



RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY
*** CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

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May 18, 2016

The Honorable Mark Amodei
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Amodei,

Thank you for your leadership in helping the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to expand its rather meager land holdings in the Hungry Valley area of Nevada. As you know, our original reservation lands consisted of a mere 28 acres in the City of Reno. With the help of former Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich, our tribe was able to expand to lands in Hungry Valley. This land base, however, is still exceedingly small for the amount of people who make up our tribe. How tribes like mine ended up with so little land while many tribes in other western states have reservations that are hundreds of thousands or even millions of acres has always confounded and disturbed the members of my tribe and others in Nevada. Economic development, housing and even the simple practice of our longstanding traditional customs all require land so HR 2733 is truly appreciated.

I also appreciate the constructive role you are now playing in advancing the concerns of the off-highway vehicle (OHV) groups who want to see continued access from the south end of the proposed Hungry Valley reservation expansion area to the Moonrocks OHV Recreation Area north of the expansion area.

Once the bill becomes law, it will take at least a year to transfer the lands in HR 2733 from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the benefit of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. During this transfer period, I am hereby committing to you, to Senators Reid and Heller and the State BLM Director John Ruhs – and I have the full backing of my Tribal Council who met in special session and discussed this matter on May 16, 2016 – to working with you as well as with the BLM to ensure that a north-south access route through our expanded lands is available to OHV enthusiasts. We understand that in particular there is interest in securing access at what is now known as the Hungry Valley South Access Point and the Eagle Canyon Access Point. I am attaching a map of the proposed OHV right-of-way that connects to existing BLM roads that I think will serve perfectly to accomplish this goal. During the transfer period we will work with BLM to make this a right-of-way for OHV users to cross the Reservation to access the Moonrocks area. I also want to bring to your attention that there are numerous access points to the Moonrocks area and the Lemmon Valley area already in existence that our land transfer will not impact in any fashion.

While we commit to ensuring a continual direct access through the expansion area for OHV use, we request that the tribe, in consultation with the OHV community, have the right to be able to relocate a north-south right-of-way in the future if my Tribe needs the lands adjacent to the right of way shown on the attached map. We look forward to working with the Nevada Congressional delegation, the BLM and the OHV community on a permanent solution to access the Moonrocks OHV Recreation Area that will allow the bill to move forward as is.

Sincerely,



Arlan D. Melendez, Chairman
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

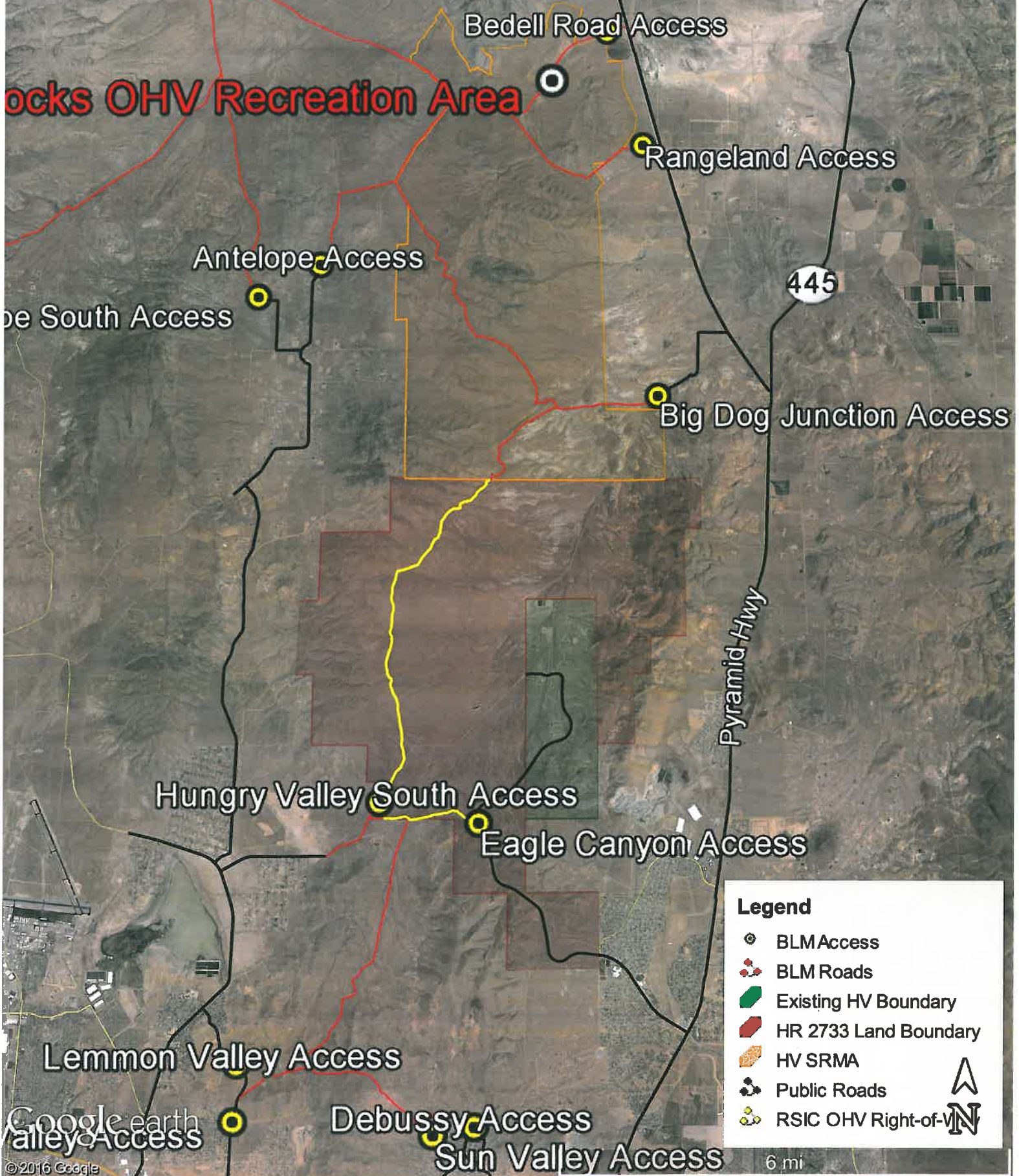
Enclosure: HR 2733 OHV Right-of-Way Map, dated May 17, 2016

cc: Honorable Harry Reid
Honorable Dean Heller
John Ruhs, BLM State Director

HR 2733 OHV Right-of-Way Map

May 17, 2016

Rocky Mountains OHV Recreation Area



Legend

- BLM Access
- BLM Roads
- Existing HV Boundary
- HR 2733 Land Boundary
- HV SRMA
- Public Roads
- RSIC OHV Right-of-Way



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