



For Release: January 16, 2008

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Desert Managers Group Awarded Off Highway Vehicle Green Sticker Funds

The Desert Managers Group announces the Desert Tortoise Outreach Project has been awarded a \$95,000 grant from California State Parks Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Commission. OHV grants are awarded to cities, counties, special districts, federal agencies and non-profit organizations. The Commission membership represents a broad range of disciplines relevant to off-highway vehicle recreation -- OHV recreation enthusiasts, non-motorized recreation interests, biologists, rural landowners, law enforcement, soil scientists, and environmental interests. The Desert Managers Group applied for grant funding in partnership with the State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Funding will be used for education and safety messages, focusing on conservation of the threatened desert tortoise California's state reptile. As California's population increases, off highway activities and desert recreation will also increase. How OHV vehicles are ridden and what riders do in the desert can impact desert tortoises and their habitat.

Among the projects funded through the OHV grant are:

Attendance at OHV events in Southern California. A desert tortoise costumed volunteer will distribute safety information, brochures and variety of promotional items.

Desert tortoise education kits "**tortoise trunks**" will be produced to support California's grade school social studies and science curricula. Teachers may schedule the trunks for classroom use.

Exhibit panels with safety tips and desert tortoise information that can be used by a variety of government agencies desert wide will be designed and produced

A media campaign will prepare and distribute print news stories, radio and television public service announcements, brochures, newsletters and press packets.

These and other desert tortoise outreach projects will continue with the support of the OHV Commission grant. For more desert tortoise media information including news stories, press releases, newsletters, and public service announcements go to:

<http://www.deserttortoise.gov/information/news.aspx>

For Desert Managers Group information, go to <http://www.dmg.gov>



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