



**OCOTILLO WELLS**  
STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA  
General Plan



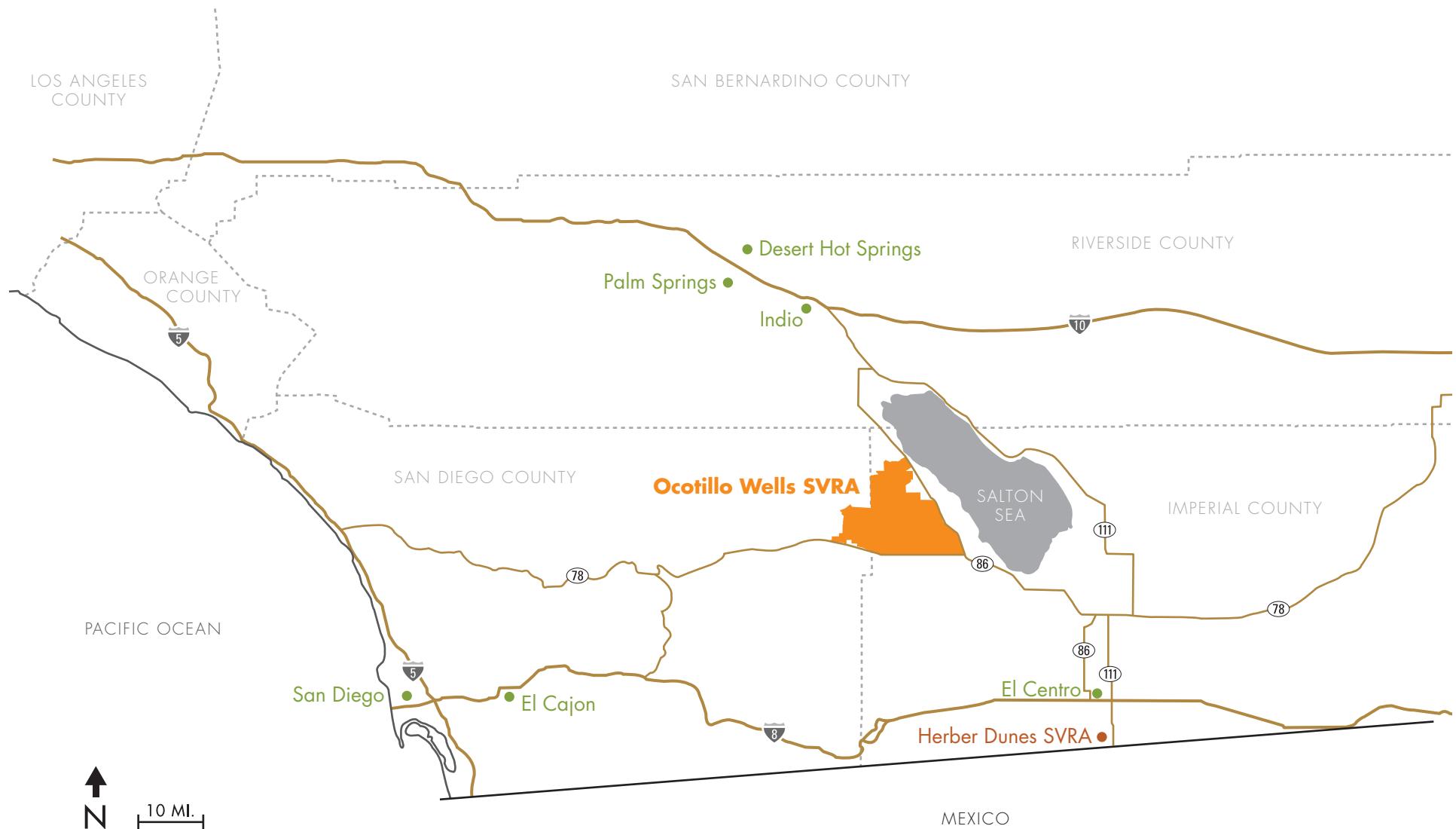
## Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update and EIR

### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT ON PRELIMINARY GOALS

AUGUST 2012



## Ocotillo Wells SVRA Vicinity Map



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# Introduction

This report presents a summary of public input that was received during public outreach activities conducted by California State Parks as part of the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) General Plan update process. Public outreach activities consisted of in-person mobile workshops and an online commenting exercise. These public outreach activities were conducted to provide an update on work completed to date and to collect feedback on preliminary goals to be included in the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan.

## Report Organization

The report is organized by topic as follows:

**Public Outreach Activities:** Describes the purpose of the public outreach activities, the public notification process, informational materials that were available, and the details of the public outreach activities.

**Summary of Public Input:** Summarizes input that was collected during the public outreach activities.

## Appendices:

A: Notification Materials

B: Existing Conditions Boards

C: Comments on Preliminary Goals

D: Area-Specific Comments

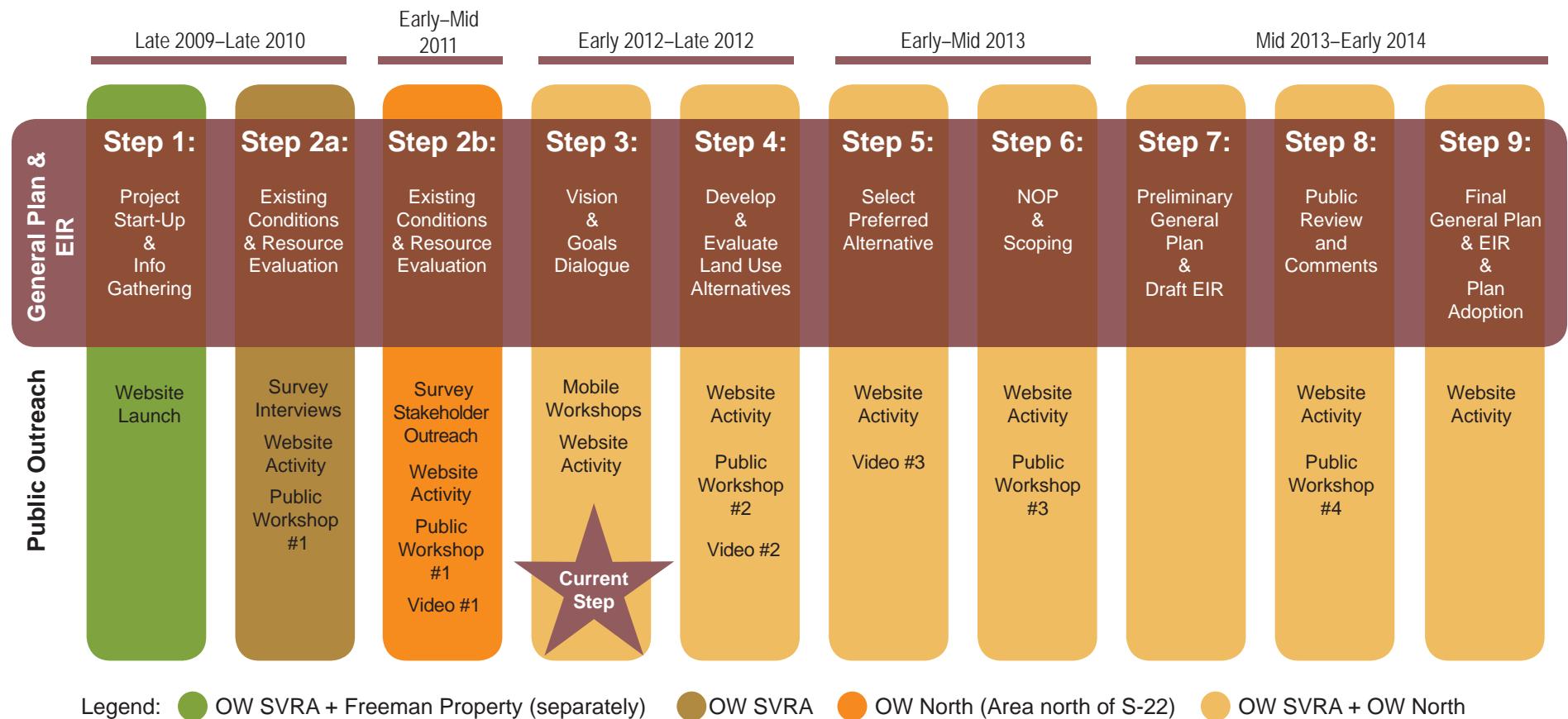
E: Letters Submitted

## Role of Public Input

The preliminary goals developed by California State Parks to be included in the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan were an initial step in the development of the updated General Plan. Public input collected on the preliminary goals provided important feedback during this initial step, and will inform the development of the General Plan during future steps of the update process (Figure 1). More specifically, public input will be considered during the following:

- Developing alternatives for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan.
- Making refinements to the goals for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan. This will occur concurrently with the development and evaluation of land use alternatives.
- Creating guideline statements to support the goals after a preferred alternative is selected.

**Figure 1 - Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update Process Schedule by Project Phase**



# Public Outreach Activities

A comprehensive and varied public outreach program is underway as part of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan update process. The public outreach program is intended to maximize opportunities for visitors to Ocotillo Wells SVRA, members of the public, and stakeholders to provide input and feedback on the development of the General Plan. As part of the ongoing public outreach program, in-person mobile workshops were held at four different locations in Ocotillo Wells SVRA on February 18, 2012, and February 19, 2012 (President's Day weekend). An online commenting exercise was available online at [www.planocotillowell.com](http://www.planocotillowell.com) from February 22, 2012 through March 21, 2012.

## Notification

Notifications to the public about the mobile workshops and online commenting exercise occurred as follows:

- Email blasts were sent to the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan update email list, which includes nearly 1,200 subscribers.
- Announcements were posted on the official Ocotillo Wells SVRA website and Facebook page.
- Workshop fliers were posted and distributed at Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

A copy of the notification materials is provided in Appendix A.

More Information'"/&gt;

www.planocotillowell.com to complete an online exercise that is similar to the in-person mobile workshop. The online exercise will be available for you to provide input until March 21, 2012.' Below the map are four small images: a workshop tent, a desert landscape, a desert plant, and a person riding a motorcycle. A 'Project Contact' section at the bottom right lists Tina Robinson, (760) 767-1302, trobinson@parks.ca.gov, and [www.planocotillowell.com](http://www.planocotillowell.com)."/>

www.planocotillowell.com'. At the bottom of the post are 'Like', 'Comment', and 'Share' buttons, and a small icon showing 4 likes and 6 comments."/&gt;

The public notification process included email blasts (top left), facebook posts (bottom left), and fliers (top right).

## Informational Materials

Various informational materials were presented during the public outreach activities to explain the purpose and background of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan, and to develop an understanding by the public of planning issues. Informational materials were released online at [www.planocotillowell.com](http://www.planocotillowell.com) in advance of the public outreach activities, and were available during the mobile workshops and throughout the online comment period. Informational materials consisted of the following:

### **Working Paper #1 – Major Themes from Initial Public Outreach:**

**Outreach:** Provides a synopsis of public input received during the initial public outreach efforts conducted for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan update process (Available at [www.planocotillowell.com](http://www.planocotillowell.com)).

### **Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update Video #1:**

Introduces the purpose of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan and opportunities for public participation (Available at [www.planocotillowell.com](http://www.planocotillowell.com)).

**Existing Conditions Boards:** Documents existing recreational activity, physical features, vegetation communities, and wildlife at Ocotillo Wells SVRA; overviews current interpretation and education programs; describes resource protection programs and policies; and provides a history of Ocotillo Wells SVRA (Included in Appendix B).



### **Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update and EIR**

WORKING PAPER #1  
MAJOR THEMES FROM INITIAL PUBLIC OUTREACH

JANUARY 2012



## Mobile Workshops

California State Parks held in-person mobile workshops at four different locations in Ocotillo Wells SVRA on February 18 and 19, 2012. Workshops were held in a “toy hauler” trailer that was set up in different popular locations throughout Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Presentation boards that summarized the existing conditions of Ocotillo Wells SVRA were posted on the exterior of the trailer. The interior of the trailer featured large boards that presented the preliminary goals to be included in the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan.

As people reviewed the preliminary goals, they were invited to write comments on sticky notes and place a note directly on the boards below an applicable goal where there was a space provided to place comments. In addition to providing comments on a specific goal, there was an opportunity to “Share Your Own” goal and to provide area-specific comments using a map. Area-specific comments helped highlight areas of Ocotillo Wells SVRA that may have particular issues or that may need special management attention. Comment cards were available for people to provide open-ended comments about issues related to the General Plan.

A total of 67 people signed-in at the mobile workshops. Many more people visited the mobile workshops to have a casual conversation, review informational material, or watch the video, but did not sign-in. The mobile workshop schedule is provided in Figure 2.

**Figure 2 - Mobile Workshop Schedule and Locations**

Approximate mobile workshop times and locations:

**1 Saturday Morning**

February 18, 2012, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Ocotillo Wells SVRA Discovery Center

**2 Saturday Afternoon**

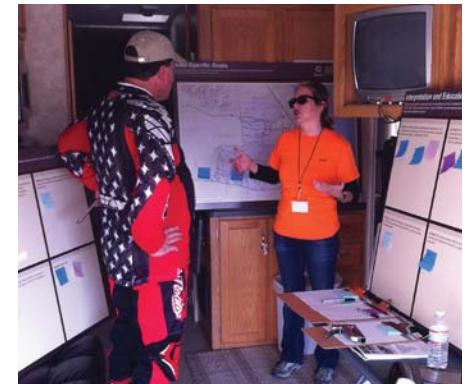
February 18, 2012, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Truckhaven 4x4 Training Area

**3 Sunday Morning**

February 19, 2012, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
North Marina Drive

**4 Sunday Afternoon**

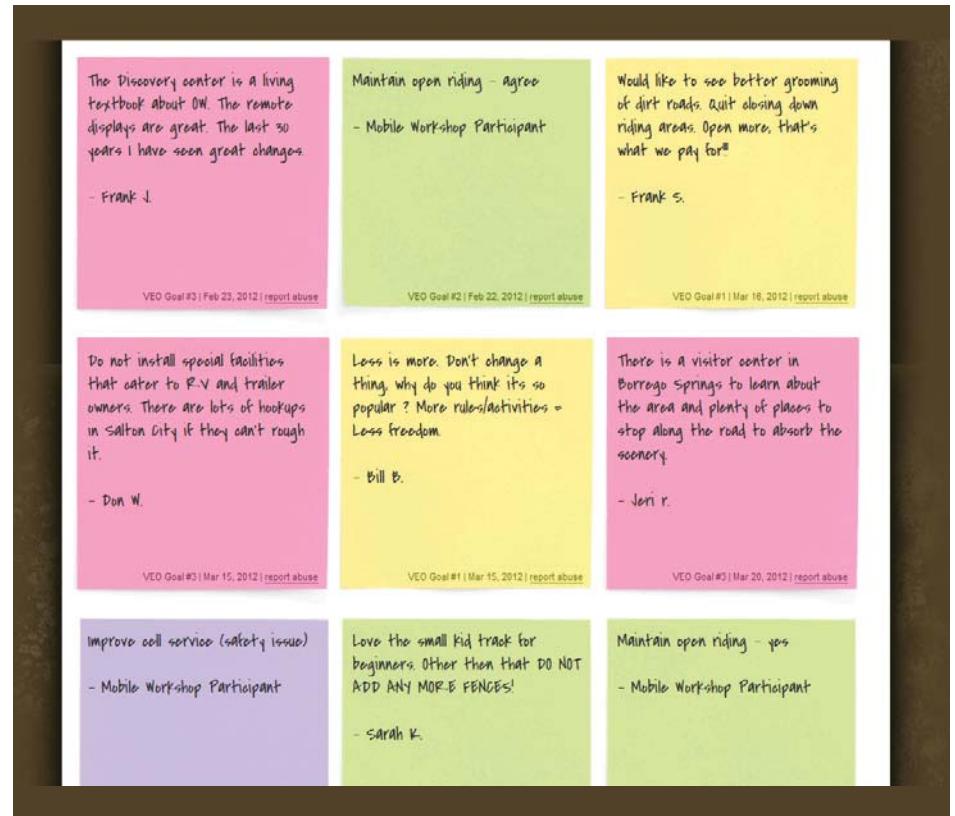
February 19, 2012, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Holmes Camp



## Online Commenting Exercise

In addition to the mobile workshops, California State Parks offered an opportunity for people to provide comments online at [www.planocotillowell.com](http://planocotillowell.com). This allowed people to provide input if they were unable to attend a mobile workshop in person. Like the mobile workshops, the online comment exercise presented the preliminary goals to be included in the updated Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan, and included an interactive interface that encouraged the public to provide short comments on the preliminary goals. In addition to providing comments about a specific goal, there was also an opportunity to "Share Your Own" goal. An interactive map allowed people to provide comments about specific areas of Ocotillo Wells SVRA that may have particular issues or that may need special management attention. The online comment activity also referred people to informational materials posted on the website.

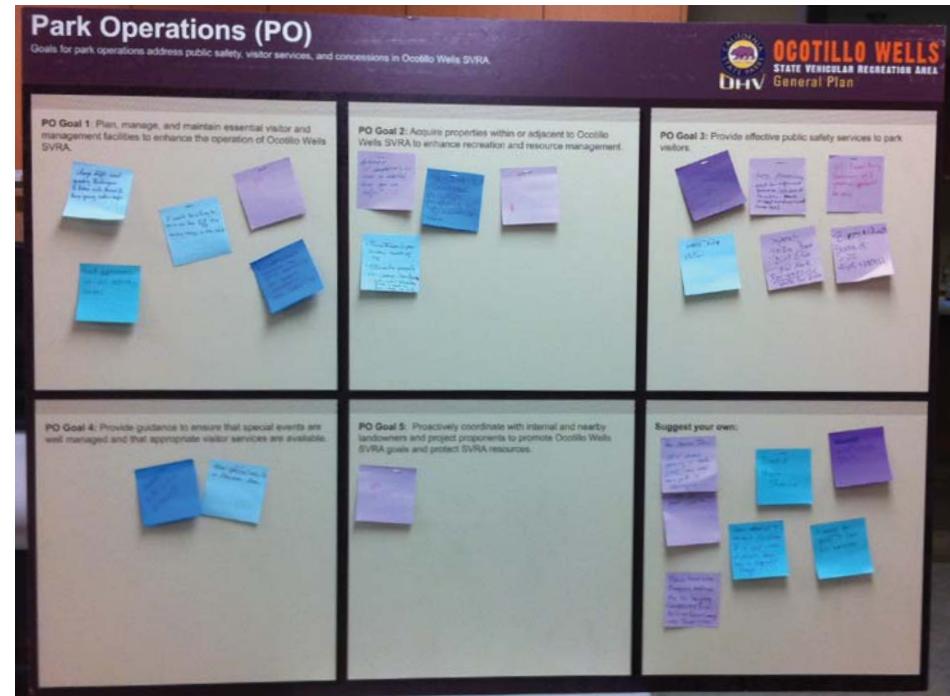
Prior to the launch of the online comment activity, all of the comments received during the mobile workshops were transcribed and entered into the website, making them available for the public to review. The online comment activity launched on February 22, 2012, and concluded on March 21, 2012. During this time, 102 different people provided comments through the online comment activity.



# Summary of Public Input

During the mobile workshops and online commenting exercise, a total of 365 comments were collected, including four letters that were submitted to Ocotillo Wells SVRA (Table 1). A full, unedited record of all the comments received during the public outreach activities is included in Appendix C. Comments reflect the values, concerns, opinions, and ideas of participants. Public comments will be incorporated into the planning process and considered throughout the development of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan in conjunction with comments collected during previous and future outreach efforts (see Figure 1, page 6).

The majority of comments relate to the general intent of a goal, rather than to specific language. Some comments provided ideas relevant to development of guidelines to support a goal, or offered suggestions about how to implement a goal. Many of the comments have significant overlap with the major themes identified during the initial public outreach efforts conducted for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan. Working Paper #1 identifies the major themes and provides a synopsis of public input received during initial public outreach that was conducted. Comments collected during the mobile workshops and online commenting activity are summarized below by goal category, grouping similar ideas and topics together.



**Table 1 – Number of Comments and Number of Commenters, by Public Outreach Activity**

| PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITY | # OF COMMENTS | # OF PEOPLE/ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDED COMMENTS |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| Mobile Workshop          | 101           | 67   |
| Online Comments          | 260           | 102  |
| Letters Submitted        | 4             | 4  |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>365</b>    | <b>173</b>                                       |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

## Preliminary Goals

VEO Goal 1: Provide a balance of open riding and designated riding routes that responds to the landscape and visitor interests.

VEO Goal 2: Provide a range of OHV recreation opportunities that responds to diverse visitor interests, skill levels, and the continually evolving range of OHV vehicle types.

VEO Goal 3: Provide high-quality recreational opportunities and visitor-serving facilities that are tailored to the unique features of the SVRA.

VEO Goal 4: Facilitate special events and group activities.

VEO Goal 5: Pursue public private partnerships to better serve the visitor experience.

## Comments, Ideas, and Suggestions:

- Protect open riding areas
- Enhance trail design:
  - Add more designated trails where possible
  - Do not eliminate any existing designated trails
  - Improve maintenance of trails
- Maintain a variety of riding opportunities:
  - Provide access to the diverse natural terrain that is unique to Ocotillo Wells SVRA
  - Preserve wide open character of Ocotillo Wells SVRA
  - Add destination points to help disperse visitors during busy weekends
- Offer additional OHV use areas because of increased visitation
- Ensure access to recreation opportunities for those with disabilities

## Comments, Ideas, and Suggestions:

- Provide facilities to support specific types of OHV recreation:
  - Add facilities for motorcycles and quads
  - Add more youth riding areas
  - Designate separate areas for use by specific types of OHVs
- Provide visitor-serving facilities:
  - Preserve opportunity for open/primitive camping
  - Add event center at Main Street
  - Add ranger station near S-22
  - Provide additional utility services/facilities, especially for RVs
  - Maintain rugged quality and do not install facilities that provide hookups for RVs
- Facilitate special events:
  - Allow special events in Truckhaven
  - Promote a variety of special events
  - Maintain ability for smaller groups to congregate
  - Continue to manage special events; make it easier and more affordable

## Comments, Ideas, and Suggestions:

- Pursue public/private partnerships:
  - Partner with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Caltrans, and other public agencies
  - Partner with local communities
  - Partner with organizations to promote responsibility and educate visitors
  - Permit concessions that provide additional services to visitors
  - Do not permit concessions that detract from the rugged quality of Ocotillo Wells SVRA
  - Involve stakeholders in decisions about Ocotillo Wells SVRA

# Resource Management (RM)

## Preliminary Goals

RM Goal 1: Maintain OHV and unique recreational experiences through preserving environmental values and effective management of the SVRA's physical resources, including geologic, soil, air, water, auditory, and visual resources.

RM Goal 2: Manage Ocotillo Wells SVRA for protection of natural communities and the quality of the OHV recreational experience.

RM Goal 3: Manage Ocotillo Wells SVRA for protection of cultural resources and the quality of the OHV recreational experience.

## Comments, Ideas, and Suggestions:

- Continue to manage the unique resources and preserve special features for future visitors:
  - Designate and maintain trails to keep OHV riders from leaving trails
  - Provide additional signage and education to make regulations clear and explicit
  - Strengthen the enforcement of rules
  - Comply with all existing laws and soil standards
- Maximize opportunities for OHV recreation that are limited by resource management practices:
  - Prioritize OHV recreation
  - Do not reduce areas available for OHV recreation
- Address air quality; it is a regional concern, particularly on weekends:
  - Control dust at Ocotillo Wells SVRA
  - Do not control dust at Ocotillo Wells SVRA
  - Monitor air quality at Ocotillo Wells SVRA and other locations

## Comments, Ideas, and Suggestions:

- Protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species:
  - Employ stronger protection measures
  - Implement measures to protect the flat-tailed horned lizard, among many other species
- Protect cultural and paleontological resources:
  - Maintain open riding areas
  - Provide additional education
  - Protect features associated with the ancient western shoreline of Lake Cahuilla

# **Interpretation and Education (IE)**

## **Preliminary Goals**

IE Goal 1: Increase visitors' knowledge and enjoyment of, and appreciation for, the history of OHV use and current recreational opportunities unique to Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

IE Goal 2: Provide educational, informational, and interpretive materials that respond to the unique history, recreation opportunities, and resources at Ocotillo Wells SVRA and that meet the diverse needs of the visitor population.

IE Goal 3: Promote responsible OHV use in educational and interpretive programs.

IE Goal 4: Expand understanding of ecological relationships and heighten awareness of and sensitivity to human activities, past and present.

IE Goal 5: Promote outreach efforts and partnerships that develop and implement interpretive programming and education.

## **Comments, Ideas, and Suggestions:**

- Continue to provide Discovery Center, Ranger Talks, Junior Ranger programs, and mobile displays
- Continue to provide signage at popular riding destinations
- Minimize interpretation and education programs due to limited budget and unique open character of Ocotillo Wells SVRA
- Emphasize motorized recreation
  - Develop trail rating system
  - Explain the need for resource protection
  - Clarify riding regulations and communicate rule changes
  - Promote responsible OHV use

# **Park Operations (PO)**

## **Preliminary Goals**

PO Goal 1: Plan, manage, and maintain essential visitor and management facilities to enhance the operation of Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

PO Goal 2: Acquire properties within or adjacent to Ocotillo Wells SVRA to enhance recreation and resource management.

PO Goal 3: Provide effective public safety services to park visitors.

PO Goal 4: Provide guidance to ensure that special events are well managed and that appropriate visitor services are available.

PO Goal 5: Proactively coordinate with internal and nearby landowners and project proponents to promote Ocotillo Wells SVRA goals and protect SVRA resources.

## **Comments, Ideas, and Suggestions: Facilities**

- Additional facilities should be provided (comments often tied to specific location):
  - Provide RV dump stations
  - Add more recycling and trash containers
  - Add new shower facilities
  - Add new restrooms; keep restrooms well maintained
  - Establish an additional ranger station
  - Permit mobile vendors/concessions
  - Add more developed camping facilities
  - Provide better signage for entrance to Truckhaven
- Additional facilities should not be provided:
  - Creating new facilities will result in fees
  - Add only toilets and shade structures, no new buildings
  - Do not commercialize Ocotillo Wells SVRA
  - Preserve primitive quality, especially in Truckhaven; do not add restrooms, showers, or dump stations

## Comments, Ideas, and Suggestions:

### OHV Experience

- Designate trails to promote organized riding and allow for more efficient emergency response
- Increase area available for OHV recreation
- Provide more open riding

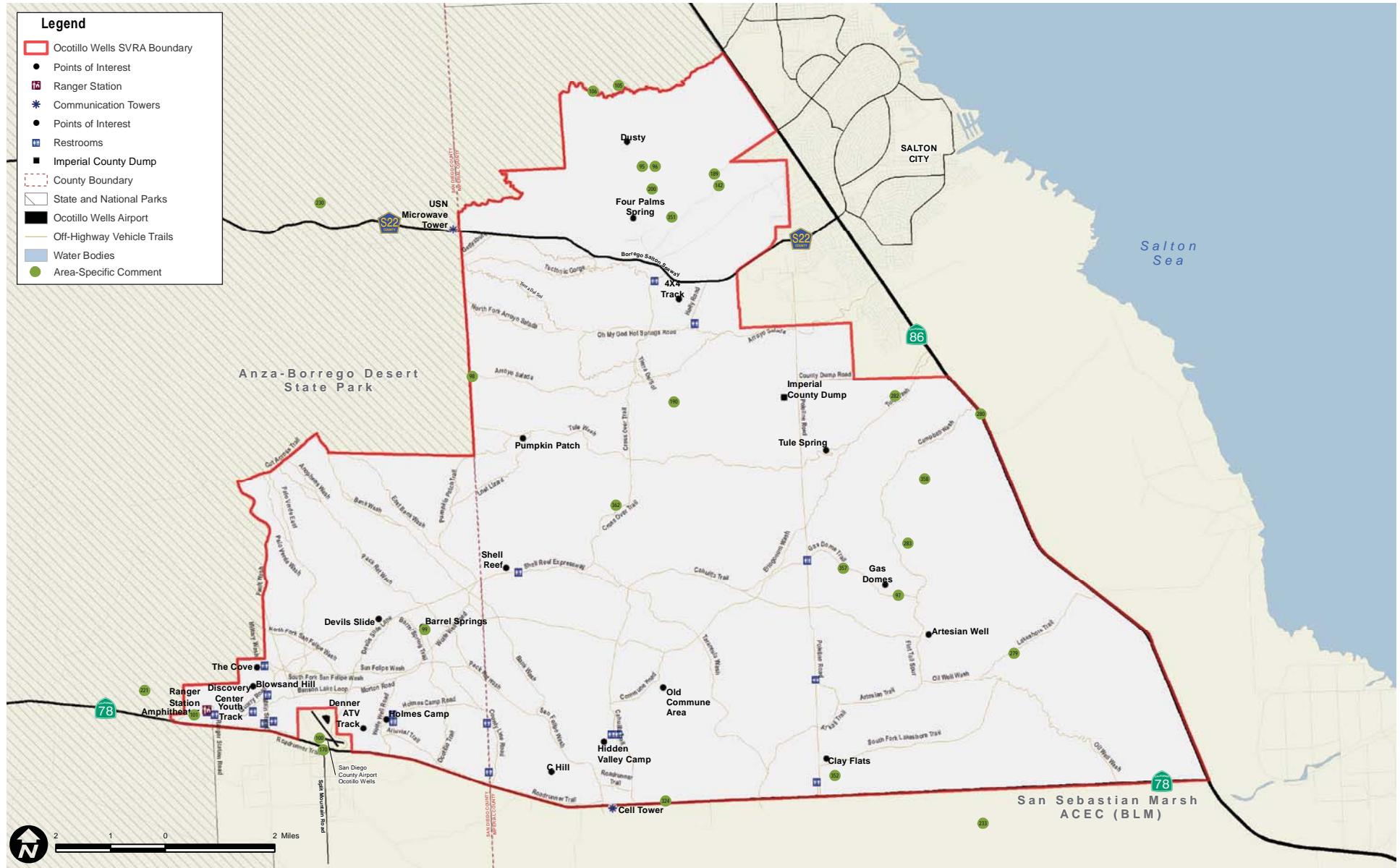
### Public Safety Services

- Maintain positive perception of rangers
- Preserve family friendly environment by providing a larger ranger presence and stronger enforcement
- Minimize enforcement
- Enhance enforcement of rules for burning pallets, saving camp sites, littering
- Mitigate safety hazard to OHV users created by fences
- Address safety and traffic issues resulting from unregistered vehicles, motorcycles, and ATVs riding on paved public roads and highways
- Improve cell service to enhance visitor safety
- Address highway crossing by OHVs

### Area-Specific Comments

Although preliminary area-specific goals were not developed prior to the public outreach activities, the public was able to provide input on a map during the mobile workshops and online comment activity to highlight specific areas of Ocotillo Wells SVRA that may warrant focused management attention. The area-specific comments that were shared during the public outreach activities are included above in the most applicable goal category. Figure 3 shows the geographic location of the area-specific comments that were shared during the public outreach activities. A complete record of the area-specific comments can be found in Appendix D.

### Figure 3 - Location of Area-Specific Comments





**OCOTILLO WELLS**  
STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA  
General Plan



## Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update and EIR

### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT ON PRELIMINARY GOALS

AUGUST 2012



# APPENDIX A

## Notification Materials

## Workshop Flier

# Help Plan Ocotillo Wells SVRA!

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND

California State Parks will be holding a mobile workshop in 4 locations in Ocotillo Wells SVRA on February 18th and February 19th as part of the General Plan Update. The purpose of these workshops is to share work that has already been completed for the General Plan Update and to collect your input on draft goals to be included in the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan.

Approximate mobile workshop times and locations:

### 1 Saturday Morning

February 18, 2012, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Ocotillo Wells SVRA Discovery Center

### 2 Saturday Afternoon

February 18, 2012, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Truckhaven 4x4 Training Area

### 3 Sunday Morning

February 19, 2012, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
North Marina Drive

### 4 Sunday Afternoon

February 19, 2012, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Holmes Camp



## GO ONLINE TO PROVIDE INPUT

If you are not able to participate in the mobile workshop during President's Day weekend, you can still provide input on the draft goals for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update. Starting on February 22, 2012 visit [www.PlanOcotilloWells.com](http://www.PlanOcotilloWells.com) to complete an online exercise that is similar to the in-person mobile workshop. The online exercise will be available for you to provide input until March 21, 2012.



### Project Contact:

Tina Robinson, (760) 767-1302  
[trobinson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trobinson@parks.ca.gov)  
[www.planocotillowell.com](http://www.planocotillowell.com)

## Example Facebook Post



Ocotillo Wells SVRA shared a link.

February 12

Ocotillo Wells SVRA is revamping its general plan - the park's equivalent to a "Constitution" that will set our direction for many years to come. So, if you have ANY input about Ocotillo Wells' visitor use and recreation, interpretation and education, park use and operations, natural and physical resources, THE TIME IS NOW for you share what you think about YOUR park!



### Mobile Workshops

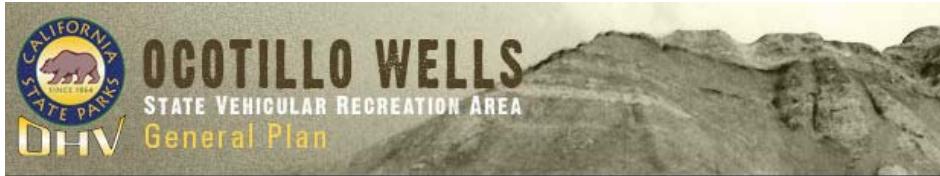
[www.PlanOcotilloWells.com](http://www.PlanOcotilloWells.com)

California State Parks will be holding a mobile workshop on February 18th and February 19th as part of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update. The purpose of these workshops is to share work

Like · Comment · Share

3 6

Email Blast: February 15, 2012



## Get Involved: We want to hear from you President's Day weekend and online!

California State Parks will be holding a mobile workshop on February 18th and February 19th as part of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update. The purpose of these workshops is to share work that has already been completed for the General Plan Update and to collect your input on draft goals to be included in the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan. [More Information](#)

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February 18, 2012, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
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### 2 Saturday Afternoon

February 18, 2012, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Truckhaven 4x4 Training Area

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February 19, 2012, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
North Marina Drive

### 4 Sunday Afternoon

February 19, 2012, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Holmes Camp



- **Saturday Morning: Ocotillo Wells SVRA Discovery Center**  
February 18th, 2012, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
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February 18th, 2012, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Sunday Morning: North Marina Drive**  
February 19th, 2012, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **Sunday Afternoon: Holmes Camp**  
February 19th, 2012, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### New Video about Ocotillo Wells SVRA



What is a General Plan? What does it mean for Ocotillo Wells SVRA? [Watch this short video](#) to find out more about the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update.

### You Spoke, We Listened



[Working Paper #1](#) provides a summary of the various public outreach activities over the past 2 years as part of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update.

### Starting February 22, you can participate online.

Whether or not you participate in the mobile workshop, you can still provide input on the draft goals for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update.

Starting February 22, 2012 you can visit [www.PlanOcotilloWells.com](http://www.PlanOcotilloWells.com) to provide your input using an online exercise that is similar to the mobile workshops. The online exercise will be available for you to provide input until March 21, 2012.

Go to [www.PlanOcotilloWells.com](http://www.PlanOcotilloWells.com) for more information on the General Plan and EIR process.

### Help us spread the word

Forward this message to a friend!

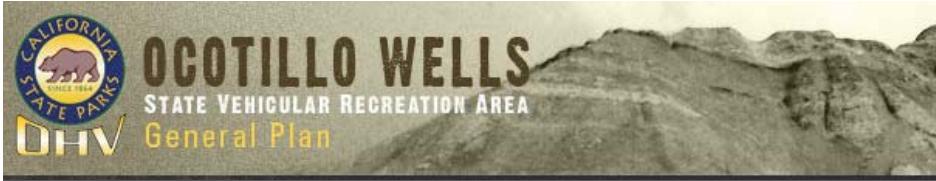
### Project Contact:

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[trobinson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trobinson@parks.ca.gov)

**Page 2 of 2**

**Page 1 of 2**

Email Blast: February 22, 2012



## Thank you to everyone who participated in the mobile workshops!



It was a great weekend at Ocotillo Wells SVRA and the weather was beautiful during the mobile workshops for the General Plan Update. We appreciate everyone who took a break from riding and drove great distances to talk with us during the mobile workshops.

**Please provide feedback on preliminary goals for Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update through the online comment activity.**



If you could not make it to the mobile workshops, an [online comment activity](#) has been created to allow you to review the preliminary goals, provide a comment, suggest your own goals, and see what others have shared about the preliminary goals. The preliminary goals establish priorities for management decisions and provide overall direction for the future of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. These goals were presented at the mobile workshops held in Ocotillo Wells SVRA on February 18 and February 19, where participants provided input by placing post-it notes on presentation boards. Input collected activity. The [online comment activity](#) will be available until March 21, 2012.

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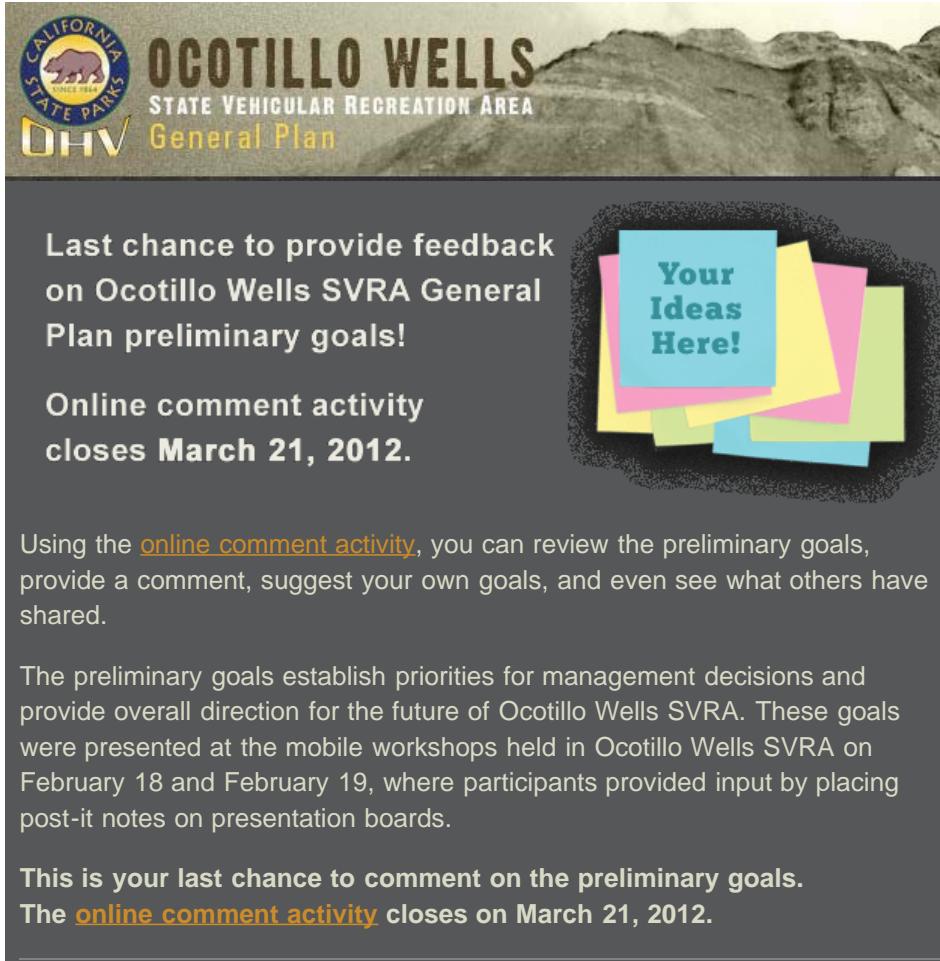
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**Page 2 of 2**

Email Blast: March 15, 2012



**OCOTILLO WELLS**  
STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA  
General Plan

**DHV**

**Last chance to provide feedback  
on Ocotillo Wells SVRA General  
Plan preliminary goals!**

**Online comment activity  
closes March 21, 2012.**

Using the [online comment activity](#), you can review the preliminary goals, provide a comment, suggest your own goals, and even see what others have shared.

The preliminary goals establish priorities for management decisions and provide overall direction for the future of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. These goals were presented at the mobile workshops held in Ocotillo Wells SVRA on February 18 and February 19, where participants provided input by placing post-it notes on presentation boards.

**This is your last chance to comment on the preliminary goals.  
The [online comment activity](#) closes on March 21, 2012.**

**Page 1 of 2**



**New Video about Ocotillo Wells SVRA**

**Kirk Shea**  
Sector Superintendent  
Ocotillo Wells District

**CLICK TO PLAY VIDEO**



**You Spoke, We Listened**

**Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update and EIR**  
WORKING PAPER #1  
MAJOR THEMES FROM INITIAL PUBLIC OUTREACH  
JANUARY 2012

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For more information on the General Plan and EIR process, visit: [www.PlanOcotilloWells.com](http://www.PlanOcotilloWells.com)

**Help us spread the word**  
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**Page 2 of 2**

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# APPENDIX B

## Existing Conditions Boards

# Recreational Activity

Ocotillo Wells SVRA offers a diverse range of recreational activities for visitors to enjoy. OHV use is the most popular recreational activity, but camping, hiking, geocaching, wildlife viewing, participating in interpretive programs and special events, and star gazing are also popular.

This map shows the areas within Ocotillo Wells SVRA with high levels of recreational activity (shown in purple and blue) and areas with lower levels of recreational activity (shown in green and yellow). The map illustrates how diverse terrain and existing facilities shape the type and intensity of recreational activities throughout the SVRA. Many of the physical features of Ocotillo Wells SVRA also attract higher levels of recreational activity (shown on a separate board).

## Open and Trail Riding

The area west of Poleline Road and south of County Highway S-22 provides the unique opportunity of open riding/cross-country travel and riding on marked trails. Ocotillo Wells SVRA promotes Tread Lightly® principles and prohibits riding on existing vegetation in the open riding area.

## Discovery Center and Ocotillo Wells District Facilities



The Discovery Center provides a central location for visitor information at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. State Park staff are available to answer questions and share their knowledge of the desert. The Discovery Center features informational displays and hands-on educational activities for families, and is also where visitors can go to get a park map, a visitor's guide, and a schedule of activities.

Surrounding the Discovery Center is a relatively high concentration of visitor facilities, staff offices, a ranger station, and other support facilities necessary for the operation of the Ocotillo Wells District. An ADA accessible guided nature trail, amphitheater, and youth training track are also available near the Discovery Center.

**Legend**

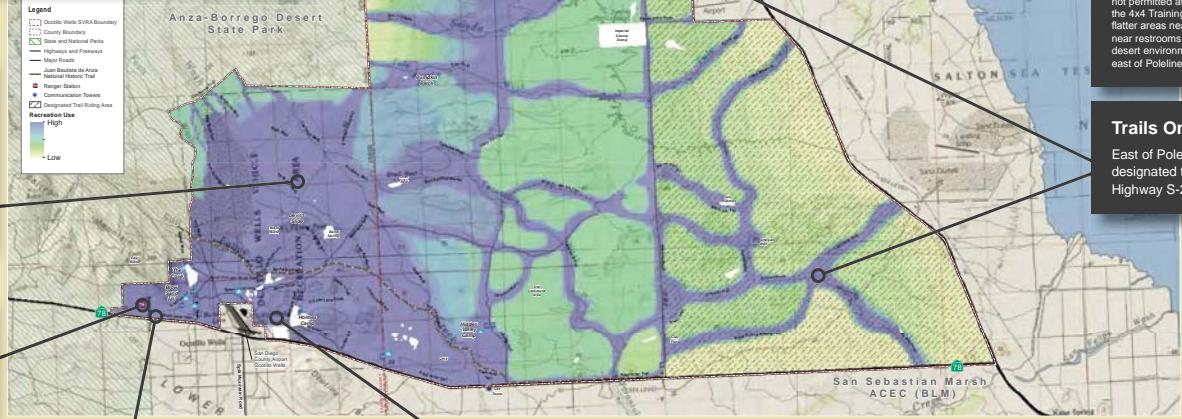
- Ocotillo Wells SVRA Boundary
- California State Boundary
- State and National Parks
- Highways and Freeways
- Major Roads
- Local Roads/Arte
- National Historic Trail
- Communication Towns
- Designated Trail Riding Area

Recreational Use

High

Low

## Anza-Borrego Desert State Park



## Harold Soens Youth Training Track



Ocotillo Wells SVRA offers a training track located in a fenced enclosure and lined with protective hay bales to provide a safe riding area for children to build their skill sets. It is designed 1/2 acre in size on 70cc engines or less. This track is dedicated to Harold Soens, who worked tirelessly to open up the world of OHV to kids.

## Roy Denner ASI Training Track



Ocotillo Wells SVRA provides ATV Safety Institute (ASI) classes at this training track. ASI Safety Classes are open to children or their accompanying adults who ride ATVs at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. This facility was named in honor of Roy Denner, a champion of OHV recreation.

## Truckhaven 4x4 Training Area



Ocotillo Wells SVRA opened the Truckhaven 4x4 Training Area in March 2011. The area offers 22 different obstacles from beginner to advanced.



## Primitive Camping



In addition to eight developed camping areas, Ocotillo Wells SVRA allows open camping throughout the park. (Camping is not permitted at Shell Reef, Devil's Slide, BlowSand Hill, or near the 4x4 Training Area.) Visitors who camp in RVs tend to prefer flatter areas near access points. Although many prefer camping near restrooms and other facilities, others enjoy the rugged desert environment. Camping is allowed in limited areas only east of Poleline Road.

## Trails Only Riding

East of Poleline Road, travel is limited to designated trails and washes. North of County Highway S-22, travel is limited to existing trails.

## Developed Camping



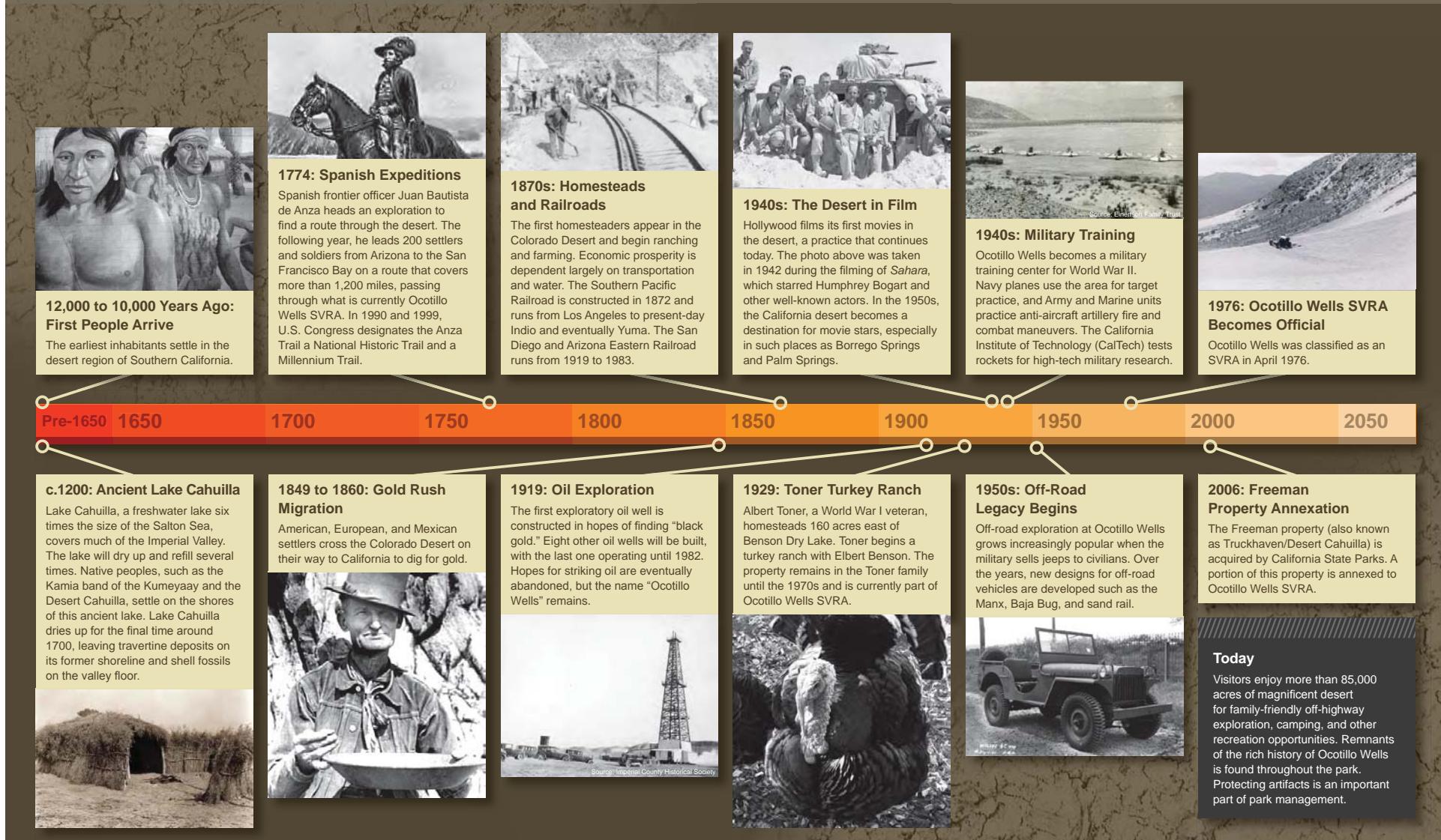
Ocotillo Wells SVRA has eight developed camping areas: Quarry, Cove, Main Street, Holmes Camp, Holly Road, County Line Road, Benson Lake Loop, and Hidden Valley. Each developed camping area has vault restrooms, shade ramadas, picnic tables, and fire rings.

## Restrooms and Showers



Full restrooms with showers are available at Ranger Station Road and at Holmes Camp. Additional vault toilets are located throughout Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

# History of Ocotillo Wells SVRA



# Interpretation and Education Programs



Ocotillo Wells SVRA offers a wide variety of interpretive and educational programs. These programs focus on a variety of topics and seek to increase visitors' understanding and appreciation of the resources found in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. In 2009, the Ocotillo Wells SVRA interpretive team was the awarded Olmsted Award for its Leadership and Vision in California State Parks.

## Ocotillo Wells Discovery Center

The Discovery Center is the heart of Ocotillo Wells SVRA's interpretive program. The center provides visitors a centralized location to obtain information about Ocotillo Wells SVRA, as well as a place to pick up a trail map and visitors guide. The center also contains many exciting and interesting displays about the desert and OHV recreation. The area surrounding the Discovery Center includes a themed shade ramada picnic area, accessible nature trail, and amphitheater.



## Educational Signage

Ocotillo Wells SVRA has a variety of interpretive signage located in gathering spots and areas of interest. Interpretive panels present information about Ocotillo Wells SVRA's biological resources, geological features, cultural resources, oil exploration, early explorers, responsible recreation, and OHV history.

## Publications

Ocotillo Wells SVRA staff produce several interpretive publications that aid visitors in their exploration of Ocotillo Wells SVRA:

- Ocotillo Wells SVRA Trail Map
- Ocotillo Wells SVRA Visitors Guide
- Blowsand Reader Newsletter
- Trading Cards
- Natural History Guides
- Kid's Activity Guides
- Self-guided OHV Tours



A photograph showing several people on ATVs gathered around a instructor during an ATV safety class.

## ATV Safety Institute Classes

ASI-ATV (ATV Safety Institute) training classes are held each weekend during the riding season at the Denner ATV Safety Track. Participants are taught safe riding techniques and obtain an ATV Safety Certificate upon completion.

## Geocaching

Ocotillo Wells SVRA embraces the increasingly popular recreational activity of geocaching. Each year, the SVRA hosts California's largest OHV, multi-day geocaching event – The Roughneck Rendezvous.

A logo for the "Roughneck Rendezvous III" event, featuring a cartoon character in a green vehicle with the text "Roughneck Rendezvous III" and "Off-Highway Geocaching Adventures".

A photograph of a person using a large telescope at an astronomy program.

## Astronomy Program

Each weekend during the riding season, Ocotillo Wells SVRA staff presents evening star- and moon-gazing programs at the amphitheater. Programs include viewing celestial objects through an 11-inch Celestron telescope, presentations about astronomical topics, and, of course, hot chocolate.

A photograph of children participating in a Junior Ranger program, looking through binoculars.

## Junior Ranger Program

Ocotillo Wells SVRA's Junior Ranger program teaches youth ages 7 to 12 about geology, history, wildlife, and other topics. Upon completion, participants earn their very own Junior Ranger badge.

A photograph of a group of people standing next to a black SUV, likely participating in an off-highway adventure tour.

## Off-Highway Adventure Tour Series

Led by Ocotillo Wells SVRA's award-winning interpretive staff, these 4-hour tours offer visitors an opportunity to learn about a variety of topics while exploring with a seasoned guide. Series topics are as follows:

- Truckhaven's Treasures
- Geology of Ocotillo Wells
- Desert Habitats
- Bugs and Flowers
- Oil Exploration
- Full Moon over Ocotillo Wells
- Colorful Characters
- Water in the Desert
- Creepy Crawlers of the Night

A photograph of a group of people standing under a blue canopy tent labeled "Ocotillo Wells SVRA".

## Roving Interpretive Exhibits

Ocotillo Wells SVRA offers an assortment of interpretive exhibits at popular riding destinations. Programs include the following:

- Desert Animal Extravaganza
- Gnarly Beasts of the Past
- Talking Bubbles at the Gas Domes
- Skulls, Skins, Tracks & Scat
- Talking Pumpkins at the Pumpkin Patch
- The Sands of Blowsand Hill
- Coffee with the Naturalist

A photograph of a young boy looking at an interpretive display table.

4

Summary of Public Input on Preliminary Goals - Appendix B

Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update

# Physical Features

Ocotillo Wells SVRA has a variety of terrain types and topographic features that are popular points-of-interest for visitors. Visitors enjoy riding to the many distinct landmarks that serve as destinations and waypoints while exploring Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Some physical features such as mud hills, escarpments, and washes present opportunities for a range of OHV skill levels and riding interests. This topographic relief map shows the different soil types present in Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

## Devil's Slide

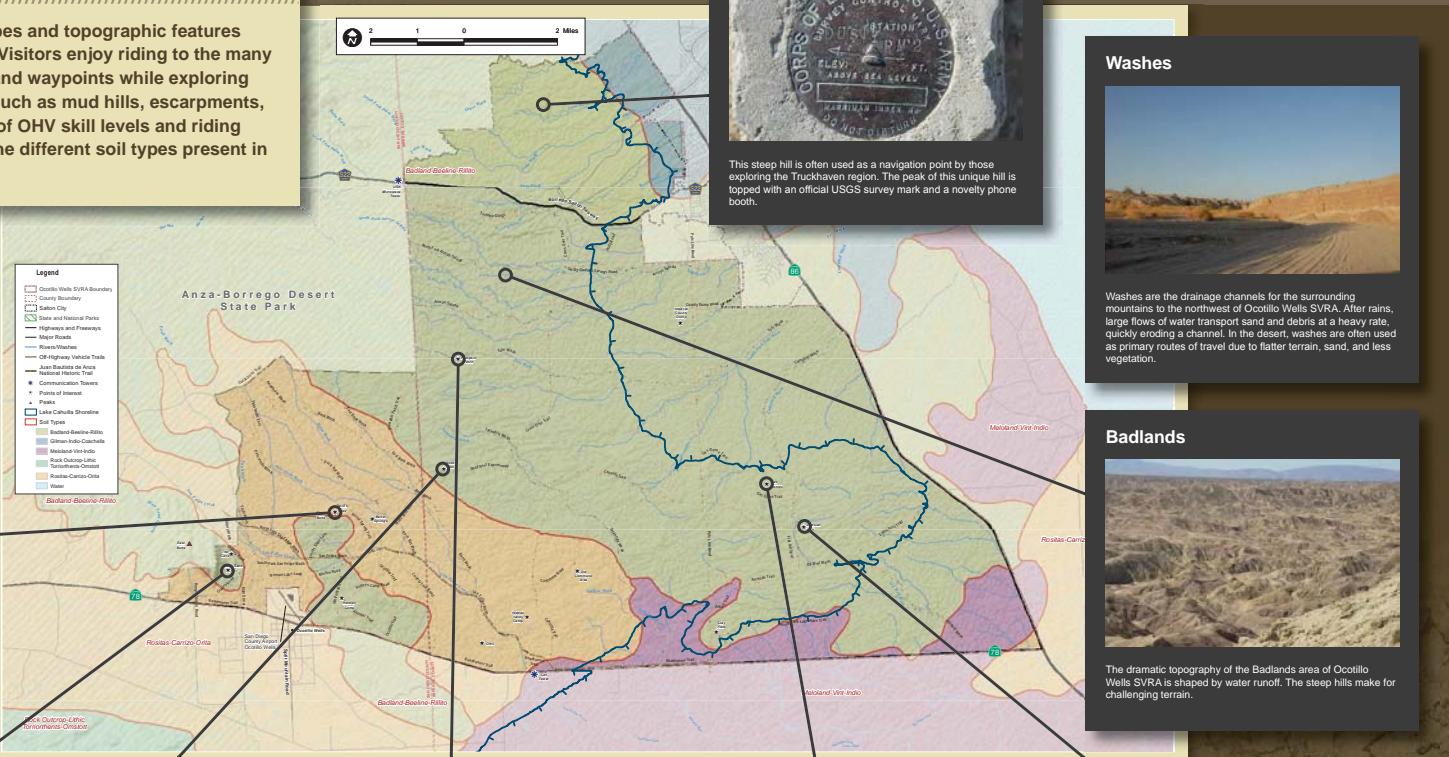


This outcrop was once the site of gold prospecting. The dark rockface and nearby sands present a popular challenge for a variety of OHV recreation enthusiasts of all types and experience levels.

## Blowsand Hill



The strong westerly winds that blow through Ocotillo Wells SVRA have deposited sand in this location. The finest sand grains, being the lightest, are deposited on the top; the larger, heavier grains collect at the bottom. This large concentration of sand is a popular, fun spot to ride.



## Shell Reef



At Shell Reef visitors can see the evidence that, 4 million years ago, this desert was covered by a sea. A 5-foot-thick layer of fossilized shells projects at an angle. This hard "coquina" resists erosion so well that it has preserved this ridge and provides a window to the past.

## Pumpkin Patch



This unique landscape is a popular destination in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Wind and water have been working the rocks for centuries, creating rock and limestone formations that resemble a field of pumpkins. These rocks are formed by the natural cementing of sand particles to a small object such as a piece of shell, a grain of sand, or even an insect.

## Dusty



This steep hill is often used as a navigation point by those exploring the Truckhaven region. The peak of this unique hill is topped with an official USGS survey mark and a novelty phone booth.

## Washes



Washes are the drainage channels for the surrounding mountains to the northwest of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. After rains, large flows of water transport sand and debris at a heavy rate, quickly eroding a channel. In the desert, washes are often used as primary routes of travel due to flatter terrain, sand, and less vegetation.

## Badlands



The dramatic topography of the Badlands area of Ocotillo Wells SVRA is shaped by water runoff. The steep hills make for challenging terrain.

# Vegetation Communities

The desert environment within Ocotillo Wells SVRA is as rich and diverse as its terrain and riding opportunities. Vegetation provides critical habitat to desert wildlife and offers spectacular spring wildflower displays. Vegetation also provides visual interest, unique riding destinations points, and wayfinding assistance to riders. Some vegetation communities are more rare and sensitive to disturbance than others. Ocotillo Wells SVRA works to simultaneously protect riding opportunities and manage vegetation for the long-term benefit of visitors and the environment.

## Unvegetated Wash



Various washes and drainages are present throughout Ocotillo Wells SVRA that have been scoured by flash floods that frequently occur in the desert. In some cases, the center of the wash may be unvegetated and the sides support desert wash scrub or other wash vegetation.

## Wash and Woodland Scrub



Wash and woodland scrub vegetation communities are characterized by trees and larger shrubs in relatively dense communities that thrive in washes and wetland areas in various locations throughout Ocotillo Wells SVRA. This category includes the following vegetation communities:

- Palo verde-Ironwood woodland (*Parkinsonia floridum*-*Oenya tesota*)
- Smoke tree woodland (*Psorothamnus spinosa*)
- Mesquite bosque (*Prosopis glandulosa*)
- Desert willow woodland (*Chilopsis linearis*)
- Desert scrub
- Salgrass (*Distichlis spicata*)
- American bulrush (*Schoenoplectus americanus*)

**Legend**

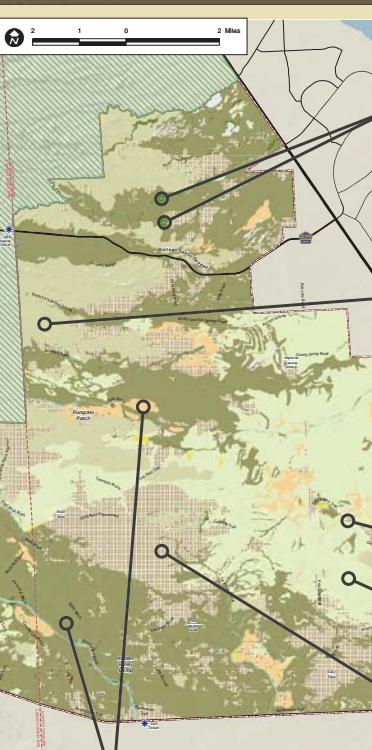
- Ocotillo Wells SVRA Boundary
- County Boundary
- State and National Parks
- State and National Forests
- Major Roads
- Ranger Stations
- Recreational Towns
- Vegetation Communities
- Wash and Woodland Vegetation
- Desert Wash Scrub
- Salicornia Ironwood woodland
- Mesquite bosque
- Smoke Tree woodland
- Desert Willow woodland
- Unvegetated Wash
- Upland Scrub Vegetation
- Creosote Bush Scrub
- Other Vegetation Communities
- Desert Holly Scrub
- Dune Scrub
- Badland Scrub
- Badland Scrub - Burn-Bush scrub
- Unvegetated
- California Fan palm woodland

## Mesquite Bosque



Mesquite bosques are a type of wash and woodland vegetation dominated by mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*). It can be found in arroyos and washes and in upland areas in the upper mesquite belt. Mesquite bosques provide important habitat for desert wildlife.

## Creosote Bush Scrub



## Creosote Bush Scrub



Creosote bush scrub (*Larrea tridentata*) is the most prevalent vegetation community in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. It typifies the upland scrub vegetation present and dominates dune areas. A variation includes areas with sparse composition of creosote bush scrub.

## California Palms



California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*) occur in low numbers and are a unique vegetation community. California fan palms can be found at Four Palm Springs and a few other rare locations. They are often destination points for visitors to Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

## OCOTILLO WELLS STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA General Plan



## Badland Scrub



Various plant species are found in sparsely vegetated communities on the mudhills and badland formations in Ocotillo Wells SVRA, including annuals.

## Other Vegetation Communities



A number of vegetation communities in Ocotillo Wells SVRA occur in isolated locations or are naturally sparse vegetation communities. These vegetation communities include a diverse range of species that can be found throughout Ocotillo Wells SVRA, including:

- Desert holly scrub (*Artemesia hymenelytra*)
- Dune Scrub (*Eriogonum deserticola*)
- California fan palm woodland (*Washingtonia filifera*)
- Badland scrub
- Naturally barren
- Sandy soils

## Four-Winged Saltbush



In many areas of Ocotillo Wells SVRA, four-winged saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) is the dominant or only shrub present. It is the second most prevalent vegetation community behind creosote bush scrub. It is common for four-winged saltbush to be mixed with burro-bush scrub (*Ambrosia dumosa* scrub), especially in the northwest and eastern areas of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Although many shrubs may not be present in this vegetation community due to soil characteristics or other physical effects, a number of annuals do grow.

# Resource Protection

With more than 85,000 acres open to exploration, Ocotillo Wells SVRA seeks to balance recreation opportunities with protection of unique natural and cultural resources. Ocotillo Wells SVRA administers programs and policies to maintain air quality, protect natural habitats, preserve cultural and paleontological resources, prevent erosion, and maintain water quality. Ocotillo Wells SVRA is committed to protecting these resources, while maximizing opportunities for OHV recreation, so that Ocotillo Wells SVRA remains a unique place that future generations can enjoy as much as visitors today.

## Preventing Erosion and Maintaining Water Quality

Maintaining water quality and preventing soil erosion are important for sustaining the unique desert landscape found at Ocotillo Wells SVRA and the surrounding environment. Measures to protect water quality and soils include:



- Conservation management:** Adhering to the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard Guidelines for Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Management ensures that projects are designed and constructed in a way that limits soil erosion and water runoff.
- Enclosures and signage:** Regulatory signage and fencing the fragile soil structures of the Gas Domes and other sensitive areas provide protection for natural resources. Additional areas have restrictions posted on signs or fenced closures.
- Trail riding:** For greater protection of resources, including reducing erosion and improving water quality, certain areas are designated as "trails only." Trail riding is encouraged in all other parts of Ocotillo Wells SVRA through wayfinding signage and trail maintenance.

## Maintaining Air Quality

Air quality is a regional concern, and Ocotillo Wells SVRA is committed to reducing vehicle pollution and controlling dust through best available control measures (BACMs). Air quality is maintained through the following:

- Red sticker/green sticker program:** A vehicle that does not comply with the emissions standards set by the California Air Resources Board receives a red sticker, which restricts the operation of these vehicles to the winter season when air quality is better.
- Dust control measures:** Ocotillo Wells District is working with the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District on a Dust Control Plan. Some measures have already been implemented and include implementing speed limits, installation of gravel road base on primary access roads to facilities and camping areas, watering during special events, and soil wet-downs for emergency helicopter landings. In addition, only riding on existing trails and roads is allowed in the areas east of Poleline Road and north of County Highway S-22.



## Preserving Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Ocotillo Wells District cultural resources specialists evaluate Ocotillo Wells SVRA's resources through an existing database and new surveys and studies. New discoveries of cultural and paleontological resources are evaluated by archeologists to determine their condition and historical significance. Evaluation of these resources helps determine the course of action to protect them. Active stewardship ensures that these resources are preserved, protected, and made available for public understanding and appreciation today and for future generations.



## Protecting Natural Habitats



Native habitats are monitored and protected by evaluating changes in habitat areas, such as differences in soil erosion and wildlife populations. Conservation projects such as the following help protect wildlife and restore habitat:

- Regulating riding:** Ocotillo Wells SVRA rules prohibit OHV riding over vegetation.
- Enclosures and signage:** Regulatory signs, interpretive panels, and fencing areas, such as those with mesquite dune habitat, helps repair and restore sensitive native habitat or special natural features.
- Trail construction and restoration:** OHV trails are constructed or selected to avoid restoration project areas and sensitive resource habitats. Additionally, "volunteer" trails are redirected or closed and restored through sensitive areas.
- Natural resources studies:** State Parks staff conduct annual surveys in compliance with the OHMVR Division Habitat Monitoring System to evaluate Ocotillo Wells SVRA's natural habitats and wildlife. These surveys are analyzed to address trends and natural resources management goals within Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Additionally, Ocotillo Wells District was a founding member of the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Coordinating Committee, which was established to guide the stabilization and increase of this species of concern.

# Wildlife at Ocotillo Wells SVRA



At first glance, it can be difficult to imagine that the desert is home to so many species of wildlife. Looking closer, however, visitors often see many types of birds, reptiles, bats, insects, and other types of animals. Ocotillo Wells SVRA was designated a California Watchable Wildlife Area because it is a great place to view wildlife in its native habitat. Survival in the hot, dry desert is not easy, and these species depend on the ability to locate water, shade, food, and vegetation. The information on this board highlights some of the wildlife species that can be found at Ocotillo Wells SVRA.



## Migratory and Nesting Birds

Visitors can observe many bird species, including yellow and yellow-rumped warblers, Swainson's hawks, prairie falcons, Le Conte's thrashers, turkey vultures, greater roadrunners, ravens, and burrowing owls. Golden eagles have also been spotted at Ocotillo Wells SVRA.



## Reptiles

It is common to see zebra-tailed lizards, desert iguanas, sidewinders, banded geckos, and side-blotched lizards at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Coachwhip snakes and shovel-nosed snakes can also be found, usually basking in the sunlight. In sandy areas, visitors may catch a glimpse of Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizards. Long-nosed leopard lizards might also be spotted.



Colorado zebra-tailed lizard

Sidewinder

Desert iguana

## Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard

Mesquite dunes in Ocotillo Wells SVRA provide ideal habitat for flat-tailed horned lizards. The rarest of the horned lizards, the flat-tailed horned lizard is a species of concern. Ocotillo Wells SVRA was a founding member and active participant of the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Interagency Coordinating Committee, which evaluates strategies to increase the population of this species. Ocotillo Wells SVRA actively monitors the flat-tailed horned lizard population within its boundaries.



Flat-tailed horned lizard



Mesquite dune enclosure for Flat-tailed horned lizard habitat

## Insects and Invertebrates

Small but significant, insects and invertebrates are also found in the desert. The giant desert hairy scorpion is the largest scorpion in North America. Desert stink beetles, Arizona blister beetles, crab spiders, bees, and ants are just a few of the species crawling about at Ocotillo Wells SVRA.



Desert stink beetle



Giant hairy desert scorpion



Desert tarantula

## Mammals

Ocotillo Wells SVRA is home to the kit fox, grey fox, coyote, kangaroo rat, desert cottontail, black-tailed jackrabbit, bobcat, pocket gopher, several types of mice and squirrels, and several species of bats.



Kangaroo rat



Black-tailed jackrabbit



Kit fox

# APPENDIX C

## Comments on Preliminary Goals

**Disclaimer:** The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the official opinion of California State Parks, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, or Ocotillo Wells District, nor any institution, bodies, or person acting on their behalf. Comments reflect participants' apparent values, concerns, opinions, and ideas; they are included as a reference only and do not necessarily represent factual information. California State Parks will not provide official responses to public comments received during this time but will respond to those received during the public comment period of the Draft Environmental Impact Report as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15088. It is anticipated that the Draft EIR will be complete in late 2013 or early 2014.

# Interpretation and Education (IE)

| Id  | Goal       | Comment  |
|-----|------------|--|
| 1   | IE Goal #1 | Yes  |
| 2   | IE Goal #1 | Discovery Center is excellent  |
| 3   | IE Goal #1 | Increase funding to expand Discovery Center!   |
| 141 | IE Goal #1 | Do not forget purpose of this park, MOTORIZED RECREATION. There is almost no mention of this at the mobile booth pictured.                   |
| 146 | IE Goal #1 | More emphasis on responsible use regarding broken glass, nails from pallets, and packing out all trash.                                      |
| 180 | IE Goal #1 | Love what is currently offered. Don't expend extra funds/resources.  |
| 205 | IE Goal #1 | Don't try to over-interpret this special place. It is a land of dry mud hills and washes with very little vegetation, and we like it.        |
| 250 | IE Goal #1 | These IE 1-5 goals are a slippery slope leading to closures. Do none of them in the OWSVRA and open the ABDSP where they already are to OHVs |
| 4   | IE Goal #2 | Educate to insure people know what a valuable resource this is   |
| 5   | IE Goal #2 | Yes Big Time, where grand parents can bring grandchildren  |
| 103 | IE Goal #2 | The signage at historic spots is excellent! More of that kind of display and info would be great!  |
| 166 | IE Goal #2 | Rangers are doing a great job of providing educational information at kiosks set up at Pumpkin Patch, Gas Domes, Shell Reef, etc. Great info |
| 179 | IE Goal #2 | New family = can't wait to participate in the classes and activities provided. Don't loose these opportunities.                              |
| 206 | IE Goal #2 | The primary signage should be limited to signs describing the degree of difficulty of various offroad trails. Keep it simple.                |
| 348 | IE Goal #2 | Provide opportunities to see protected sites that harbor unique flora and fauna and cultural resources                                       |
| 6   | IE Goal #3 | This is key, responsibility instead of regulation rule/overload  |
| 7   | IE Goal #3 | Sound test outreach posted no tickets and spark arrestor checks  |
| 8   | IE Goal #3 | More permitted events  |
| 9   | IE Goal #3 | Keep up the newsletter and interpretive programs! Love them  |
| 10  | IE Goal #3 | Yes  |
| 155 | IE Goal #3 | Please stress responsible riding while respecting the environment and other riders   |
| 181 | IE Goal #3 | Current presence around the park promoting education is great. Don't expend additional funds/resources.                                      |

# Interpretation and Education (IE)

| Id  | Goal              | Comment  |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 297 | IE Goal #3        | Just a talk/handout & no designated trails/enforcement/signs is not enough. Even when people want to do the right thing it is hard & unclear |
| 301 | IE Goal #3        | Designated trails, more signs and their enforcement would help responsible OHV use - the SVRA is for everyone's enjoyment.                   |
| 322 | IE Goal #3        | It is an OHV area, makes sense to promote responsible OHV use to the people who recreate at the SVRA.  |
| 11  | IE Goal #4        | Signs should provide information of presence of archeological resources. Explain what it might look like.                                    |
| 12  | IE Goal #4        | Without closures   |
| 13  | IE Goal #4        | Without closures - Yes   |
| 167 | IE Goal #4        | Lets all ride and have fun but don't wreck the natural environ to give the environmental whackos more reasons to shut down our ohv areas.    |
| 182 | IE Goal #4        | Only so much "awareness" that will happen the stupid will remain stupid But by continuing the current presence it will naturally increase.   |
| 296 | IE Goal #4        | Need to do a lot more to ensure people don't recklessly drive over plants & animals. Designated trails would really help.                    |
| 349 | IE Goal #4        | Provide information on the desert's fragile soil structure, cryptobiotic soils and their benefits in soil stabilization and PM10 reduction   |
| 350 | IE Goal #4        | provide information on the important refugia palm oases are for animals  |
| 14  | IE Goal #5        | Develop partner program and promote  |
| 183 | IE Goal #5        | Don't commercialize the park. Have caution with "partnerships". Look towards clubs to promote additional outreach.                           |
| 208 | IE Goal #5        | Team up with clubs like TDS and the Bronco Registry, and perhaps with Jeep. But limit corporate excesses on this simple land. Its not Disney |
| 15  | IE Share Your Own | Discovery Center and Jr. Ranger programs are awesome   |
| 16  | IE Share Your Own | More of the sign stops that tell history of particular spots.  |
| 17  | IE Share Your Own | More range talks, we love them!  |
| 18  | IE Share Your Own | Embrace OHV culture events; vintage car shows, etc.; get OHV'ers out there!  |
| 257 | IE Share Your Own | Motorized vehicles are my choice to recreate in this area because I am handicapped. Please keep access to sites for handicapped people       |
| 355 | IE Share Your Own | I disagree with the interpretive program, the money should have been spent on off road enhancements, dump station, off road pals, etc.       |

# Park Operations (PO)

| Id  | Goal       | Comment  |
|-----|------------|--|
| 69  | PO Goal #1 | Change major grading techniques to lessen side berms to keep young riders safe   |
| 70  | PO Goal #1 | Yes  |
| 71  | PO Goal #1 | I would be willing to pay a use fee IF the money stays in the park   |
| 72  | PO Goal #1 | Need restrooms in all activity areas   |
| 73  | PO Goal #1 | Private property entrances may provide opportunity for seasonal concessions near Salton City.  |
| 102 | PO Goal #1 | I agree with adding restrooms at major destination spots, such as at Pumpkin Patch for example. That is a great idea that should be expanded |
| 111 | PO Goal #1 | Will there be any Dump stations available within the park in the future.   |
| 119 | PO Goal #1 | You guys are doing a great job. If anything showers out by the north end near crossover trail and the 22 camping area.                       |
| 207 | PO Goal #1 | RV Dump Stations in heavy use RV areas. Encourage clean up & recycling by placing recycle/trash dumpsters/containers in heavy RV use areas.  |
| 256 | PO Goal #1 | Post signage on what you can burn, stop the burning of pallets and old furnature.  |
| 302 | PO Goal #1 | reduce management and employees to absolute minimum. Management always equals areas closed.  |
| 305 | PO Goal #1 | Reduce management and visitor services to absolute minimum.  |
| 312 | PO Goal #1 | Hundreds of miles of Designated Trails or Closed because of open-riding. Easy choice: Designated Trails--Obey the Law!                       |
| 313 | PO Goal #1 | Why is OW management continuing to jeopardize our right to ride by risking park closure? Obey the law please.                                |
| 326 | PO Goal #1 | Like the trail maps, though could be better by adding legal trails which run outside of the SVRA, such as south of Hwy 78.                   |
| 361 | PO Goal #1 | Maybe have a few concrete pad camping spots for tents and RVs.   |
| 74  | PO Goal #2 | Awesome! If donations or time is needed how can we help?   |
| 75  | PO Goal #2 | Purchase/open areas south of 78; educate people on camp cleanliness, such as not throwing glass/trash in fire rings, no nails!               |
| 76  | PO Goal #2 | Budget to purchase private property in Truckhaven  |
| 77  | PO Goal #2 | Budget to purchase private property in Truckhaven - Agree!   |
| 78  | PO Goal #2 | Yes  |
| 156 | PO Goal #2 | With so little OHV areas in So Cal, acquiring property for recreation should be done more.   |

# Park Operations (PO)

| Id  | Goal       | Comment  |
|-----|------------|--|
| 168 | PO Goal #2 | Aquiring additional OHV area using direct fiunding from our OHV fees is a priority.  |
| 236 | PO Goal #2 | Turn over to SVRA or allow use of land east of Split Mountain road and north of gypsum mine that is not privately held.                      |
| 237 | PO Goal #2 | Open up Clark lake, Fish Creek mountains, and ABDSP lands east of Borrego Springs.   |
|     |            | PO goals 1,3,4 and 5 are DONE. Excellent job!  |
| 253 | PO Goal #2 | Now "acquire" our access back to trails and areas in ABDSP we lost in the 70's. Thank You.   |
| 271 | PO Goal #2 | Our Green Sticker fees shouldn't go to pay for Jeeps and trails that we can't use. That money is supposed to go to acquiring land for riders |
| 323 | PO Goal #2 | Growing the SVRA should be a priority. Acquisition of the Freeman property was a good start.   |
|     |            | Yes - less closures, and more expanded riding areas! Keep Ocotillo free of direct fees, make it work with OHV licensing fees...              |
| 79  | PO Goal #3 | Great law enforcement protection/services at Ocotillo Wells. Please at least maintain current service level                                  |
| 80  | PO Goal #3 | Great law enforcement protection/services at Ocotillo Wells. Please at least maintain current service level - Yes, protection                |
| 81  | PO Goal #3 | Yes! We need to be protected from crazies.   |
| 82  | PO Goal #3 | Bikes and quads south of S22; 4x4 north  |
| 83  | PO Goal #3 | Yes, protect family recreation while providing opportunities for OHV's   |
| 84  | PO Goal #3 | North side station   |
| 85  | PO Goal #3 | Separate 4wds from dirt bikes. OW north for 4wds; OW south for bikes   |
| 220 | PO Goal #3 | last 3 trips to O. Wells,I've been pulled over 3x.-Never merited a ticket. Stop the harassment!- had never been stopped ever prior to this.  |
| 238 | PO Goal #3 | Emergency response is excellent. Keep funding for spotter plane and all first responder services.  |
| 239 | PO Goal #3 | Promote reestablishment of Ocotillo Wells Volunteer FD.  |
| 272 | PO Goal #3 | Designated Trails would provide safer recreation because the riding is organized and Rangers can be more effectively summoned.               |
| 304 | PO Goal #3 | Safety services are fine as is. No expanding of service is required.   |
| 325 | PO Goal #3 | Trail maps are very good but could be improved with the addition of GPS coords to popular destinations in the SVRA.                          |
| 359 | PO Goal #3 | Maybe have GPS/ Radios that you can be check out on a voluntary basis if you are EMR, EMT-B,EMT-I,or EMT-P, to provide more medical coverage |

# Park Operations (PO)

| Id  | Goal              | Comment  |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 86  | PO Goal #4        | Allow special events in Freeman area   |
| 87  | PO Goal #4        | More special events  |
| 255 | PO Goal #4        | Work with and get input from people and the orgs that recreate there, not just TDS   |
| 88  | PO Goal #5        | Yes  |
| 169 | PO Goal #5        | Geothermal exploration inside the park isn't what we pay OHV funds for. If this goes through a land compensation should be required. |
| 303 | PO Goal #5        | Proactive usually turns out to be just another way to promote trail closed areas. Limit "Proactive" to the minimum                   |
| 89  | PO Share Your Own | Any chance new OHV areas opening in state? Love the way this park is managed. Keep up the good work!                                 |
| 90  | PO Share Your Own | It would be great to have RV hookups   |
| 91  | PO Share Your Own | More trash bins  |
| 92  | PO Share Your Own | Dump and water station   |
| 93  | PO Share Your Own | Some kind of animal services number to call; lots of people lose dogs and drop off strays  |
| 94  | PO Share Your Own | Please have the Rangers enforce the no saving campsites rule; half of Holms Camp was saved over                                      |

# Resource Management (RM)

| Id  | Goal       | Comment  |
|-----|------------|--|
| 19  | RM Goal #1 | Protect unique sensitive areas through fencing, but keep open riding areas.  |
| 20  | RM Goal #1 | Protect landscape so area does not turn like spider webs   |
| 21  | RM Goal #1 | Teach to protect and why!  |
| 22  | RM Goal #1 | Teach to protect and why! - Ditto  |
| 110 | RM Goal #1 | Off-roading at Ocotillo Wells SVRA breaks down the soil into the finest air pollutants endangering all of us who live in Borrego Springs.    |
| 118 | RM Goal #1 | Yes, pls maintain the OHV area for future generations of recreation users. This area creates a great family atmosphere and learning for all  |
| 140 | RM Goal #1 | We must accept changes in soil and visual resources to serve purpose of park. Erosion, for instance, created the desireability of OW.        |
| 152 | RM Goal #1 | This year has brought a greater understanding of OW thru all of your new programs. Keep it up.   |
| 160 | RM Goal #1 | Dust from the orv site is unacceptable -- it pollutes Borrego and the Imperial Valley, harming health. You must restrict number of vehicles. |
| 161 | RM Goal #1 | Dust issue must be resolved. Designated trails leaving areas protected. Limit numbers using areas. Protect plants and soils.                 |
| 176 | RM Goal #1 | Borrago Springs Park has plenty of area for preservation. Allow the OW OHV area to stay open for OHV use. OW was created by natural erosion. |
|     |            | The complaints about dust are an attempt to create another false premise to limit OHV activity.  |
| 217 | RM Goal #1 | OHV recreation is the area's purpose.  |
| 241 | RM Goal #1 | Allow off roading on all existing trails and washes restricting the creation of new trails only.   |
| 260 | RM Goal #1 | What about the plant resources? I think trails should be established and used. The land is being ruined and new land continually sought.     |
| 284 | RM Goal #1 | Air pollution (dust) from this sport is a major concern to those who live in this beautiful valley. This issue needs to be well managed.     |
| 288 | RM Goal #1 | Protecting the environment and effective management of physical resources is not possible in an off road park. Don't even try.               |

# Resource Management (RM)

| Id  | Goal       | Comment  |
|-----|------------|--|
| 294 | RM Goal #1 | Open riding is causing irreversible soil damage which in turn is damaging fragile desert ecosystem. We love OHV, its wildlife & beauty.      |
| 298 | RM Goal #1 | Designated trails are a must to protect soil, plants & animals. OHV is not doing enough. This is terribly short-sighted of us.               |
| 327 | RM Goal #1 | There must be adequate law enforcement and monitoring of OHV impacts. Motorcycles DO impact the environment and riders WILL leave the trail  |
| 330 | RM Goal #1 | The people of California own the resources of the park. The law says protect those resources for the people. Riders need designated trails.  |
| 332 | RM Goal #1 | On occasional weekends, dust from OWSVRA blankets the residences of Borrego Springs. This must not be allowed to occur.                      |
| 337 | RM Goal #1 | comply with 2008 soil conservation standard and Public Resources Code Section 5090.35 (a) - "prevent accelerated and unnatural erosion"      |
| 338 | RM Goal #1 | Establish connectivity between the Borrego Badlands and West Mesa Management Areas thru OWSRVA for flat-tailed horned lizard as per FTHLMS   |
| 339 | RM Goal #1 | Implement rigorous air quality monitoring at multiple sites within and outside of OWSRVA   |
| 354 | RM Goal #1 | Don't duplicate the efforts of Anza Borrego. Let the park be what it is, raw land for off road use, not an overdose of resource management.  |
| 23  | RM Goal #2 | Need to grade cross overtrail to keep vehicles from spreading out too much; road is very rough.  |
| 24  | RM Goal #2 | Do not lose sight of the purpose of this park and its heritage   |
| 150 | RM Goal #2 | I think there is a good balance right now - if you let it the natural growth and inhabitants die, it will just be a pile of dirt and rocks.  |
| 177 | RM Goal #2 | The current fenced areas are just right for destinations to explore. Love the signage explaining the areas. It is great to keep users aware. |
| 187 | RM Goal #2 | More enforcement of existing rules/laws...after 8 flat tires in 2 years, no glass and no palletts-nails. Fines for littering.                |
| 199 | RM Goal #2 | Allow permitted events in the area north of county road S22.   |
| 213 | RM Goal #2 | I am glad that current riders want their kids to ride in a dust bowl, because that is what is going to be left unless the law is respected.  |
| 215 | RM Goal #2 | Open riding is not sustainable. The law requires designated trails. Follow the law! That is real management. Not "Do anything you want."     |

# Resource Management (RM)

| Id  | Goal       | Comment   |
|-----|------------|---|
| 218 | RM Goal #2 | Complaints about dust are an attempt to create another false premise to limit OHV activity. OHV recreation is the area's purpose.           |
| 240 | RM Goal #2 | Allow off roading on all existing trails and washes restricting the creation of new trails only.  |
| 259 | RM Goal #2 | Over use and unregulated riding will result in a dust bowl with nothing to see and the enjoyment we get will be gone.                       |
| 264 | RM Goal #2 | "...anticipate and prevent accelerated and unnatural erosion..." (PRC5090.35) Anyone believe that is what is happening at OW?               |
| 275 | RM Goal #2 | Most visitor's view of a desert is that there are no animals, which is totally untrue. I'm very concerned about preserving animal habitat.  |
| 276 | RM Goal #2 | Keep the areas open to all OHV forever. Stop encroaching where OHV enthusiast ride. Environmentalist's can go elsewhere.                    |
| 277 | RM Goal #2 | Keep the areas open to all OHV forever. Stop encroaching where OHV enthusiast ride. Environmentalist's can go elsewhere.                    |
| 295 | RM Goal #2 | OHV is home to rich & diverse animals & plants. SVRA is not doing enough to protect them. Who will want to ride in a barren dust bowl?      |
| 299 | RM Goal #2 | 0.4% of total park area is fenced. Rest is open riding. How does management plan to protect soil, plant & animals for the future?           |
| 310 | RM Goal #2 | A management goal for "protection" is an anti user goal and only leads to closure. Manage for "enhancement" is a much better resource goal. |
| 340 | RM Goal #2 | fully investigate all issues raised in the Whistleblower Complaint I2011-1275, Illegal Operation of a California State Park.                |
| 341 | RM Goal #2 | conserve of all federally and state-listed species including Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and golden eagles                                     |
| 342 | RM Goal #2 | conserve of all species of concern & their habitats including Flat-tailed Horned Lizard, Peirson's pincushion, & Orcuttâ€™s woody aster     |
| 343 | RM Goal #2 | conserve of all species of concern & their habitats including Mecca woody aster, California fan palms & Salton milk-vetch                   |
| 344 | RM Goal #2 | Conserve special status species and their habitats including prairie falcon, Le Conteâ€™s thrasher & Colorado fringe-toed lizard            |
| 345 | RM Goal #2 | all fan palm oases should be protected from damage by motorized vehicles and recreationists through physical barriers                       |

# Resource Management (RM)

| Id  | Goal              | Comment   |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 347 | RM Goal #2        | Manage 8,936 acres designated as Ocotillo Wells FTHL Research Area in accordance w/2003 Rangewide Management Strategy                             |
| 25  | RM Goal #3        | Yes, but don't close areas.   |
| 151 | RM Goal #3        | Keep up the good work in sharing the past...it is so interesting to learn about and makes OW much more interesting than just a place to ride      |
| 178 | RM Goal #3        | The signage around the park is great showcasing features around OW that are fenced. This gives destination/educ points when going for a ride      |
| 219 | RM Goal #3        | Complaints about dust are an attempt to create another false premise to limit OHV activity. OHV recreation is the area's purpose.                 |
| 242 | RM Goal #3        | Allow off roading on all existing trails and washes restricting the creation of new trails only.  |
| 265 | RM Goal #3        | There must be hundreds of archeo sites out there. How can a rider, with open riding, know that he is not damaging one? Designated Trails!         |
| 300 | RM Goal #3        | There are 100s of archaeological sites in the SVRA. Afraid that open riding is causing inadvertent destruction of these sites.                    |
| 321 | RM Goal #3        | It's a desert, dust happens. There are no houses near the SVRA. If you want a dust-free desert experience, Anza-Borrego SP is up the road.        |
| 346 | RM Goal #3        | protect the ancient western shoreline of Lake Cahuilla and fish traps and other archeological resources associated with the shoreline             |
| 26  | RM Share Your Own | Education, education, education for conservation; protect OHV interests   |
| 27  | RM Share Your Own | Priorities: OHV experience, all others  |
| 139 | RM Share Your Own | This is a special purpose park, that is: MOTORIZED RECREATION. If we focus on preservation, we obscure the purpose.                               |
| 209 | RM Share Your Own | SVRA's are supposed to be run according the law and the Soil Standards. The dust storms are <i>prima facie</i> evidence that soils are not saved. |
| 210 | RM Share Your Own | Why this character restriction? All you want to hear is: Good job, keep it up. The destruction there merits real discussion, not counting!        |
| 211 | RM Share Your Own | Why this character restriction? All you want to hear is: Good job, keep it up. The destruction there merits real discussion, not counting!        |
| 243 | RM Share Your Own | Allow off roading on all existing trails and washes restricting the creation of new trails only.  |

# Resource Management (RM)

| Id  | Goal              | Comment  |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 251 | RM Share Your Own | Do none of these RM goals. They are already in place in the land the OHV community was forced of of in the ABDSP. Open those parklands.      |
| 252 | RM Share Your Own | Many areas in ABDSP were bombing ranges. OHVs can not do more damage than that. Open those lands that we used back up to us.                 |
| 266 | RM Share Your Own | There must be an alternate universe out there that believes high-powered vehicles going ANYWHERE do no damage! Designated Trails!!           |
| 267 | RM Share Your Own | I'd be willing to bet that OW admin has not allowed access to its scientist who has been there for years. Don't be spoonfed admin's "facts." |
| 278 | RM Share Your Own | I think that all of these goals can be achieved as long as we all do our part.   |
| 293 | RM Share Your Own | The government needs to rediscover that its purpose is to facilitate access to public lands, not incrementally cow tow to environmentalists. |
| 311 | RM Share Your Own | Silica is a carcinogen. How very sad to expose children to ORV fine particulates. Once inhaled into the lungs they will not be expelled.     |
| 329 | RM Share Your Own | 140 Characters? Did you limit people to 1 minute when they talked to you at the workshops? You wanted to hear from riders praising the park. |
| 28  | VEO Goal #1       | Do not increase designated routes  |
| 29  | VEO Goal #1       | Do not increase designated routes - Agree  |
| 30  | VEO Goal #1       | Keep area open, no set trails. I would say this would be good for some areas and that others should have designated routes                   |
| 31  | VEO Goal #1       | More established routes east of pole line! - Agreed-more and map them  |
| 32  | VEO Goal #1       | More established routes east of pole line!   |
| 107 | VEO Goal #1       | RV Dump stations at a few key areas of egress. Level headed Ranger presence.   |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

| Id  | Goal        | Comment  |
|-----|-------------|--|
| 108 | VEO Goal #1 | Work with ABDSP to re-open one or two of the pre-existing routes on the south side of Big Wash heading to Grave Wash.                        |
| 112 | VEO Goal #1 | It keeps it interesting and as challenging as the rider wants. Yes marking areas could be better.  |
| 126 | VEO Goal #1 | Truckhaven & Ocotillo Wells allow any type of vehicles on the trails, But you could mark Trails with a rating (get a club to help w/ratings) |
| 134 | VEO Goal #1 | Work with the locals to help & promote the uses of this area - not to use as a dumping ground.   |
| 135 | VEO Goal #1 | Make sure any rule changes are immediately added to website and facebook page, as well as added to new copy of maps.                         |
| 136 | VEO Goal #1 | Clarify what riding rules are outside of OW map boundaries but inside of areas that are apparently run by OW SVRA, like Truckhaven.          |
| 137 | VEO Goal #1 | Post info or links to organizations who control areas adjacent to OW SVRA on website and facebook so we can easily find their regulations.   |
| 138 | VEO Goal #1 | Started riding there in late 60's. it was "OPEN" then. Now it's Disneyland. Too much ruined already. Don't go anymore. SAD!                  |
| 143 | VEO Goal #1 | Leave it exactly as is. We like it because it is primitive. We do not need any more bathrooms, RV dumps, of supplies of water.               |
| 145 | VEO Goal #1 | More technical single track please. Otherwise, it is great as is. Don't change a thing.  |
| 147 | VEO Goal #1 | The trail markers are great. But don't close down the primitive riding areas. The more rules you make you will drive people out.             |
| 157 | VEO Goal #1 | -Increased visitors should equate to increased areas to ride, the econazi's need to be restrained and some land given back from the AB park! |
| 158 | VEO Goal #1 | MotoX track-huh? There's plenty on other side of the hill. I come here to get into higher gears and get away from handlebar banging nutjobs! |
| 163 | VEO Goal #1 | Wide open space is critical to our sport, this is what started Ocotillo wells! Declare routes w caution- too much government=loss of freedom |
| 171 | VEO Goal #1 | Keep open area open. Add more designated trails where possible, if not then don't remove any! Love every aspect of Ocotillo Don't change it  |
| 186 | VEO Goal #1 | Keep it open- "like it" Pack it in, pack it out - "like it" Organized group rides - "like it" Keep it open. Keep it open. Keep it open.      |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

| Id  | Goal        | Comment  |
|-----|-------------|--|
| 188 | VEO Goal #1 | Keep OW as it is. It's perfect. Any changes/additions will result in FEEs. Why do you think they are asking what you want?                 |
| 196 | VEO Goal #1 | Open up some more of the Northern areas to riding. Open riding is the best.  |
| 201 | VEO Goal #1 | Can the area be designed to provide noisy motorcycle their own area so that they don't interact with the 4x4 vehicles? I can't stand them. |
| 216 | VEO Goal #1 | Less is more. Don't change a thing, why do you think its so popular ? More rules/activities = Less freedom.                                |
| 224 | VEO Goal #1 | The area was better before excessive regulation. The more regulations, the more the WRONG type of people recreate in the area!             |
| 244 | VEO Goal #1 | Any current "designated route" needs to be extremely wide to accommodate all riders and changing conditions.                               |
| 245 | VEO Goal #1 | Open up most of the area for open riding that is east of Pole Line Road.   |
| 246 | VEO Goal #1 | Reestablish ALL "designated routes" in ABDSP as available to OHV as it was when public funds were used to purchase it.                     |
| 247 | VEO Goal #1 | Maintain limited control, open camping, free use and excellent emergency services.   |
| 258 | VEO Goal #1 | control the dust!  |
| 268 | VEO Goal #1 | Would like to see better grooming of dirt roads. Quit closing down riding areas. Open more, that's what we pay for!!!                      |
| 274 | VEO Goal #1 | Keep the trails open to OHV use. Camping, OHV, and exploring the desert are what my family goes there for.                                 |
| 290 | VEO Goal #1 | Make more trails around the Cross Over Trail so people will use that area more instead of congregating near highways.                      |
| 292 | VEO Goal #1 | The balance you should strike is to encourage the use of public lands, not to incrementally close them off.                                |
| 306 | VEO Goal #1 | Leave the area alone. The open area is one of the few remaining. It appears to be another attempt by Govt. to reduce down the usage area!  |
| 314 | VEO Goal #1 | The park must do designated trails. Open riding is not sustainable. Special challenges can be provided by things like the obstacle course. |
| 316 | VEO Goal #1 | We just recently wheeled in the area and we were impressed with the open area to run. Please keep it that way!                             |
| 320 | VEO Goal #1 | The best part of riding at OW is the diversity of terrain; doing anything to change that would ruin the opportunities we have here.        |
| 328 | VEO Goal #1 | Keep the dust level under control for the benefit of our health and the environment.   |
| 335 | VEO Goal #1 | Set aside areas for flat-tailed horned lizards so that people could go there and see them. Connect them to the existing Management Areas.  |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

| Id  | Goal        | Comment   |
|-----|-------------|---|
| 336 | VEO Goal #1 | designate routes in Palm Canyon Wash. no motorized access to northern washes. Enforce compliance. Close area if non-compliance occurs     |
| 356 | VEO Goal #1 | Keep it the way it is free open space to ride and enjoy.  |
| 33  | VEO Goal #2 | Maintain open riding  |
| 34  | VEO Goal #2 | Maintain open riding - agree  |
| 35  | VEO Goal #2 | Maintain open riding - yes  |
| 36  | VEO Goal #2 | Recreation opportunities should not impact wide open nature of park   |
| 37  | VEO Goal #2 | Don't shrink park area. Keep open riding areas. Need diverse riding opps: washes, climbs, (off-camber); all technical driving too         |
| 38  | VEO Goal #2 | Dirt bike play pen  |
| 39  | VEO Goal #2 | More areas for small children to ride (fenced area)   |
| 40  | VEO Goal #2 | Quad play area  |
| 113 | VEO Goal #2 | This allows all types of vehicles to coexist. It is evolving in the right way. I ride a bike and have a Jeep.                             |
| 162 | VEO Goal #2 | OHV's will continue to advance and change how visitors access Ocotillo and the property should be available to all uses.                  |
| 172 | VEO Goal #2 | Love the small kid track for beginners. Other then that DO NOT ADD ANY MORE FENCES!   |
| 191 | VEO Goal #2 | Keep OW as it is. It's perfect. Any changes/additions will result in FEEs. Why do you think they are asking what you want?                |
| 202 | VEO Goal #2 | All off road trails should have signage similar to what TDS uses at their Desert Safari that shows the difficulty of various trails.      |
| 222 | VEO Goal #2 | I have really enjoyed going to the Truckhaven area when it was a little bigger and more open.   |
| 223 | VEO Goal #2 | Some areas should be open and primitive and other areas should have designated trails, bathrooms & water                                  |
| 225 | VEO Goal #2 | This is one of the most diverse OHV areas in our desert. No additional 'improvements' will benefit the type of people you want out there. |
| 262 | VEO Goal #2 | Keep it open as much as possible. No facilities are required- just open land for OHV recreation. We don't need help to have fun.          |
| 263 | VEO Goal #2 | You spend and provided an interesting jeep area but excluded Motorcycles and ATV from the area. Why no MC/ATV track areas as we pay green |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

| Id  | Goal        | Comment  |
|-----|-------------|--|
| 269 | VEO Goal #2 | Don't want Jeeps in our Riding areas for Dirtbikes and Quads, they destroy the roads with their short wheel base and create dangerous whoops                 |
| 285 | VEO Goal #2 | Don't try to balance this. Off road is just that, off road. If you want to stay on a road and enjoy the scenery go tot he park next door                     |
| 286 | VEO Goal #2 | OK but not necessary.  |
| 291 | VEO Goal #2 | 140 characters; that's hardly a sentence. You don't care what we think.  |
| 307 | VEO Goal #2 | The terrain as it stands provides all the recreational opportunities necessary for everyone. The off-road park training area is waste of \$!                 |
| 317 | VEO Goal #2 | The area already offers diversity so why change it. The old saying is..If its not broken don't fix it.   |
| 41  | VEO Goal #3 | A track or challenge ride for dirt bikes   |
| 42  | VEO Goal #3 | A track or challenge ride for dirt bikes - Motocross   |
| 43  | VEO Goal #3 | Water access and RV dump @ North Ocotillo  |
| 44  | VEO Goal #3 | Water access and RV dump @ North - And trash dumpsters North of S22  |
| 45  | VEO Goal #3 | Bring or extend water from N. Marina Drive; maybe at one point only  |
| 46  | VEO Goal #3 | Continue to and destination points to help disperse visitors during big weekends   |
| 47  | VEO Goal #3 | No changes to the park. We like the peace and quiet. More visibility for the Rangers. We like their presence, especially when people are doing stupid stuff. |
| 48  | VEO Goal #3 | A designated area to allow for shooting (shooting area in side of hill)  |
| 114 | VEO Goal #3 | The Discovery center is a living textbook about OW. The remote displays are great. The last 30 years I have seen great changes.                              |
| 117 | VEO Goal #3 | Provide some kind of restroom facilities at N. Marina drive.   |
| 121 | VEO Goal #3 | Obst. Course is great, But it is in Ocotillo Wells, and should be called that, if you want it to be the Truckhaven course put one there.                     |
| 130 | VEO Goal #3 | Have your Info Trailer vist other areas throughout Truckhaven and Ocotillo Wells, do more meet and greet on holiday weekends                                 |
| 131 | VEO Goal #3 | If you do add restrooms, then service them! learn a lesson from Hungry Valley SVRA, they are alway checked and cleaned!                                      |
| 144 | VEO Goal #3 | Just keep it all open and add more land. No more facilities are needed. All we need is space. It is great as is!   |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

| Id  | Goal        | Comment   |
|-----|-------------|---|
| 148 | VEO Goal #3 | No more development, except maybe a Ranger station near the 22. The beauty of the area is its natural state.                                |
| 149 | VEO Goal #3 | More visibility for the Rangers. Meet and greet. Let it be seen that the Rangers are there to help ALL park-goers have a safe, good time.   |
| 159 | VEO Goal #3 | RV dump site, RV dump site, and RV dump site!   |
| 173 | VEO Goal #3 | The park has more "amenities" then any other I know. DON'T ADD ANYMORE! We like the remote feel. Don't make it an amusement park.           |
| 192 | VEO Goal #3 | Keep OW as it is. It's perfect. Any changes/additions will result in FEEs. Why do you think they are asking what you want?                  |
| 198 | VEO Goal #3 | KEEP IT OPEN. Everyone seems to get along just fine.  |
| 203 | VEO Goal #3 | Preserve and enhance annual events like TDS's Desert Safari and Bronco Daze and let small unorganized groups use the area on a daily basis. |
| 212 | VEO Goal #3 | Do not install special facilities that cater to RV and trailer owners. There are lots of hookups in Salton City if they can't rough it.     |
| 214 | VEO Goal #3 | Please do not turn the Truckhaven Hills into a trailer and RV park. If they can't dry camp, let them find hook ups elsewhere.               |
| 229 | VEO Goal #3 | Stop using "SPARK ARRESTER" laws to harass visitors. A fire has NEVER been started by an OHV due to lack of a Spark Arrestor!!              |
| 308 | VEO Goal #3 | This is the desert! Users bring their own facilities, RV's, tents, etc. State facilities = User Fees to maintain. CA is broke\$\$\$\$       |
| 315 | VEO Goal #3 | Where is "high-quality" when the place is a dust bowl? Open riding is ruining acres of land.  |
| 318 | VEO Goal #3 | There is a visitor center in Borrego Springs to learn about the area and plenty of places to stop along the road to absorb the scenery.     |
| 334 | VEO Goal #3 | Open more of the land!  |
| 49  | VEO Goal #4 | Group permits in Truckhaven north   |
| 50  | VEO Goal #4 | Group permits to Truckhaven; north of S22 (the good ole days)   |
| 51  | VEO Goal #4 | Permitted events in Truckhaven  |
| 52  | VEO Goal #4 | Promote more special events for 4x4's   |
| 53  | VEO Goal #4 | Open Truckhaven to special events   |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

| Id  | Goal        | Comment   |
|-----|-------------|---|
| 54  | VEO Goal #4 | Would participate in fun rides or destination rides. Looking to ride with other skilled riders outside my group                             |
| 55  | VEO Goal #4 | The Star and Geologic is great  |
| 56  | VEO Goal #4 | Group events to permits especially North Truckhaven   |
| 57  | VEO Goal #4 | Group events to permits especially North Truckhaven - Agree   |
| 115 | VEO Goal #4 | I belong to North Coast Church and OW allows us to have a great event.  |
| 120 | VEO Goal #4 | You have had 4 plus years to finish the EIS, allow events like the Covra Truckhaven Challenge and TDS to be back in the real Truckhaven     |
| 123 | VEO Goal #4 | Include notification to Clubs, Orgs, and the local community Like Treasure Trails, when you have workshops.                                 |
| 125 | VEO Goal #4 | Better signage for entrance to Truckhaven, more Kiosks through out the area, offer Youth Training, and enforce the helmet laws.             |
| 154 | VEO Goal #4 | Make it easier/more affordable for charity groups to hold fund raisers.   |
| 164 | VEO Goal #4 | Limit special events to those related to the OHV sport & Desert environment/geological/paleontological expeditions                          |
| 174 | VEO Goal #4 | LOVE the available activities! New family and can't wait to participate. Showcasing of Ocotillo's beauty by all modes of transportation!    |
| 184 | VEO Goal #4 | Permitted special events to generate extra funds to keep this park open and fight off the conservative tree huggers.                        |
| 193 | VEO Goal #4 | Keep OW as it is. It's perfect. Any changes/additions will result in FEEs. Why do you think they are asking what you want?                  |
| 197 | VEO Goal #4 | Not sure if it would be possible but maybe have some races at Ocotillo Wells? You could include Superstition Mountain?                      |
| 226 | VEO Goal #4 | What is considered a "Group" activity? We've had FAMILY trips out there where our large group is all family & if our 40-50 is a "Group".... |
| 248 | VEO Goal #4 | Have groups facilitate their events and activities themselves. Do not increase manpower or funds needed in this area.                       |
| 270 | VEO Goal #4 | Would like to see Concerts started out under the stars in Ocotillo. Would be great for everyone. Live a little people, it's just music.     |
| 289 | VEO Goal #4 | Provide special events and routes that will access the land that is already used by OWSVRA and will encourage people to stay on its land.   |
| 319 | VEO Goal #4 | Private clubs sponsor events so why have the state intervene.   |
| 58  | VEO Goal #5 | Allow pump trucks in the park to serve as dump stations and provide water   |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

| Id  | Goal               | Comment  |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 59  | VEO Goal #5        | Have cell companies improve reception for safety reasons   |
| 60  | VEO Goal #5        | Do not make park shorter   |
| 122 | VEO Goal #5        | More visable presence of the Rangers, patrol show that you too use the area  |
| 127 | VEO Goal #5        | Invite Clubs to come out and show you there favorite trails and get opinions - you can even do ride alongs                                   |
| 128 | VEO Goal #5        | Sponsor annual area clean-ups - place more signage at the Koisks that this is our area please keep it clean. Work with the OHV ORGs for this |
| 133 | VEO Goal #5        | Promote the Pack It in Pack it Out Motto, Lets keep our area clean! and If there are dumpsters service them, don't let them over flow.       |
| 165 | VEO Goal #5        | Not needed-- trying to make a buck by private partnership will degrade OWs   |
| 175 | VEO Goal #5        | Joint events with clubs to showcase areas/provide friendly clean-ups. But don't let it become corporate run. Keep the land open and inviting |
| 194 | VEO Goal #5        | Keep OW as it is. It's perfect. Any changes/additions will result in FEEs. Why do you think they are asking what you want?                   |
| 204 | VEO Goal #5        | Other than toilets and shade structures, please keep the area free of any new buildings. Do not commercialize this special place.            |
| 249 | VEO Goal #5        | Pursue PUBLIC - PUBLIC partnerships to reopen ABDSP to ohv use.  |
| 287 | VEO Goal #5        | Leave it alone. It's fine. If you change it you can mess it up.  |
| 309 | VEO Goal #5        | The private sector can always do things cheaper and better. There are plenty of off road and other interest groups to accomodate vistiors.   |
| 61  | VEO Share Your Own | Improve cell service (safety issue)  |
| 62  | VEO Share Your Own | All of us want to protect the land, I want to be able to access it, use it and enjoy it and also for my kids and their kids!                 |
| 63  | VEO Share Your Own | Please maintain current programs! They are educational and well enjoyed!   |
| 64  | VEO Share Your Own | Show private areas (fenced) on map.  |
| 65  | VEO Share Your Own | Bring in gas pumps and water (vending machines)  |
| 66  | VEO Share Your Own | Keep it open!  |

# Visitor Experience and Opportunities (VEO)

| Id  | Goal               | Comment  |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 67  | VEO Share Your Own | Motorcross track with berms and table-top jumps  |
| 68  | VEO Share Your Own | Event center at Main Street  |
|     |                    | All of us want to protect the land, I want to be able to access it, use it and enjoy it and also for my kids and their kids!                 |
| 109 | VEO Share Your Own | I agree 100%   |
| 116 | VEO Share Your Own | I think the Rangers/Sheriffs are perfect. you may not see them If you need help they are there!!!!   |
| 124 | VEO Share Your Own | Expand the character field for your comments section - 300 characters would be good for anyone to express their views.                       |
| 129 | VEO Share Your Own | Start promoting the area better, let everyone know that there is a Friends of Ocotillo Well/Truckhaven group!                                |
| 132 | VEO Share Your Own | Enforce the No burning of Wood Pallets - getting a flat in your vehicle is no fun.   |
| 153 | VEO Share Your Own | OW is awesome just as it is. 2011 and 2012 have included more history and info available to the public.                                      |
| 195 | VEO Share Your Own | Keep OW as it is. It's perfect. Any changes/additions will result in FEEs. Why do you think they are asking what you want?                   |
| 227 | VEO Share Your Own | In a time of budget-woes, why over-regulation? De-Regulation WILL save money. Plan as a business would. Cuts are necessary and save money    |
| 228 | VEO Share Your Own | Put money that would be spent on this plan into repairs of current systems & 'enhance' the park at a better fiscal time! The state has no \$ |
| 254 | VEO Share Your Own | Great place to ride. Keep on doing what you are doing!   |
| 273 | VEO Share Your Own | When the wind blows (often) there is so much dust that visibility on the highway is impaired to the point of being dangerous. A health issue |
| 331 | VEO Share Your Own | To the administration: Please do not lose this park for us! Your failure to manage is risking our ability to ride. Do your duty!             |
| 333 | VEO Share Your Own | Make a motocross track for those who want to have a rock free and yet fun jumping and action filled experience. 5 dollars for all day. c:    |

# Comment Cards Submitted at Mobile Workshops



## Comment Card

### OCOTILLO WELLS SVRA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE AND EIR

[www.planocotillowell.org](http://www.planocotillowell.org)

Please have the rangers enforce the  
no saving camp sites. *9/1/14 MEG*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## Comment Card

### OCOTILLO WELLS SVRA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE AND EIR

[www.planocotillowell.org](http://www.planocotillowell.org)

- No enforcement of traffic laws on 78
- No safe connection for those who recreate ~~the~~ South of 78 into Ocotillo Wells
- Corner of the City of Ocotillo Wells is a key intersection where people like to show off
  - need to plan for that connection
- Need to get people to follow the rules
- Fencing along 78 is limiting where people can access the park
- Growth at the park is pushing out the neighbors
- LIKES QUAD PROGRAM FOR DAUGHTER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

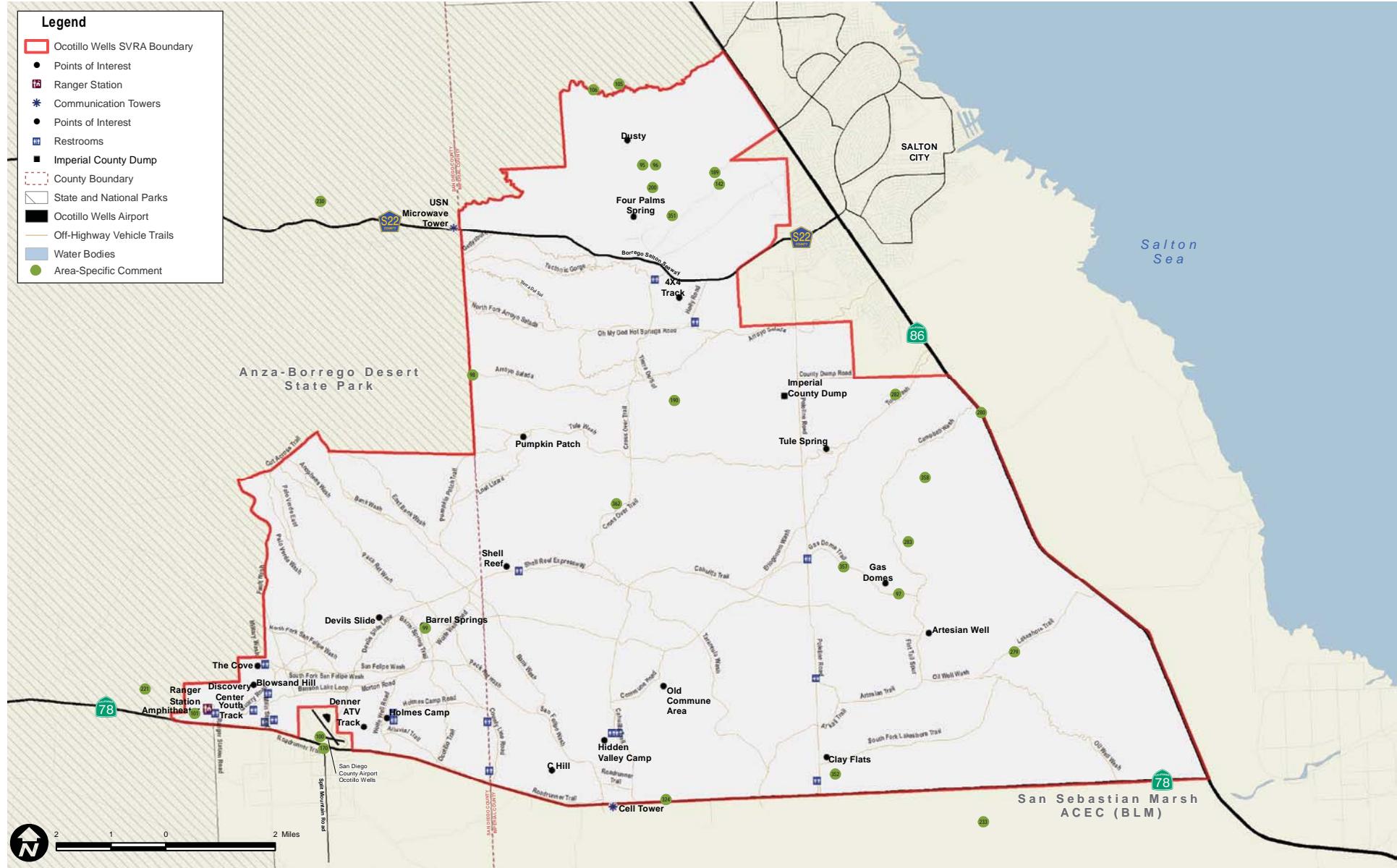
# APPENDIX D

## Area-Specific Comments

**Disclaimer:** The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the official opinion of California State Parks, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, or Ocotillo Wells District, nor any institution, bodies, or person acting on their behalf. Comments reflect participants' apparent values, concerns, opinions, and ideas; they are included as a reference only and do not necessarily represent factual information. California State Parks will not provide official responses to public comments received during this time but will respond to those received during the public comment period of the Draft Environmental Impact Report as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15088. It is anticipated that the Draft EIR will be complete in late 2013 or early 2014.

# Area-Specific

## Location of Area-Specific Comments



# Area-Specific

| Id  | Goal          | Comment   |
|-----|---------------|---|
| 95  | Area-Specific | No restrooms in Truckhaven, keep it primitive   |
| 96  | Area-Specific | No restrooms in Truckhaven, keep it primitive - x2  |
| 97  | Area-Specific | Bathrooms at Gas Domes! Or surrounding area   |
| 98  | Area-Specific | This trail connection is needed for safety reasons  |
| 99  | Area-Specific | Never could find Barrel Springs in a week of looking!   |
| 100 | Area-Specific | Traffic issues w/ crossing highway  |
| 101 | Area-Specific | Fence is dangerous!   |
|     |               | How about working with the ABDSP to keep one or two trails going S. out of Big Wash open, preexisting ones that connect with        |
| 105 | Area-Specific | Grave Wash.   |
| 106 | Area-Specific | Thanks for keeping the Trailer Park in the OHV Park... it and other similar sites make for fun trips. The Mayor                     |
| 142 | Area-Specific | Need to define this excellent entry and camping area. Provide restrooms and informational kiosk.                                    |
| 170 | Area-Specific | Drivers who operate unregistered vehicles, bikes & ATVs on paved public roads & highways create safety and traffic issues           |
|     |               | kN1xKi <a href="http://mmpgcxuppgmo.com/">mmpgcxuppgmo</a>, [url=http://mhezlqwgtztq.com/]mhezlqwgtztq[/url],                       |
| 185 | Area-Specific | [link=http://bzapwxmzdzfj.com   |
| 189 | Area-Specific | I would like this area to continue as dry camping only. No fees and no restrooms that will add to the cost of operation.            |
| 190 | Area-Specific | How about a designated marked trail blue or black diamond thru this area  |
| 200 | Area-Specific | Create a Map of OW North with locations and named trails.ie Dusty (Phone Booth), Black Cyn, Indian Head Cyn, Bill-Bo-Dar etc.       |
| 221 | Area-Specific | Contract with a gas provider to bring a truck out for refueling ATVs on the weekends and holidays.                                  |
| 230 | Area-Specific | Fences were put up with T-posts and wire that would injure or kill riders if encountered. I suggest at least protective T-post caps |
| 231 | Area-Specific | This area should be added to the SVRA. Attendance of SVRA is many times what it was in 1973. More space is needed for safety.       |
| 232 | Area-Specific | This area should be added to SVRA. Increased use requires more area for safety.   |

# Area-Specific

| Id  | Goal          | Comment   |
|-----|---------------|---|
| 233 | Area-Specific | Path should be made available to the "lakes" that approaches closer than the current one mile distance. Prefer less than 100 yards.       |
| 234 | Area-Specific | This leg of ABDSP should be made available to Green Sticker vehicles for access to Ocotillo Wells and Fish Creek.                         |
| 235 | Area-Specific | All washes in the Fish Creek mountains should be made available to off highway vehicles.  |
| 261 | Area-Specific | We are planing to move from Borrego Springs because of the degraded air quality on weekends created by the off-roaders at Ocotillo Wells. |
| 279 | Area-Specific | I'd like to know more about the old roads in the park and how they integrate into the trails? What did the old roads go to?               |
| 280 | Area-Specific | Can we get a working agreement with CalTrans to use the undercrossings as designated routes to the lake shore?                            |
| 281 | Area-Specific | Is the airport a future part of the Park? Could be a good place for ultra lights?   |
| 282 | Area-Specific | Do we have any history on these old roads? Seems they might make access to camping areas and such?  |
| 283 | Area-Specific | Are the oil well sites going to be part of future geothermal?   |
| 324 | Area-Specific | Add washes south of the 78 to the existing trail maps.  |
| 351 | Area-Specific | Designate routes in Palm Canyon Wash and restrict access to canyons to the north to protect sensitive resources                           |
| 352 | Area-Specific | Connect Borrego Badlands and West Mesa Management AREas for FTHL through OW Research Area as per FTHL Management Strategy 2003            |
| 357 | Area-Specific | I agree with the bathrooms near the Gas Domes - please!   |
| 358 | Area-Specific | It would be nice to get over to the Salton Sea and ride.  |
| 360 | Area-Specific | Borrego Springs residents should consider the \$\$ off-roaders spend there before threatening to move.                                    |
| 362 | Area-Specific | We have been riding in Ocotillo for many yrs. Please don't close down anymore of the area to riders.                                      |

# APPENDIX E

## Letters Submitted

**Disclaimer:** The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the official opinion of California State Parks, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, or Ocotillo Wells District, nor any institution, bodies, or person acting on their behalf. Comments reflect participants' apparent values, concerns, opinions, and ideas; they are included as a reference only and do not necessarily represent factual information. California State Parks will not provide official responses to public comments received during this time but will respond to those received during the public comment period of the Draft Environmental Impact Report as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15088. It is anticipated that the Draft EIR will be complete in late 2013 or early 2014.

# Letter #1



**Nevada Geothermal Power  
Head Office**  
Suite 840-1140 W. Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4G1 Canada  
Tel.: 604.688.1553 / 1.866.688.0808  
Fax: 604.688.5926

**Nevada Geothermal Power  
Reno Office**  
595 Double Eagle Court, Suite 2001  
Reno, NV 89521 USA  
Tel.: 775.786.3399  
Fax: 775.853.2375

**Nevada Geothermal Power  
Winnemucca Office**  
657 Anderson Street  
Winnemucca, NV 89445 USA  
Tel.: 775.625.4515  
Fax: 775.625.1304

March 21, 2012

Kathy Dolinar  
Superintendent  
Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
5172 Highway 78  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Via Email and First Class Mail

Cc: Tina Robinson  
General Plan Project Manager

Kirk Shea  
State Parks Superintendent II

## RE: Stakeholder Comments on OWSVRA General Plan Goals

Nevada Geothermal Power Company (NGP) respectfully submits the following comments, the purpose of which is to urge the OWSVRA to recognize the importance of geothermal exploration and development in the General Plan goal-setting and in the upcoming EIR.

NGP explores and develops geothermal power generation projects in Nevada and California and, under a joint venture with Ormat, a project in Oregon. NGP developed and is operating the 49 MW Blue Mountain power plant west of Winnemucca, Nevada.

NGP's subsidiary, NGP Truckhaven 1, holds geothermal leases on checkerboarded private, state and federal lands on what's known as the Truckhaven geothermal area, SW of Salton City. Our "New Truckhaven Project Area" leases are inside and outside of the NE boundary of the OWSVRA. It includes federal lands managed by BLM, state lands managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (if within the OWSVRA) and state lands managed by the California State Lands Commission outside of the OWSVRA boundary. The State Lands Commission also manages the minerals and any geothermal operations utilizing the state-owned mineral rights. OWSVRA manages recreation on the BLM lands within the OWSVRA under a Memorandum of Understanding with BLM.

**History of Geothermal as a Stakeholder:** The geothermal industry has been a stakeholder in the Truckhaven area of the OWSVRA since the late 1970s. Geothermal exploration and development rights here precede the OHV use of this part of the OWSVRA. Almost all these lands, private, state and federal,

TSX: NGP / OTC BB: NCLPF

[www.nevadageothermal.com](http://www.nevadageothermal.com)

[info@nevadageothermal.com](mailto:info@nevadageothermal.com)

**Page 1 of 3**



Nevada Geothermal Power

been leased for geothermal development in the past, with most of the major geothermal companies having had an interest in the leases for varying periods of time over the last 30 years. Two deep exploration wells (the Phillips Well, drilled in 1981 and the IAE well, drilled in 2007), as well as a suite of geophysical and geologic studies, indicate a very high likelihood of a commercial geothermal reservoir. However, more exploration drilling is needed.

When the several sections of private land in this area were sold to the State Department of Parks and Recreation in the late 1980s and the 1990s for inclusion in the OWSVRA, the minerals and geothermal rights were reserved, and were already subject to geothermal leasing. Geothermal rights on the BLM lands too are currently leased for exploration and development. The BLM/OWSVRA Memorandum of Understanding for recreation management on the BLM lands within the OWSVRA was first signed in 1991 and updated in 2000. But other uses, including geothermal development are managed on those BLM lands by BLM. In 2009, BLM issued geothermal leases on numerous sections of BLM lands in the north and south Truckhaven areas within the OWSVRA.

**OWSVRA General Plan:** NGP believes that geothermal development is compatible with the current OWSVRA recreational uses. We are confident that opportunities will be identified for mutually beneficial collaboration on issues of conservation, trail use and signage, interpretation and education, and safety. Geothermal projects often draw the interest of tourists and members of nearby communities. Although we believe that OHV recreation and geothermal development can co-exist wherever they occur in the OWSVRA, our exploration focus is currently on the north Truckhaven area. And our initial planned exploration drilling is located mostly east of Pole Line Road, where off-road use is confined to trails. Should issues arise in the future, we look forward to working with the OWSVRA and stakeholders to resolve or mitigate them. The geothermal industry has worked successfully with the land management and permitting agencies in California and with other stakeholders, on biological, cultural resource, water, recreation and other issues since the 1960s.

**Importance of Renewables and Geothermal Power to California and the Nation:** The Federal Global Climate Change Initiative and Policy Book "includes a goal to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the US economy by 18 percent over the ten-year period from 2002 to 2012 and to provide initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including encouraging renewable energy sources development." Geothermal Programmatic EIS at 1.8.3 (emphasis added).

In 2011, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed Senate Bill X1-2, codifying California's Renewable Portfolio Standard of 33% by 2020, originally established in Executive Order S-14-08 by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2009.

In October of 2008, the California State Lands Commission issued the attached resolution encouraging and supporting the environmentally responsible development of renewable energy on state lands.

2

**Page 2 of 3**



Nevada Geothermal Power

California's Public Resources Code provides:

"6902. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that development of geothermal resources beneath state lands is an essential element in the development of additional energy sources for the State of California. . . ."

Availability of public lands in the western states for geothermal exploration and development is critical to the US geothermal industry.

Geothermal power generation uses less land per MW than almost every other electricity source. Geothermal energy provides a home-grown, clean, secure, renewable source of power. It requires neither construction of hundreds-miles-long oil or natural gas pipelines, military protection of shipping lanes nor foreign resource supply wars. Geothermal plants operate 24-7 regardless of whether the wind blows or the sun shines, providing competitively priced baseline electricity to the grid, and hedging the fluctuating but inevitably increasing costs of fossil fuels. Geothermal use does not pose the terrorist or operational threats to large regions that are inherent in the use of nuclear power. It does not foist the costs and dangers of caretaking of our nuclear waste on generations far into the future. Use of geothermal power helps avoid the carbon dioxide and other emissions from generating electricity with coal and natural gas, cleaning up the air we breathe. We believe geothermal energy should be our first choice among the renewables, and that renewables should have a high priority for use of public lands, where they economically occur.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the General Plan and look forward to working with the OWSVRA on these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Carter  
Manager, Land and Permitting  
Reno Office

Cc: Jeff Adams, CSLC Long Beach  
Sarah Mongano, CSLC Sacramento  
James Scrivner, BLM Sacramento  
James Haerter, BLM Sacramento  
Margaret Goodro, BLM El Centro

NGP: Brian Fairbank, Max Walenciak, Kim Niggemann, Nicole Smith, Paul Wilson

# Letter #2



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

*Because life is good.*

protecting and restoring natural ecosystems and imperiled species through  
science, education, policy, and environmental law

via email and USPS

March 21, 2012

Tina Robinson  
Kirk Shea  
California Department of Parks & Recreation  
Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
Ocotillo Wells District  
5172 Highway 78  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004  
[trobinson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trobinson@parks.ca.gov)  
[kshea@parks.ca.gov](mailto:kshea@parks.ca.gov)

## RE: Input and Feedback on the Development of the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area's General Plan

Ms. Robinson and Mr. Shea,

On behalf of the 350,000 members and supporters of the Center for Biological Diversity, we submit the following “input and feedback” on the development of the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area’s General Plan. I did submit some of these comments via the website, however, the complexity of some of these issues required explanations that far exceed the extremely limited 140 characters allowed on the website. I have grouped them by issue area as follows:

### Visitor experience and opportunities

#### • Flat-tailed horned lizard Research Area

The OWSVRA is identified in the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy (2003) as a Research Area. This Research Area is the only connectivity between the Borrego Badlands Management Area and the West Mesa Management Area. Because the SVRA is identified as a Research Area, the General Plan should incorporate specific goals and objectives for research on the flat-tailed horned lizard. The General Plan needs to include clearly identified protected connectivity linkages for flat-tailed horned lizard, where visitors can go to see the flat-tailed horned lizard. In order to enable research in the Research Area, these connectivity areas should be preserved as scientific “control” areas for experimental purposes in other part of the SVRA.

Arizona • California • Nevada • New Mexico • Alaska • Oregon • Washington • Illinois • Minnesota • Vermont • Washington, DC

Ileene Anderson, Biologist  
8033 Sunset Boulevard, #447 • Los Angeles, CA 90046-2401  
tel: (323) 654.5943 fax: (323) 650.4620 email: [ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org)  
[www.BiologicalDiversity.org](http://www.BiologicalDiversity.org)

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### Resource management

#### • GP must incorporate the 2008 Soil Conservation standard and demonstrate compliance with it throughout the plan area.

Public Resources Code Section 5090.35 (a) states that “The protection of public safety, the appropriate utilization of lands, and the conservation of land resources are of the highest priority in the management of the state vehicular recreation areas; and, accordingly, the division shall... *anticipate and prevent accelerated and unnatural erosion..*” (emphasis added). The 2008 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines identifies the Standard as “Off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation facilities shall be managed for sustainable long-term prescribed use *without generating soil loss that exceeds restorability*, and without causing erosion or sedimentation which significantly affects resource values beyond the facilities.” (emphasis added). The General Plan needs to set our specific metrics for annually evaluating compliance with the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard.

#### • The GP must require air quality monitoring inside/outside the boundary of the OWSVRA

Because off-road vehicle activity destabilizes soil structure and causes airborne dust particles that are a known health hazard under the Clean Air Act, the General Plan needs to identify an air quality monitoring protocol and implementation plan. The monitoring plan should include multiple monitoring sites both within and outside of OWSVRA. Triggers need to be included that would require limiting vehicular recreation activities if unhealthy PM10 levels are exceeded.

#### • Full Investigation of Whistleblower Complaint

The Center supports a full investigation of the issues raised in the Whistleblower Complaint I2011-1275, Illegal Operation of a California State Park with Resulting Destruction of Public Lands. The Whistleblower Complaint raises serious issues regarding the failure of the California Department of Parks and Recreation to protect State Park resources at the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area including rare and imperiled plant and wildlife species, fragile soils, paleontological and cultural resources, and air quality under existing management. The revised management plan must address ways to ensure that the many fragile resource of the OW SVRA will in fact be protected under the plan.

#### • Flat Tailed Horned Lizard Research Area

Pursuant to the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy,<sup>1</sup> the OWSVRA includes an area of 8,936 acres designated as the Ocotillo Wells Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Research Area to be managed in accordance with that strategy document to conserve the species. The damage detailed in the Whistleblower Complaint raises serious questions as to whether the

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Interagency Coordinating Committee. Documents available at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Flat.htm>

Page 2 of 4

Department is complying with its obligations under the MOU for the FTHL Rangewide Management Strategy – these issues should be addressed and management changes made to ensure protection and conservation of the species in this area.

- **Other Species that Must be Considered and Protected**

The plan should ensure conservation of all federally and state-listed species, as well as sensitive and species of concern in this area which include, but are not limited to:

- Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsonii*) and its essential habitat
- Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) and its essential habitat
- Pierson's pincushion (*Chaenactis carphoclinia* var. *piersonii*)
- Orcutt's woody aster (*Xylorhiza orcuttii*)
- Mecca woody aster (*Xylorhiza cognata*)
- California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*)
- Salton milk-vetch (*Astragalus crotalariae*)
- Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*)
- Colorado fringed-toed lizard (*Uma notata*)

In addition, all fan palm oases should be protected from damage by motorized vehicles and recreationists through physical barriers.

- **Protect the Lake Cahuilla Shoreline and other Archaeological Resources**

The OWSVRA also contains portions of the ancient western shoreline of Lake Cahuilla and fish traps and other archeological resources associated with the shoreline. The GP must protect resource along with other fragile soils in the area.

#### **Interpretation and Education**

- Natural Resource education needs to include information on flat-tailed horned lizards, Peninsular bighorn sheep, values of riparian areas, palm oases and other rare plants and animals, as well as cultural and archaeological resources that occur within the OWSVRA including the Lake Cahuilla Shoreline

#### **Area-Specific Goals**

- Annexed lands north of the Salton Seaway, routes should be designated in Palm Canyon Wash. Other washes north of Palm Canyon should be closed to motor vehicles to protect the PBS, rare plants and cultural resources. If non-compliance with vehicular designated routes occurs, then the area should be closed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit more detailed comments on the proposed General Plan. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at [ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org) or 323-654-5943

Sincerely,



Ilene Anderson  
Biologist/Public Lands Desert Director  
Center for Biological Diversity

# Letter #3



February 26, 2012

**Subject: Comments on the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan**

I own a home in the Ocotillo Wells area on the southwest corner of Highway 78 and Split Mountain Road. My family and I have been both full- and part-time residents of this home for four generations, and I personally have spent many years of my life there.

Based on my past and ongoing involvement in the Ocotillo Wells community, I feel there are a number of environmental issues that must be addressed and, hopefully, mitigated through the EIR process. While the subject EIR will address general planning efforts in several land management units, my comments will focus primarily on the unit adjacent to my home: the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) located immediately north of Highway 78.

**SVRA Access from the South**

The vast majority of off-road vehicles (ORVs) using the Ocotillo Wells SVRA originate from informal and commercial campgrounds and motor home parks south of Highway 78. Many property owners who, like myself, participate in ORV activities in the SVRA live south of the Highway. Most restaurants, ORV repair shops, and gas stations serving the Ocotillo Wells SVRA are likewise located south of Highway 78. As a result, during even moderate use periods there are significant numbers of unlicensed and unauthorized ORVs driving up and down Split Mountain Rd. eventually with hopes to cross or to drive on Highway 78.

Highway 78 is used regularly by commercial tractor/trailer units traveling at speeds well in excess of 55 mph. Large motor homes, many towing ORV trailers, travel along the Highway at widely varying speeds. As a result, an obviously hazardous and untenable condition exists as ORVs attempt to access and egress the SVRA.

**Roadway Traffic Safety**

The hazardous traffic conditions described above are exacerbated at the Highway 78/Split Mountain Road intersection. Here, high-speed through traffic, large accelerating and decelerating motor homes, and unlicensed ORVs traveling on both the paved and the unpaved shoulder portions of Highway 78 and Split Mountain Road converge throughout the day and night. This convergence is dangerous at best and, as I have personally observed, sometimes deadly. I fear that someday an out-of-control vehicle involved in or trying to avoid an accident may hit my home, or my seven-year old daughter as she plays in the yard.

**Noise**

The proximity to my home of unmuffled ORVs traveling along Highway 78 and Split Mountain Road results in noise levels well in excess of those appropriate for a home in a suburban environment. On many occasions, this noise is generated well into and throughout the night and early morning hours.

**Air Quality**

Air pollutants, primarily in the form of particulates, greatly exceed extant standards in the Ocotillo Wells region. ORVs traveling on unpaved roadway shoulders to and from the SVRA further increase particulate levels where I live. Of additional concern would be the pollutants released by idling and accelerating motor vehicles should a traffic signal be installed to control licensed and unlicensed traffic flow at the Highway 78/Split Mountain Road intersection.

The adverse environmental impacts associated with ORVs operating adjacent to my home, and the difficulty in mitigating these impacts while retaining the adjacent SVRA, are obvious.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions regarding the foregoing, or if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Cc: California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Ocotillo Wells District  
P.O. Box 360  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

# Letter #4 (Email to Ocotillo Wells SVRA)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 08:10 PM  
**Subject:** Ocotillo Wells Plan comments

I would like to add some additional comments to the Ocotillo Wells General Plan for myself and the California Off-Road Vehicle Association. For myself, my friends and I believe most people who visit Ocotillo Wells, the one thing that we really like is to be able to go to a place that is wild, with no signs of civilization. We like to camp, ride and feel the freedom of a completely natural place. We realize that some improvements are a good thing, but would like them kept to a minimum. A few restrooms and dumpsters in the more common camping areas, a few road signs in the major trail crossings are a good thing. However, more man made stuff beyond that detracts from the overall experience. The goals would be to keep as much of the park as possible open and free from man made interference.

I would like to direct your attention to some of the smaller closures within the park. I understand the park has a responsibility to protect resources in its boundary and respect the actions taken to fence off areas. Three specifically areas I would like to discuss are the 4x4 Training area, the dune restoration area a mile west of there and the larger fenced area north of the Gas Domes.

I first started coming Ocotillo Wells in 1977. We camped in a small cove next to a big hill. We called it Old Camp and stayed there dozens, if not hundreds of times. Even when I started camping elsewhere, whenever I was in the Old Camp area, I would swing through to have a look. The hill just west of camp is tall and very steep. When my skills had improved, I pioneered some of the trails up the steep face. So imagine my surprise when I came out and found the entire area fenced off! I try to stay current with happenings in the park, but never heard about the EIS for the 4x4 training area. Because I am involved with OHV politics, a number of friends have called me to express outrage over "Old Camp" being fenced off. None of us are happy about it. I later found out the public announcement was a paper stapled to the ranger station wall for a week. So, public announcements for actions like this should be more than a hidden paper. If the training area must be there, so be it, but why is the west side of the hill and so much of the south closed off? I would like to see the fence moved to the top ridge line of the hill and to the east side of the north-south trail on top. I would also like to see the fence on the south moved further north.

One of the easiest camping areas to access off S22 is by the dune restoration area. I understand the parks need to protect resources like native plants, but the dune restoration closure cuts off access between camping areas and the rest of the park. The closure is quite wide from east to west. Would it be possible to have one or more isle ways installed through the closure so people can cross north south without having to go around?

For decades, a favorite destination for my friends and I is a track just north of the Gas Domes (We call them the Mud Pots). The track goes both ways over a hill that we love to jump off of. A couple years ago when we arrived to ride the track, we found most of the area fenced off. This closure made me and all of my friends really mad. I understand that there may be some new gas domes trying to surface in the area, but it seems the closure is far larger than the resource indicates. There will be no mud pots coming out of the hill we like to jump off of. We would love to see the area fenced off become smaller and I would be happy to accompany park or plan staff out there to look at where suitable fencing could be located to protect resources as well as valued recreation land.

This comment concerns the above closures as well as all the others in the park. I have noticed that the fencing material used has a close weave of metal wire from top to bottom. An unintended consequence of this is that it not only keeps people out, but it also keeps the critters out (or in). I would suggest the park modify fencing already in use in the park by cutting away the wire material in the lower half to 2/3's

of the fences. This would allow the animals to pass freely in and out, yet still keep OHV's from entering.

I have enclosed some pictures of Old Camp and the Mud Pots. Pic 1 is the top of the jump by the Gas Domes with me on the right. 2,3 and 4 is Old Camp with the white van being mine. Pics 5 and 6 the Jump by Gas Domes with my buddy [REDACTED] jumping his green Kawasaki. Pic 7 is Old Camp, Pic 8 is Bill and I on the jump top by the Gas Domes. Pic 9 is on the Gas Dome jump

I would be happy to discuss these comments in more detail on email, phone or in person and would also be happy to go out to any location in the park to show and discuss these suggestions or any other concerns in person. I care deeply for all that Ocotillo Wells offers me and would be glad to help the park out any way I can.

