



WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 34
15406 Washington Road
WASHINGTON, CA 95986
FIRE CHIEF: Mike Stewart

Application for Funding

Forest Reserve Fund Grants

Forest Reserve (Title III), Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-
Determination Act

Contact: Mike Stewart, Fire Chief
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Mike Stewart, Fire Chief

8.5. TAB A

The Washington Fire Department is an entity under the Washington County Water District as allowed by the California State Water Code. The Water District was formally established in 1966 and is governed by a 5 member board of Directors elected by the resident voters of Washington. The Fire Department consists of 7 firefighters lead by the Fire Chief who answers to the Board of Directors.

The Fire Chief, who will oversee the project, is a 42 year veteran of the fire service, having served 25 years with Nevada County Consolidated Fire District and 9 years with CalFire. Chief Stewart is a California State Certified Company Officer and a NWCG certified Division/Group Supervisor.

While the District boundary encompasses only about 1 square mile around the town of Washington, the Fire Department responds to incidents within approximately 25 square miles, area not served by another fire district.

The Washington Fire Department has a long history of working closely with the Tahoe National Forest regarding fire related issues. With the dramatic increase of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) users to the area we have expanded that working relationship to include law enforcement concerns. We have begun working with NCSO and CHP, as well as USFS law enforcement to address the issues caused by the increased usage, and have just begun discussions with California State Parks OHV Division who have indicated a desire to assist with enforcement issues. This project will also include volunteers from "Knuckles Up, NorCal", a Facebook based group of "Side by Side" OHV enthusiasts.

8.6. TAB B

The proposed project is twofold, Education and Enforcement.

Loosely modeled after the River Ambassador Program, volunteers from the Knuckles Up club will join Washington Fire members staffing an information center that moves to various concentration points during holiday weekends, coupled with Knuckles Up members wearing volunteer marked vests and flying flags from their vehicles identifying themselves as "Trail Stewards". These "Trail Stewards" will use water bottles marked with the county logo and trail etiquette standards to initiate conversation with OHV visitors to the area. Once a conversation has been initiated, USFS Motor Vehicle Use Maps, Survey Questionnaires, and other information can be exchanged. These efforts would be concentrated on holiday weekends on the most traveled routes.

Enforcement of state and federal regulations has been limited due to a few factors. USFS Law Enforcement is better staffed than they ever have been, but the size of the Tahoe National Forest dilutes their effectiveness. Recently we have been in contact with California State Parks OHV Division who have indicated a willingness to help targeted enforcement days by supporting USFS efforts with teams of Parks Law Enforcement officers specially trained and equipped for OHV enforcement.

Of major concern and frustration is the amount of drivers who are under the influence of alcohol. The two hurdles that the USFS officers are facing is their lack of field "Breathalyzers" and what to do with the passengers if no sober adult is available to drive the vehicle. CHP has stepped up and offered to assist with their experience and field "Breathalyzers" during targeted enforcement days, solving that piece. The passenger problem can be solved by staffing the Washington Fire Department Side by Side (6 seats), and transporting the passengers back to their camp or a road where a family member can be met.

The timeline for implementation would be hinged on funding, the staff would be available immediately, purchasing consumables could be accomplished within two weeks of funding. The goal would be to be effective for the Memorial Day Weekend, if that isn't attainable, then for the Father's Day Weekend in 2025. Staff funding is calculated to be expended by December 2025.

Deliverables and measurable outcomes will be very straightforward. Volunteer contacts with the public will be logged, indicating how many people were contacted daily, surveys completed, maps distributed, and passengers transported. Law Enforcement already logs vehicle stops, citations issued, and arrests made.

8.6. TAB C

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| Volunteer ID Vests | 10 ea @\$20 | \$200 |
| Volunteer ID Flags | 10 ea @\$20 | \$200 |
| Shade Shelter | 1 ea @\$1300 | \$1300 |
| Folding Tables | 2 ea @\$100 | \$200 |
| Folding Chairs | 2 ea @\$50 | \$100 |
| Tri Fold Brochures | 500 ea @\$2 | \$1000 |
| Lettered Water Bottles | 500 ea @\$10 | \$5000 |
| Patrol Staff Hours | 180 hours @\$40 | \$7200 |
| | | ----- |
| | | \$15,200 |

Vehicles, vehicle maintenance, fuel, and salaries of county, state, and federal employees will be the responsibility of that agency.