

T. Mark Schmidt Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Grant Program Fact Sheet

What is the T. Mark Schmidt Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Grant Program?

The T. Mark Schmidt OHV Recreation Grant Program is a competitive program that provides financial assistance for projects that help create or improve off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation areas or trails for public use on public lands. Created through the passage of the T. Mark Schmidt Off-Highway Vehicle Safety and Recreation Act in 2002, the program is funded through the titling of OHVs. Project proposals may address the following OHV interests:

1. Planning, Research and Design of New OHV Recreation Areas, Trails, or Facilities (maximum award \$75,000)
2. Construction of New OHV Recreation Areas, Trails, or Facilities (maximum award \$200,000)
3. Repair, Maintenance, Monitoring, Rehabilitation, and Protection of Existing OHV Areas, Trails, or Facilities (maximum award \$150,000)
4. Rider Education, Safety, and Training Programs (maximum award \$50,000)
5. Acquisition of Lands to be included in the System (based on funds available)

What is an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV)?

For the purposes of this program, an OHV is defined as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) [Section 261.03(6), F.S.]

How is the OHV Grant Program administered?

The program is administered through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry.

Who may apply for OHV Grant Funds?

Municipal or county governments, state or federal governmental agencies, recognized state and federal Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations approved by the State. All applicants must meet eligibility requirements in order to receive funding.

How do I apply?

Applicants must submit a completed OHV Grant Application during the announced submission cycle, February 1 – March 16, 2009. Applications must be received by the DOACS purchasing office no later than 2:00 pm on March 16, 2009. The OHV Request for Proposal can be downloaded from the state OHV website at www.floridaohv.org or by contacting program staff.

What is the maximum grant amount?

Applicants can have no more than three active grant projects at one time, and the total of all three projects cannot exceed \$475,000. For individual grant applications, the maximum awards are as follows:

Category 1 - \$75,000
Category 2 - \$200,000
Category 3 - \$150,000

Category 4 - \$50,000
Category 5 – based on funds available*

*Projects for land acquisition should be coordinated with program staff, as a special legislative budget appropriation may be needed due to funding constraints.

What are the match requirements?

All grant awards must have a local match. In your application you choose either 50:50, 60:40 or 80:20 match. Higher grant points are awarded for the higher match that is provided. For example, with a \$100,000 project, your match could be any of the following:

Total Project Cost	OHV Grant	Local Match
\$100,000	\$50,000 (50%)	\$50,000 (50%)
\$100,000	\$60,000 (60%)	\$40,000 (40%)
\$100,000	\$80,000 (40%)	\$20,000 (60%)

What can I use to match an OHV Grant?

Cash and/or In-kind services as provided by the project sponsor.

How are OHV Grants awarded?

Each application is reviewed to determine eligibility. The Division of Forestry (DOF), in consultation with the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee, evaluates each eligible application according to program policy and assigns a final score. Based on the scores, DOF prepares and submits a recommended priority list to the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for funding consideration.

Who do I call for more information?

Tami L. Leonard, OHV Coordinator
Division of Forestry
7160 North Lecanto Hwy.
Hernando, FL 34442
Phone: (352) 489-5267
Email: leonart@doacs.state.fl.us
Web: www.floridaohv.org