

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

Action Statement D.6: Educate off-highway vehicles (OHV) enthusiasts on local OHV trails and area to keep sand rails and OHVs off private roads.

D6

Benchmark: Successfully targeted funding on recreational trails and assistance with trail construction, maintenance, repair, and restoration and created a map of existing designated areas for OHV use and opportunity areas with limited environmental constraints.

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

Estimated Cost: \$1,500–\$2,000



Irresponsible OHV use has the potential to harm the pristine natural environment. Photo source: Michael Baker International

An increasing area of concern for sand rail and off-highway vehicle (OHV) activity is their inappropriate use on private property and public roadways. Often, users of the OHV areas will stray outside the boundaries of the designated use area and commit trespassing violations. This is an ever-increasing issue, as development comes closer to open OHV areas. Designating additional OHV trails in the areas surrounding Phelan Piñon Hills would help alleviate this ongoing problem and reduce reports of land trespass. Information kiosks can be placed near parking areas or trailheads.

Collaborative diverse partnerships are a significant factor in the management of motorized vehicle use on designated roads, trails, and riding areas and the construction of additional trails and areas. Many states have an OHV grant program to help support the efforts of local and federal land agencies to offer the public high-quality and environmentally sound OHV recreational opportunities. The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (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, and programs involving off-highway vehicle safety or education. In addition, the OHMVR Division administers the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), governed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that provides funds annually for recreational trails and trails-related projects.

Pairing the community with other partners can also offer innovative programs and education opportunities to enhance knowledge and awareness of designated OHV trails. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is one of the many organizations that can assist with trail construction, maintenance, repair, and restoration. Currently, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Victor Valley Station provides assistance patrolling Phelan Piñon Hills and assisting OHV enthusiasts with typical recreational questions or problems.

OHV Responsibilities

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

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Have the community OHV committee partner with the California Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division to train volunteers about visitor contact, providing backcountry travel and navigation maps, 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	California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164
2. Identify and map existing designated areas for OHV use within Phelan Piñon Hills and community areas.	Community OHV committee, community members	Months 2 – 3	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, <i>VVLY OHV Law Enforcement Application</i> , February 25, 2010
3. Develop and place signs and fences that keep OHV users from riding in prohibited areas and on private roads.	Community OHV committee	Months 2 – 4, on-going	Sharetrials, <i>Wheels of the Forest: The San Bernardino National Forest Service OHV Volunteers</i> http://archive.sharetrails.org/node/9066
4. Have trained volunteers continually 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	Southern California Mountains Foundation, Off Highway Vehicle Program http://mountainsfoundation.org/off-highway-vehicles Johnson Valley, CA residents (police roads for OHV, put up signs and educate OHV enthusiasts)