

American Sand Association

Visit our web site at:

WWW.

americansandassociation.org



Contact us at

1911 Foothill Blvd.

PMB 108

La Verne, Ca. 91750

May 2002

Volume 2

Issue 2

UNITE, INFORM, AND MOBILIZE TO KEEP OUR DUNES OPEN

BLM Proposes Sweeping Changes to Dunes Management Plan

DUNE CLOSURES AT THE ISDRA ARE STILL IN EFFECT.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) periodically develops plans for managing the land and resources under their control. They do this by publishing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The BLM has just released the latest DEIS that pertains to the ISDRA. In it are 4 plans - each one being an option. Each is known as a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP). One of the plans is chosen as the preferred alternative. This document is very important and requires action by you. It is important to understand what the RAMP is and what it means to you.

As stated by the BLM: "The RAMP represents an overall strategy for utilizing limited funding to meet the challenges 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 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 we can comment on it. If we as visitors and users disagree with the plan, we are afforded the opportunity by way of public meetings and a 90-day written comment period 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 may have to accept a plan that may not be in our own best interests.

At this time, the plan preferred by the BLM is alt. No. 2 includes the following::

- * **RIDING IN CENTRAL DUNES BY PERMIT ONLY**-only 525 vehicles per week to be allowed ([chapter 2 pg. 7](#))
- * **CURFEWS AT ALL MAJOR HILLS** ([chapter 4 pg. 26 sec4.3.1. and chapter 2 pg 6 table 2-1](#))
- * **ALCOHOL BAN** ([chapter 4 pg. 26 sec4.3.1. and chapter 2 pg 6 table 21](#))
- * **CAMPING RESTRICTIONS AND CAPACITY LIMITS**-limit of 55,998 visitors ([chapter 4 pg. 6](#))
- * **ENVIRONMENTAL DUNE USE TEST REQUIRED** ([chapter 2 pg. 7](#))
- * **REOPENING ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE TEMPORARY CLOSURES** ([see ROS sections](#))
- * **SUSPEND ALL OPERATIONS IF WIND GUSTS EXCEED 25 MPH**([chapter 4 pg. 101](#))
- * **SUSPEND ALL OHV OPERATIONS DURING SECOND STAGE SMOG ALERTS** ([chapter 4 pg. 101](#))

By now, you hopefully have been to a BLM meeting and are questioning what to do next to save our dunes. The next step is to develop and submit comments that the BLM will consider in revising the Draft Recreation Area Management Plan (DRAMP) and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The BLM is required by law to consider and respond to our comments so WE CANNOT TAKE THIS LIGHTLY.

The ASA, in conjunction with the other off road groups, have compiled many thoughts on what our comments should be. These thoughts must be structured and presented in such a way that the BLM accepts them as valid comments - we will walk you through that at the info meetings listed below.

If you want to proceed on your own, you need to know that your comments must refer specifically to the DEIS and NOT the DRAMP to be formally considered and responded to by BLM. You will need to consider the following:

- * Refer specifically to the DEIS chapter, page, table and/or the figure if possible in your comments
- * If you oppose a particular item or action offer an alternative for consideration
- * If you favor a particular action be sure you say so
- * Originally worded comments are more meaningful than a form letter.
- * It is NOT meaningful to simply say we need more trash containers, better law enforcement, or the like. Your comments must be more specific and must have a reasonable opportunity for successful implementation. You need to elaborate on the why and how behind your comment.

Where possible, comments on the DRAMP must specifically refer to the appropriate DEIS chapter, page, table and/or figure to be formally considered. **The enclosed form will help you to structure and send in your comments.**

Legible hand written comments will be acceptable. *Please copy form on page 3 and send to BLM*

REMEMBER: the final EIS and RAMP will provide the PLAN for running the ISDRA for the next 10 to 15 years. In its present form, the plan contains many restrictions and many ways to lock us out of the dunes. We are in a very good position to influence the final plan. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

Please plan to attend one of these meetings - your right to ride depends on it.

April 28- 2pm
Richard's ATV
7012 N 56 Ave.
Glendale, AZ 623 939 3181

June 6- 7:00pm
Funco Motorsports
1280 N. Fitzgerald Ave. Unit F
Rialto, CA 909-421-2558

June 20- 7:00pm
Sand Tires Unlimited
42198 Avendia Alvarado
Temecula, CA. 92590

May 2- 7pm
El Cajon Chamber of Commerce
195 E. Douglas Ave.
El Cajon, CA.

June 8- 2:00pm
Orange County Fairgrounds
Building 17
Costa Mesa, CA.

May 9- 7:00pm
Escondido Community Center
2245 E. Valley Parkway
Escondido, CA.

All meetings may not have enough chairs to go around. Please bring your own.

May 11- 1pm
Tatum Motorsports
8741 N 79th Ave
Peoria, AZ. 623 979-0808

May 15- 7:00pm
Mission Valley Scottish Rite Center
1895 Camino Del Rio S.
Mission Valley, CA.

May 21- 7:00pm
El Torito Mexican Restaurant & Cantina
2020 E Ball Rd.
Anaheim, Ca. 714956-4880

May 23- 7:00pm
Long Beach Motorsports
3291 Cherry Ave.
Long Beach CA. 562-427-2779 Bob or Moe

June 1- 2:00pm
Di-Tec Int.
1850 Lucky Lane
Simi Valley CA. 93063

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Protect Your right to ride.

ASA FILES INTENT TO SUE

As you may recall, on October 24, 2001, The ASA, The SDORC, and ORBA filed a petition with the Secretary of the Interior to remove the Pierson's milk-vetch (PMV) from the list of Threatened and Endangered Species.

We did so because the PMV is the excuse for the closures in the Imperial Sand Dunes, and because recent studies indicate the survivability of the PMV is not in jeopardy.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires that, within 90 days of receiving the petition, the Secretary make findings whether the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating the PMV should be removed from the list.

As of March 19, the Secretary had not done so. The Secretary had until January 24, 2002 to make the findings and thus failed to meet the 90-day deadline. Therefore, our attorney David Hubbard has sent to the Secretary the legally required 60-day notice of intent to sue. We intend to sue the Department of the Interior, the Secretary herself, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Again, this will be a joint action with ORBA and The SDORC.

This is going to get interesting... and very, very expensive. Stay tuned, and get out your checkbook.

Our press release follows.

Press Release – American Sand Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Sand Association

PMB 108

1911 Foothill Blvd

La Verne, CA 91750

DATE: 3/24/2002, Phoenix AZ

HEADLINE:

Sand Sports Group Fights Misuse of Endangered Species Act

BODY:

The American Sand Association filed a 60-day "Notice of Intent to Sue" last Thursday charging the US Department of Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service with failing to respond within the 90-day time limit to a petition for removing the Pierson's Milkvetch from the Endangered Species List. The DOI acknowledged receipt of the de-listing petition on October 25, 2001 making the expiration date January 24, 2002. The ASA filed the petition to de-list the Pierson's Milkvetch after receiving the results of a scientific study performed by Hemet, CA based Thomas Olsen and Associates, a well-respected, independent environmental science firm.

The study was performed on behalf of the American Sand Association in order to provide independent science data on the Pierson's Milkvetch and other desert plants that would stand up to detailed scrutiny by other scientists and the US Government.

A settlement of a lawsuit filed by PEER, the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity in 1999 forced the Bureau of Land Management to temporarily close 49,000 acres of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area to off-highway vehicle use in order to protect the Pierson's Milkvetch and its habitat. "The original listing of the Pierson's Milkvetch was based on data from a study that was later shown to be flawed," said Jerry Seaver, ASA President and Phoenix resident. Seaver also stated that the ASA had to find a way to force the DOI to re-consider the listing of the plant and to force them to use valid science, and this is only one of a few ways it can be done. When a species is added to the Endangered Species List it is not automatically removed if further study indicates it should not have been listed in the first place. With the faulty study removed from consideration and the new data showing the abundance of plants, the ASA argues that the Pierson's Milkvetch does not require protected status and the temporary closures should be lifted immediately.

The Olsen study includes a detailed plant census that was performed in 2001. The census identified over 71,000 individual plants in the open-to-OHV areas of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, and locates each area with GPS coordinates. The biologists were not allowed to enter the ISDRA's temporary closure areas with their equipment to perform a ground-study so they were forced to estimate the populations from aerial surveys. The aerial survey estimate in the report "appeared to be similar in number and abundance of plants to adjacent open areas." Additionally, the report states, "less than 1% of the plants located had been affected by OHVs," which is in line with every statement made by OHV enthusiasts.

The Olsen report further states in the conclusion that "OHVs do not appear to be a threat to the health of the Algodones Dunes population of milkvetch, which flourished in 2001 in areas that were open as well as closed to OHV use."

Oceano Update

by
Gerard Forgnone

Well, it's been about 10 months now since we started Friends of Oceano Dunes, and things have really come a long way!
Here's an update on our progress.

A wealthy absentee landlord held up the grading of the Pier Avenue sand ramp last Memorial Day weekend. Some of you may remember having to drive your motorhomes over to the Grand Avenue ramp to access your public beach that weekend. FoOD entered into the fray, and helped State Parks secure an emergency grading permit, and then testified in front of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to help get the regular grading permit.

The CCC, tired of hearing all the complaints of how State Parks never listens to the extreme environmentalist's suggestions about how to raise wildlife in an off-road park, created a Technical Review Team (TRT), made up of various citizens who have an interest in the park and how it is operated. FoOD Co-President Jim Suty is the OHV representative on the TRT, along with Cal 4WD member Suzy Johnson. Included in the TRT are reps from the Sierra Club, local residents, San Luis Obispo County government, local businesses, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Game, California State Parks OHV Division, Oceano Dunes SVRA management, a CCC rep, and a few other interested parties.

I've been to four of these meetings, and it's a sight to see. The members of the TRT are tasked with forming a consensus opinion to give recommendations to ODSVRA management and report to the CCC, but it seems to me that the Sierra Club is there just to halt all the work. I say this because their rep just seems to complain about every little item that comes up. At the last meeting, it took an hour just to change the name of a report referenced in a letter to the CCC. One could have easily called the report "XYZ Report," but the Sierra Club rep just wouldn't agree to anything anyone suggested. The other folks, out of respect that seems to be undeserved, kept their mouths shut and moved along with resolve.

On a positive note, FoOD held a fantastically successful informational rally in Hanford February 9 that attracted approximately 2000 concerned citizens. There were prizes of all sizes, from t-shirts to paddle tires to a sandrail frame! It was impressive, from both sides of the microphone. We got the attendees informed of the real problems facing our favorite park, and through their generous donations, we are now able to hire lawyers, biologists, and lobbyists to further our cause and motto: Access For All.

What's ahead? A big fight with extreme environmentalists. The Sierra Club, through the Environmental Defense Center, has filed a lawsuit in U.S. Federal Court demanding the ODSVRA be shut down until it can comply with what they say is the proper way to run a park...for wildlife, not for people. Their lawsuit, if held up by the judge, will close the beach entirely. Yep, the whole park will be closed if the Sierra Club gets what it wants.

The only way this will NOT occur is for you and me and everyone in favor of citizens' access to their own land to fight the extreme environmentalists by writing letters to elected officials, the California Coastal Commission, and by supporting groups that are out there fighting for your rights. If you feel strong enough about this situation to do something, contact Friends of Oceano Dunes at P.O. Box 398, Oceano, CA 93445, call us at 805-788-4926, or visit our website at www.oceanodunes.org.

Gerard Forgnone
Friends of Oceano Dunes

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ASA
AND ARE USED TO KEEP OUR
SAND DUNES OPEN**



BACK



FRONT

**T-SHIRTS WHITE
SIZES: 10/12-14/16-S-M-L-XL**

\$10.00

SIZES: 2XL-3XL-4XL

\$13.00

T-SHIRTS GRAY

S-M-L-XL \$10.00

2XL-3XL-4XL \$13.00



**ASA VIDEO
Peirson's Milk-Vetch
Facts by ASA
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OR \$5.00 EA.**



BACK



FRONT

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LETTERS
BLACK BILL
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aSa
AmericanSandAssociation.org
APPAREL & ACCESSORIES



BACK

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FRONT

**ASH HOODED SWEATSHIRTS
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ASA APPAREL & ACCESSORIES ORDER FORM

ITEM	COLOR	QUANTITY	SIZE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL PRICE

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 MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ASA.

ORDER ON LINE AT
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 EMAIL ORDER TO:
MVFLOMO@AOL.COM

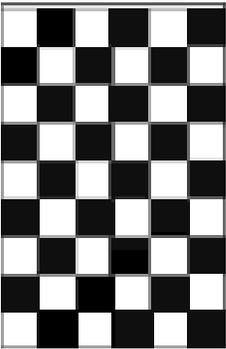
SUB TOTAL \$ _____
 SHIPPING \$ 5.00
 DONATION \$ _____
 TOTAL \$ _____



ASA METAL SPEED SIGN \$20.00



BASIC BUSINESS SPONSOR KIT \$50.00



CHECKERED FLAG \$5.00



22" X 72" ASA BANNER \$35.00

DIE CUT DECALS



AmericanSandassociation.org
 WHITE OR BLACK
 11" LONG BY 4" WIDE
\$5.00



2' WHITE \$15.00
3' BLACK \$20.00
6' BLACK \$35.00
 GOOD FOR TRAILER
 SEE BELOW



Sand Mountain Press Release

Headline:

Off-roaders join forces with BLM to cleanup Sand Mountain, NV

Body:

Sand Mountain Recreation Area, NV - March 30, 2002 - Off-road enthusiasts joined forces with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to pick up trash at the popular off-road recreation area outside of Fallon, Nevada. The event was organized by the non-profit organization Friends of Sand Mountain.

"This is just another example of the partnership between the BLM and off-roaders." said Jon Crowley, president of the Friends of Sand Mountain. BLM supplied trash bags and the dumpsters for the event, and off-roaders provided the manpower. "The off-road community wants to show that we care about the environment too." Crowley added.

The Friends of Sand Mountain will hold its' next cleanup on Labor Day weekend. "This will be our second annual event for Labor Day weekend. We had a great turnout for our first cleanup and hope to expand on its' success. We are planning to have raffle prizes and possibly some events for the weekend." Crowley said. Businesses interested in donating prizes for the raffle, should contact Jon Crowley at (530) 677-1651. Individuals and clubs are encouraged to join in and help out with the event.

About the Friends of Sand Mountain

The Friends of Sand Mountain is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the use of Sand Mountain Recreation Area lands for off-road enthusiasts' use, improving OHV safety and promoting responsible land use. Additional information can be found on our web site at www.SandMountain-NV.org.

Fees Coming to Sand Mountain

From BLM Web Site

As part of the Recreation Fee Demonstration program authorized by Congress in 1996, the Bureau of Land Management will begin collecting fees at Sand Mountain Recreation Area in the fall of 2002. One of the main benefits of this program is that up to 100% of the fees collected at Sand Mountain will be reinvested on site.

Providing recreation opportunities and facilities at SMRA costs money. In the past, Congressionally appropriated dollars have been the chief source of funding for recreation services. Efforts to control Federal spending have meant that our recreation budget has not kept pace with the growing public demand. As a result, reduced operations and customer service needs at Sand Mountain Recreation Area are a growing concern.

Initial plans for fee revenues collected at Sand Mountain will focus on visitor services, facility improvements, maintenance and resource protection. We would like to hear your ideas on how fees can best be used at Sand Mountain to make it a cleaner, safer and a more enjoyable place to recreate. Please take a look at the following Fee Schedule and let us know if you believe the proposed fees are reasonable:

Proposed Fee Schedule for Sand Mountain Recreation Area

Use Fee	\$15/week/unit or , \$30/year/unit (annual pass)
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If you would like to comment or provide suggestions on the fee program being implemented at Sand Mountain, please submit written comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701 or e-mail us at: c50mille@nv.blm.gov Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee program, please contact Chris Miller, Fee Site Manager at (775) 885-6000. 1. A Use Fee will be required for all units entering the OHV Open Area. 2. A unit is defined as a registered street-legal vehicle and if attached, a trailer, vehicle in tow, 5th wheel, etc. [Return to the Carson City Field Office Home Page](#) [Return to the Carson City Field Office Text Only Home Page](#)

"Content of this article is wholly provided by the author, is printed unedited, and may not necessarily be the position of the ASA."

Dear ASA Member

This article is to advise you of our need for funding to continue the fight to keep the Imperial Sand Dunes open. As you know, closures are the result of a settlement between the BLM, environmental groups, and off-road groups.

Those closures are because the Pierson's Milk vetch (PMV) was listed as an Threatened Species. The survey data that was used to list the plant was later found by the BLM to be flawed. However, the closures are still a threat because, once listed, a species remains listed unless challenged in court. To challenge a listing is very expensive.

The good news is that the ASA is challenging the listing. The US Department of Interior has 12 months from the time of filing to act on it. While we hope that the PMV will be de-listed, we must also be prepared for another legal fight this fall. The bad news is that we could be required to sue again at the end of the 12-month limit to force the DOI to act.

Recently you may have seen a press release from the ASA announcing that we have filed a "60-day Notice of Intent to Sue". You have to let the government know that you will be suing them 60 days before you actually file. We consider this mainly a "shot across the bow" of the DOI to let them know we are serious-they have yet to respond to our de-listing petition in any way even though they should have said something to us after 90 days.

The ASA's original lawsuit filed against the BLM charged that they did not follow the law when implementing the closures. While keeping the closures in place, the BLM "fast tracked" the proper hearings and studies and, in a neat legal two-step, effectively rendered our lawsuit "moot". However, the lawsuit was very effective in two things: 1) establishing the ASA as a force to be reckoned with; and 2) getting the results of the Thomas Olson Associates' report on the PMV "on the record." If you haven't already heard, the PMV report was in itself very expensive and we will have to sponsor more biological studies in the future.

The new Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) is already being violently protested by the Environmentalist groups. The plan looks very bad for us. Based on what we have seen so far, it appears there could be many lawsuits against the BLM yet again. Of course, the ASA would involve itself as appropriate in any litigation, either against or with the BLM depending on the circumstances.

All of this has taken an extraordinary amount of money to do. Lawyers and biologists do not come cheap. Nevertheless, there is light at the end of the tunnel. We are winning, that is why the environmentalists are using scare tactics instead of valid arguments.

The ASA needs your financial support now more than ever. We are asking each member of the ASA to help us continue the fight for our rights to use public land. If each member gave only \$20.00, we would have a 'war chest' of ready funds that would be used in the fight. If you have donated in the past; time, money, or materials-we gratefully thank you. Any amount of financial support you can provide to fund this upcoming legal fight is appreciated. Tax season is upon us, and many of us will be getting a refund check. Can the ASA count on you?

Please send whatever you can to:
The American Sand Association
1911 Foothill Blvd PMB 108
La Verne CA 91750

With Warmest Regards,
The Board of Directors
American Sand Association

(donations are not tax deductible)

Editorial by Tim Wight

I never wanted to be an activist...

I was just like many of you!

I wanted to go to work, spend time with my family, and enjoy my time off riding my OHV.

I didn't want to be involved and join a club. Heck, I had a large enough group of riding buddies to ride with.

I didn't want to spend my hard earned money on political contributions or donations for legal funds to keep riding areas open as I could use that money to add parts to my ride.

I didn't want to spend my time volunteering to help OHV organizations, contacting OHV enthusiasts or businesses, and attending meetings as I could spend that time riding.

I just wanted to live my life and have fun. I stood by while the eco-extremists quietly whittled away at one little riding area after another. "Let someone else who has more time or money work to keep my riding areas open. Let more experienced people be involved", I thought as I had never done anything political before.

Then, towards the end of Bill Clinton's term, I started to hear about MAJOR riding closures at the dunes and in Arizona (Cinders??), the possible banning of PWCs at Lake Powell, the banning of snowmobiles at Yellowstone park, etc and decided there is a major campaign by eco-extremists to annihilate motorized recreation.

So, I started researching these topics on the Internet and found that the eco cancer was malignant and was gobbling up huge areas of our public lands. These eco groups are well funded, well led, and have been setting their agenda for decades. They don't let trivial things like facts, fairness, or people's livelihoods get in their way.

That's when I started becoming INVOLVED! I joined as many pro-recreation groups as I could and volunteered my time with the American Sand Association as I ride mainly in the dunes. (I'm starting to desert ride again too.)

I hope you can understand why I became an OHV activist. I don't expect everyone to become as involved as me, BUT, I do hope everyone who has an OHV try's to educate themselves, and others, about the issues.

Land closures affect us all and we all need to take a stand together. If a riding area closes in California, Maine, or here in Arizona, it affects us all. If we, as OHV enthusiasts, don't collectively stand together to tell the government that we demand a fair amount of public land to pursue our chosen recreational activity, we will eventually lose ALL our riding opportunities. It may take 20-50 years, but the ecos are patient people.

The reason for this post is to explain why I post the things I do. I am not trying to place blame or make anyone feel uncomfortable about their involvement in OHV issues. Everyone has to decide for themselves when it is important to be involved and for what cause. I just hope it is not too late for OHV recreation.

I never wanted to be an activist...but someone has too...

(The above statement is my own opinion and not that of the ASA's.)

Tim Wight

Mesa, AZ.

Ignorance and Apathy are just as dangerous as an environmentalist with a cause and a lawyer!

Quote

"The establishment of an American Soviet government will involve the confiscation of large landed estates in town and country, and also, the whole body of forests, mineral deposits, lakes, rivers and so on."

-William Z. Foster

National Chairman of the Communist Party, USA, 1932

WIN WIN WIN WIN WIN WIN

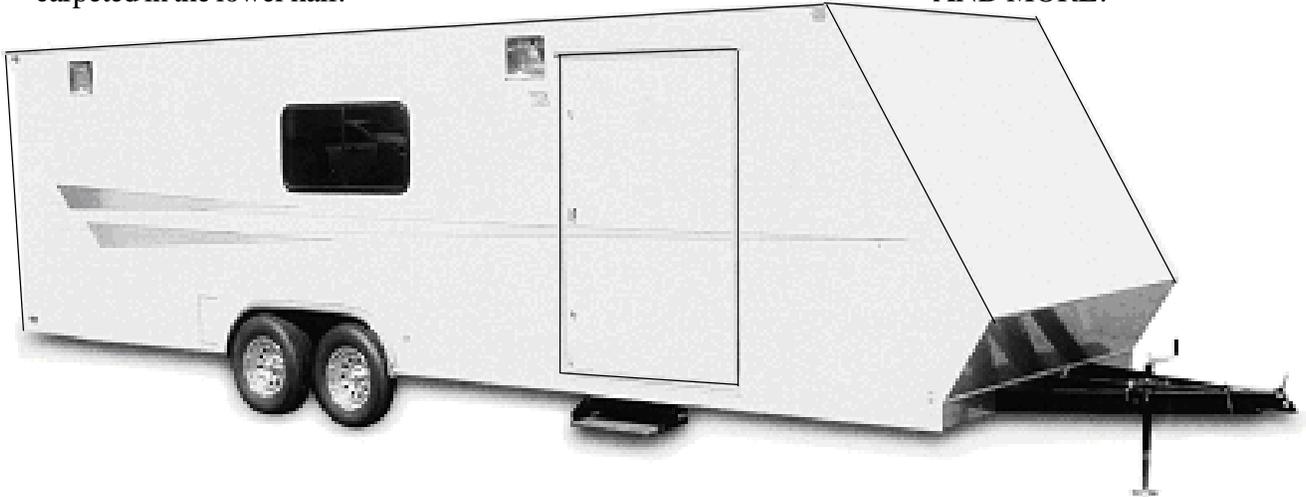
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- 2 folding bed/couches
- A&E Side Awning
- AND MORE!



TICKETS: \$25.00 ea.

**100% of ticket sales go to the ASA for the fight to
"KEEP OUR DUNES OPEN"**

- ◆ **Giveaway to be held Sunday, September 22, 2002 at Sand Sports Show.**
- ◆ **Must be 18 years or older to win. No purchase necessary.**
- ◆ **ASA Board Members and Principals of Sport Trailers and their family's are not eligible.**
- ◆ **Winner responsible for all taxes and registration fees.**
- ◆ **Winner need not be present to win.**

To enter send a SASE and \$25.00 for each entry to:

ASA sports TRailer Giveaway, 3403 E. 69th., St, Long Brach, Ca. 90805 (Must be received by 9/13/02)

Check our our Web site at www.americansandassociation.org

Wanted: Vice-Chairman for ASA Endowment Committee

Feel especially great knowing you helped in the effort to get the stakes pulled at Glamis! The ASA needs someone who can donate a couple hours a week to assist the Endowment Chairman with the Sport Trailer Giveaway. The position, in the beginning would mostly entail filling out and mailing out ticket requests that are mailed in. This person would also assist in future decisions relating to major donations/giveaways. Please be either in the Long Beach or Whittier area. If interested contact Ron Scott at:

562-634-3783 or ron@lazerstar.net there are

many volunteer positions the ASA needs your help in: Please go to the ASA web site at: <http://www.americansandassociation.org/membership/index.html> to see where you can help save our dunes

Feel great about making a difference, volunteer today!

Also need volunteers for other positions. You can make a difference.

TRASH---PACK IT IN PACK IT OUT

