



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
ATV Grant Subcommittee Meeting
Friday, March 21, 2025
In-person & Zoom
Mill Creek Inn Best Western
Salem, Oregon 97301

Call ATV Grant Subcommittee Meeting Called to Order at 8:01 am by Virgile Osborne – chair

Attendees

Committee Members

- Virgile Osborne – Class II Rep, Chair
- Barrett Brown – Class III Rep
- Sgt. Matt Smith – Coos County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Rep
- Ron Price – At Large
- Dave Kimball (on-line) – Class I Rep
- Matt Miller (on-line) – Class IV Rep
- Ann Haak (on-line) – ADA Representative

OPRD Staff

- Ian Caldwell – ATV Program, Mountain Region Office
- Jeff Trejo - ATV Safety Education Coordinator
- Michele Scalise – Grants and Community Program Manager
- Jodi Bellefeuille – RTP Coordinator
- Denise Frechin – OPRD Admin support
- Katie Gauthier – Government Relations Manager

Public Comments – None

Approval of January 2025 subcommittee meeting minutes – Barrett Brown moves to approve the January 14th-16th Minutes, seconded by Matt Smith, all are in favor, none opposed. Approval passed.

Review Budget

Our state legislature is still going over the budget and we will probably know the amount by June. Will go with 15 million for now. Had \$1.4 million left in funding after January meeting. Have \$818,718 in requests today. Would still have about

\$600,000 left if funding all applications. Will have another meeting in January or February 2026.

Legislative Updates

HB 2232 was passed and signed by governor on March 19th – it changes rule making authority for sound levels and ATV Equipment requirements from DEQ & ODOT to OPRD effective immediately. OPRD will have to conduct a rule making process with a Rule Making Advisory Committee and public comments. Barrett wanted to thank ODOT and DEQ staff for reviewing and supportive of concept. Also thanked Sand Lake Neighborhood Association. Had positive solutions to work with OHV community. Discussion about lowering sound limit to 96dBA, which 10 other states use, including California and Idaho.

HB 3155 would allow ATVs to be modified to become street legal ATVs and operate on roads. Still in meetings and not passed yet. The bill was very broad, allowing ATVs on all roads except interstates. Will create a workgroup to get that rewritten. Note: Bill died in committee.

HB 3678 would allow Counties to designate county road as ATV Highway Access Routes, like ODOT can designated state highways. Note: Bill died in committee.

SB179 recreation immunity, passed the senate unanimously and we think it will pass through. It removed the 2026 sunset date from SB 1576 (2024) and better clarifies walking, running and bicycling are recreation activities. Note: Bill passed and signed by governor.

HB 3140 waiver reform for “pay to play” for activities like downhill skiing. Courts have ruled that waivers provide little protection from lawsuits. Note: Bill died in committee.

OSP – Transfer Fund Update – Clint Galusha

128 sworn positions (26 have special assignments) The 2 ATV positions have hours spread out over 102 Troopers. After trainings have about 6800 hours of ATV Patrols around the state. About 45% of funding comes from ODF&W. Funding sources: ODF&W 60 positions, General Funds – 31, Lottery Funds – 22, Marine Board – 7, NOAA – 3, State Parks – 2, ODF&W Access & Habitat – 2, DEQ – 1 position.

So far this biennium have 5,754 hours with 5017 contacts, 119 citations and 573 warnings. Some troopers attended ATV Law Enforcement workshop in April 2024. Assisted Coos County Sheriff's Office for UTV Takeover. Had a lot of contacts for Gambler 500 over Memorial Day Weekend in Umatilla National Forest. Virgle: appreciates OSP high number of warns vs citations. Clint: system also tracks warnings. Barrett: feels it is important to have consistent law enforcement across the state and between different agencies. It's good they attend the LE Workshops in April.

ATV Grant Presentations:

EMS Extrication Equip – Nestucca Provides funding for purchase of extrication related equipment for Emergency Medical Service responses in the District, including Sand Lake and beaches.

Douglas Co SO Trailer Purchase Provides funding for the purchase of a trailer that will be used to transport Douglas County Sheriff's Office All-Terrain Vehicle Law Enforcement Program equipment.

Umatilla Co SO Trailers Provides funding for the purchase of trailers that will be used to transport equipment.

McCubbins Bridge – USFS Mt Hood NF Provides funding to replace two off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail bridges located in the McCubbins Gulch OHV area within the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Tread Lightly! – Provides funding for Tread Lightly! to support the Oregon All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) program through a full-time employee to coordinate with ATV staff, local clubs and industry partners to provide signage, messaging, educational and safety materials and event outreach.

Oregon ATV Safety – OSU/4-H Provides funding for a portion of salary and supplies supporting the Oregon All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety Program that provides youth ATV hands on training Statewide.

Jefferson Co SO OHV Patrols Provides funding for ATV law enforcement patrols in Henderson Flats Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area, as well as other lands open to OHV use in Jefferson County, near Madras Oregon.

Dunes Access Paving – Honeyman State Park Provides funding for contract work to pave existing rocked portion of the access route to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, accessed from Honeyman State Park.

ODF Transfer Fund Update Reid Brown:

Around 2009 the legislature directly appointed funding towards Oregon Department of Forestry to fund 6 Full-Time Employees and supplies and services. The ATV Program is managed out of the Northwest Oregon Area Office and no longer at the district level for more consistency across districts. Have 2 equipment operators, 2 Natural Resource Specialist One(NRS1) positions and 1 Program manager. Have 4 other staff that are partially funded with ATV Funds. Have a lot of time spent with general trail maintenance. Working with volunteers. Originally user created trail system. ODF Policy Update: working on adopting Habitat Conservation Plan which is good for 70 years and hopefully prevent lawsuits for too much or too little logging. Instructed to not have any open water streams crossing. Need to either reroute, culverts or bridges. Have built 17

bridges in the last 2 years. Using steel I-beams. Timber sale recovery. Worked on redesigning about 10 miles of trails from timber sales in the last 2 years.

Grant review/discussion

- Dunes paving at Florence – Concern about using ATV dollars on a park that is not open during peak season (May – August). Campground was originally opened as non-motorized campground. Able to open to ATVs during the off season. Staff did not know all the history. Noise and safety mixing ATVs and kids on bicycles are issues in the summer time.
- Request OPRD to research and have this information shared to the committee.

Grant Recommendations Motion

- **Matt Smith motion to vote the 2 groups individually** – vote as law enforcement and other categories. Seconded by Ron. All in favor. Motion passes.
- **Barrett motion to recommend three law enforcement grant applications for funding.** Seconded by Ron. All in favor. Motion passes.
- **Ron motion to recommend all five remaining grants funded**, seconded by Matt Smith, Motion passes.

Scoring Criteria debrief and Statewide Trails Plan discussion

Jessica Horning, Jodi Bellefeuille and Ian Caldwell are working on the Statewide Trails Plan. This has a section about Scoring Criteria for ATV and RTP Grant Programs. What is highest priority for limited funding? Have been reaching out to groups and individuals to get feedback. Will have an online survey in April. Will have up to 8 different focus group discussions. Every 10 years we redo the scoring.

ATV Scoring Discussion

- Which criteria are most helpful?
- Which are least helpful?
- Does current scoring criteria place too much emphasis on certain factors? Not enough emphasis on other factors?
- Other thoughts from committee members on the scoring process.?

Virgle: Think more points should go to letters of support.

Matt: Thinks planning section is not as valuable. Put a lot of emphasis on rider benefit.

Ron: In the past some questions were similar but they seem better now

Virgle: puts a lot of emphasis on financials, bids and letters of support. Think there are too many questions.

Barrett: Mike and Ian do a lot of work with applicants so projects are pretty good. Accessibility and DEI questions can be similar.

Suggestion that some questions can be checkboxes.

Jodi: Suggestion to make a "Rubric" to help to assign points in each category.

Ron: Letters of support are important

Ann: Always read all the letters. Do not like pre-written form letters. How well written are letters is more important than number of letters. Also where matching funding is coming from is important. Having public provide volunteer hours is important.

Barrett: Would like to break out in planning the community involvement. Like agencies that have a recreation advisory committee (RAC). Show they are looking for partnerships.

Virgle and Ann feel accessibility is important and more trails for side by sides.

Most Class II trails are old roads, want more challenge.

Barrett: In the past, a lot of single track trails got widened when ATVs became more popular and agencies started using dozers and excavators to maintain them. Because of that, riders put a high priority on single track trails and that became part of the scoring criteria.

Jessica: Reviewed Oregon Trail User Survey

Ask if people participated in ATV Recreation in the last year. How often did they participate? Trying to list the statewide priorities based on what people feel is important. Probably remove question about ATV rental, since it means different things to different people. Need to focus on what the recreation user opinions not of land managers or law enforcement. Also getting some demographic information.

3:30 pm

Meeting Adjourn