

Desert Managers Group Meeting
Barstow, CA

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
BLM and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Funds

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, OHMVR Division, funds Federal Agencies to:

1. Promote legal and sustainable OHV recreation on Federal lands
2. Provide educational programs for environmental education and training for OHV safety
3. Mitigate for impacts from illegal and unsustainable OHV recreation

Before FY 2002

BLM first received a grant for desert ecosystem restoration in 1997 – BLM Ridgecrest FO
The Division funded other small restoration efforts funded before FY 2002:
Yuha Desert ACEC (El Centro FO), Afton Canyon (Barstow FO), Marshes (Bishop FO)

FY 2002 West Rand Mountains ACEC – BLM Ridgecrest FO

FY 2003 West Rand Mountains ACEC restoration continued
Yuha Desert ACEC restoration resumed

AB 2274 goes into effect for 2004 OHMVR Division Grants –
sets aside \$4,000,000 annually for ecosystem restoration as mitigation on public lands.

FY 2004 BLM applies for grants totaling \$2,200,000 for ecosystem restoration projects
Barstow – Ord Mountains Management Area
El Centro – Yuha Desert ACEC and the West Mesa FTHL Management Area
Palm Springs – Little Morongo ACEC & the Meccacopia Special Recreation Area
Ridgecrest – Rand / Fremont Management Area & Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC

FY 2005 \$7,000,000 available – Grant applications are due June 1, 2004.

Tie-Ins OHV Route Closures and Formal Route Designation
Habitat Improvements for Desert Tortoise and Other Species
Community Based Restoration Efforts for Youth at the Urban Interface

Challenges Staff available for restoration project planning, oversight, and monitoring
Building regional plant propagation centers
Ability to respond rapidly to favorable weather conditions
Need to document lessons learned and transfer experience
Technical advisors and best management practices
Keeping up with the state of the art in other desert ecosystems:
Nevada Test Site, Mexico, Australia, Israel, and Kuwait
Experimenting with new techniques as part of adaptive management experiments
Grant application preparation and documentation is labor-intensive
Lack of NRCS soil surveys and ecological reference sites on much of BLM land
Cost reduction