

**Community Focus Statement D:** Enhance public safety by improving communication and coordination with law enforcement.

**Action Statement D.5: Enhance the enforcement programs for illegal use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on public and private roads.**

D5

**Benchmark:** The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department Victor Valley Station, in partnership with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division), target service calls for illegal riding and trespassing on private property land. Citizen volunteers assist in traffic control and law enforcement exposure.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$500–\$1,500



*Southern California Mountain Foundation OHV volunteers are a group of trained volunteers and enthusiasts on motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, or in 4x4 vehicles that greet fellow OHV enthusiasts, share information about backcountry travel on public lands, and assist in handling emergencies. A group of trained volunteers rides routes on ATVs, motorcycles, recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs), and 4-wheel-drive vehicles providing information and watching for illegal trail use, missing signs, or hazardous trail conditions. For more information, visit: <http://mountainsfoundation.org/off-highway-vehicles/volunteers>*

The rural community of Phelan Piñon Hills has a high volume of illegal riding calls from citizens complaining about off-road vehicle racing/riding on roadways. Oftentimes these calls are assigned as a lowest priority call for service. Because deputies respond to higher priority calls for service before lower priority calls, deputies do not respond to this type of call for service immediately. In an effort to reduce the reports of land trespass associated with these calls, targeting calls for service regarding illegal riding and private property land trespass requires additional enforcement on the roads and could be supported through the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division)

The OHMVR Division has a grant program (Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program) that supports the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs, as well as

programs involving off-highway motor vehicle safety or education or informational kiosks. These grants have provided all-terrain vehicles and equipment to fund further enforcement operations. In addition, volunteers are essential when assisting in community patrolling the roads in order to offer guidance, advice, and assistance to OHV users. Key training programs, such as scenario training, place volunteers in live situations with other volunteers to make critical decisions. Training sessions are accomplished with volunteers who pose as troublesome off-road riders, wounded campers, or dangerous criminals. The trainees are sent into these situations and have to use all of



their experience to not only get the proper authorities on the scene but also to properly deal with the people on the scene. Volunteers can receive training in visitor contact, radio procedures, backcountry navigation with maps and GPS systems, first aid (including CPR), patrol duties, and vehicle safety training for 4x4s, motorcycles, and ATVs.

Currently, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Victor Valley Station provides assistance patrolling the community of Phelan Piñon Hills. The Victor Valley Station has significant volunteer assistance from citizen patrol and reserve units. Citizen volunteers (Reserve Deputies and Search and Rescue) are certified in OHV riding and aid the Victor Valley Station and the Bureau of Land Management with controlling traffic and increasing the visibility of law enforcement.

#### OHV Responsibilities

- Public Roads – CHP + Sheriff
- Private Roads – Sheriff + Code Enforcement
- Nuisance Complaints – Sheriff + Code Enforcement



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Community OHV Committee for traffic control and law enforcement assistance	Champion	Month 1	California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
2. Encourage the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Victor Valley Station to contact and organize citizen volunteers (Reserve Deputies and Search and Rescue) who are certified in OHV riding and can aid the Victor Valley Station and the Bureau of Land Management by joining a community OHV committee for traffic control and law enforcement exposure.	Community OHV Committee	Month 1	<a href="http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164">http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164</a>  San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, <i>VVLY OHV Law Enforcement Application</i> , February 25, 2010
3. Partner with the California Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division to train volunteers about visitor contact, backcountry travel and navigation, and scenario training and to assist in handling emergencies.	Community OHV Committee, with support from California Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division	Months 1 – 2	Sharetrails, Wheels of the Forest: The San Bernardino National Forest Service OHV Volunteers
4. Develop a list of community concerns, issues, and regulations that address OHV recreation.	Community OHV Committee, community members	Months 2–3	<a href="http://archive.sharetrails.org/node/9066">http://archive.sharetrails.org/node/9066</a>
5. Identify and apply for grants that support maintenance, administration, enforcement, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs, and programs involving OHMVR safety or education.	Community OHV Committee, with support from California Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division	Months 2–4 and On-going	Southern California Mountains Foundation, Off Highway Vehicle Program <a href="http://mountainsfoundation.org/off-highway-vehicles">http://mountainsfoundation.org/off-highway-vehicles</a>
6. Have trained volunteers ride routes in the community on all-terrain vehicles or OHVs, providing information and watching for illegal trail use, missing signs, or hazardous trail conditions.	Community OHV Committee, citizen volunteers	On-going	