

American Sand Association



1911 Foothill Blvd. PMB 108
La Verne, CA 91750
Unite. Inform and Mobilize The Dune Community

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BLM ANNOUNCES ZERO TOLERANCE AT IMPERIAL SAND DUNES

In a dramatic response to illegal activities at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area the BLM announced Tuesday, February 5th that they will implement a "Zero Tolerance" policy during President's Day weekend.

Vehicle regulations and all other ISDRA rules will be enforced and major infractions of rules or laws could result in jail time according to El Centro Field Manager Greg Thomsen. A multi-agency task force comprised of Imperial County Sheriff's Dept., Calif. Highway Patrol, National Park Service, U.S Forest Service, Calif. Dept of Parks and Recreation, Calif. Dept of Forestry, and the U.S. Border Patrol, will implement this "Zero tolerance" policy. According to the news release this additional law enforcement presence will "allow officials to crack down on an array of potential violations" The complete text of the BLM news release is below.

Although the ASA supports the BLM'S enforcement of the laws and rules, the zero tolerance approach is of concern when dealing with minor infractions. The "zero tolerance" approach tends to paint even the most minor infractions with the same brush. The ASA has encouraged the BLM and the other law enforcement agencies to use common sense when implementing their "zero tolerance" procedure.

The vast majority of the sand sport enthusiasts who visit the Imperial Sand Dunes are law-abiding, responsible people. Unfortunately, this is a situation where the very small minority is giving the sand sport enthusiast a black eye and is being dealt with
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ISDRA RAMP Will Affect Your Riding for the Next 10 to 15 Years

INFORM

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) periodically develops plans for managing the land and resources under their control. The BLM is about to release a draft of the next RAMP for review by the public. This soon to be released document is very important and requires action by you. It is important to understand what the RAMP is and what it means to you.

“The RAMP represents an overall strategy for utilizing limited funding to meet the challenges

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ALCOHOL BAN AMONG DRASTIC BLM PROPOSALS TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR ISDRA

On January 11 of this year, the El Centro BLM field office was denied their annual grant request from the OHMVR (green sticker) Commission. The funding was withheld because of recent and ongoing problems at The Imperial Sand Dunes. The commission told the BLM to institute a plan to address several issues before funding the grant would commence.

The issues are:

- Alcohol restrictions
- Comp Hill and Sand Drags problems
- Underutilization of vast volunteer base
- Wilderness and closure incursions
- More involvement of the stakeholders in the area with respect to management of the ISDRA.

At the subsequent Feb. 12 meeting, the BLM's response to the commission's request was received very well and the commission unanimously approved the original BLM request. The following public safety plans were noted by

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by the BLM in a way that affects everyone.

The ASA has been working closely with the BLM and the Imperial County Sheriff's Office to ensure that as many Imperial Sand Dune visitors as possible know the rules and laws. The ASA encourages all sand sport enthusiasts to know and abide by the rules. Please remember that it is your responsibility to know the rules and laws.

The rules and laws are printed elsewhere in this newsletter and can also be obtained at the Cahuilla Ranger Station on Gecko Road or from a BLM Ranger. BLM rules and the California Off-Highway Vehicle laws are also posted on www.glamisonline.org in the Legal Information section under [Rules & Regulations](#).

The BLM 2/06/02 news release and Public Service Announcements (PSA) outlining the law enforcement plans for the upcoming President's Day weekend will be distributed to Arizona, California and Nevada radio and TV stations and to selected high schools for use on their closed-circuit TV systems and student body announcements.

BLM News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

For Immediate Release: February 5, 2002
CA-610-02-24

Contact: Stephen Razo 909-697-5217; Doran Sanchez, 909-697-5220

Zero Tolerance Declared for Imperial Sand Dunes

"Zero Tolerance" will be the law enforcement operating procedure at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area during the upcoming President's Day weekend. With increased emphasis on removing lawless behavior from the Dunes to protect public safety in the Dunes, federal, state, and local law enforcement officials will aggressively deal with those who choose to ignore the rules and laws which could mean jail time for violators.

"There will be a significant increase in law enforcement at the Imperial Sand Dunes during President's Day weekend," states Greg Thomsen, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office Manager. "The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area rules, the California Off Highway Vehicle regulations and other applicable state and federal laws will be strictly enforced. Major infractions of rules or laws could land you in a U.S. Border Patrol bus headed for jail," Thomsen added.

Law enforcement and support personnel from Imperial County, California Highway Patrol, National Park Service Special Event Team, U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of State Parks and Recreation, California Department of Forestry, and the U.S. Border Patrol, work with the BLM at the Dunes through a multi-agency Incident Command and Control System. The system was successfully deployed during the New Year's and

Martin Luther King holiday weekends and provided immediate capabilities to handle incidents quickly, providing an effective security net throughout the Dunes.

Additional law enforcement presence will allow officials to crack down on an array of potential violations throughout the Dunes. Aerial patrols by the Imperial County Sheriff's Office Aerial Squadron and the California Highway Patrol helicopter will seek speeders, reckless drivers, and any suspicious activity day or night with aerial flood lights. Speeds in excess of 15 mph within 50 feet of a group of people or faster than it is safe for existing conditions will be strictly enforced. California Highway Patrol, BLM, and Imperial County law enforcement officials will be equipped with radar guns to monitor vehicle speed in camping areas and near group concentrations.

Imperial County Sheriff Harold Carter states, "The operator of a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will be arrested and transported to jail. Underage drinking will not be tolerated. Undercover officers will be on-hand to identify violators."

According to Bob Zimmer, BLM El Centro Chief Ranger, "pinch-points" will be set up at entrances to popular nighttime gatherings to cut down on illegal activities later in the evening.

The Imperial Dunes is one of the most heavily visited off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation areas in the country. However, an increasing number of law breakers have threatened the safety of visitors at the Dunes during the past two years. American Sand Association (ASA) President, Jerry Seaver, encourages the off-road community to "please remember that it is your responsibility to know the law. Let's focus on safety and be responsible."

"Public safety at the Imperial Dunes is a top priority," said BLM State Director Mike Pool. "Continued assistance from county, state and federal agencies help us make the Dunes a safer place for our visitors."

BLM PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

February 7, 2002 Contact: Stephen Razo 909-697-5217;
Doran Sanchez, 909-697-5220 CA-610-xxxx

AS THE PRESIDENT'S DAY FAST APPROACHES, STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO INFORM IMPERIAL SAND DUNES VISITORS THAT A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE IN EFFECT.

DUNES RECREATION AREA RULES, CALIFORNIA OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE REGULATIONS AND OTHER APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE IMPERIAL SAND DUNES...WITHIN THE LAW.

ASA RAMP info meetings to be held in March and April – dates and places to be announced. It is vital you plan to attend one of these meetings

Bureau of Land Management Rules For The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area 11/13/01

These rules apply to public lands from one mile north of Mammoth Wash to the Mexican border (north and south) and from the Southern Pacific Railroad, Ogilby Road and the Boardmanville area, to the old Coachella Canal (east to west). This is a synopsis of the rules, for further clarification please call (760) 337-4400 or contact Cahuilla Ranger Station. **Please remember, it is your responsibility to know the law.**

SAFETY FLAGS ARE REQUIRED ON ALL VEHICLES IN THE IMPERIAL SAND DUNED REC. AREA.

All vehicles shall be equipped with an 8 foot whip mast and a 6x12 inch red or orange flag. Masts must be securely mounted on the vehicle and extend 8 feet from the ground to the mast tip.

A 15 M.P .H. SPEED RULE EXIST ON THE SAND HIGHWAYS.

No person shall operate an OHV in excess of 15 m.p.h. on public lands within 500 feet of Highway 78, Grays Well Road, Gecko Road, and access roads within Gecko and Roadrunner recreation sites.

FIRES- The burning of potentially hazardous materials e.g. (but not limited to) gas, oil, plastic and magnesium is prohibited.

NO GLASS BEVERAGE CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED. Possession or use of any glass cup or bottle empty or not is prohibited.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED WHILE RIDING ON BLM LANDS.

No person shall drink an alcoholic beverage, have in their possession or person, any open container that contains an alcoholic beverage while operating in or on a motor vehicle on public lands administered by BLM within California. **NO PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 21 SHALL BE IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

USE OF AUDIO DEVICES. No person shall: (1) Operate or use any audio device, such as a radio, television, musical instrument, or other noise producing device or motorized equipment between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. in a manner that makes unreasonable noise that disturbs other visitors; or (2) operate or use a public address system without written authorization from the BLM.

PUBLIC NUDITY. Public nudity is prohibited in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.

UNAUTHORIZED ORGANIZED EVENT. No person shall participate in or sponsor an unauthorized organized event (Example bands, videos, movies etc).

RIDING IN PICKUP BEDS AND OTHER UNSAFE ACTIVITIES. No person shall ride in the bed of a pick up truck or any part of a motor vehicle not designed for passengers on OR off road.

RESERVING OF CAMPING SPACES IS PROHIBITED; SITES ARE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.

TAKING OFF OR LANDING AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ULTRALIGHT, IS PROHIBITED WITHIN 1 MILE OF GECKO ROAD.

DUMPING SEWAGE AND GREY WATER IS PROHIBITED.

A 14 DAY CAMPING LIMIT IS IN EFFECT IN THE IMPERIAL SAND DUNES RECREATION AREA.

NO PARKING OR CAMPING WITHIN 10 FEET OF PAVEMENT ON GECKO ROAD.

NO PARKING OR CAMPING WITHIN 30 FEET OF HIGHWAY 78 BETWEEN GECKO ROAD AND Glamis FLATS OFF RAMP.

SHOOTING IS PROHIBITED WITHIN ½ MILE OF CAMPGROUNDS AND SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WELL

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AWAY FROM OTHER CONCENTRATIONS OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY.

ANIMALS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEASH NOT LONGER THAN SIX FEET AND SECURED TO A FIXED OBJECT OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF A PERSON, OR OTHERWISE PHYSICALLY RESTRICTED AT ALL TIMES.

BLM supplementary rules re-established under authority of 43 CFR 8365.1-6. Violations of the rules are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months (43 CFR 8360.0- 7). Also, all OHV's must be operated in accordance with State laws and regulations relating to use, registration, operation, and inspection of OHV's (43 CFR 8341.1 { a }).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Visit Cahuilla Ranger Station on Gecko Road, 760-344-3919, or BLM's El Centro Resource Office, 1661 4th Street, El Centro, CA. 92243,760-337-4400

STATE OF CALIFORNIA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE LAWS

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LIST – FOR THE COMPLETE DOCUMENT, SEE THE CALIFORNIA MOTOR VEHICLE CODE

HELMET USAGE. All persons, regardless of age, who operate or ride all terrain vehicles (ATV's) on public lands in California must wear an approved safety helmet. (38505 C. V .C.)

PARENTAL SUPERVISION. No operator of an all-terrain vehicle shall carry a passenger while operating on public lands. (38506 C.V.C)

OPERATING AN OHV UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUGS.

It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or any drug, or under the combined influence of an alcoholic beverage and any drug, to drive a vehicle. (23152(a) C.V.C). Driving while license is suspended/revoked off road as well;; on road is against the law. (14601 C.V.C.)

SPEED LAWS.

1. Basic speed law: Don't operate an off-highway vehicle faster than it is safe for conditions. (38305 C.V.C)
2. Prima Facie Speed Limit: The prima facie speed limit within 50 feet of any campground, campsite, or concentration of people or animals shall be under 15 m.p.h. unless changed as authorized by the code (38310 C.V.C)

REGISTRATION

1. Vehicles operated on federal and state highways, county roads, and BLM's Gecko Road, Gray's Well Road, and McCain Valley must be licensed for highway use.
2. Off highway vehicles owned by California residents must be registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles and display a valid "Green Sticker" Vehicle Identification Tag (38020,38010 (C.V.C) in a clearly visible location on the vehicle. (38170 C. V .C)
3. Beginning 1/1/98, off highway vehicles that do not have a valid registration of permit from the owners home state (incl. Mexico and Canada) will be required to purchase a special California permit (sticker) through selected vendors in California and Nevada or the a California Dept. of Parks and Recreation (916324-4442 (38020 C.V.C)

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. According to California State law, any off highway vehicle must be equipped with an approved muffler brakes, and spark arrester. Headlight and taillight are required for operation at night. *Tail lights must include at least one red light.*

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. No person shall operate on off-highway vehicle in a manner likely to cause environmental damage (38319 C.V.C.,43 CFR8341.1 {f} {4}).

FIREARMS. California State law -Firearms must not be discharged within 150 yards of residences, buildings, campsites, occupied areas, RECREATIONAL AREAS, or domestic livestock. No shooting from or across any road. No shooting from a vehicle. It is unlawful to carry a loaded weapon in a vehicle.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Visit Cahuilla Ranger Station on Gecko Road, 760-344-3919, or BLM's El Centro Resource Office, 1661 4th Street, El Centro, CA. 92243,760-337-4400

Legal and Political Update

By Mark Harms

As most of you know we petitioned the Honorable Gale Norton, Secretary of the Department of Interior (DOI) last October 24th to have the Peirson's Milk vetch (PMV) delisted. We sent a file the size of a phone book and from the time of receipt, they had 90 days to respond. We were sent a letter that the DOI had referred the matter to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), California/Nevada Operations Office. FWS indicated their receiving of this petition on October 31, 2001. We were notified in this letter that this delisting petition has been assigned review to the Carlsbad, CA. office.

The following are quotes from the FWS: "To the maximum extent practicable, this finding should be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and it should be published promptly in the Federal Register." Also, "It has been initially reviewed and meets the requirements of a petition under 50 CFR (424.14(a)."

With this letter in hand, we have been in a holding pattern waiting for the FWS's finding. With postal delays no longer a consideration and quite possibly prejudicing our case if we wait any longer, we will file a 60-day letter of Intent to Sue this week. We recognize that this administration might be more sensitive to our concerns and because of this we don't want to appear hostile. However the clock is ticking and we are running out of time.

What this Intent to Sue letter means is that if the DOI/FWS does not respond in 60 days to our request, we will take our petition to Federal Court.

On another legal note we are currently discussing Attorney's fees with the Department of Justice (DOJ). We feel that our lawsuit forced the BLM to engage in certain actions i.e. the Environmental Assessment (EA). We also feel that we prevailed and there is ample case law to substantiate our position. The DOJ will with out a doubt deny our claims and once again a Judge will make that decision.

On a political note, the ASA has retained a state lobbyist Mr. Pete Conaty to represent our interests in the State Capital. Keep in mind that much of our funding for the ISDRA comes from the State. Mr. Conaty also represents CORVA, SDORC, ORBA and AMA District 37 among others. Mr. Conaty is organizing the Legislative Day in Sacramento next month. Several ASA Board Members will be in Sacramento meeting many of your State representatives putting a face to this organization on a state level.

The ASA is also supporting the Friends of Oceano Dunes with cash donations. Recently, the Sierra Club filed suit to limit the access to the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. For more information please see: www.oceanodunes.org

Bio Update

This year's biological efforts centered on a seedbed count of the Peirson's Milk Vetch. This means actually going back to the sites we found last year and counting the seeds that were produced.

Preliminary results are astounding. Upper estimates are as high as 1.4 million seeds just for the sites we are tracking – not the entire dune system.

The final counts took place President's weekend. The dune community owes a special thanks to all the volunteers that helped transport the bio team.



Thanks to the generous donation of the California and Nevada Yamaha Dealers in cooperation with Yamaha Motor Corporation, we have a 2002 Yamaha Raptor to giveaway. Here are some of the details...

Giveaway to be at 3rd Annual Gordon's Well and Buttercup Area Clean Up
Saturday March 2, 2002 at Pair-A- Dice

Since everything is donated and the ASA has no dollars invested, 100% of ticket sales go to help us fight to keep our dunes open.

- WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

- Tickets will be \$5 each and if you buy 4 you get the 5th free.
- No limit on number of tickets sold.
- Tickets go on sale Saturday October 6th at the Off-Road Expo at the LA Fairgrounds.
- ASA board members and principals of participating donating companies are not eligible.
- You must be at least 18 years of age to win. Void where prohibited.

To get your tickets by mail send a check or money order for \$5 for each ticket (every \$20 gets you 5 tickets) and a Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope to:

ASA Raptor Giveaway
3403 E. 69th Street
Long Beach, CA 90805

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER

BLM for the Presidents Day weekend:

- Zero tolerance signage on hwy 78 and electronic signs on the gecko road
- Cite and book offenders on the spot
- Busses will be available to transport offenders to jail for major infractions
- Tow trucks will be on standby to impound vehicles
- High visibility pinch points at comp hill including major temporary barriers and stadium lights
- Radar guns at the drags and citations for reckless driving
- 40-50 officers on hand at the drags and comp hill

The BLM also proposed a ban on alcohol outside of the campsites to be instituted by the Easter holiday. This proposal was in response to strong encouragement by the OHMVR division staff. Without exception all of the OHV representatives opposed this suggestion. Imperial County Sheriff Carter stated that he did NOT support any additional rules noting that he has sufficient authority with the existing laws to handle the problem. The ASA position on the ban is set forth in the following letter which was delivered during the public comment period.

If the ban is not instituted this season it is highly probable that it will be included in the draft of the RAMP that is due to be published for public comment in March.

The ASA immediately responded with the following letter:

February 11, 2002

The Honorable Daphne E. Greene
Chairman
California State Parks
Off-highway Vehicle Recreation Division
Post Office Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: 2001 – 02 FISCAL YEAR OHV GRANTS

Dear Ms. Greene

Following the Jan 11, 2002 OHMVR Commission meeting the American Sand Association (ASA) has participated in the review of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) response to the Commissions request for addition planning information. Based on our involvement in the BLM response the ASA continues to recommend that the OHMVR Commission fully fund the 2001-02 Fiscal Year OHV Grants requested by BLM subject to the conditions set for in the Jan 10, 2002 ASA

letter presented to the Commission by Mark Harms.

There were six conditions noted in the attached ASA Jan 10, 2002 letter. The fourth and fifth items relating to use of volunteers and ASA'S involvement in planning meetings and after-the-fact briefings have been addressed during the past 30 days. The first three and the last item have not been addressed to our knowledge.

The ASA was provided an advance draft of the BLM material which will be presented at the Feb 12, 2002 Commission meeting. Based on this information and our participation in conference calls with BLM, ICSO, the OHMVR staff and other OHV organizations we believe that BLM has identified several measures intended to improve public safety during the Presidents' Day weekend.

The BLM "outreach" program requested by the Commission is working. The interaction with the ASA and other OHV organizations during the past 30 days regarding public safety was a significant improvement over previous involvement. Continued timely dialog will enhance the ASA'S ability communicate with its membership re public safety. The media activity and proposed signage in preparation for the Presidents' Day holiday is a significant improvement.

BLM'S use of volunteers can be enhanced significantly by dedicating a staff member to coordinate the use of volunteer resources. Improved planning and longer lead-time will improve volunteer availability and effectiveness.

The ASA does not support the proposed ban on alcohol at any level. The addition of another supplemental rule is not warranted. Properly enforced, the existing BLM Rules and California OHV Laws are adequate to resolve the problems with underage drinking and driving under the influence of alcohol. The ASA supports the BLM commitment to enforce the existing rules and laws and nothing more.

Although the ASA supports the BLM'S enforcement of the laws and rules the "zero tolerance" approach is of concern when dealing with minor infractions. The "zero tolerance" approach tends to paint even the most minor infractions with the same brush. The ASA encourages BLM and other law enforcement agencies to use common sense law enforcement when implementing the "zero tolerance" procedure.

The Imperial Sand Dune Recreation Area (ISDRA) is the most significant OHV recreation area in California and must be given a high priority when it comes to allocating OHMVR grants. The Commission is to be commended for taking a hard line on the commitment of ISDRA public safety grants. The improvement in public safety planning and the increase communications with the OHV community as a result of

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your request for addition information is evident. The steps being taken for the Presidents' Day weekend are steps in the right direction. The ASA respects the action taken at your Jan 11, 2002 meeting and strongly encourages the commission to fully fund the BLM grant request.

Jerry Seaver
President

Encl: ASA 1/10/02 letter to the OHMVR Commission

cc: CORVA
ORBA
CAL-4 WHEEL
SDORC
AMA DISTRICT 37
Dave Widell
Greg Thomsen
Mike Pool
Pete Conaty
Harold D. Carter

Instilling Family Values

By Dave Ness

There is a lot of talk about "Family Values" these days, yet I haven't seen them defined nor have I seen much information on how to instill Family Values.

To many of us, Family Values include respect and caring for each other, taking ownership for our actions and being responsible for the same, sharing with others, teaching and coaching those around you, and teamwork. Some would say that many Family Values could be found in the famous message "All I needed to know in life, I learned in Kindergarten".

I do know that you cannot teach, reinforce, and instill Family Values at an occasional family dinner. Simple lecturing can't instill them. Family Values must be explained to Children at a time when they are receptive to remembering them. However, most importantly, role models such as parents and friends must demonstrate Family Values repeatedly, for actions do speak louder than words. If we could define those values that we desire our children to acquire, surround our children with positive examples and discourage negative behavior then we would have a strong possibility of instilling the desired family values. To do so requires a considerable amount of time

together as a family. This is difficult as many times children want to be off on their own, doing their "own thing", with kids their own age. Even talking to your own children can be difficult, even if you can get the headphones off their head.

My wife and I have been fortunate in this area. We have encircled our children with more than half a dozen families who share common values. We have developed a level of trust amongst our families to allow any parent to help mold our children. This "coaching" of children has caught on so much that we find older children coaching the younger ones. It is common to see a fifteen year old helping a six year old. Something that is rare to see in city streets play.

Our families come together more than a dozen times a year for two to three days at a time. We live and play together day and night. We share meals together, in fact in more than fifteen years there has only been two Thanksgiving feasts that we have not enjoyed together. With more than twenty-five days and nights together each year, we have found ample time to observe our kids and help mold their set of values. We just call it "Great Family Time".

Nowhere is it written that just because you produce a child does it mean you are an expert at raising them. The same coaching and teaching occurs between parents in our group. Of course, parents can philosophically discuss the proper method to raise kids over cocktails at a dinner party. However, living with a dozen other parents and observing their child rearing practices is invaluable. Getting to know your friends and their children with this level of intimacy allows for truly valuable insight by other interested parents. It's free consulting from people who share the same values system.

Each day we play together, each night we gather for a group dinner and camp fire. We talk with our kids about school, friends, careers, safety, politics and we share stories and examples of what is right and what is wrong. We've had kids who have gotten in trouble and the rest see that we support that child and coach them back to safe zone. We've seen instances of "wrong" and our children see the parents stand up for what is "right". Sometimes parents must bring work and avoid playtime. Children learn the hard tradeoffs of playing and the reality of responsibilities.

Some would say that what brings our families together is the sport of off roading or water skiing. We know that what brings our families together is the community we form and the kinship we extend. Evidence of this is that on many occasions families from our group have camped with us, even though their vehicles are not functioning and they

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DUNES CLEANUP AS JOSH BURTON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Josh Burton, a local Mesa AZ Eagle Scout candidate, is organizing a mini-cleanup of the Buttercup Competition Hill area in the Imperial Sand Dunes for Saturday, March 16, 2002 as his Eagle Scout service project. As a part of the requirement to attain Eagle Scout, a participant must identify and organize a service project that demonstrates leadership, service and outdoor skills. The candidate also must plan and supervise the project to the satisfaction of the Scout's local council or district advancement committee. Josh has asked the American Sand Association to join with him in his cleanup project.

"The American Sand Association is honored that we have been asked to help in a project like this," said Greg Gorman, ASA Arizona Membership Director and Eagle Scout. "Any time we can help a fellow scout advance as well as perform a public service that benefits our mission to keep the dunes open it's a win for both of us," Gorman said.

Josh also plans to organize his troop to stuff and hand out at least 700 of the ASA's "Duner's Survival Kits"-- which contain safety information, BLM rules, California OHV laws and a trash bag--both at the cleanup as well as distributing them to Mesa-area sand sports businesses. The Duner's Survival Kit is one of the ASA's most popular public safety programs. The ASA is furnishing the kit materials for Josh and his troop free of charge.

Josh outlined his project at the Mesa Dune Information Meeting which was held on February 10th at Kenz' Cycle Tech in Mesa AZ. The 250 attendees enthusiastically supported Josh's project and many plan to travel to the dunes that weekend to lend a hand.

Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is a monumental effort--according to the Boy Scouts of America only 4 in 100 scouts are awarded Eagle Scout. Many ASA members are current or former scouts, with our own fair share of Eagles in ASA leadership positions. We at the ASA heartily endorse Josh's efforts and strongly encourage our members to participate in his clean up efforts and make his Eagle Scout project a success!

HELP WANTED

The ASA can use good dependable people with leadership qualities for various projects.

Contact Jim Colln at 562-866-2248

volunteers@americansandassociation.org or
membership@americansandassociation.org for
questions pertaining to membership

Family Values from previous page

cannot ride with us.

Whether we're talking about off roading, water skiing, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, mountain climbing, equestrian retreats or fishing trips, outdoor activities bring families together in a way much different than other family events. These events allow families to bond in a way that can't be done from simply staying in the same hotel. Camping, riding, and eating together for a couple dozen days a year provides a unique opportunity to teach, demonstrate, and reinforce Family Values. This is an opportunity that rarely exists in the normal daily city life.

And now you can understand why we feel passionately that our public lands should stay open to outdoor recreation. A small group of environmental extremists are determined to shut down all of these outdoor activities in order to afford plants and animals 100% domain over all of the outdoors. While a noble cause on the surface there are consequences, such as losing the opportunity for Family time described above. We too care about the environment and have found the best way to teach respect of plants and animals is to live amongst them. Environmental responsibility is best taught in the field, not the classroom. This has been known by the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other outdoor organizations that have always followed mottos like "Leave the area cleaner than when you arrived".

The next time you are confronted with the proposal to close public lands please remember that the outdoors provide a unique opportunity for many families to bond and instill Family Values. The American Indians have taught us that Man can live in harmony with nature. The best way to teach this to our children is to show by example.

ASA Calendars Half Price

\$5 plus shipping

Make your check payable to the ASA
and mail to:

Flo Haynes

11419 Daybreak Trail

Moreno Valley CA 92557

e-mail: MVFloMo@aol.com

New Year's Message From the ASA Board of Directors

Dear Fellow ASA Members,

The excitement and potential of a new year are upon us. This first year of the twenty-first century was a trying one for our nation and for the off-road community. We are rising to the challenges before us and looking forward to entering the New Year with pride in our achievements and personal strengths.

The Board of Directors and key volunteers would like to take a few moments to reflect on 2001, a year that saw the initiation of many important programs and projects for our membership.

Providing opposition to closure and restrictions of sand sport recreation areas has continued to be a major emphasis in 2001 and is for the future. During 2001 the following activities were completed or commenced:

- Lawsuit against the BLM
- Conducted scientific study of Pierson's MilkVetch plant
- Filed petition to de-list the Pierson's MilkVetch plant
- Retained political lobbyist
- Instituted public safety awareness program
- Assisted Oceano Dunes legal battle

The engagement of our law firm Procopio, Hargreaves, Cory and Savitch, LLP and the commissioning of a scientific study of the Pierson's MilkVetch by Tom Olsen and Associates demonstrates the ASA's ongoing commitment for protection and enhancement of our recreational areas.

During the first half of 2001, the ASA was less than one year old. Before and after the first anniversary in June the ASA saw the ongoing development of membership, volunteer efforts and the commencement of planning for the future. In addition to a phenomenal membership growth many businesses joined our ranks as supporters.

We feel 2001 was a successful year because a number of important projects were initiated and continue. The success achieved by the ASA would not have been possible without the dedication of volunteers who have spent untold hours working towards maintaining our right to enjoy off-road vehicle recreation in our sand dunes. We, as volunteers ourselves, know the value of their work. Without their dedication, pride, and commitment in carrying out the mission of ASA, our achievements would not have been possible.

We continue to be faced with the challenges of a continued fight to keep our riding areas open. The year 2002 and beyond present the same obstacles and struggles that brought about the formation of ASA. We will continue our efforts on the legal battlefield and perform scientific studies as necessary. Your continued involvement and financial support is crucial to the fight.

The first challenge of 2002 is the Recreational Management Plan (RAMP) for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area. Soon to be released in draft form by the Bureau of Land Management, the RAMP is the single most important item that will influence the management of the ISDRA. By law you have the right to review and comment on the proposed RAMP. Everyone who visits the ISDRA, from Buttercup to Glamis and Mammoth Wash, should review and comment on how the BLM proposes to manage the dunes.

In meeting this critical need for citizen input on the RAMP, the ASA has organized a workshop to be attended by OHV leadership from throughout California and Arizona. From there, the ASA will organize special info meetings for all to attend to learn about the RAMP and how to respond to it.

Lastly, to commence the steps necessary to ensure that ASA continues to meet its mission statement during 2002, the ASA will strive, among other things, to enhance fund raising activities, improve responsiveness to membership, and increase newsletter frequency.

Thank You for your Support

ASA Board of Directors

Jerry Seaver, President
Bob Mason
Mark Harms
Grant George
Keith Rosewitz

In the beginning . . .
Congress created House Resolution 488
By Tracie Sullivan 08.31.01

Many people have never heard about the Wildlands Project, and for those who have, even fewer believe Congress would implement such a drastic and extreme measure. In fact, upon hearing the information about this environmental plan for the first time - most dismiss it.

They can't fathom that anyone would propose locking up more than 50 percent of the North America continent solely for the purpose of allowing wild life to roam freely undisturbed by man's presence.

Environmentalists envision the entire western civilization confined to clustered communities surrounded by restricted wilderness areas. This plan would eliminate traditional outdoor activities customary to westerners, blocking us from ever enjoying the landscape anywhere but from afar. In fact, if truth be known most wildland supporters would largely prefer if Homo-sapiens became an extinct species.

This environmental idea, while seemingly preposterous, has the financial backing of huge grant-making foundations and now retains the support of 77 Congressional representatives who have signed on to House Resolution 488, Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA). A Republican-sponsored bill, NREPA proposes to buy up private property, expand national park boundaries and create new wilderness areas from Oregon to Wyoming.

The bill unequivocally lays the ground work for the Wildlands Project. In fact the sponsor, Rep. Christopher Shays, doesn't even try to conceal his intent in the 703 sections of the document.

The title of the bill reads: "To designate as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national park and preserve study areas, wild land recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors certain public lands in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming, and for other purposes."

In plain language, this means - to lock up the land.

Shays explains the legislation on his web page as follows: "It would increase protection of approximately 20 million acres of public land in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington and Oregon.

The bill includes five types of land protection: (1) new protection for roaded national forest land, (2) new protection for unroaded national forest land, (3) new Wilderness Area designations, (4) new National Park Study Areas, and (5) Wildland Recovery Area."

Shays, who received a 100 percent score card in 1999 from the League of Conservation Voters - an environmental watchdog group that keeps track of politicians, has introduced H.R. 488 several times before. It has never made it past the Resources Committee until this year under Chairman Jim Hansen (R-UT).

When asked by the Sierra Times, how much NREPA would cost to implement, Shay's press secretary Katie Levinson did not appear to want to answer any questions and said the bill did not have a fiscal note attached to it "yet."

Levinson obviously inconvenienced by the phone call also said, she would email information about the bill Monday afternoon. It has not yet arrived. She also wanted to know this reporter worked for the media before saying anything, evidently she didn't want to talk to the "people."

Nevertheless, Shay's web site doesn't show any financial obligations but rather "research" on how it will provide a net savings to the U.S. Treasury of \$100 million over the first ten years by prohibiting deficit roadbuilding and timber sale programs in sensitive roadless areas.

What Shays doesn't reveal, is how much it's going to cost to buy up the private property. Neither does he disclose what it will take to maintain the "Wildlands," and just how the government plans to finance it all, once the taxpayers of these states have disappeared in desperation to find employment. Although, according to Shay's information, the bill would also create over 2,300 jobs, "restoring damaged ecosystems--jobs that protect watersheds, promote flood protection, and restore wildlife and fish habitat."

With the year almost over, it's unlikely this bill will get through in 2001 but westerners can rest assured it will come back - along with CARA, which is the bill that will ultimately fund NREPA. Under CARA more than \$350 billion is appropriated for buying up private lands.

While Hansen hasn't signed on as a cosponsor to H.R. 488, it's almost certain he supports it, since he let it out of the committee. When the Sierra Times asked Hansen's office why the congressman endorses CARA, the aide referred to a clause in the bill that states the federal government can only acquire property by either, a "willing seller," or an act of congress. Speaking on behalf of Hansen, he went on to explain Hansen believes this clause will "protect" private property owners by not allowing the government to "take" their property. Well, either does the constitution without just compensation but it doesn't stop them.

Regardless, NREPA would provide the act of congress Hansen refers to. If passed, this legislation would guarantee the government could acquire private property to preserve the biospheres and ecosystems listed in the bill. Of course, it's a mute point since contrary to what Shay argues, the passage of H.R. 488 would entirely shut down the western economy, making "willing sellers" anyway.

Shays might do well to follow the lead of his colleague, Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT), who left the Republican party this last spring. With the respect of the environmentalists who favor wiping out the entire west, he might want to reconsider his status as a Republican and the platform he represents. The last time I checked the party's position on the environment clearly supported "conservation management," not land grabs.

As for the other Republican cosponsors of NREPA, most of them live in the east and the ones who don't, live in other states besides the ones mentioned in the bill. Amusing. I wonder why not one congressman in Oregon, Wyoming, Montana or Idaho would support H.R. 488.

You would think the men who signed on to this bill might ask the people of these states what they want, rather than assume they "know what's best." It's amazing however, the politicians who believe they have more knowledge than the people they represent. Rep. Chris Cannon (RUT) pretty much summed it up when he told the Utah Republicans at their recent convention, "You just don't understand what's going on in Washington D.C." Cannon was speaking out against a proposed resolution that opposed granting amnesty to illegal aliens.

Cannon, Shays and the others need a loud wake-up call. Remember boys - you are only "Public Servants" - elected by the people and for the people.

of management in the Imperial Sand Dunes... within the framework of the California Desert Plan. The RAMP presents a coordinated implementation strategy ...”

“Through this coordinated and systematic approach, the RAMP will establish a framework within the which the Bureau can provide for a wide range of recreation opportunities while protecting the sensitive resources of the Imperial Sand Dunes.”

How the BLM plans to manage the ISDRA could affect the way we enjoy the dunes. By law the BLM must submit their plan to the public so they can comment on the plan. If we as visitors and users disagree with the plan we are afforded the opportunity by way of public meetings to recommend changes. On the other hand if the plan is acceptable and beneficial to us then we must comment and recommend approval to protect the plan from attack by radical environmentalists.

If we do not review and express our wishes on the management of the ISDRA we will have to accept a plan that may not be in our own best interests.

The last such plan for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area (ISDRA) was published in July 1987. A revision of the 1987 plan was underway in 2000 and was delayed due to the radical environmentalist lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity. It is almost ready for release and environmental concerns will play a critical role in the current RAMP. Other issues such, as capacity of the ISDRA and law enforcement will, undoubtedly, be addressed as never before. During the public meetings in 2000 citizen participation and input was at a much greater level than in 1987. However, a great deal of the input at that time was not relevant to the process. This process is on a much broader scale than dealing with issues such as where trash dumpsters should be placed. Citizen input must be relevant and meaningful within the scope of strategic planning. This year will be different.

UNITE

The ASA has hired an experienced professional to conduct a workshop that will be attended by key volunteers and OHV leadership from other groups. This workshop will review the RAMP and develop response strategies. This seminar will

result in a unified, relevant and meaningful response to the RAMP that you will be able to use when you attend the BLM public meetings.

After the OHV Leadership workshop, the ASA will conduct special info meetings to get you ready to make your response. Attend these meetings and the BLM public input meetings. Write letters. Encourage your friends to be involved. Be ready for a call to action.

MOBILIZE

We will provide Information on how to obtain a copy of the RAMP when it is available. The draft of the RAMP is expected In March. The BLM public comment meetings will likely be in April. We will notify of these meetings as soon as we get that information.

(If you would like to volunteer to organize one of these meetings, contact Jim Colln at 562-866-2248 or volunteers@americansandassociation.org)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ISDRA - Saturday March 2, 2002 at Pair-A- Dice 3rd Annual Gordon's Well and Buttercup Area Clean Up

ASA Raptor Giveaway – drawings for other prizes.

ISDRA - March 16- Comp Hill Cleanup

ISDRA - March 16 Buttercup Comp

Eagle Scout Project

ISDRA - March 29- Olds Hill Cleanup

Sand Mountain - Saturday, August 31, 2002 (Labor Day Weekend).

Second annual cleanup

Boundary Markers

Even though we aren't in favor of the closures and it is not our job to make sure the boundaries are well marked, we have to keep in mind the big picture.

If there are too many incursions into the closed areas, we are the ones that lose. There are weekly flyovers that the Environmentalists use to document illegal entry into the areas that are off limits to motorized vehicles.

The bottom line is that if you see markers that are down, stand them back up

It's up to us – it shouldn't be, but it is.

American Sand Association
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La Verne, CA 91750

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WHO SAID THERE AIN'T NO FREE LUNCH IN LIFE?

Saturday, March 2, will mark the 3rd annual Gordon's Well and Buttercup Cleanup and Poker Run. This same Cleanup was organized the last 2 years by Beth Eggan and Team BOHICA - our sincerest thanks for getting the ball rolling. This year it is sponsored and organized by KD Cycle and Pair-A-Dice.

Also making this year different is the ASA Give Away of a brand new, tricked out Yamaha Raptor. The value of this spectacular dune machine is estimated to be well over \$13,000.00. Details can be found at

<http://www.glamisonline.org/html/asaSponsors/RaptorGiveaway.shtml>

Raptor Give Away tickets are on sale now at Pair-A-Dice and our web site. Look for the ASA trailer the day of the Cleanup to purchase Raptor tickets, ASA hats, tee shirts, and more. All proceeds go to the costly efforts to keep our sand dunes open - please do your part.

The Cleanup and Poker Run start at 7:00 am California time and go until noon.

After the Cleanup, there will be a **free hamburger** (drink not provided) at Pair-A-Dice courtesy of the Howard's that own Pair-A-Dice. After the burger on the house, there will be several other prizes given away in addition to the Raptor.

To register in Buttercup, look for the KD Cycle trailer. At Gordon's Well, register at Pair-A-Dice.

For more info or to donate prizes, contact Lynn at Pair-A-Dice or Kathy at 928-329-1908.

NEXT MAJOR GIVEAWAY TO BE ANNOUNCED AT PAIR-A-DICE

ASA RAMP info meetings to be held in March and April – dates and places to be announced. It is vital you plan to attend one of these meetings – Your Right to Ride depends on it.