



December, 2014

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OHV CONTINUES TO BE UNDER ATTACK - ENVIROS PETITION FOR ONE LIZARD AND FILE INTENT TO SUE

Environmental Group Petitions to have Lizard Listed as Endangered Species and Files Notice of Intent to Sue for 16 Other Species in California

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) has filed a petition for protective status of the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard through the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The California Fish and Game



Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard. US Fish & Wildlife Service Photo

Commission is now considering their petition. After several failed attempts to get the lizard listed as protected through the Federal Government the CBD is now trying to get the species listed through the State.

Additionally, the CBD has recently filed their intent to sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to decide if 16 species in California warrant consideration of the ESA.

Once a petition is filed, the FWS has 90 days to respond which they neglected to do. Among the 16 species listed in their *Intent to Sue* is the Colorado Desert Fringe-Toed Lizard, another species found in the dunes and desert areas where many people recreate.

"Both of these actions by the CBD could have huge implications for duners not only in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area but also in Ocotillo Wells, Superstition and Plaster City Areas where two of these species are located," stated ASA Executive Director Nicole Gilles. "This just shows that their war chest is limitless and our fight will never be over."

If you look at the CBD website you will see that they have 92 people on their staff of which 26 are attorneys! They have almost 14 million dollars in funding. The ASA on the other hand is mostly an all volunteer organization except for our Executive Director which is the only paid staff person. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

[CBD Intent to Sue](#)

[CBD Petition for Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard](#)

THE FIGHT WILL NEVER BE OVER!

The ASA Needs Your Help to Fight the Enviros

As the above article states, our fight to keep the dunes open will never be over. It took 14 years and over a million dollars just to get where we are today. The ASA wants to continue to lead the fight against the continued threats to our recreation area and our sport.

We have to fight against organizations such as the CBD who currently has 500,000 members. With an annual visitation of over a million to the dunes, you'd think that the ASA would have at least that many members. In fact our current membership is only 37,000 of which 218 are Supporting members who contribute \$25 per year to our cause and the others are free.

We need two important resources: people and money.

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP.

- Donate directly to the aSa. [Donate Here.](#)
- Become an aSa Supporting Member. [Click Here.](#)
- Renew your aSa Business Sponsorship. [Click here to Sponsor.](#)
- Obey the laws and the closures.
- Buy Raffle Tickets.
- Volunteer – There are many opportunities.
- Attend the aSa Info Meetings.

Nothing is too big or too small. You can make a difference!

Contact our Executive Director at ngilles@asasand.org or by calling (760) 996-8983. You can also visit our website at www.asasand.org for details.

SOUTH DUNES CLOSURES

What's Next?

Many questions have arisen from the new closures in the South Dunes of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). Most are legitimate and some are based on lack of information.

The fight to reopen the closures started in 1998. Because many duners have not been going to the ISDRA since then, many are just now becoming familiar with the long history and complex issues.

We have tried to reduce that history and set of issues into an understandable essay in this article. It is based on questions recently posed to the American Sand Association (ASA).

Also in this issue of *The Endangered Duner* you will find an article titled *Peirson's Milk Vetch and the ISDRA Closures*, it is the "Cliff's Notes" version that presents similar information in chronological order and provides other information critical to understanding how the current closures were imposed on us. We strongly urge reading both articles.

As usual, we expect our responses to generate as many questions as they answer. We welcome those questions.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

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PEIRSON'S MILK VETCH AND THE ISDRA CLOSURES

A Brief 14 Year History

The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) is a victim of abuse of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) where 49,300 acres were temporarily closed as part of a March 2000 lawsuit settlement pending a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP). The plan and its components were challenged several times by the anti-access groups and it took approximately 14 years for the new plan to be implemented.

In 2014 the new plan re-opened the 49,300 acres. However, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wanted a plan that would withstand further legal challenges and so closed approximately 9000 acres of land deemed critical habitat (CH) that were open before the initial lawsuit. This included the Patton Valley Travel Corridor (PVTC): a section of dunes that heretofore had never been closed.

The ASA vigorously protested this action but it is the federal agencies that make the final decision. There does not appear to be a legal basis that provides an avenue to challenge the lack of a PVTC in court.

The ASA sees 3 options:

- Delist the PMV with the hope that it removes the closure - this will take at least 5 years and there is no guarantee that a delisting will not require land closure.
- Ask US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that the CH be reduced based on a new economic analysis that considers financial impacts on affected parties and public health and safety concerns. These could justify a PVTC and could provide a defensible basis for the federal agencies.
- Pursue a PVTC without either of the above - this would be a simple request to the federal agencies to improve public safety and to accommodate the dune users.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE



NEW BLM CHIEF RANGER AT EL CENTRO

ASA Participates in Ride-Along

ASA Executive Director Nicole Gilles was pleased to participate in a ride-along with Chief Clark over Halloween weekend in Glamis. "It was great to see Chief Clark interact with duners in the field," Gilles stated. "She was very approachable and forthright about the issues managing a recreation area with such a high amount of visitation." We asked Chief Clark to share some information about herself with us.

Stephanie Clark is the Chief Law Enforcement Ranger for the El Centro Field Office, with the Bureau of Land Management in El Centro, CA. Chief Clark began her career with the BLM on May 18, 2014.



Chief Clark began her law enforcement career on January 4, 1999 with the US Park Police, an agency of the National Park Service. She completed her recruit training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy in May of that same year. After completing field training, she was assigned as a patrol officer to the Central District Station in Washington, DC. Chief Clark went on to work at the Rock Creek Station, in Washington DC and George Washington Memorial Parkway Station in Virginia. It was while stationed at the GW Parkway Station that Chief Clark earned a lifesaving award after rendering first aid to a citizen who had attempted suicide. In October 2006, Chief Clark was reassigned to the Special Forces Branch as the Special Events Officer. During her tenure with the special events office the unit managed over 14,000 special events. She coordinated over 1900 presidential and dignitary visits and earned four awards for her work as the Special Events Officer.

[Read More](#)

DAC ISDRA SUBGROUP MEETING HELD

Highlights From the Meeting

Thanksgiving Stats

127,000 visitors, 427 citations, 27 arrests of which 15 were DUI related, zero camp evictions, 84 medical calls, and 11 medivacs. Traffic was controlled going into Oldsmobile Hill from the Sand Highway at night.

Maintenance

El Centro Field Office Maintenance staff has accomplished multiple projects over the past few months. Signing the critical habitat in the dunes to implement the new RAMP is one of their main duties. Currently, two staff

are signing the closures 30 to 40 hours per week. Sand removal continues to be a challenge to keep the roads open due to periodic high winds. Emergency sand removal occurred during the Halloween weekend and watering occurred on the road to Ogilby Camping Area over Saturday night and Sunday morning during the Thanksgiving Weekend. Grays Well Road was closed the week after Halloween due to sand and a few visitors were stuck in the dunes.

Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) Update

A combination of law enforcement, maintenance staff, park rangers, and resource staff have been signing and educating visitors on the new closures. In the picture below, BLM Park Ranger Daniel Baca makes contact with visitors and distributes maps at the closure boundary in the BLM Rescue Buggy. A Closure Task Force was developed for the Thanksgiving weekend to increase efficiency and education efforts.



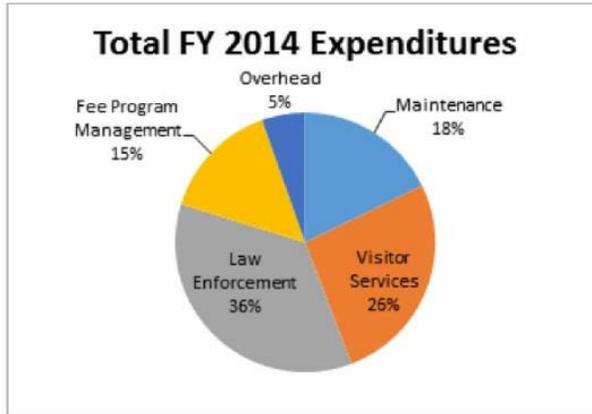
BLM Photo

Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Fee Program Update

The ISDRA fee period began on April 15th and ended September 30th, 2014. Permits and required from October 1st through April 15th, 2015. During FY14 - 46,472 permits were sold and compliance was at 91% after checking 6,433 vehicles. The fee report below is the PRELIMINARY FY14 data.

FY 2014 ISDRA Fee Revenue	\$ 2,229,917
Total FY 2014 Funds	\$ 2,229,917

FLREA SECTION	2014
Maintenance	\$380,000
Visitor Services	\$564,000
Law Enforcement	\$760,000
Fee Program Management	\$317,000
Overhead	\$115,000
FY2014 expenditures TOTAL	\$2,136,000



[Click Here for a Complete Copy of the Report](#)

17th Annual Dunes Cleanup

Presented By:



Saturday, January 17
Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend
2015



Sponsored By:



Lunch Provided by:



Amber Racing Services

De Anza Search & Rescue

San Diego Off-Road Coalition

Rancho Performance

IMS Products Inc.

Glamis Weather.com

Supercharged Sponsors:



Imperial Valley Cycle Center

Sand Sports Super Show



Cochise Motorsports

ACRO Lights



SOCO Group

S&S Off-Road Magazine

**Registration: 8am
North Dunes:**

Glamis Flats (main stage area),
Gecko Road, Oldsmobile Hill,
Roadrunner, Wash Road

South Dunes:

Gordon's Well (main stage area),
Buttercup (vendor row), Midway,
Ogilby Camp (past the tower
towards the south)

**Lunch/Prize Giveaway:
11:30am Until Done**

North Dunes: Glamis Flats
South Dunes: Gordon's Well

For more information please contact: Charla Teeters charla@uniteddesertgateway.org 760.337.4155

Support the ASA

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Twisted Alloy ECO Sand Car or a RideNow Powersports Polaris RZR XP 4 1000

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PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO RECREATE!

Drawings will be held September 20, 2015 at the
Sand Sports Super Show

Winners need not be present

Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100

*Visit our website for raffle details www.asasand.org
or call 888-540-7263 to purchase your tickets today!*