

USFS Quarterly Report to OHMVR Commission

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OHV Route Inventory – Attached is a status report on accomplishments of the FS OHV Route Inventory project. We have completed 80% of the fieldwork. The first three pages are spreadsheets listing acres surveyed, miles GPS'd, acres of off-route impact areas, percent completed, and estimated completion dates by Forest. There are also index maps of the Forests showing areas completed and small-scale samples of maps that we've produced. I'm working with the Forests to allow ample time for public review of the maps.

OHV Route Designation – A Guidebook to OHV Route Designation for National Forests in California was completed in June. The Guidebook describes deliverables in the MOI in detail and will help achieve greater consistency in Route Designation across all 19 Forests. It has been distributed to the OHV Stakeholder Roundtable and it is available on the USFS Regional website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/>

Restoration – We submitted a consolidated Regional application for over 100 Restoration projects on 16 Forests; however, each project is identified with individual Forest applications that you will consider today.

Wildlife Habitat Protection Program (WHPP) – Diana Craig, Regional Wildlife Ecologist, has been working on multi-Forest programmatic monitoring, focused studies on spotted owl, american marten, northern goshawk, vertebrate assemblages, Forest WHPPs, Restoration Projects, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of WHPPs (see attached report for details).

Red Trails – A current list of red trails is attached to this report. I completed a contract on soil conservation with Roger Poff to inspect Red rated trails, restoration projects, and monitoring on 21 Ranger Districts. Poff also proposed a revision of the soil conservation Green-Yellow-Red rating system to focus more on proper drainage and give more consistent results. I issued a second contract to continue inspections of red trails, monitoring, and restoration on 16 Ranger Districts.

Archaeology/Heritage/OHV Program – We are nearing completion of a statewide programmatic agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office for OHV Route Designation.

Public Involvement – Retained Lisa Beutler from the Center for Collaborative Policy to help the Regional Office and Forest Supervisors with public involvement in the Route Inventory and Designation process – A deliverable in the Memorandum of Intent.

Stakeholder Roundtable – I participated in the August and September Stakeholders meetings.

Forest Orders – We are working on Forest Orders to prohibit cross-country travel on parts of the Tahoe, Eldorado, Sierra, Sequoia, Stanislaus, and Inyo National Forests. The public review process will be slower than expected because of the early snows.

Wilderness Intrusions – Coordinated 2 meetings of northern and southern Sierra Forests to plan for increased enforcement of Wilderness Intrusions.

Stanislaus Interface – The appeals of the revised EIS decision based on the “community agreement” on the Interface were denied. The Forest is making good progress on the actions identified in the decision.

**USFS OHV/Wildlife Projects Agreements OR-2-SW-20 and OR-2-SW-24
Accomplishments: May 2004 - October 2004**

The Northern Goshawk-OHV Focused Study conducted 22 OHV experiments, at 10 paired nests (5 with and 5 without ATV sustained treatments) and spent 80.9 hours observing behavior and reproductive success and recording sound. 11 dose experiments were also conducted at 7 additional nests where goshawks were exposed to an ATV or 1-2 hikers; 34.9 hours of observations and sound recordings were collected. In addition, 18 radio telemetry experiments were conducted on 6 ATV treatment and 5 control telemetered juveniles.

The Marten-OHV focused study conducted spring sampling of marten presence, OHV use, and OHV sound and summer sound monitoring at a total of 43, 2-km² sample units distributed between the LTBMU OHV use area and the Desolation Wilderness control area. The Sierra NF study sites were established and fall fieldwork is in progress.

The Programmatic Monitoring & Vertebrate Assemblage-OHV focused study tested protocols and collected summer sound data at paired OHV & non-OHV sites. Site selection analysis occurred for five additional Forests, and data collection will begin in December. Data analysis for the '03 & '04 pilot projects was conducted and the Programmatic Monitoring Protocol was revised based on the results.

Dr. Ann Bowles, Hubbs-Seaworld Research Institute, established and coordinated sound collection for all three focused studies, and is currently analyzing the data.

Dr. Sam Wasser, University of Washington, has joined the Northern Spotted owl-OHV Focused Study. Limited field and laboratory work has occurred, and the Study Plan was revised and is currently being peer reviewed, with full fieldwork to begin in March 2005. A Stakeholders field trip is scheduled for November 9-10.