

American Sand Association



Unite, Inform and Mobilize to keep our dunes OPEN

September 2001

ASA, CORVA AND AMA DISTRICT 37 FILE SUIT TO REOPEN OUR DUNES

Because of San Diego Off Road Coalition's successful motion for clarification and the subsequent ruling by Judge Alsup, we were given a great opportunity to reopen our dunes. On May 17, 2001, a lawsuit was filed against the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of the Interior and the Secretary of the Interior. Unfortunately, because SDORC is technically still involved in the environmental lawsuit as an intervenor there are legal reasons why they are not named in our lawsuit. Keep in mind, however, the SDORC has been and will continue to be a vital part of this lawsuit and our continuing biological efforts and we will continue to rely upon their knowledge and expertise as we proceed.

LAWSUIT FACTS

The ASA, with our friends CORVA and AMA District 37, filed a suit in the Southern District Court in San Diego, California, that if successful will remove all closures in the ISDRA with exception of the wilderness area north of Highway 78. Our chances are good, but we have some issues ahead of us that must be dealt with aggressively. At the end of the day we hope to return these dunes back to us, the rightful owners of the sand.

This is our complaint with the BLM: The BLM violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by not following proper procedures when closing public lands in the ISDRA. The BLM did not follow the requirements set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), which requires the BLM to study the impacts of such closures. The BLM also did not follow the public input process required by law.

What this means is the BLM should have done a full and complete environmental review on these closures and their effect on the desert before they closed any land to motorized access or camping. The BLM is also required to offer the public a forum in which to comment on said closures. They did neither of these things as required by law.

The BLM also violated the Federal Land Policy and Management Act ("FLPMA") by (1) not evaluating or determining whether these closures were necessary to protect the PMV and by (2) not determining whether these closures are consistent with the "multiple use" requirements of FLPMA. The BLM illegally, by way of these closures, violated the rights the public has to shape public land use policy in the California desert.

In their prayer for relief, ASA, CORVA, and AMA have asked the Court for an order lifting the dune closures and removal of all closure signage until such time as BLM complies with the procedural and substantive requirements of NEPA and the FLPMA.

The defendants responded to our complaint in very general terms, which was expected.

The normal course of events for this type of lawsuit includes questions and answers (interrogatories), statements on record (depositions) and unending conference calls between all sides. The judge has imposed very restrictive confidentiality rules in this case that both sides must abide by, so updates will only be given as allowed. Of course, when the court orders the closures overturned, the news will be spread immediately.

For a more detailed account of the lawsuit, visit www.GlamisOnLine.org

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY ASA!

In June the American Sand Association turned one year old. Here are just a few of the things you, as ASA members, have accomplished:

- Over fifteen thousand members in less than a year
- Received BLM endorsement of the Checkered Flag Program
- Active participation in and promotion of clean ups at the ISDRA
- Distribution of 20,000 checkered flags promoting responsible duning
- Retained a Biological Consulting team to do plant surveys at the ISDRA
- Hired top-notch legal experts to protect the rights of sand sport enthusiasts
- Web site devoted to informing, uniting and mobilizing the sand sport enthusiast
- Creation of the Safety Bug (will be a nationally recognized logo) by member Rob Whyte
- Requested and received BLM authorization to distribute a Duner's Survival Kit at the ISDRA
- Creation of a Public Safety Task Force to work closely with the BLM to educate and encourage safety
- Successfully developed a variety of committees to help further the cause of the sand sport enthusiast
- Promoted a massive letter writing campaign when the BLM failed to properly mark closed and then mobilized an army of volunteers to better mark the areas



YOU are the American Sand Association. Happy Birthday and congratulations on a job well done to each and every member of this Association.



FUNCO GIVE AWAY UPDATE

In case you haven't heard, Funco, together with many of it's vendors, has built and is giving away a Gen 3 Big 5 buggy (Mendeola gear box and Leading Edge 350+hp turbo Subaru) - an approximate \$53,000 value.

The goal is to sell only 2000 tickets. Sales are slower than expected at this time and we are asking for help selling tickets in addition to asking everyone to step up and buy an opportunity to have a FUNCO. Remember, we are looking to the giveaway as a major source of funding for our legal battle. The drawing will be at the Sand Sports Super Show on September 23, 2001 and 100% of the proceeds will go to the ASA to help fund the biological studies, attorneys, and ongoing expenses.

For a list of places at which you can purchase your Funco giveaway opportunity, please visit <http://www.glamisonline.org/html/asaSponsors/tickets.shtml> or write to ASA Funco Giveaway, 1280 N. Fitzgerald "F", Rialto California 92376.

FOLLOW THE SIGN

The owner of the Dunes Edge Ranch has offered to let us put up a billboard with any ASA message we choose.

The billboard will be a series of slats that can be changed and rotated. Jason Chappellear from Brawley, our Imperial County Regional Coordinator, will paint, stencil and install message boards just before the weekends. Look for it on your left on your way to the dunes next season.

Dunes Edge Range is located on Highway 78 near Green Street, just before you get to the dunes via 78 out of Brawley. Toy storage is available at Dunes Edge Ranch.

Our thanks to Dunes Edge Ranch for this wonderful opportunity.

PUBLIC SAFETY IS AS IMPORTANT AS CLOSURE COMPLIANCE

The ASA has identified public safety as being just as important as closure compliance in saving our dunes. During the past season the duning community demonstrated that responsible dунers stay out of the temporary closures. Now it is time to place the same emphasis on public safety.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO? Recognize that it is your responsibility to know the law. Fly a checkered flag and live by the Duner's Checkered Flag Pledge. The ASA continues to encourage the BLM to consistently enforce the existing rules and laws to enhance public safety at the ISDRA.

The ASA will kick off its *Public Safety Education Program* at the Sand Sports Super Show. The program is designed to increase public awareness of the rules and OHV laws that apply to the ISDRA. The *Duner's Survival Kit*, a bag that resembles the checkered flag, will be distributed to Sand Show visitors. The *Kit*, which will also be distributed at the ISDRA, will introduce the ASA public safety theme: **FOCUS ON SAFETY - BE RESPONSIBLE - BE SAFE**. The mascot of the *Public Safety Education Program* -- The Safety Bug -- will also be introduced at the Sand Show. Come to the Show and **CATCH THE BUG!**



There is a bug heading your way. This bug is very powerful.
So catch the bug - the Safety Bug.

The Safety Bug is the official mascot of the public safety and educational program embraced by many organizations and businesses.
Please welcome this bug into your families and groups.
Safety Bug will be around to raise awareness and educate.

CATCH THE SAFETY BUG!

For more information about the Safety Bug program, please contact Bob Mason, RWMSKM@aol.com or call (602) 840-3229.

BIO AFFAIRS

The biological reports are in and it's good news. You can download the final draft of the PMV report that was submitted as part of our law firm's public comment on the recently published Dunes Closure Environmental Assessment (see below) The PMV report cost us roughly \$68,000 and the comment was around \$15,000.

This PMV report will also be used to further our cause when the BLM goes through the ESA Section 7 consultations with the Fish and Wildlife Service. It is in these proceedings that it will be decided if the recent dunes closures have any merit. Our bio team, in concert with our law firm, will use every resource at their disposal during those critical events. Their much-needed expertise comes at a steep price but they have already proven their worth.

PMV Report:

<http://www.glamisonline.org/downloads/TOAreport.doc>

Law Firm's public comment:

<http://www.glamisonline.org/downloads/DunesEACoMmentLetter.doc>

If you are unable to access the internet for these downloads, please send a note requesting a copy to PMB 108 1911 Foothill Blvd., La Verne, CA 91750.

THE ASA TALKS TO GALE NORTON

While attending a fundraiser in Phoenix, Arizona in August, Scott Urschel (ASA Vice President for Legislative Affairs) seized an opportunity to speak directly with Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. They discussed the Imperial Sand Dunes closures; in particular that the closures were achieved because of an Endangered Species Act listing of a threatened species that isn't really threatened. Urschel explained what the plant surveys show and what he has seen and counted himself.

Secretary Norton was interested and asked Ann Klee, Counselor, and Office of the Secretary of the Interior, to work with Urschel to determine if this needs a closer look. Urschel has forwarded to Counsel Klee a copy of the PMV report and is currently involved in follow up discussions.

ASA EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections were held on July 8, 2001. Jerry Seaver is the new President and Chairman of the Board for the ASA. Grant George was elected as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Bob Mason was elected to the office of Vice President of Special Projects.

For personal reasons, Vince Brunasso did not seek re-election but will continue to contribute his talents in the background as his time permits. Bob Mason was elected to finish Vince's term on the board which ends in January along with Keith Rosewitz' seat. Elections will be held at that time to determine who will fill those 2 positions. In June of next year the other seats on the Board expire; elections will again be held.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR BLM LAW ENFORCEMENT

The El Centro Law Enforcement now has a voice mail phone number for the general public or BLM employees on which to leave voice mail messages for Law Enforcement personnel. This number is provided to the general public to ensure that generic Law Enforcement calls will be answered in a timely manner. Someone calling may not get an immediate response but the voice mail will be checked no less than once a day as opposed to waiting for a specific Ranger to return from days off or vacation. The # is (760) 337-4489.

Scott Urschel accepted the position of ASA Vice President of Legislative Affairs. Scott has also assumed a leadership role in the development of a 3-5 minute video which ASA will use to brief politicians, the media, local, state and federal officials. The video will be ready for use at the VIP briefing program which will be conducted in conjunction with the Sand Sport Super Show coming up September 21-23. In addition, Urschel has already met with a lobbyist familiar with Washington, DC activities pertaining to public land access and environmental concerns of the ASA. The ASA is very fortunate to have Scott come on board to help with the fight.

UNITED WE STAND

The American Sand Association is not alone in this fight. Through the melding of a variety of organizations, our common goals will be reached. Examples of this all-important unification include:

- The ASA's contribution to California Off Road Vehicle Association's ongoing efforts in fighting the original lawsuit
- SDORC's contribution to the ASA's biological and lawsuit efforts
- ASA's Pioneer Membership in the Friends of Oceano to aide in their fight to save the Pismo Dunes
- A donation made to the ASA by the Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce to help in our legal efforts
- The combined forces of CORVA, AMA District 37 and ASA filed a lawsuit to reopen the ISDRA closures
- Imperial County Board of Supervisors distributed a letter supporting the ASA's actions

In addition and as a direct result of a growing awareness of multi use issues, many of our members have become actively involved with land issues that extend far outside the boundaries of the sand dunes, including attendance at and participation in the meetings held by the California Desert Advisory Council including and direct involvement in the completion of the desert management plans.

Only through this continuing unification will the American Sand Association and those fighting for the rights of multi use of public lands prevail. We will continue to stand together.

PROTEST AT NEW C.B.D. OFFICE GAINS LOCAL SUPPORT

On August 18, 2001 approximately 100 people which included ASA members, CORVA members, horse-back riders, back-packers and cattle farmers gathered in front of the newly-established Idyllwild, California office for the Center for Biological Diversity. The gathering was staged to educate the Idyllwild community on the CBD's tactics and to the dangers the CBD can pose to public land recreationists and tourism (Idyllwild's primary sources of income). This extremely successful event drew media attention to the American Sand Association and the battle at the ISDRA.

Although the CBD's doors were not officially opened many local residents, already familiar with the CBD's land grabs, asked us to return at a later date and to perhaps host a town meeting. We will not miss the opportunity to fight for our cause. If you would like to be involved with the next show of protest, please send an e-mail to Vicki Warren at GlamisFlyers@yahoo.com or (909) 738-9047.

NEW ASA TASKFORCE FOCUSES ON PUBLIC SAFETY



The American Sand Association has organized a Public Safety Taskforce specifically to work with the BLM and the sand sport enthusiast to develop an ASA public safety program and communications plan.

The Taskforce's objectives include developing a list of public safety issues and prioritizing that list in terms of importance and resource availability; discussing safety concerns and preliminary recommendations with BLM staff members; developing an ASA Public Safety Program and Communication Plan.

Although still very new, the Public Safety Taskforce has accomplished several major goals:

- ◆ Requested and received BLM endorsement of the ASA checkered flag program (the BLM has agreed to fly the checkered flag along with the required safety flag on its vehicles)
- ◆ Participation in BLM Comp Hill interim plan development
- ◆ Kickoff of ASA Public Safety Education at the 2001 Sand Sport Super Show
- ◆ Received BLM approval of wide-scale distribution of a "Duner's Survival Kit" debuting at the Sand Sports Super Show

The Taskforce members include:

Bob Mason, Chairman, Arizona

Keith Rosewitz, California

Tim Wight (law enforcement officer), Arizona

Larry Jowdy (law enforcement officer), California

For more information on the Public Safety Taskforce, please contact Bob Mason at (602) 840-3229 or via e-mail rwmskm@aol.com.

LOCAL ASA SUPPORT CHAPTERS FORMING

Duning is a family and a group activity. These informal groups of duners represent the grassroots support to **Protect your Right to Ride**.

A supporting chapter can be as small as a family or as large as a clan; it can be formed by a shop/business; you can identify your chapter with a unique checkered flag insignia or *logo*.

Chapter Objectives

- ◇ Promote responsible duning
- ◇ Sign up new members
- ◇ Provide volunteer support
- ◇ Link e-mail and snail-mail members
- ◇ Adopt a shop

How to Form a Chapter

- ◇ Visit the Chapter "How To" web page at <http://www.glamisonline.org/html/chapters/chapter.shtml> or contact Bob & Sharon Mason (see below);
- ◇ Provide to the Chapter Coordinator the following information: chapter name, leader's name & location, chapter internet contact, E-Mail & U.S. Mail Address.

How to Find a Chapter

- ◇ Visit the Chapter "How to" web page at <http://www.glamisonline.org/html/chapters/chapter.shtml> and search by zip code;
- ◇ Contact the Chapter Coordinator

Chapter Coordinator

Bob & Sharon Mason

3113 N. 52nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85018

(602) 840-3229 RWMSKM@aol.com

NEW MERCHANDISE

Banners

Here's another way to promote the ASA. We now have a banner that is 22 x 72. The cost is \$40.00 plus \$5.50 for shipping.

Campsite Speed Limit Signs

These are metal signs with reflective fronts (the same materials used by CalTrans) and are great for posting at campsites and/or on the side of your motorhome. They are \$20.00 each. Due to their weight, shipping is expensive so these signs are usually sold on a "will call" basis.



Please note the "old" ASA logo is shown on this Speed Limit Sign. The new signs will exhibit the "new" ASA logo as shown on the banner.



2002 Calendar

The "First Official ASA Calendar" is debuting at the Sand Sports Super Show (cost is \$10.00). This 14-month calendar features the following sponsors: Funco Motorsports, Funrunner, Weekend Concepts, Car Craft, Inc., Karl's Custom VW, Sand Tires Unlimited Inc., McKenzie's, Sport Tires of America, Unlimited RPMs, Rancho Performance Transaxles, Sand Cars Unlimited, Mendeola Racing, Sand Limo and Predator Sand Cars. Thanks to the generosity of these sponsors, ALL proceeds from this calendar go toward the fight for our dunes.

For ordering and shipping information contact Flo Haynes, 11419 Daybreak Trail, Moreno Valley CA 92557, or e-mail: MVFloMo@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 15, 2001, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Pismo Cleanup

Everyone is to meet at the entrance to Sand Highway to sign in and get further details. Please contact Jim Suty at Jim@extremebuggies.com or at (408) 274-5865.

September 21, 22, 23, 2001, Sand Sports Super Show

The 3rd Annual Sand Sports Super Show will be held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, California. Volunteers are needed. Contact Jim Colln at sanduners@aol.com or call (714) 229-0286 to help.

October 6-7, 2001, Off-Road Expo

Off-Road Expo at the Fairplex in Pomona, California. For more information visit www.offroadexpo.com or call (626) 599-8622. The ASA will be exhibiting at the Expo and could use some volunteer help. Contact Jim Colln at sanduners@aol.com or call (714) 229-0286.

October 14, 2001, 1:00 p.m., ASA Dune Information Meeting

Dune Information Meeting, co-sponsored by Renegade Suspension Seats and Xtreme Sand Tires. Held at 2515 N. 34 Drive, Phoenix, Arizona. Topics include status of Glamis and public land issues. For more information call (714) 229-0286.

October 20, 2001, 9:00 a.m., Operation Clean Desert Barstow Cleanup

2nd Annual Operation Clean Desert in Barstow, California begins in the desert near Outlet Center Drive just south of Barstow 9:00 a.m. Participants will receive a T-shirt and the day will be capped off with a BBQ featuring a live band at the famous Slash X Cafe. Contact Paige Giffin-Donahoe at info@cordr.com or call (714) 632-3033 ext. 30.

October 27, 2001, 9:30 a.m., Glamis Poker Run

1st Annual "Glamis Poker Run" sponsored by the R&R Duners Club starts at the Boardmanville Trading Post. Portable Generator donated by Long Beach Motorsports, valued at \$1300.00 retail. Visit www.geocities.com/GLAMISPOKERRUN/index.html, call (562) 866-2248, or write to R&R Duner Club, Glamis Poker Run, P.O. Box 1243, Norwalk, CA 90650. All proceeds will benefit the ASA legal fund.

December 7-8, 2001, 8:00 a.m., Desert Advisory Council Meeting

The California Desert Advisory Council tour is on December 7th and the meeting is on December 8th at the El Centro BLM office. Attending these meetings shows our dedication to our chosen sport. For more information write to Vicki Warren at GlamisFlyers@yahoo.com or call (909) 738-9047.

January 5-6, 2002, San Diego Off Road Exposition

San Diego Off Road Exposition at the Cajon Speedway, El Cajon, California. Last year was a first for this event and it was a huge success. For more information on the 2002 Exposition, contact Janette McGarvie at (619) 561-3877 or via e-mail at expo@sdorc.org.

January 19, 2002, 9:00 a.m., 5th Annual Glamis Dunes Cleanup

The 5th Annual Glamis Dunes Cleanup begins at the Gecko Road Ranger Station. Food and drinks, t-shirts, raffle prizes, bigger and better than ever. It's just one more way to help keep Glamis open. For more information contact Jennifer Whyte, 986 N. Center Street, Orange, CA 92867, (714) 633-8763, e-mail info@projectsand.org.

ACTION ITEMS

There are many ways we as members of the ASA can influence and protect our rights to public land. Please take a moment to read and respond to these calls to action:

ISDRA Resource Management Plan

The BLM is anxious to complete the Resource Management Plan for the ISDRA as soon as possible. Preliminary scoping meetings seeking public comment are scheduled for

Sept. 25th
Phoenix College Auditorium
Phoenix, AZ

Sept. 27th
Town and Country Resort and Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA

The meetings are from 7-9 p.m.

Additional meetings are being requested from the BLM. We realize that this newsletter may not reach some of you by that time, but it is important to note that the BLM will also accept public comments via e-mail, telephone, fax and U.S. mail.

This is the ISDRA Plan that was interrupted by the March 2000 lawsuit. Our attention to this matter will show that we are indeed interested in maintaining our riding opportunities at Glamis. For further information on this matter, including how and when to submit public comment, please call the El Centro BLM office at (760) 337-4400.

NECO and NEMO Plans

The public review and comment periods for the Northern and Eastern Colorado Management Plan (NECO) and Eastern Mojave Desert Management Plan (NEMO) have been extended to November 2001.

The NECO Plan encompasses approximately 5.5 million acres in eastern San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties. For more information on NECO, contact BLM Project Lead Dick Crowe at (909) 697-5216. The NEMO Plan encompasses 2.4 million acres of BLM-managed public lands in the Southeastern California Desert. For more information on NEMO, contact BLM Project Manager Edythe Seehafer at (760) 252-6021.

Denner Petition

Roy Denner is a member of the Desert Advisory Council and a very strong, very vocal proponent of OHV rights. His term on the DAC is ending soon and it is clear that the BLM will fight his re-appointment. Roy needs and deserves our support to keep him on the DAC. A petition is being circulated for signatures of support. Please contact Vicki Warren at GlamisFlyers@yahoo.com or call (909) 738-9047 for a copy.



PMB 108 1911 Foothill Blvd.
La Verne, CA 91750
(714) 229-0286