data.

Legend

	Project Area		Bureau of Land Management
			Forest Service



Wilson Canyon BLM Closure OHV Remediation, Phase 2



Walker Basin Conservancy makes no guarantee as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data.

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

1:24,000

Legend

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Loose Barrier | Closure Area | Bureau of Land Management |
| Tight Barrier | Walker River | Forest Service |
| Restoration Area | | |



Wilson Canyon BLM Closure OHV Remediation, Phase 2



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

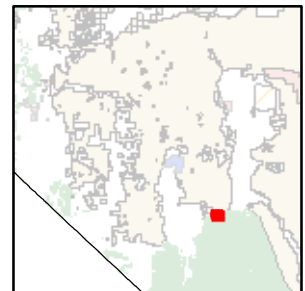
1:7,500



Walker Basin Conservancy makes no guarantee as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data.

Legend

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Loose Barrier | Closure Area |
| Tight Barrier | Walker River |
| Restoration Area | |



Please attach the following photographs:

- ☐ *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.)*



Picture 1: Looking north, towards river at a site. Note the bent u-channel post and tracks behind BLM signs.



Picture 2: Looking north into closure boundary along impacted route with erosion channeling.



Picture 3: Looking east along a more recent incursion site through otherwise healthy riparian vegetation.



Picture 4: Looking east along river at the largest site. Note the impact all the way to the river bank on the left.

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) (Attached: Appendix B)**
- ☐ SHPO 106 compliance/concurrence letter.
- ☐ Other compliance documents already completed. (do not attached the EA or EIS)
- ☐ 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 for the completion of the project 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.**

Walker Basin Conservancy Grant Budget

	Crews	Techs
Proejct Title	Weeks/year	10
Wilson Canyon BLM OHV Remediation, Phase 2	Years	1
Project Dates	Crew(s)	1
2023-2024	Members/Crew	4

Item Description	Grant Request	Match	Total Cost
A. Personnel Expenses			
Program Manager (project coordination)	\$ 1,779	\$ -	\$ 1,779
Crew Leader(s) (1 Leader/Crew)	\$ 7,308	\$ -	\$ 7,308
Technician (equipment operator)	\$ 7,308	\$ -	\$ 7,308
AmeriCorps Crew Members (4/crew)	\$ 5,040	\$ 11,760	\$ 16,800
FICA, Workers Comp, Insurance, etc.	\$ 6,482	\$ 4,152	\$ 10,634
	\$ 27,917	\$ 15,912	\$ 43,828
B. Volunteer and In-kind			
Volunteer/donated Labor @\$27.20/hr	\$ -	\$ 3,264	\$ 3,264
C. Travel			
Crew Mileage (1 truck/Crew)	\$ 788	\$ 338	\$ 1,125
Technician Mileage	\$ 1,125	\$ -	\$ 1,125
	\$ 1,913	\$ 338	\$ 2,250
D. Supplies			
Native Plants for Restoration	\$ 4,363	\$ -	\$ 4,363
Planting cages, weeds barriers, materials	\$ 2,181	\$ -	\$ 2,181
Interpretive and Informational Kiosks	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Small Regulatory and Information Signs	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Barrier Materials (priced for ties and boulders)	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 11,000
Irrigation supplies	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Misc. Tools and Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Ripper for Skid Steer	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Uniforms and PPE	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
	\$ 25,044	\$ 500	\$ 25,544
E. Equipment			
WBC Backhoe (fuel, insurance, etc.)	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 1,200
F. Admin			
Fixed Admin Costs	\$ 6,556	\$ 1,053	\$ 7,609
Grant Total	\$ 62,629	\$ 21,066	\$ 83,695
Percentages	75%	25%	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.*

While Law Enforcement is not directly funded through this project, education, signage, and project design will assist the BLM in enforcing applicable state and federal laws. Informational signs will include information on federal, state, and local regulations, including OHV registration and the emergency closure, and interpretive signs will further educate the public about the importance of following regulations and Tread Lightly principles. The Conservancy also plans to partner with NVORA to host two volunteer events engaging members of the OHV community in the sign installation and restoration efforts where they will also be educated about OHV registration and regulations as well as the importance of conservation efforts and sustainable recreation. Furthermore, this project is designed to assist in the enforcement of the BLM Emergency Closure and Conservancy staff will continue monitoring the project after completion and forward any violations of the emergency closure or other illegal activities to the BLM.

- 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).*

Conservancy staff will continue monitoring the closure barriers and restoration areas after project completion. Restoration areas will receive supplemental watering and planting as necessary, and barriers will be maintained to uphold the emergency closure. Future phases of the project are expected to further address OHV staging and camping areas adjacent to the closure, including designation of additional camping and staging areas and improvements to the BLM vault toilet at Wilson Canyon.

- 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?*

Training is not the focus of this project, but education on OHV rules, regulations, and sustainable recreation will be included as part of the two planned volunteer events as well as included on interpretive and educational signs.

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*

Signing is a significant component of this project. Regulatory signs will be installed to inform users about specific federal and state regulations applicable to the Wilson Canyon area, including information on and boundaries of the emergency closure, existing staging and camping areas, as well as alternative staging and camping areas to help disburse some of the heavy use in the area of the closure.

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.*

The barriers and restoration within the closure area should have no impact on the connectivity of trails and public lands in the area. OHV recreation is the largest use of BLM and USFS land around West Wilson Canyon with multiple options and opportunities for access to a variety of OHV trail systems and backcountry areas. Informational signs and maps will include information on designated routes, access points, staging areas, and other public land information for both BLM and USFS lands in the Wilson Canyon area. This information will help users better understand designated uses of land in the area, introduce them to new recreation opportunities, and explain how best to recreate responsibly.

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?*

Restoration of sensitive riparian habitat along the Walker River is a major component of this project. The 2003 BLM Emergency Closure was put in place “in order to prevent further adverse effects to soils, vegetation, water resources, visual resources, wildlife, and wildlife habitat” caused by illegal OHV and motorized use of the riparian and river corridor and modification of those areas to accommodate staging and camping adjacent to the river. Continued motorized use and overnight camping since the closure was enacted has resulted in further degradation of the area. Furthermore, motorized access to the river not only directly impacts those sensitive habitats, it also disturbs other recreational uses of the area such as fishing, bird watching, hiking, and river recreation. The purpose of the barrier installation and restoration work is to remediate impacts from motorized use in and prevent further degradation of the sensitive riparian zone along the

river in keeping with the emergency closure. The signing plan will further educate users on sustainable recreation practices and direct them to alternate staging and camping areas in officially designated or otherwise low-impact sites. Through the combined installation of barriers, restoration of impacted areas, and installation of signs, the Conservancy believes that significant violations of the emergency closure can be prevented and the sensitive riparian zone can be adequately restored while maintaining other recreational access to the river.

7. Access: *Please describe how your project improves OHV access in the project area. Explain what access/opportunities will be lost or restricted if the project does not occur.*

The increased protection of the closure area and restoration of disturbed sites will help ensure continued use of the Wilson Canyon area for motorized recreation without need for further regulatory or management actions. Heavy use of BLM lands along the Walker River in Wilson Canyon for motorized recreation, staging, and camping resulted in the initial closure of the area to motorized use. While the area is still heavily used, the closure is intended to protect the most environmentally sensitive and important habitat along and within the river. The work of this project will help maintain the borders of the closure area from additional encroachment while directing users to appropriate areas for recreation and camping, ensuring that Wilson Canyon can remain open and no additional action needs to be taken to protect the sensitive area within the closure. Additionally, this project is intended to be the first phase of significant improvements in the Wilson Canyon area that will expand access and recreational opportunities.

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.*

The Conservancy is directly partnering with Nevada Offroad Association and the BLM on the design and implementation of this project. Additionally, the Conservancy has engaged with a number of other agencies and organizations on the design of the project as well as planning for future phases through the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership. Most notable are the Pine Nut Mountain Trails Association, who will be partnering on volunteer day projects and community outreach, the US Forest Service, who is looking into similar actions on adjacent USFS land, the NV Department of Transportation, who has implemented similar protection work for the river corridor adjacent to their Wilson Canyon Rest Area, and Tread Lightly, who is working with NVORA on developing consistent and pertinent educational and informational signage to be used on this and similar projects.

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

The Wilson Canyon area is one of the most heavily used recreation sites in the Walker Basin. In addition to the significant OHV and camping opportunities, the area has a diverse range of other

outdoor recreation, including fishing, hiking, and equestrian use, that draws a large number of recreationists from outside of the area. Protection of important river resources not only has an environmental benefit, but it also preserves those sensitive areas for the use of a variety of non-motorized recreation. Additionally, through the informational and interpretive signage, the Conservancy hopes to better educate recreationists about additional opportunities on BLM and USFS lands in the area that will help alleviate the significant recreational pressure in the area while still providing for additional opportunities for new users. This recreational tourism is an important and significant source of money coming into the area for communities such as Yerington, Smith, and Wellington.

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

Construction of the barriers for protecting the enclosure area is a necessity as described in question 6 above. The installation of signs will likewise play a significant part in protecting sensitive riparian habitat and upholding the emergency closure, but they will also fulfill a need for additional information, education, and interpretive opportunities in a highly visited and trafficked area. Current regulatory and informational signs in the area are old, fading, and frequently non-existent. The installation of new and additional signs to provide information and interpretive opportunities will enhance user experience, educate the public, and help disperse recreation impacts into less frequented areas.

SECRETARY OF STATE



**CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE
WITH STATUS IN GOOD STANDING**

I, BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE, the duly elected and qualified Nevada Secretary of State, do hereby certify that I am, by the laws of said State, the custodian of the records relating to filings by corporations, non-profit corporations, corporation soles, limited-liability companies, limited partnerships, limited-liability partnerships and business trusts pursuant to Title 7 of the Nevada Revised Statutes which are either presently in a status of good standing or were in good standing for a time period subsequent of 1976 and am the proper officer to execute this certificate.

I further certify that the records of the Nevada Secretary of State, at the date of this certificate, evidence, **WALKER BASIN CONSERVANCY**, as a non-profit corporation duly organized under the laws of Nevada and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Nevada since September 16, 2014, and is in good standing in this state.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of State, at my office on July 27, 2016.

Barbara K. Cegavske

BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE
Secretary of State

Electronic Certificate
Certificate Number: C20160727-1568
You may verify this electronic certificate
online at <http://www.nvsos.gov/>

Categorical Exclusion

Wilson Canyon – Site Maintenance and Restoration

Sierra Front Field Office

Carson City, Nevada 89701

Phone: 775-885-6000

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2022-0007-CX

Background

BLM Office: Sierra Front Field Office, LLNVC02000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: 8300

Location of Proposed Action: Mountain Diablo Meridian, Lyon County, Nevada, T. 11 N., R. 25 E., sections 17, 18, 19 and T. 11 N., R. 24 E., section 24.

Note: State Highway 208 BLM ROW corridor is 400 feet. Due to engineering as-built offset, BLM land status south boundary is approximately 235' off highway centerline. The highway corridor on the north side of the highway centerline is approximately 165 feet.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to replace, modify, repair, renovate, enhance, or otherwise maintain existing facilities/infrastructure at Wilson Canyon to ensure public health and safety and resource protection at the site through routine and deferred maintenance actions. Subsequently, no new surface disturbances are proposed for this project.

Wilson Canyon is a developed non-fee recreation site with restrooms, controlled access, and public information kiosks and signs. Existing facilities and projects subject to routine and or deferred maintenance include and are not limited to the restroom, access road, fencing, gates, vehicle barriers, signs, and kiosks.

The proposed action includes maintaining the West Walker River riparian zone restoration project as implemented in 2003 as part of the 2003 off-highway vehicle (OHV) and camping closure (Federal Register Notice NV-030-04-001) for the west end of Wilson Canyon riparian corridor. Deferred maintenance actions also include those that restore vegetation along the riparian corridor by maintaining the 2003 closure OHV and camping closure through signage, monitoring, enforcement, and public information. Proposed restoration will focus on heavily impacted riparian areas within the closure. These areas would be revegetated with native plant species approximately matching the density and composition of native plants within the surrounding undisturbed areas. Plants would be sourced locally and propagated from locally adapted seed or stock to ensure maximum compatibility with local climate conditions. Where

feasible, some forbs and grasses may be seeded, but most woody vegetation would be propagated in a nursery and then planted as seedlings. Native plants used would include Willow (various), Buffaloberry, Greasewood, Four-wing Saltbush, Basin Big Sage, Quail-bush, and Rubber Rabbitbrush. Planting density would be designed such that it adequately covers the restoration area with a mixture of plants to begin soil stabilization, provide adequate seeds sources for native recruitment of additional plants, and dense enough to accommodate expected mortality while still meeting restoration objectives. Plants would be monitored, and hand watered for the first 1-2 years to ensure adequate survival and development. If any restoration area experiences significant mortality such that it would undermine the restoration effort, supplemental planting would occur as necessary. In areas with significant erosion issues caused by the denuding of vegetation and heavy motorized use, restoration would also include the installation of erosion control structures such as riprap, single rock structures, or minor check dams. These structures would be designed and installed such that concentrated water flows created by heavy erosion would be slowed and dispersed to a more natural sheet flow and incised channels would be gradually stepped down and naturally backfilled with sediment. Restoration areas that currently allow for nonmotorized access to the river would be designed such that a trail or path would be maintained post restoration to provide continued access as allowed under the closure while minimizing and concentrating user impact through the riparian zone. Restoration is expected to take place on approximately 1 acre within the closure with approximately 1,250 native plants going into the ground. Restoration work would take place after barriers are installed and likely not occur until the fall of 2022 to accommodate for the required grow out period of the plant stock and to utilize the most successful planting window for native species. Restoration will be conducted by Conservancy staff and AmeriCorps members and may also include a volunteer day for engaging members of the public and local groups like NVORA and PNMTA on the revegetation process and to educate them about the conservation benefits of the work. Proposed areas of restoration are designated on the attached maps.

The APE for this project is approximately 390 total acres (2003 camping/OHV closure located within APE is 50 acres).

Background Information: Wilson Canyon is located along the banks of the West Fork of the Walker River in Lyon County twenty miles south of Yerington along Highway 208. The area supports a strong OHV contingency and attracts both community and destination-based visitors. Recreation opportunities include camping, fishing, equestrian use, hiking, picnicking, and riding off-highway vehicles in the surrounding hills.

State Highway 208 BLM ROW corridor is 400 feet. Due to engineering as-built offset within the narrow canyon east of the bridge, BLM land status south boundary is approximately 235' off highway centerline. The highway corridor on the north side of the highway centerline is approximately 165 feet. West of the bridge the ROW is 200 feet from centerline.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Nevada, Carson City Consolidated Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: May 2001

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Section 8 – Rec-2: Desired Outcomes, 1; “Provide a wide range of quality recreation opportunities on public lands...”

Sage Grouse Compliance: N/A

Environmental Protection Measures

Migratory Birds:

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703 et. seq.) protects migratory birds and their nests. A list of MBTA protected birds are found in 50 C.F.R. 10.13. The list of birds protected under this regulation is extensive and the project site has potential to support many of these species, including sensitive species, and their nests. Typically, the breeding season is when these species are most sensitive to disturbance, which generally occurs from March 1st through August 31st. Activities during the migratory bird nesting season may destroy (take) the eggs or young of nesting migratory birds. Avoidance of nesting sites as well as conducting potentially disturbing activities outside the migratory bird nesting season would help avoid violating the MBTA. If the nesting season cannot be avoided, pre-disturbance surveys for nest presence and the application of avoidance buffers (200 – 500 ft depending on species) will be applied to avoid disturbing nests.

Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, This categorical exclusion(s) is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 40 CFR 1508.4, 46 CFR 46.215 apply.

The applicable sections are:

Departmental Categorical Exclusion

§ 46.210 Listing of Departmental categorical exclusions.

The following actions are categorically excluded under paragraph 46.205(b), unless any of the extraordinary circumstances in section 46.215 apply: (f) Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).

BLM Categorical Exclusions

516 DM 11.9 Appendix 4:

D. Rangeland Management

(10) Vegetation management activities, such as seeding, planting, invasive plant removal, installation of erosion control devices (e.g., mats/straw/chips), and mechanical treatments, such as crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, mowing, and prescribed fire when the activity is necessary for the management of vegetation on public lands.

G. Transportation

(2) Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan.

(3) Temporary closure of roads and trails.

(4) Placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices.

J. Other

(10) Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built-in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

I considered:

NOTE: Answers to the Extraordinary Circumstances questions below will affect the level of NEPA required for this project.

If the answer to all Extraordinary Circumstances is NO, the use of the CX is appropriate.

If the answer to any one Extraordinary Circumstance is MAYBE or UNKNOWN, an EA is the appropriate NEPA document.

If the answer to any Extraordinary Circumstance is YES, an EIS is required.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES <i>Does the proposed action...</i>	NO/MAYBE OR UNKNOWN/YES & RATIONALE (If appropriate)	RESOURCE/PROGRAM SPECIALIST(S) ASSIGNED REVIEW	NAME OF TEAM MEMBER(S) ASSIGNED REVIEW	INITIALS AND DATE
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Impacts to Public Health and Safety

1. Have significant impacts on public health and safety?

	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22
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Impacts to Natural Resources or Unique Geographic Characteristics

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?

	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22
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Level of Controversy

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?

	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22
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Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown Environmental Risks

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22
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Precedent Setting

5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?

	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22
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Cumulatively Significant Effects

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?

	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22
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Impacts to Cultural Resources

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?

	NO	Archaeologist	Alicia Jensen	AJ 2/15/2022
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Impacts to Federally Listed Species or Critical Habitat

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?				
	NO	Wildlife Biologist	Tim Bowden	PF 2/22/22
	NO	Botanist	Dean Tonenna	PF 2/22/22
	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22

Compliance with Other Laws

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?				
	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22

Environmental Justice

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?				
	NO	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Gerrit Buma	GWB 2/17/22

Access to Sacred Sites

11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?				
	NO	Archaeologist	Alicia Jensen	AJ 2/15/2022

Noxious Weeds or Non-Native Invasive Species

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?

	NO	Botanist	Dean Tonenna	PF 2/22/22
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Approval and Contact Information

Kimberly D. Dow Field Manager Sierra Front Field Office field Manager	Date:
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Contact Person

For additional information regarding this decision contact:

Arthur Callan
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Sierra Front Field Office
Carson City District
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NY 89701

Phone: 775-885-6141
Email: acallan@blm.gov

Appeal Procedures

If you wish to appeal this decision, it may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal must also be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address:

Kimberly D. Dow
Field Manager
BLM, Carson City District Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NY 89701

Your appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from receipt or issuance of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4942, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to:

Board of Land Appeals
Dockets Attorney
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

A copy must also be sent to the appropriate office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with the above office.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Regional Solicitor
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, CA 95825

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellants' success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

The Office of Hearings and Appeals regulations do not provide for electronic filing of appeals; therefore, they will not be accepted.