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## **Desert Managers Group Applies for Off Highway Vehicle Green Sticker Funds**

The Desert Managers Group announces the Desert Tortoise Outreach Project coordinator has applied for a grant from California State Parks Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Commission. OHV grants are awarded to cities, counties, special districts, federal agencies and non-profit organizations. The Desert Managers Group applied for grant funding in partnership with the National Park Service.

If awarded, grant funding will be used for education and safety messages focusing on conservation of the threatened desert tortoise. In the California deserts, many of the designated OHV areas and routes are within desert tortoise habitat. The Mojave population of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) was listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in 1989 and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1990. Environmental education programs based on the desert tortoise were identified in the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan (FWS 1994) as a priority recovery action. The coordinated implementation of recovery actions for the tortoise is a high priority for the DMG.

Improper OHV recreation has been identified as a threat to the tortoise. There are, however, a variety of behavioral changes desert recreationists (OHV and non-motorized) can make that will cause a lower impact to the tortoise and other sensitive desert resources. California OHV grant funds will be used to support a variety of desert tortoise outreach projects such as:

**Attendance at OHV and community events** in southern California to create desert tortoise awareness, volunteer will distribute safety information, brochures and variety of promotional items.

**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 an in depth look at the grant applications the public may pick up a copy at the Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters located at 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms CA 92277, or visit these web sites:

<http://www.deserttortoise.gov>

<http://www.nps.gov/jotr>

<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov>

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