

**Tehipite National Forest Chair April 2016 Report**  
Submitted by Trudy Tucker, National Forest Chair, Tehipite Chapter

**Tehipite Chapter Comments to State OHV Grant for Sierra NF 2015/2016 Proposal**

The Tehipite Chapter submitted questions and concerns to the State of California OHMVR Division regarding the Sierra National Forest's 2015/2016 State OHV Grant #G15-02-17-P02 for proposed planning for adding miles, roads, trails, and areas.

**Summary**

- This proposed grant objective is largely a duplicate of the Forest's unsuccessful 2009/2010 grant # G09-02-17-P02 that was "to complete a draft environmental analysis to add roads, trails, and areas" to the SNF's designated motorized trail system.
- The 2015/2016 grant plans to use data in the 2010 Travel Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an EIS that used 2005 data, making the data 12 years old in the grant award year of 2017. All data will have to be reviewed and new data gathered for this project planning grant EIS.
- The 2009/2010 and 2015/2016 grants demands the proposed routes, trails, and areas "*will/are* to be added to the SNF's designated motorized trail system" which *is in direct conflict* with the SNF EIS.
- This planning grant is one of three submitted by an OHV stakeholder group that were reviewed and rejected by the SNF Forest Leadership Team because the Forest Team deemed the Forest didn't have the capacity for any new OHV project planning grants. When the OHV stakeholders pressed the Forest why their applications were rejected, the SNF Forest Supervisor suddenly and unilaterally reversed the decision and agreed to accept the planning grant applications that the Forest doesn't have capacity to complete.
- Travel Management directs all Forest's to complete a Travel Analysis Report (TAR) identifying the Forest's *minimum road system* displaying findings as opportunities and recommendations to inform future SNF management and administration. The Sierra NF **does not** have a completed TAR that outlines the Forest's *minimum road system*, therefore, there is no forest guide during the proposed planning grant process for adding any roads, trails, miles, areas to the system.

Comments were submitted via the State of California OHMVR Division's OHV grant website and in written report mailed to their office to be sure they were received and applied to the Sierra National Forest's grant proposal. If interested in viewing these and other comments submitted go to: OHMVR Division's website: <http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/>

**April 2016 Words Of the Wild Newsletter**

Tehipite Chapter's Chip Ashley wrote an excellent article for the Words Of the Wild April 2016 Newsletter of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee. Chip's writing is comprehensive, interesting and provides specific documentation about *Potential New Wilderness in the Sierra National Forest*. He describes these specific wilderness areas that were identified in the Sierra's Forest Plan Revision process, the 17 recommended areas in the Wilderness Inventory and Evaluation of May 2015, and the two that were actually considered. Also important is the information on the remaining 15 identified areas that were not considered by the Forest, that continue to be eligible and deserve consideration. It's a great read. The newsletter is produced three times a year and the April issue can be found at: <http://sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/wow-april-2016.pdf>

**A THANK YOU "shout out" to a special volunteers, partners...**

Another important and deserved THANK YOU to Chip Ashley's work on the SNF's OHV grant proposal comments AND the excellent wilderness article in Words Of the Wild newsletter!