



Volume 3 Issue 3

# American Sand Association

1911 Foothill Blvd PMB 108

La Verne CA 91750

www.AmericanSandAssociation.org

August 2003

*Unite, Inform, and Mobilize*

## **New RAMP at ISDRA (Glamis) still DOES NOT Open 100% of the Dunes**

### A NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DUNES

By:  
Roy Denner

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released a new RAMP for the ISDRA. In plain language, that's a Recreation Area Management Plan for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. The following paragraphs summarize the key provisions of the RAMP in its final form.

**AREAS RE-OPENED FOR OHV USE:** Because of a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency concluding that OHV use in the ISDRA does not put the Peirson's Milk Vetch plant (PMV) in jeopardy of becoming extinct, **the areas that have been closed to OHV use may be reopened – with certain restrictions. The restrictions apply to the large central closure. This area, with slightly modified boundaries, will become an Adaptive Management Area (AMA). Vehicle use in this area will be limited** and the AMA will be monitored to determine if OHV activity actually affects the PMV, the Algodones Dunes Sunflower, the Sand Food plant, the Colorado Fringed Toed Lizard, the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard, and/or desert microphyll woodland vegetation. If impacts are determined to occur, recreational usage will be adjusted.

**A permit system will be established for the AMA.** A maximum of 75 groups of 7 vehicles each will be allowed into the AMA each day, from sunup to sundown, for a total maximum of 525 vehicles per day – only if each group contains 7 vehicles. Vehicle drivers will be required to complete a resource conservation program before permits will be issued. Non-OHV users will also be required to obtain a permit to go into the AMA but those permits will not be subtracted from the available OHV permits.

Although details of the permit system have not yet been worked out, the plan is to issue some type of identifying flag that will be flown below the standard whip flag. The permits will be issued only from the Cahuilla Ranger Station, so if you are camped at Dune Buggy Flats or Buttercup, you have a long trip to get a permit before you can ride in the AMA. In future years, up to 70% of the permits will be available by advance reservation.

A plan will be developed to establish temporary closures or curfews, as deemed necessary, for areas experiencing a high level of lawlessness. These areas may include, but are not limited to, Competition Hill – north and south, Oldsmobile Hill, Test Hill, Patton Valley, and the sand drags.

**VISITOR LIMITATIONS:** A very complicated system will be implemented in the ISDRA to measure the visitor usage relative to a calculated "visitor supply". If visitor usage exceeds visitor supply for more than a certain percentage for a certain number of days each year, various management actions will be taken. These actions range all the way from initiating education programs to differential fees for holidays and weekends to limiting the number of visitors allowed at any particular time.

**COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Between 80 and 100 permits are issued to vendors in the ISDRA at any given time. Vendor activities will be allowed 7 days a week during duning season with Thursday through Monday restrictions during off-season. Beginning in October 2003, the Gecko Road vending pad will be the only long term vending pad – 7 days per week during the season.

**CAMPING:** 15 additional acres along Gecko Road will be opened to camping with 60 new campsites. A pilot camping reservation system will be developed for the Roadrunner camping area. Osborne Overlook will remain open to camping (the draft Plan called for the construction of a new ranger station at Osborne Overlook).

1200 acres east of Glamis and the railroad tracks will be annexed into the ISDRA boundary and will be opened for camping. (25,600 acres east of the railroad tracks was closed to camping and OHV use last year).

**FEES:** A "Cost Recovery" system will be implemented in the ISDRA to determine camping fees. Recently the CA State Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Commission (managers of the Green Sticker Fund) voted to withhold \$1 million of traditional funding that has been provided to the ISDRA in past years to help fund the operation and maintenance. That decision, coupled with reductions in Federal funding, has severely cramped the BLM's ability to operate the ISDRA. As a result, camping fees will be determined, in the future, by the BLM's need to recover actual costs. BLM's only other option is to reduce OHV services and maintenance.

The new RAMP requires that non-OHV users pay fees to use the ISDRA – just like OHV recreationists.

**FACILITIES:** A new ranger station and a law enforcement facility will be built at the site of the existing Cahuilla Ranger Station. A communications facility and information kiosk will be located at Osborne Overlook. Information and interpretive kiosks will be installed at Gecko Road, Gecko Campground, and Roadrunner Campground. Pit toilets will be constructed at Glamis Flats between washes 4 – 6. Pit toilets will be constructed at Dunebuggy Flats and the road there will be graded regularly. Semi-permanent ranger and law enforcement facilities will be constructed at Buttercup. An environmental interpretive area will be designated at Buttercup to

educate the public.

**BUFFER ZONE:** The draft Plan called for a one-mile wide "Buffer Zone" around the entire ISDRA. No camping or OHV use would have been allowed in the Buffer Zone. The final Plan implements a one-mile wide "Planning Area". Within the Planning Area, vehicles are allowed on designated trails and very limited camping is allowed.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** A plan will be developed to ban alcoholic beverages outside of the designated camping areas if needed to maintain law and order.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This is where the story gets complicated. A period of 30 days is allowed after a Plan is released for concerned parties to "protest" the RAMP. The OHV community has engaged an attorney to protest certain provisions of the Plan. The anti-access-extremist groups, that were responsible for the closures in the first place, have indicated that they plan to sue the BLM to prevent the implementation of the RAMP. They have already filed a lawsuit in San Francisco to overturn Fish and Wildlife's ruling that OHV use does not jeopardize the PMV plant.

The OHV community has two separate lawsuits in process for the ISDRA. The first lawsuit demands that the closures at the ISDRA should come down right now because due process was not followed by the BLM when the closures were implemented. A Federal Judge in San Diego will be issuing his decision on this case any day now. [At the time of writing, this was the case, since then, we lost the suit. See article on page 7 – ed.] Whatever his decision is, one side or the other will undoubtedly appeal that decision. It is important that this lawsuit be continued to its conclusion since the decision will set case precedent.

The second OHV lawsuit is to remove the PMV from the endangered species list based on biological studies, funded by the OHV Community, that show the plant to be thriving in spite of OHV activity. The process for this lawsuit is very complicated and a decision from the court may not be reached before the fall, when the next season starts at the ISDRA.

Add to this the fact that the anti-access-extremists are now trying to get the Andrews dune scarab beetle – which they claim only exists at the ISDRA – added to the endangered species list and you have a legal picture which is about as complex and convoluted as it can be. **So all of the headlines and rumors that claim that the dunes are open again may just be a little premature.** In addition, as usual, the only players that are really benefiting from this game are the attorneys.

END OF ROY'S EXCELLENT ARTICLE – Thank you Roy!

The story picks up here: On July 8, a 60-day letter of intent to sue was filed on behalf of the ASA and ORBA. This suit is against the USFWS with respect to their Biological Opinion (BO) regarding the RAMP. In early September, we will file our suit in the Northern District. Recently the CBD has filed a suit against the USFWS in the Northern District for the same BO requesting Judge Alsup's Court. The CBD's goal is to convince Judge Alsup to remand the current BO and therefore make the RAMP null and void. If this tactic is successful, it will delay the removal of the closures. Both the ASA & ORBA want to be directly involved in the liability phase as well as the remedy portion.

While it is our hope that this case moves quickly and is resolved before the upcoming season, any BLM opening of the closures will be dependent on whether or not the judge issues an injunction to hold up implementation. His final ruling could be issued before the season but could take longer. Keep informed of the status of the dunes closures by checking on the ASA website: <http://www.americansandassociation.org>. **Just remember that the dunes are not 100% open yet and that they could remain closed for some time to come. If that is the case, we still have to remain clear of the closures until all the legal dust settles.**

## NEW PRESIDENT and CHAIRMAN SHARE ASA LEADERSHIP New Board Members Announced

Jerry Seaver and Mark Harms, founding ASA board members, have retired as of June 30, 2003. Grant George, Chairman of the ASA Nominating Committee announced that the Board of Directors recently elected four new members effective July 1, 2003. George stated, "besides replacing Jerry's and Mark's positions, the board has been expanded from seven to nine members as a part of the ASA Succession Planning Program." Grant is also the new President of the ASA. The ASA Board also appointed Greg Gorman as Chairman of the Board. Gorman will manage the day-to-day operations of the ASA and provide oversight and guidance to the ASA's committee members.

The newly elected ASA Board members are:

**Jim Colln**, Bellflower, CA. Jim is the President of the R&R Duners Club, a member of its Executive Board, and is currently the ASA Business Sponsor Chairman.

**Becky Hethcox**, Mesa, AZ. Becky is the ASA Merchandise Vice Chairperson and the AZ Events Coordinator. Becky is also a member of the R&R Duners Club Executive Board.

**Rusty Massie**, Escondido, CA. Rusty is a member of the San Diego Off Road Coalition Board of Directors, manages the SDORC Legal Affairs, and is a member of the BLM Glamis Dune Patrol.

**Cricket Sankovich**, Glendale, AZ. Cricket is the ASA Endowment Committee Vice Chairman and sits on the ISDRA TRT.

As past presidents, Jerry Seaver and Vince Brunasso sit on the Executive Committee. As such, they are allowed to participate in board meetings as non-voting members. The Board meets on August 22, 2003 to elect new officers. Mark Harms will continue to serve as Chairman of the ASA Legal Affairs committee for an indefinite period.

Jim Bramham, Grant George, Greg Gorman, Bob Mason, and Keith Rosewitz will continue to serve as board members for the remainder of their respective unexpired terms of office.

The ASA Board of Directors will conduct a Membership Meeting in Phoenix, AZ at the Residence Inn by Marriott (8242 N Black Canyon Highway) on Saturday, August 23, 2003. Similar meetings were held in Ontario and San Diego, Ca. The Phoenix meeting will place special emphasis on the outcome of recently published ISDRA RAMP and ASA activities for the next several months. Please plan to attend and meet the newly elected Board members and Officers.

# THE NEXT ASA GIVEAWAY is a **\$50,000 Sand Car** Sponsored by Ricochet!

The ASA would like to say a "Special Thanks" to Ricochet Employees for putting this car together on their own time!

All proceeds to benefit ASA General Fund  
Tickets are \$20 each with no limit and will be available online and at select retail locations. OR send check to:  
ASA Giveaway Buggy Tickets  
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Mesa, AZ 85206



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Goodyear, AZ. 85338  
623.486.7082



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- 930 - 300 M axles (Gear One)
- Sand Tires Unlimited Triple Razor on front
- Custom Sheet metal By Ricochet Motorsports Inc.
- Auto meter gauges
- Lazer Star Lights & LED Throughout
- All Laser Cut Tabs by Centerline Lazer
- Candy Apple red Powder By Affordable Powder coat

- 4130 chromoly arms front & rear
- Rear Dual Pivot Arms
- 6061 Billet Aluminum Spindles with combo Spindle
- Mendeola - E Transmission by Mendeola/Rancho/Weddle Gear
- Subaru 3.3 Engine Prepared by Outback Motorsports
- Power Steering by Ricochet Motorsports Inc
- Seat Belts by Deist
- Billet Flip Whip By Ricochet Motorsports
- Sand Tires Unlimited 33-inch Blasters On the rear
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- Rear wing trunk W/stainless Latches
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This is no slouch!! A 5-seater, Subaru powered, with long travel suspension!

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SHOW

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TO WIN EITHER PRIZE.

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[http://www.americansandassociation.org/sponsors/show\\_supporters.html](http://www.americansandassociation.org/sponsors/show_supporters.html)

## **PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO RIDE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ORGANIZATION**

When the ASA was formed in June of 2000 the primary objective was to "Unite, Inform and Mobilize" the sand duning community to protect our right to ride.

ASA founding president and member, Vince Brunasso states, "When we first stared the ASA, there were no other groups at any other sand area. We intended to start chapters in other areas that would operate autonomously. However, a better thing happened when independent organizations with independent leaders arose in others areas such as Oceano, Dumont, and Sand Mountain. "

As anti-access groups such as CBD and PEER expand their efforts to limit public access, it becomes increasingly important that all sand advocacy groups work together. ASA recognizes the need to develop a strong and ongoing working relationship with all Sand Sport organizations. Therefore, on October 29, 2002 the ASA Board of Directors adopted a policy relating to the support of other Sand Sport advocacy organizations. This "Area Support Policy" may be viewed in its entirety on the ASA Website.  
<http://www.americansandassociation.org/documents/>

ASA cofounder and Past President Jerry Seaver stated, "While the primary focus of ASA today is the ISDRA, ASA strongly encourages all Sand Sport enthusiasts to join and support other appropriate organizations." Seaver added, "We must all work together to meet our mutual interest. It is important that you volunteer and finically support other advocacy groups such as Friends of OCEANO, DUMONT, SAND MOUNTAIN and others."

The Sand Sport Super Show is scheduled for Sept 19-21 at the Orange County Fair and Exposition Center in Costa Mesa, Ca. Many of the Sand Sport advocacy groups will have a booth at the show. ASA encourages you to attend the show, visit all of these booths, and join the fight to maintain access to your favorite riding areas.

*Become a member----- Volunteer to help----- Make a financial contribution*

Grant George, ASA President, says, "If we all work together we will succeed. There is no room for competition amongst the sand advocacy groups."

*JOIN & SUPPORT THEM ALL*

*Working together, we will make a difference*

## Protecting Public Access to Public Lands

By: Congressman Jim Gibbons

Since first being elected to Congress over six years ago, I have seen the federal government try time and again to close off our public lands to the public. As a Congressman, as a Nevadan, and as a lifelong sportsman, I oppose these efforts. After all, the public lands are for the public to enjoy and as taxpayers, Nevadans are part-owners.

A recent example of the federal government attempting to infringe upon the rights of the public to access public lands has occurred at Sand Mountain Recreation Area located about thirty miles east of Fallon, Nevada. In an effort to protect the Kearny Buckwheat and the Sand Mountain Blue Butterfly, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is considering closing part or all of the recreation area to the public. This is an unnecessary and an unfortunate proposal, however. No scientific or ecological evidence has proven that Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use at Sand Mountain is detrimental to the habitat of either species. Furthermore, compromise measures could be implemented to protect both the species and public access to a beloved recreational area.

As Vice-Chairman of the House Resources Committee, I remain committed to protecting the people's right to access public lands. To that end, I have asked that the BLM to postpone their decision to prohibit Off Highway Vehicle usage at Sand Mountain Recreation Area. More time needs to be taken to craft a compromise solution that would allow the recreation area to remain open while protecting both the Kearny Buckwheat and the Sand Mountain Blue Butterfly.

Currently, the BLM hopes to implement a new management plan at Sand Mountain by Labor Day. This rapid time frame will not allow for a thoroughly contemplated decision that includes consideration of numerous alternatives. For example, the BLM should consider the elimination of duplicate trails at Sand Mountain or the creation of an aggressive educational outreach program rather than closing parts of Sand Mountain to the public. In addition, a compromise might be reached where recreational users of Sand Mountain partner with local educational institutions to plant and grow Kearny Buckwheat in an environment where the plant, and its relationship with the Sand Mountain Blue Butterfly, can be further studied.

Many Nevadans have expressed concern that the BLM will recommend that Sand Mountain be closed off to OHVs. However, these same individuals are willing to work with the BLM on a compromise measure that will preserve both the Kearny Buckwheat and the Sand Mountain Blue Butterflies while still allowing for recreational activities to continue. After exploring the alternatives, I believe that a compromise can be reached to protect the habitat and the public's access to Sand Mountain.

I have asked that the BLM consider these compromises before making a decision and implementing any action. I am committed to responsible usage of our public lands, as well as responsible decision making. It is my hope that the BLM allows an extension of the decision-making deadline in order to work with the citizens and local officials of Nevada on a solution. Hopefully, working together, the various and very viable alternatives to closing Sand Mountain will be considered, and the public will not lose access to yet another Nevadan recreational area.

## **ASA MEMBERSHIP**

If you're reading this newsletter online consider yourself lucky.

After months of verifying all members in our database, the majority of our members have a bad email address listed in their profiles. You might know some of these people. Some could be your family and best friends whom over the last year or so have changed their email address.

You can change and review your information on our website here:

<http://www.americansandassociation.org/mymembership/>

Don't know your username and password? Send an email to:

[Membership@AmericanSandAssociation.org](mailto:Membership@AmericanSandAssociation.org)

Our database has come a long way with the ability to add your family members under just one account. Use the "ADD FAMILY" option under your account profile. With the costs of printing and mailing a newsletter to our thousands of members, all current and future members must list a verifiable mailing address in our database.

You can still direct us to contact you only through email, but we need a valid postal address so that when you change your email address and forget to notify us, we can contact you. We have hundreds of previous members listed only by their name and a now-invalid email addresses: we have no way to contact them.

The above will enable us to save needed funding and to keep you Informed. So please update your information and ask your family and friends to do the same.

Thanks,  
Dwayne J. Williams  
ASA Membership Director

## **Become an ASA SUPPORTING Member**

For an annual price of \$25.00, you can help support the ASA and receive a membership card. These new cards are good for discounts at many ASA Business Sponsors. Known as "PREMIUM" sponsors, these businesses are offering supporting members a discount.

<http://www.americansandassociation.org/sponsors/discounts.html>

You will also receive a supporting membership sticker and license plate frame.

Log into your membership account and upgrade today.

This will be available at the Sand Sports Super Show next month where you can get all three items at the show and save the ASA some postage too.

## Suit to Reopen Closures Unsuccessful

On 6/25/03, the ASA received the Judge's decision on one of the lawsuits filed by the ASA, SDORC, ORBA, AMA District 37, and ORBA. This suit dealt with the fact that the BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when they imposed the original closures in 2000. The BLM instituted the closures without performing an Environmental Assessment (EA) as required by NEPA. While the closures were in place, the BLM then went on to conduct an EA. Then, in one quick move, dropped the original closures and re-instituted the same ones.

While our suit was over the first closure, the judge focused on the 2nd. Therefore, he ruled that the closures were legally performed under NEPA. He also found that there is no legal recourse under NEPA--even if he ruled in our favor, there are no penalties or other recourse in current case law. You can read the full text of his decision at: <http://www.americansandassociation.org/documents/legal/2003-06OrderDenyingPlaintiffsMotionForSJ.pdf>

The ASA is outraged that the BLM can blatantly violate provisions meant to protect the rights of public access without penalty and then go back after the fact and "fix it" to make it look legal.

The good news is that in the big picture, this action is moot--the upcoming new Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) will supercede any current closures and POSSIBLY re-open areas that are currently unavailable to motorized access. However, we must remain vigilant--those who wish to keep us off the land are gearing up for a major court fight to oppose the new RAMP.

Even though this legal action did not produce the results we all would have liked, we had to make the move to demonstrate to the Federal Government, as well as the anti-access groups, that if they fail to follow legal requirements, we will be there to file suit and demand a remedy – just like the anti-access groups do. We are now considered a formidable force in the battle for public access to public lands. No longer can lands be “temporarily closed” to appease a small segment of society that wishes to dictate how we recreate on public lands.

We appreciate your support, and will continue the battle.

## REMEMBER BOB FILNER?

Most of you may recall that Bob Filner is the Democrat that won against Maria Garcia in the last election. In doing so, he replaced Duncan Hunter in the 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District Seat. The 51<sup>st</sup> District is where the Imperial Sands Dunes are located. We felt a stinging loss with Congressman Hunter, an avid outdoorsman, as he is always in our corner fighting for public access to public lands.

It turns out that Congressman Filner may not be the cloud on the horizon we thought him to be. Jerry Seaver, retiring president of the ASA, wrote Congressman Filner regarding the just released Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) biological opinion that influences the outcome of the new Recreation Area Management Plan for the dunes. Jerry urged him to seek fairness and challenged some of its findings. Below is Congressman Filner's letter to the FWS based on Jerry's efforts with Congressman Filner. It is text only since the copy I received was a scanned copy but the point comes through well enough.

Steven A. Williams  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Steven:

I am writing in regard to the Fish and Wildlife Service's biological opinion, issued on April 3, 2003, for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, as part of the California Desert Conservation Area.

I have received comments challenging certain statements in the opinion, and I am interested in the response of FWS to these challenges including:

Why the FWS did not use the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) monitoring reports in writing the opinion;

Why FWS used the ECOS study report when the BLM has stated that the study design was flawed; and

Why the opinion uses information gathered by Dr. Arthur Phillips, but does not subsequently use data from his seed bank study.

I am interested in ensuring the continued viability of plant and animal species in the dunes, but I am concerned that in forming the biological opinion, the Fish and Wildlife Service did not take advantage of the best and most recent data. I believe it is in the best interest of all concerned parties to manage plant and animal species for the long-term to ensure an enjoyable experience for all those who visit the area, as well as a suitable habitat for the species that inhabit it.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,  
BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

***STAY CLEAR OF CLOSED AREAS UNTIL THEY BECOME OFFICIALLY REOPENED!***

## I'LL MAKE A \$200 DONATION FOR YOU

I am in the Mortgage Lending business. I also have a California Real Estate License.

For every loan or real estate transaction that an ASA member closes with me, **I'll donate \$200** in your name to the pro-sand recreation organization of your choice.

I'll also do that if you bring me a referral that closes even if they are not an ASA member.

Vincent J. Brunasso  
ASA Past president and co-founder  
626-963-8081

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This is a paid advertisement  
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5330 E. 28th Ave.  
Apache Jct., AZ  
85219

### ASA Chapters:

Who is the one that makes the call and sets the date for your next trip to the dunes? We are looking for them. ASA chapters are comprised of individuals, shops, clubs, and businesses. The primary vehicle of information for the ASA is our website and we realize that not everyone has Internet access. ASA chapters are a great way for us to keep non-Internet users informed.

We've made the guidelines for forming an ASA chapter very simple. There are no restrictions on the size or location of a chapter. There are no requirements for the form a chapter may take. A chapter can be as formal or as informal as you care to make it. Our goal is to have a quick means of informing your whole group if needed in a timely manner. This is part of our mission, Inform, Unite, and Mobilize to help keep our dunes open!

To sign up please send an email to:  
chapters@americansandassociation.org  
or by snail mail:  
American Sand Association  
1911 Foothill Blvd. PMB 108  
La Verne, CA 91750

**Please include your phone number.**

## UPCOMING ASA DUNE INFO MEETINGS

Saturday August 16, 2003, 11 am  
Pensar Otra Vez, Inc.  
2575 N. Dragoon  
Tucson, Arizona 85745  
520-620-6369  
Directions:  
I-10 and Grant Road exit - go West approx 1/2 mi  
Turn North (right) on Dragoon (Texaco station on corner) - Dragoon is a dead-end street, they are last building on left (2575 N. Dragoon)

Saturday August 23, 2003  
Phx Open Board and members Meeting: **ISDRA RAMP PowerPoint Presentation - BLM will explain "ISDRA Business Plan & new Fee schedule" - Question and Answer session**  
Residence Inn by Marriott  
8242 N. Black Canyon Highway  
Phoenix, AZ 85051  
Phone 602-864-1900 - 9 am

Saturday September 13, 2003  
Kenz Cycle Tech  
218 E Broadway Rd  
MESA, AZ 85210-1619  
(480) 962-1714

### ASA NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

(ad sizes are close approximations)

	Ad Sizes	1 issue	4 issues
Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$650	\$2200
3/4 Page	7.5" x 7.5"	\$550	\$1900
1/2 Page	7.5" x 5.0"	\$350	\$1200
1/4 Page	3.75" x 5.0"	\$200	\$700
Back Cover – see below			

The location of ad is chosen on a first come, first served basis. All ads quoted above are for black on white. Front cover is not available for ads.

Business Sponsor to provide 300 DPI artwork 60 days before the publication date. Art work to be in .JPEG format. All ads are subject to approval by the ASA Board of Directors.

Back cover is available in 3/4 page only and costs \$3500 for four issues. Sorry, no single issue rate. The ad may contain 3 colors: black, red and blue - spot colors only.

Full-page ads consist of 7.5" x 10" of space. Other ad sizes are based on full-page dimensions divided respectively. Currently, 14,000 copies of each issue are mailed, 4000 are emailed, and an additional 5000 copies are distributed to various shops, organizations, etc.

Please contact:  
Vincent J. Brunasso  
ASA Newsletter Coordinator  
(909) 596-3147  
Newsletters@AmericanSandAssociation.org

Editorial by  
Scott Hillier

Vice-Principal Pershing Middle School

There is little argument among police, the medical profession, and governmental agencies that Americans are experiencing an ever increasing difficulty in handling the day to day stress that living in urban America incurs.

Recreation provides an essential form of stress relief. As our population increases, providing desirable recreational outlets will take on an ever-increasing role in our society. Thus, the recent trend towards closing down off-highway opportunities in the state of California greatly disturbs me. The challenge facing 21st century America is a daunting one. How does a society protect its natural resources and still provide the freedoms and opportunities that this nation was founded on.

The position of vice principal of a middle school in San Diego affords me a unique perspective on the family unit. It is my job to monitor the pulse of the student population and to create a positive atmosphere on the campus. To this end I find myself constantly talking to the students about how their weekends were, probing into their off school lives to sense how they will react in the week ahead.

Patterns have emerged from this informal gathering of information. I have concluded that those students who engage in some form of recreation with their families are better able to handle stress, confrontations, and academics. They tend to see a more global view of the world, which leads to the belief that there are many opportunities in life. This is in sharp contrast to the student who only sees his or her neighborhood and believes that they are condemned to the same life as their parents.

Millions of families enjoy off-road activities. It is a family sport; one enjoyed and passed down from generation to generation. It helps build family unity and values. Off-roading gives young adults a focus, keeps many in school, and occupies idle hours that tend to be the time in which wrong choices are often made.

Closing down or severely limiting off-road access will have devastating consequences. Economically it will leave thousands of small businesses in ruins. Ancillary businesses such as restaurants and hotels will be hit hard. It will erode the state tax base. Unemployment will rise, while tourism in many small towns will decline.

Beyond the pure economics lies what I believe will be the greatest impact; the loss of yet another American freedom, which will leave the youth of America even more disillusioned and angry. With the loss of this outlet, more teens will hit the streets in search of something to occupy their now empty hours. What will take the place of off-road activities? Who has made plans to provide an alternative direction or recreational activity? Or once again are our youth left to their own devices, with our leaders left scrambling for a solution to a new problem? Providing an alternative recreational form cost money, but the loss of off-road activity based revenue is gone, and the resulting unemployment further drains the state coffers.

Another aspect of closing down off-road activities is the possibility that each of these families would search to find an alternative form of recreation to fill the gap. Would this then create yet more recreational endeavors whose environmental impact is questioned? Would then these opportunities be shut down as well? How many freedoms and recreational opportunities will be denied before the consequences of such actions become so devastating to our society that we can no longer bare the cost? And if this happens, could we as a nation recover?

Habitat destruction seems to be at the forefront of the movement for closures. This takes the form of erosion and destruction of plant and animal life. The question must then be asked; how does one protect wilderness areas, from erosion and habitat destruction without eroding the very fabric of freedom our society was based on?

I believe managing riding areas is a better solution than closing them off. Understand that controlling the environmental impact of off-roading is fundamentally not the same as shutting it down. One aims to distinguish, the other to skillfully manage. One takes away the freedom of Americans; the other directs those freedoms in a responsible manner.

There is already a law on the books that forces developers to provide equal and suitable habitat for native species when they are displaced by development. I believe a similar plan could also work for off-roading. When an area is deemed in danger it could be closed down and another of equal size could be opened up. By creating riding zones and designating trails within these zones, erosion and habitat destruction could be controlled. These zones could be periodically shifted to provide recovery time to impacted zones. The essential factor in this plan would be to reopen closed areas in a sufficient amount as to allow the creation of shifting zones. Thus, more would equal less. More land equals less environmental impact. More land equals more zones which allows for greater recovery time for each habitat.

One of the fundamental charges of the government is to use the land owned by the people in a responsible manor that is consistent with the will of the people. The vast majority of the American public supports the idea of expanded recreational opportunities. In an era of eroding freedoms and opportunities, you have the unique opportunity to forge our future into one of responsible management, instead of retreating reaction. Please help save one of the last American freedoms, insist on responsible management over extinction and the erosion of the American way of life.

## SSSS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the 2003 Sand Sports Super Show.

The largest Sand related show will take place again in Costa Mesa on Sept. 19-21st. As usual, the ASA is given generous space by the promoters to help us Inform, Unite, and Mobilize the sand community.

We are in need of volunteers to help with this large show. We have three areas in which you can help: Membership signups, Merchandise sales, and help with the Ricochet Sand Car Giveaway.

This is our biggest event of the year and with your help, we can do so much to protect our sport. We have shifts available for all 3 areas to fit your schedule at the show. So please let us know and we will mail you a name badge and instructions on the area in which you choose to help. Time well spent to help Keep Our Dunes Open.

Contact us at: [SSSSvolunteers@AmericanSandAssociation.org](mailto:SSSSvolunteers@AmericanSandAssociation.org)  
Or by phone at Brian Trapp's (714) 229-0286

## OTHER ONGOING POSITIONS IN THE ASA

### Newsletter Committee:

Needed are persons with good writing skills. Research will be provided. Also needed is a person familiar with Adobe PageMaker to put final newsletter in format the mass mailing company will accept. Contact Vince Brunasso at 909-596-3147

### Event Coordinator:

Committee chair and California vice-chair needed. Coordinates current dates of planned events and works with developing fundraising- membership drives, events, keeps website calendar current. Develops future involvement in other events. Contact person for other organizations (CORVA, SDORC, etc.) where ASA could set up membership booths. Coordination of all materials needed for events & shows. Forms a committee to help with all aspects of show materials. (tables, chairs, etc.)

Contact Becky Heathcox 480-659-9059

### Telephone Campaigns:

Chair and Vice-Chair needed to establish a communication network for volunteer members. Develop a phone tree within the Area Rep. Structure. Perform surveys and Action Alerts to non-Internet members. Works with Membership Director on attaining help in specified areas. Calls on behalf of pro multi-use elected candidates. Contact Dwayne Williams 909-360-1545

### Typing / Office Duties / Stuff Envelopes:

Chair and vice Vice-Chair needed to recruit and organize committee members for needs stated above. Coordinates with volunteers on inputting of data sheets, new membership applications and filing. Sending out new member data sheets. Contact Dwayne Williams 909-360-1545

### Grants Representatives:

Chair and Vice-Chair needed who are diligent individuals with excellent writing skills to research grant-funding sources, compose, and track grant proposals.

Contact Vince Brunasso at 909-596-3147

### ASA Flyers in the Dunes:

Chair and Vice-Chair needed to recruit committee members that will compose flyers and organize flyer handout campaigns at the dunes and other functions. This one is mission critical and how the ASA got off the ground. Work with local businesses with close access to dune recreational areas for support. Set up distribution centers at ISDRA where members could receive the newest flyers. Contact members as to locations for pick up. Contact Dwayne Williams 909-360-1545



Enjoying an active lifestyle, with your ATV's, jet skis, mountain bikes, motorcycles, dune buggies and snowmobiles doesn't mean you have to sacrifice comfort and luxury. Alfa's new 2003 Toyhouse gives you everything you're looking for...room enough for all your toys, plus all the quality amenities of a luxury 5th wheel trailer.

Magnificent floor plans, incredible storage, and precision construction make the Toyhouse the right choice for the demands of an active traveling lifestyle. This remarkable trailer features the same sophisticated technology and full-featured versatility you have come to expect from ALFA. The ALFA Toyhouse delivers on the promise of living the active lifestyle in luxury.

- Five Year "Solid Gold™" Protection Plan
- Ultra Flat™ flush floor slide outs
- All aluminum welded superstructure
- Super strong & light composite vacuum bonded roof
- Lightweight gel-coated fiberglass exterior walls
- SpaceMaster Chassis System
- Lighter tow weights
- Greater payloads
- Many more new, exciting value packed features

<http://www.alfaleisure.com>

# DID YOU KNOW?

That F&L Fuel has donated to the ASA on a regular basis?



F&L Co., Inc.  
1537 E. Del Amo Blvd.  
Carson, Ca 90746  
Phone (310) 603-2200  
Fax 310 603 2257

Terrible Herbst also makes regular donations?



## SPORT TRAILERS

Kenny has donated 2 trailers and sold us another one at cost for the upcoming buggy raffle?

271 South "I" St.  
San Bernardino. CA 92410



Mike Mendeola continually donates transaxles for our raffle buggies?

290 Trousdale Dr. Suite  
Chula Vista, CA 91910-1068  
619-691-1000



Has donated several sets of wheels for raffle buggies, quads, and raffle items?

4040 Avenida De La Plata  
Oceanside, CA 92056  
760-758-5560

Has your company done a lot to save the dunes? Call Vince Brunasso at 909-596-3147 and let me know.

## "A Taste of Freedom 2003"

The ASA invites you to participate in a special fundraiser project that was proposed by your fellow members: This cookbook will reflect what the ASA is trying to do by keeping the Glamis dunes open. This recipe book will also reflect cooking made easy at the dunes and patriotism to our Country. Join forces with the ASA to keep our dunes open for generations to come.

### Guidelines for submission:

- \*State your name and city State (optional)
- \*The name of your recipe.
- \*Recipes must be quick and easy to cook
- \*Recipes must be no more than 1/2 the width of an 8 1/2 by 11" paper running lengthwise
- \*Please use Font 10- Arial script

### There are five categories:

1. Breakfast
2. Lunch
3. Dinner
4. Deserts
5. Appetizers/Other (Cooking Tips)

Deadline for submission of recipes no later than Monday, August 18, 2003. Please send them to [recipes@ASASand.com](mailto:recipes@ASASand.com)

For Immediate Release: August 5, 2003

CA-CDD-03-66

Contact: Doran Sanchez (909) 697-5220; E-MAIL: [Doran\\_Sanchez@ca.blm.gov](mailto:Doran_Sanchez@ca.blm.gov)

## BLM to Implement Fee Program at Popular Desert Recreation Areas

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Barstow Field Office announced today that it will implement a Recreation Fee Demonstration Program for four popular desert off-highway vehicle riding areas effective October 1, 2003, according to Mike Ahrens, off-highway vehicle coordinator for the Barstow BLM.

Ahrens said the riding areas to be included in the recreation fee program are Dumont Dunes with 10,000 acres; Johnson Valley, the world's largest designated OHV area with 188,000 acres; Stoddard Valley with 53,000 acres, and El Mirage with 25,000 acres. The 22,000-acre Razor riding area will continue to be a free area. Nearly one-half million OHV enthusiasts visit these areas each year.

"Clearly, this was not an easy decision for the Bureau," Ahrens said, "but with a projected shortfall of more than \$2.5 million each year, we simply can't provide quality services for our visitors. Funding from the federal government and California OHV trust fund have continually decreased over the past decade, so these new fees will provide riding opportunities and services requested by our customers."

Under the recreation fee program, visitors will be charged \$20 for a weekly pass or \$60 for an annual pass for their primary vehicle. Ahrens said the pass would be accepted at all four OHV sites.

"While we are still working out some of the collection method details," said Ahrens, "we can say we are planning off-site collection via the Internet and various vendor locations. Weekly passes purchased off-site will be discounted \$5, passing along the reduced collection cost to the visitor. We will contract to have self-pay machines, handheld card readers and vendors at on-site entrance stations for those choosing to purchase weekly passes at the riding areas."

Congress authorized the Department of Interior and its subordinate agencies such as the BLM to initiate the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program in 1996 in order to keep pace with the rising costs of managing recreation sites.

"This recreation fee demo program stands out among all of our collection programs because all of the revenues are returned to the sites to improve the quality of visitor experience," Ahrens said.

Some of the services to be provided by the additional funds will include increased law enforcement at El Mirage and Dumont Dunes and increased law enforcement staffing for special events at all of the sites. Additionally, the funding will provide for additional emergency medical technicians/park rangers at El Mirage, Dumont Dunes and special events as well as more maintenance personnel for maintaining OHV access roads, maintenance on the toilets, signing and kiosk repairs and litter removal.

"Over the past several years, we have sought input from the public by holding open houses and public meetings to find out exactly what kind of opportunities they would like to have and what improvements are needed," said Ahrens. "So, we can say our customers have been very involved in determining how the money will be used."

"The Bureau's management of this new recreation fee demonstration program can only succeed with participation and support of the off-highway vehicle community," Ahrens said. "The fee demonstration program provides the recreating public the opportunity to invest in local BLM facilities and our public lands."

For more information on the Barstow BLM's recreation fee demonstration program, contact Mike Ahrens at (760) 252-6000 or email [mahrens@ca.blm.gov](mailto:mahrens@ca.blm.gov)

-BLM-