American Sand Association

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Volume 5 Issue 2
June 2005

Unite, Inform, and Mobilize

We Have a RAMP - Almost...

The American Sand Association (ASA) learned early in March that the Record of Decision (ROD) that implements the new Recreation Management Plan at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area has been signed by the CA State BLM Director Mike Pool.

The ASA is pleased that the ROD has been approved. However, this changes little on the ground as far as the users are concerned until pending legal issues are resolved, which is contrary to what the ASA had understood would happen once the ROD was signed.

"This is just one more step in a five-year journey to reopen areas that were unnecessarily closed," says Vince Brunasso, ASA Founder and Legal Chairman.

Even though this clears the way for the BLM to begin implementation of the RAMP, they will not yet remove the temporary closures because there is a pending legal challenge by environmental groups to the Biological Opinion that supports the Plan. Tentatively, the final decision is scheduled to be decided in September.

The ASA, Off Road Business Association and San Diego Off Road Coalition are also involved in this action representing the dune recreation community. The outcome of this hearing is the ultimate factor in deciding whether or not the temporary closures can be removed in accordance with the new Recreation Plan.

The ASA feels strongly that the closures will be removed because the Management Plan and Biological Opinion have been through years of public review and input in accordance with all applicable US environmental protection laws. The ASA vows to continue the fight for recreation rights at the ISDRA regardless of the decisions made.

The schedule for the legal deadlines of this issue is below.

March 25, 2005 - CBD file first amended complaint.

March 25, 2005 - BLM issues ROD for the ISDRA RAMP (excluding the 49,000-acre closure area, which remains unchanged until the court rules)

April 22, 2005 - Federal Defendants file Answer to first amended complaint

May 20, 2005 - Federal Defendants lodge Administrative Record

June 3, 2005 - Defendants-Intervenors file cross-claims (if applicable)

July 1, 2005 - Federal Defendants file answers to amended complaint and cross complaint

July 8, 2005 - Plaintiffs and Defendant-Intervenors file motions for summary judgment. Briefs in support no longer than 50 pages.

August 5, 2005 - Federal Defendants file responses/cross-motions for summary judgment (50 page limit).

August 19, 2005 - Plaintiffs and Defendant-Intervenors file response/reply. (50 page limit).

September 2, 2005 - Federal Defendants file replies. (50 page limit).

September 15, 2005 - Hearing on cross motions for summary judgment. (3:30 pm)

September 30, 2005 - Court issues ruling on motions for summary judgment.

As of this writing, we are on track as per the above schedule - all deadlines required to date have been met.

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NEXT OPEN ASA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday July 23 at 9:00 AM.
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites-Anaheim
1240 S. Walnut St.
Anaheim, CA 92802

Rooms available 7/22 & 7/23 for $79.00 - book ONLY through SDAVIES@CYMSANDIEGO.COM

We will include the BLM on the agenda as guest speakers. Topics to include:

-Trash Containment Requirements in the RAMP (Litter Education Program)
-2005-06 Season Fee Program Administration
-Adaptive Management Area Permit Program
-Status of Vendor Administration
-Comp Hill Curfew

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You may contact the Board of Directors at:
asaboard@americansandassociation.org

For inquiries about membership issues contact:
membership@americansandassociation.org

ADSB - Andrews Dune Scarab Beetle
AMA - Adaptive Management Area
ASMAP - Peirson's Milk Vetch
BO - Biological Opinion
BOD - Board of Directors
BLM - Bureau of Land Management
BLMECFO - BLM El Centro Field Office
CDCA - California Desert Conservation Area
CDPA - California Desert Protection Act
CVC - California Vehicle Code
CBD - Center for Biological Diversity
CCC - California Coastal Commission
CNPS - California Native Plant Society
CORVA - California Off Road Vehicle Association
DOI - Department of the Interior
EIR - Environmental Impact Report
EIS - Environmental Impact Study
ESA - Endangered Species Act
FLPMA - Federal Land Policy & Management Act
FOIA - Freedom of Information Act
FTHL - Flat Tail Horned Lizard
FWS - See USFWS
GOL - GlamisOnLine.org
IC - Incident Command
ICSO - Imperial County Sheriff Office
ISDRA - Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area
MA - Management Area
NECO - North Eastern Colorado Desert Plan
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
ODSVRA - Oceano Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area
OHMVR - Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission
OHV - Off Highway Vehicle
ORBA - Off Road Business Association
OHVEST - Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Safety Team
PA - Planning Area
PHSO - Sand food
PMV - Peirson's Milk Vetch
RAMP - Recreation Area Management Plan
ROD - Record of Decision
TRT - Technical Review Team
SDORC - San Diego Off-Road Coalition
SVRA - State Vehicle Recreation Area
UDG - United Desert Gateway communities (local to ISDRA)
USFWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WECO - Western Colorado Desert Plan
WSA - Wilderness Study Area

WHAT IS THE ASA?

THE ASA is the lead group fighting to keep the Imperial Sands Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) open to OHV use. We are a nonprofit California corporation under the IRS Tax Code known as 501(c)(4). All leadership and staff of the ASA are unpaid volunteers.

Working in concert with the Off Road Business Association (ORBA), San Diego Off Road Coalition (SDORC), and others, the ASA has filed seven lawsuits against the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service. We have standing in several legal actions that could well be used to close the entire dunes. We stand poised to oppose any legal actions brought by any anti-access groups that would prevent the new Recreation Area Management Plan from being implemented. This plan would remove some of the closures entirely and grant conditional access to others.

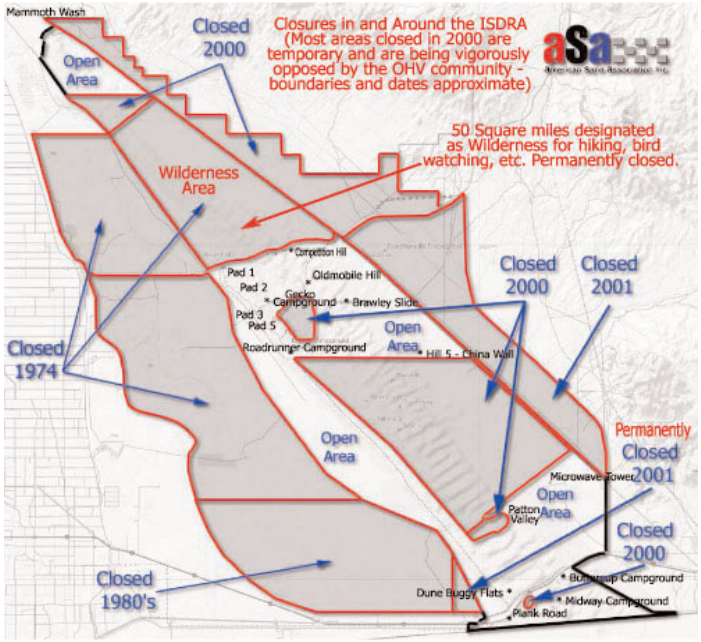
In addition to our legal actions to preserve our right to ride, we filed a precedent-setting delisting petition to remove the Peirson's Milk Vetch from the Endangered Species List. This plant was used to create the closures put in place in 2000. These closures total over 49,000 acres of sand dunes and are located south of Highway 78, south of Highway 8, and at Mammoth Wash. See map below.

Our delisting petition is based on good, solid science derived from biological studies paid for by the ASA ORBA, and SDORC. This science cost over $100,000.00 so far and we are budgeting for more. Our efforts don't stop there. We have two lobbyists on retainer: one in Washington D. C. and the other in Sacramento.

One of our members is on the California Stakeholders Roundtable, a board of interested parties making recommendations how the desert is to be managed.

We have made several trips to Washington D.C. and Sacramento to present our case and plan to make several more. Our Public Safety and Education makes us known as a group that is not only interested in a World Class duning experience, but Stewards of the land and its resources: a very good connection with the current administration.

ASA is particularly proud of the recognition it has received for from the US Department of Interior for leadership conservation and recreation safety. The ASA is a recipient of the 4C's Award (Consultation, Cooperation, and Communication all in the service of Conservation).



Julie MacDonald DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary Fish and Wildlife and Parks Visits ISDRA on 4-21-05

by Vince Brunasso

MacDoanld, who seldom makes field trips, saw the need to make a personal visit the the ISDRA. She wanted to see and hear first-hand what the issues are that we face. This came about from one of our Washington visits.

Jim Bartel

From Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) accompanying Secretary MacDonald were: Paul Henson, Assistant Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office, Jim Bartel, Field Supervisor, Carlsbad FWS Office, and Therese O'Rourke, Assistant Field Supervisor, Carlsbad FWS Office.

Julie MacDonald after her flight

ASA planned an itinerary that would cover the South Dunes' Peirson's milk vetch (PMV) sites, lunch at Midway Campground, the Patton Valley area, and a trip up Sand Highway to visit the Glamis PMV sites ending at Roadrunner. The schedule to start at 10 am and end at 4 PM was proposed and approved in advance by all parties.

Paul Henson

However, due to time demands upon Julie MacDonald, the day would need to be cut short: 10:30 am to 1 PM. The itinerary was revised to fit the new time line. We decided to cover the South Dunes PMV sites, a small dune ride, and then lunch.

Julie MacDonald and Art Phillips, III, Ph.D.

Dr. Art Phillips, III, Ph.D. made an excellent presentation at a large PMV site he monitors. All the points in favor of our case were made. MacDonald was very astute and asked all the correct questions.

We then drove to a second site that was close by. Next, we took them to the open dunes to show what a dune trip is and what active dunes void of plant life look like. MacDonald loved the ride with ASA President Grant George as was evidenced by her huge smile and her enthusiastic recap of it. She commented that it reminded her of her days in high school when she would go to carnivals and ride all the fastest rides. At one point there was at least 3 feet of air below the Funco.

The trip in the Dunes ended back at Midway Campground where ASA board member Jim Bramham had a veritable feast prepared. Jim did an outstanding job that fully demonstrated how first class the ASA really is. It also gave us all an opportunity for more discussion. Many questions were answered. Grant did his usual fine job of putting a party atmosphere to the discussion.

In the end, we all feel confident that our major points were made. MacDonald became aware of the sheer numbers of the plant, that it grows in Mexico, all seeds do not germinate at once, ASA did do a seed bank study, and so on. Much of this appeared to be new information to her.

Even though abbreviated, the field trip was a great success. ASA Chairman Bob Mason will follow up by further contact with MacDonald in hopes of obtaining answers to some outstanding questions. The value of these on the ground visits can by no means be underestimated and cannot be discounted.

The whole group in a sea of PMV

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We would like all ASA members, who have access to the Internet, to review their personal ASA information profile. This should be done whenever a change to your email, telephone number, or address has occurred. By keeping your information up-to-date you will always be assured of receiving the latest ASA information in a timely manner and you will help reduce our cost of postage for returned mail. You can log on to the ASA web site at www.asasand.org and review your personal information. You will need you ASA username and password to access your information. This username and password is only for the ASA web site and is different that the username and password for the ASA forums. If you have forgotten or do not know your username and/or password you can request that information from this location: http://www.americansandassociation.org/mymembership/forgotpassword.html

By keeping your ASA contact information up to date will ensure that you will receive all the latest information and updates about the status of the ISDRA and the on going litigation being pursed by your organization. If any of your friends are members and are not receiving the ASA information please give them this newsletter so they can know how to update their ASA contact information. Changes to member's profiles can also be sent to the ASA US Mail address listed on the front page of this newsletter. A volunteer will make the corrections to the member's profile.

If you have requested to receive ASA updates by email and you are not currently receiving any of our information via email please check that you are in our email notification list. You can access this notification list at this Internet address:
http://www.americansandassociation.org/lists/index.php

Thanks for your support
Dick Holliday
ASA Membership Director

ARE YOU A SUPPORTING MEMBER?

If you received this newsletter in the mail than you are a member of the ASA ***but are you a supporting member?***

If you did not receive this via the US mail you can become a member by returning the enclosed envelope. Please consider becoming a supporting member when you return your information.

A supporting member has stepped up and made a donation to the ASA.

To become a supporting member you can use the business reply envelope enclosed in this newsletter and check the box that says "Sign me up for a $25 a year supporting membership"

You will receive an ASA Supporting Member license plate frame, a supporting member sticker and a membership card. This membership card will be honored for discounts with our Premium business sponsors. If you would rather have an ASA white or black die cut sticker than the license plate from let us know.

Supporting memberships are one source of money for the ASA. We have many costly initiatives coming up in the future that will require considerable expenditures.

The ASA is committed to getting the Peirson's milk vetch delisted and resisting any other attempts to list additional ISDRA species via the Endangered Species Act.

More TRASH could mean higher FEES
PACK IT IN
PACK IT OUT

Irons in the Fire - What is the ASA Up To?

In an effort to enhance communications with key volunteers and our membership in general, we periodically send out a summary of ASA activities. We plan three channels of communication: this newsletter, our ASA website (ASAsand.com), and mass emails. If you have a question or another topic of interest please let us know. Contact ASA chairman of the board, Bob Mason, at RWMSKM@cox.net. If you are not on our snail mail or email lists, and would like to be, visit our website at ASAsand.com and sign up - it is free, but we do ask that your contribute to the cause in any way you can - time, talent, or dollars. It is a painful reality that dollars are the lubricant of our pro-access engine. We all need to pay in order to play.

Recent Activities:

Phoenix Open BOD Meeting

The ASA open membership meeting was held on April 2. See article on Page 10.

New Committee Chairman

·Scott Swenka has taken on the Checkered Flag Program.
·Lloyd Misner has offered to coordinate the ASA Volunteer Program.
·Scott and Lloyd provided a summary of their plans at the April 2 BOD meeting in Phoenix, AZ.
·Harold Gottschalk is the Chairman of the Research Committee. He is currently working on a project to identify the loss of OHV/recreation area due to closures.

Recent BOD Action

·ASA voted to produce a video to document the recent PMV growth in support of continued efforts to de-list the PMV. Initial filming was completed in conjunction with Dr Phillips' field survey efforts. New board member, Gary Jordan coordinates this project. Lloyd Misner offered to draft an outline for the video content.

·ASA joined a coalition of OHV organizations that will employ a full time attorney. The attorney will work on OHV-related matters as designated by the coalition Board of Directors. Grant George and Vince Brunasso have lead responsibility for this task. See top 2 articles on page 9.

-Vince Brunasso has been appointed to the Board effective immediately. His term will extend until June 30, 2006. This is Vince's second term as a Board Member. He is one of three founders of ASA and the first President of the Association. His longstanding support has included chairing the Legal Affairs Committee, sitting on the Advisory Committee, maintaining the GlamisOnLine website, writing various letters an publications, and producing the ASA Newsletter.

Washington DC Trip

An OHV delegation of Roy Denner (ORBA), Harold Soens (SDORC) and Bob Mason (ASA) spent three days in Washington DC early in March. Meetings were arranged with several Congressman and Department of Interior officials representing the BLM and USFWS. Topics of discussion included additional funding for BLM, the UDG Task Orders, the reformation of the ESA, de-listing of the PMV, tortoise hearings, etc. The OHV coalition DC and CA lobbyist did an excellent job in coordinating the itinerary and obtaining high level contacts. See page 8 for article.

UDG/BLM Partnership Celebration

The unveiling of the new BLM ranger vehicle and the trailer donated to BLM by Weekend Warrior took place on Feb 19 at the Pair A Dice restaurant. Several BLM, local officials and OHV organizations were in attendance.

ASA Staff Support

Sandra Grun has been employed by ORBA under an agreement to provide ASA staff support. Financial support by Weekend Warrior Trailers (WW) made this possible. WW has joined ORBA and has earmarked their dues to support this activity. Initial projects will include the ASA business sponsor program under the direction of Jerry Canning. Future tasks will include membership records activities under the direction of Dick Holliday.

Jerry R Seaver Volunteer Service Award

Gary Jordan has offered to coordinate the JRS Award program. Gary reviewed the schedule and plans for 2005 at the April 2 Phoenix board meeting.

Media Day

Michael Sommer is reviewing the 2004 Media Day report and will make recommendations to the BOD for a similar event during 2005. The objective is to be prepared to implement a Media Day program on short notice to obtain the optimum media coverage in the event of a major news worthy opportunity.

Strategic Planning Workshop

On March 5 the ASA BOD and Committee Chairman participated in an all day workshop in Ontario, CA. New board member Don Johnson acted as the facilitator and documented the outcome. The group reviewed the ASA Mission statement and brain stormed the strengths and weakness of the organization. The outcome of the process is a Strategic Plan that will reveal the strategic intent, long term goals, short term objectives and provide a foundation for future action plans.

Sand Sports Super Show Hospitality Program

Lloyd Misner presented plans for the 2005 program at the April 2 Phoenix board meeting. Lloyd Misner is the BOD contact for this project.

Raffle Car Schedule

The Endowment Committee had a conference call on March 6 to finalize the schedule for the remainder of the dune season. Plans called for the car to be displayed at Buttercup on March 12 and 13 and again on March 26 and 27 by K&S Sand Sport Flags. K&S sold $2,500 worth of tickets on Presidents' Day weekend.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help the ASA at the booth for the Sand Sports Super Show in September.
The show this year will be the weekend of September 16-17-18.

I know it seems like a long time before the next Sand Show but our next newsletter will not be out until just before the Sand Show and we need you to make your plans now to volunteer for a few hours.

If you can help out please send an email to: SSSSvolunteers@americansandassociation.org or call: 714-229-0286 or 619-448-8078 and leave your name and phone number, a volunteer will be in contact with you soon.

NOMINATIONS DUE FOR THE JERRY R. SEAVER AWARD

The American Sand Association (ASA) recognizes volunteers that give freely of their time and talent in the pursuit of goals and ideals of the ASA. The Jerry R. Seaver award was established in 2004 by the Board of Directors to commend and recognize extraordinary efforts of ASA members. The first recipient was Flo Haynes.

The program provides an opportunity to honor the dedicated people who make a difference in our sport by uniting, informing and mobilizing Sand Sports enthusiasts. Our volunteers are the backbone of the organization and we appreciate the personal sacrifices made by our volunteers and their families. Their efforts are what make our organization great. We thank those outstanding ASA members who give their time and talent unselfishly to protect access to public land.

Anyone can nominate any ASA member who they believe qualifies for this award or apply for the award personally. Current ASA Board Members and their families are not eligible. Qualifications, rules and forms are available on the ASA's Website at http://www.asasand.com/documents/JRS_Award or by contacting Gary Jordan at 602 571 3395 or Box 25933, Tempe, AZ, 85285.

The deadline to return the nomination form is July 31, 2005. Those selected for the Award will be announced at the Sand Sport Super Show in September of this year.

ASA CHECKERED FLAG PROGRAM

SCOTT SWENKA, CHAIRMAN

In February of this year I assumed the leadership role as Chairman of the Checkered Flag program. Over the past few years the program has lost a significant amount of its following. In an effort to re-kindle the program I have begun the process of implementing a new marketing, strategic alliance, consignment program, and an awareness program.

Some of those plans include:

Articles in: Sand Sports, and Sand Addiction, and Toy Hauler Magazines.

Participants with the Mini-Cleanups arranged by Steve Brooks will receive a free flag.

Working with Law Enforcement Agencies (BLM, Sheriff and Border Patrol) will receive flags for their vehicles.

Updates on the ASA Website, and Newsletters.

Work closely with the ASA and Sand Sport Super Show to increase awareness of the program.

Work with manufacturers and dealers of ATVs, Sand Cars, and Motorcycles to increase the distribution channels and awareness.

Other potential plans include spots on the billboards as you enter the ISDRA areas. Additionally I am seeking at least one California and Arizona Volunteer Representative to assist with this program as I build the program hierarchy.

If you have any ideas, or wish to contribute in any way, please contact me at:
flags@americansandassocation.com

26,000 Acres East of Glamis:

Congressman Duncan Hunter has sent a letter to the BLM CA State Director requesting that the approximately 26,000 acres east of the railroad tracks adjacent to Highway 78 and the Boardmanville Road be reopened to camping. This inquiry is the direct result of the March 2005 OHV visit to Washington DC.

Website Activities:

Work continues on bringing up applications that were not ready when we made the server switch. All hosted sites have been recovered (OffRoadAccess.com, ISDRATRT.org, YumaDuners.com, GlamisOnLine.org and RRDuners.com). The last major subsystem to come on line is the ASA's email, so please be patient with us.

The BBS is now fully operational, we still have a few custom modifications to make to the updated version of the software. Other parts of the site are working normally.

We are preparing to offer the membership an "email alias" option. Soon, a member will be able to activate an "@asasand.com" address that will virus-scan and spam-block incoming mail and automatically forward it to an address of their choosing. That way, even if a member changes their Internet service, they can give out the "@asasand.com" address to their friends and they will never lose touch! When this service is tested and ready we will announce it in the Newsletter.

We are now beginning plans for website maintenance and upgrades, and are preparing a Request for Proposals. We also are investigating relocating our server to a larger, more robust service provider. This will take the remainder of the year to put in place as we will need to carefully plan and execute the moves.

Support the ASA and win this Sand LIMO

by Joe Fab

Buggy Tickets are only $20 each - only 12,500 will be sold

Thanks to these generous sponsors:

Sand Limo by Joe Fab, Sand Limo Crew, A & M Nut and Bolt, Affordable Exahust Coating, Affordable Powder Coat, Al's Pinstriping, ASS, Automotive Body & Paint, AZ Transaxle, B & M Wiring, Batteries Plus, Beard Seats, C & R Racing, CMS Wheels, CNC, Crow Ent., Finish Masters, Foddrill Fab, Fortin Racing, Gear One, Goodridge, High Torque/IMI, Intellidash, Iowa Export/Import, JB Motorsports, Karl's Custom, Kennedy Engineered Prod., Kerr West Plating, K-Four Switches, King Racing Shocks, Lazer Star Lights, Marine Screens, McKenzie's, Mendeola Transaxles, Parts Unlimited, Paul Bunyan Firewood, Racer X, Robert Biggs, Tube Service, Co., Tuff Skin, Turn Key, Weddle Ind., Xtreme Tire Co., aSa

Win a Custom Golf Cart

by purchasing tickets at $10 each **OR BY SELLING BUGGY TICKETS** (5 sold gets you 1 cart ticket FREE)

Both tickets available at select retail locations and events.

For mail orders, send check or money order to: ASA Giveaway Buggy Tickets 11487 Woodside Ave., Ste. 110 Santee CA 92071

All proceeds to benefit ASA general fund -

Both giveaways to be held at the 2005 Sand Sports Super Show

Winner need not be present to win, but it sure is nice when they are!

(contributions to the ASA are not tax deductible)

A DAY (OR THREE) IN WASHINGTON, DC

by:Roy Denner

During the first week of March, Bob Mason, Chairman of the American Sand Association (ASA); Harold Soens, President of the San Diego Off-Road Coalition (SDORC); and Roy Denner, President and CEO of the Off-Road Business Association (ORBA) accompanied by California OHV lobbyist Pete Conaty and Washington OHV lobbyist, Paul Kavinoky made another trek to the Capitol of this country to promote and educate our representatives in Washington, DC about off-road issues. We have made this voyage enough times now that our elected representatives, as well as the key people within the Department of the Interior (DOI), know who we are!

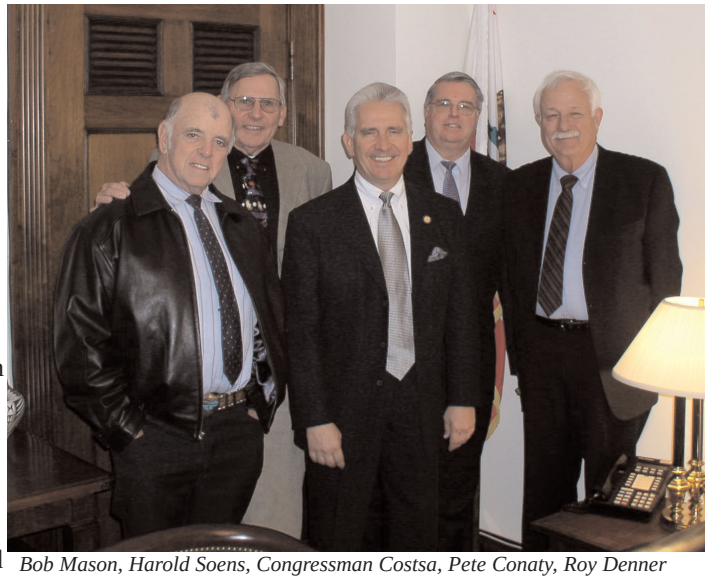
The group met with Congressman Duncan Hunter to provide him with an update of the status of the Recreation Area Management Plan for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). Although the ISDRA is no longer in Hunter's district, he still supports OHV efforts at the ISDRA since a huge number of his constituents recreate there. He has been a long-time advocate for getting the closed areas at the ISDRA reopened.

The ISDRA is now in the Congressional District represented by Congressman Bob Filner. Congressman Filner welcomed the OHV team and was anxious to discuss his support for OHV recreation at the ISDRA. Filner sits on the Transportation Committee where he has submitted a request for $1 million in funding to start the construction of a visitor's center at the ISDRA. He rightfully believes that this world-class recreation area should include a visitor's center where travelers can learn more about the ISDRA and the importance of OHV recreation to the local economy.

Congressman Filner also voiced his support of the United Desert Gateway (UDG) organization. The UDG is composed of representatives from local communities around the ISDRA working with the American Sand Association and the BLM to promote OHV recreation at the ISDRA. Filner is working directly with UDG representatives to help secure funding to conduct the public outreach programs that the UDG is proposing.

Congressional Representatives were encouraged not to support efforts to create more wilderness in this country without demanding compensation for OHV recreation opportunities lost when wilderness is designated. The group distributed a report prepared by Ed Waldheim, President of the California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) and the OHMVR Commissioner. The report shows that the Forest Service and the BLM are each running about $7 million in the red just in California to provide necessary services to off-road areas that they manage. Appeals were made to Congress to submit letters to the Appropriations Committee to correct this funding problem. The lack of funds to adequately manage OHV areas can lead to more and more closures of public lands to vehicle access.

BLM's National Law Enforcement Director, Bill Woody, asked for input regarding law enforcement measures he feels are necessary at motorized OHV areas. A major concern involves the use of alcohol. The OHV representatives support the idea that laws regarding alcohol for on-road driving should apply across-the-board to off-road areas. All agreed that no additional laws are necessary for off-road areas - the existing laws just need to be enforced. Woody is looking for support from the OHV community to get the word out that adequate law enforcement is necessary to assure continuing safe management of vehicle recreation areas. OHV leaders are pushing for more funding from Congress and from the Green Sticker program to support law enforcement in California OHV recreation areas.



Bob Mason, Harold Soens, Congressman Costsa, Pete Conaty, Roy Denner

Congressman Richard Pombo, Chairman of the House Resources Committee, and Resources Committee Legislative Staff, Rob Howarth, met with the group to discuss Congressman Pombo's plans to update the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to make it more effective and more realistic. Pombo and Howarth agreed to assist with plans for a national motorized OHV Summit Meeting in Washington, DC in September. OHV groups from across the country will be walking the halls of Congress at that time to promote motorized OHV recreation and the need for an overhaul of the ESA.

Congressman Jim Costa also met personally with the OHV team and was updated on OHV issues concerning federally managed motorized OHV recreation areas.

The group updated staff representatives from Congressional offices and Senate offices from several western states on OHV issues and concerns.

Over all it was a very busy, but very productive, trip. Legislators and Department of the Interior officials are realizing that the OHV recreation community in this country is becoming a powerful force that represents a huge economic impact - to say nothing of an enormous pile of votes. Wouldn't it be great if every OHV enthusiast in this country went to the polls on Election Day?

Off Road Groups Combine Legal Muscle

Early this April, five of the most legally active off road organizations signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) establishing guidelines for the establishment of EcoBalance, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

The five groups are:

American Motorcyclist Association District 37 (AMAD37)

American Sand Association (ASA)

California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA)

Off-Road Business Association (ORBA)

San Diego Off-Road Coalition (SDORC)

Established to support the legal needs of the Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle community, the full-time Executive Director and Manager of EcoBalance is attorney, David Hubbard.

With the formation of EcoBalance come many advantages. Hubbard will now be able to devote 100% of his time to Off-Highway Vehicle issues since he will no longer work for a firm that demands certain levels of billing. Each organization will contribute a flat base rate that eliminates the need for detailed billing statements: an estimated 20% timesavings for Hubbard. The result is we will have more collective muscle while enjoying an approximate 50% reduction in legal costs.

EcoBalance Takes New Approach to Land Management and Conservation

Advocates for public lands, conservationists, and a coalition of family-oriented recreation groups have banded together to form a new organization -- known as EcoBalance -- that will press for change in the often-contentious debate over land use management in the western United States. The members of EcoBalance wish to dispel the myth that public use of public lands leads necessarily to resource degradation. Instead, it is their belief that human activities are a part of nature and must be treated as such; but that such activities must be managed effectively so that the wildness of the western outdoors is preserved for future generations to enjoy to the fullest. While EcoBalance will certainly involve itself in the ongoing planning processes for public lands in the West, and will from time to time be forced to litigate key issues, EcoBalance intends to focus on practical, "on the ground" solutions to land management and conservation problems. For the members of EcoBalance, land stewardship does not emerge out of a courtroom or high-rise office building, but must be learned by mixing with nature itself -- in the mountains, in the deserts, in the rivers and streams. In short, EcoBalance stands for the proposition that people can both use and protect the environment simultaneously, and that the only way to care for the land is to have access to it. The notion that we can only conserve nature by removing ourselves from it has proved unworkable, ineffective and damaging to an entire generation of Americans who have lost touch with the outdoors. EcoBalance means to reset the scales and fight for a more rational approach to conservation.

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ASA Board of Directors Meeting - 4/21/05

Among other business of the ASA, the "main event" was the presence of Daphne Greene, Deputy Director, California State Parks OHMVR Division, Mark Mc Nay, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, Edward Jahrke, Program Manager, Watercraft & OHV Law Enforcement Arizona Game & Fish Department, and Ruben Conde Jr, Bureau of Land Management Law Enforcement Ranger.

Ruben Conde Jr., Daphne Greene, Edward Jahrke, Mark Mc Nay

Because The American Sand Association (ASA) receives numerous questions and comments from Sand Sport enthusiast's regarding OHV registration, laws, and rules, Bob Mason, Board Chairman, organized the above panel to answer those questions. "Many of our 20,000 members visit various recreation areas in Arizona, Nevada, and California. The rules are not the same in all jurisdictions. In the case of the Imperial Sand Dunes on the high use holidays, visiting law enforcement coalition personnel may not be fully aware of enforcement practices for "off" weekends.", he said.

A public question and answer session followed the panel presentations. The purpose of the panel discussion was to have a dialogue on off-highway vehicle (OHV) rules and regulations at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation area. The panel discussion is part of ASA's "Public Education Outreach Partnership Program" with agencies responsible for management of our public lands. A similar panel discussion is tentatively scheduled for the October 22, 2005 Board Meeting in San Diego.

The questions, who answered them, and their answers follow.

1. Q: Is a red light required at the ISDRA even if you are not riding at night?

A: Mark Mc Nay - Per Calif. Vehicle Code 38345, a red light is not required during daylight hours, but it is required from one half hour after sunset until one half hour before sunrise.

2. Q: Is a brake light required to be legal at the ISDRA?

A: Mark Mc Nay - Brake lights on ATVs, motorcycles, or off-road vehicles are not required. Only street legal vehicles are required to have operating brake lights, which must be in working order.

3. Q: Is there reciprocity between Arizona and California regarding street legal ATVs and golf carts?

A: Ed Jahrke and Daphne Greene - ATVs and golf carts can be street legal only in Arizona, not in California.

ATVs and golf carts are not considered street legal vehicles in CA. In AZ, they can be street legal. If you are a resident of AZ and have a non-street legal vehicle in CA that is registered in AZ, you do not need to obtain a non-resident permit when visiting CA. Until further notice, RV plates on AZ vehicles should be accepted as registration if the owner has AZ ID.

4. Q: Is a light required on your whip if you are riding at night?

A: Mark Mc Nay - No. A light is not required on your whip flag.

5. Q: Is it illegal to ride double on an ATV in CA and AZ if the manufacturer says the ATV is designed for two people?

A: Ed Jahrke - No. If the ATV is manufactured for two people, it is legal to ride double.

A: Mark Mc Nay and Ruben Conde - In California, as long as the ATV is manufactured for two passengers it is legal to ride double.

6. Q: If it is legal to ride double on an ATV that is designed for two by the manufacturer, then if a regular ATV is modified with the same equipment, is it legal to ride double on it?

A: Mark Mc Nay - No. Per California Vehicle Code 38506, any type of modified vehicle not manufactured for two passengers is not legal for the operation with a passenger.

7. Q: Are the sound limits in CA just for ATVs and motorcycles or for all off-road vehicles?

A: Daphne Greene - All off-highway vehicles, not just ATVs and motorcycles are required to meet the 96dBA law.

CA vehicle code 38365 reads: (a) Every off-highway motor vehicle, as defined in Section 38006, shall at all times be equipped with an adequate muffler in constant operation and properly maintained so as to meet the requirements of Section 38370, and no muffler or exhaust system shall be equipped with a cutout, bypass, or similar device. (b) The provisions of subdivision (a) shall not be applicable to vehicles being operated off the highways in an organized racing or competitive event upon a closed course or in a hill climb or drag race, which is conducted under the auspices of a recognized sanctioning body or by permit issued by the local governmental authority having jurisdiction.

"Less Sound Equals More Ground" is a slogan that speaks to the importance of quiet vehicles. Sound is one of the most important issues facing Californians today. In order to sustain long-term OHV opportunities, we must all adhere to the OHV Noise Standard.

8. Q: Some people have received tickets at the ISDRA for no spark arrestor. Why would this apply when there isn't a danger of starting a fire? What does the spark arrestor law say?

A: Mark Mc Nay - All off-highway vehicles are required to be equipped with a spark arrestor.

A. Rubin Conde - There is a Federal Law that requires a spark arrestor when operating on federal land.

9. Q: Can you ride your AZ street legal golf cart or ATV on maintained roads in CA?

A: Mark Mc Nay - No. In California, ATVs and golf carts are not considered street legal.

10. Q: Do Arizona residents with an Arizona RV plate on their ATV, sand rail or golf cart need to buy a

continued next page

non-resident sticker from CA to be legal in CA to ride off-road?

A: Daphne Greene and Mark Mc Nay - If you are a resident of AZ and have a non-street legal vehicle in CA that is registered in AZ, you do not need to obtain a non-resident permit when visiting CA. Until further notice, RV plates on AZ vehicles are accepted as registration if the owner has AZ ID.

11. Q: If you are riding a motorcycle off-road in CA do you need to wear a helmet?

A: Mark Mc Nay - The law does not require you to wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle off-road. Helmets are required when riding an ATV.

12. Q: Where is it legal to use my unlicensed ATV, golf cart, or sand rail in AZ?

A: Ed Jahrke - On unpaved or gravel roads in unincorporated areas you are OK; however, this may not apply to federal lands. It is advisable to check with the authorities in the area where you are going to ride before riding. The following is the actual verbiage from Arizona Revised Statutes Title 28-2153. Registration requirement; exceptions; assessment; violation; classification

D. This section does not apply to:

An all-terrain vehicle or an off-road recreational motor vehicle operating on a dirt road that is located in an unincorporated area of this state. For the purposes of this paragraph, "dirt road" means an unpaved or ungraveled road that is not maintained by this state or a city, town or county of this state.

These are the places where an individual can legally use an unlicensed (non-street legal) ATV, golf cart or sand rail. Roads on federal lands also allow use of unlicensed ATVs, golf carts and sand rails unless these roads are maintained by this state or a city, town or county of this state.

13. Q: In CA is it legal to drive an OHV off-road if your license has been revoked?

A: Mark McNay - No. You may not operate any motorized vehicle if your license is suspended or has been revoked. Driving in California is a privilege not a right.

CVC 14601 et seq. were modified effective January 1, 2005 to clarify that suspension or revocation of your driving privilege applies in OHV areas.

14. Q: Are most CA off-road regulations the same in AZ or NV?

A: Ed Jahrke - No.

15. Q: When the CA Green Sticker program pays for improvements in an area, do they continue to fund the maintenance on the improvement?

A: Daphne Greene - Yes and No. In the past, many areas funded for new development were later funded for some of the on-going maintenance. However, our regulations now require managers of an area receiving grant or cooperative agreement funding be able to demonstrate the ability to maintain new developments without OHV Trust Funds.

Please keep in mind green sticker registration funds are only a small fraction of the entire OHV Trust Fund for California. The OHV Trust Fund is comprised of monies collected from the fuel tax on individuals driving off-highway, the green sticker registration fee, and fees collected at State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs).

The OHMVR Commission allocates funding on a yearly basis for the grants and cooperative agreements program. In 2004/2005, requests for funding exceeded $37M; there was $17M available to allocate. The Commission is a seven-member body comprised of political appointees. (The Governor appoints three and the legislature appoints four.) The decision to fund on-going maintenance of an area is up to the Commission. It is incumbent upon the county or agencies applying for grant funding to properly plan for their OHV programs and not rely or expect funds from an unpredictable funding source.

16. Q: With the visitation ISDRA receives, why doesn't the area receive more funding?

A: Daphne Greene - The OHMVR Commission is responsible for the allocation of funds for the local assistance and cooperative agreements program. Last year there was $37 million in requests and the Commission allocated all of the funds available ($17M). The Commission and Division have the responsibility to provide OHV opportunities throughout the State. The ultimate decision to fund an area or project is up to the seven-member Commission.

As part of the $25 paid for green sticker registration, a percentage goes to CHP, DMV, the OHMVR Division, and back to the counties as "in-lieu" funds. There are changes taking place in the off-highway program that may actually increase the "in-lieu" funding which Imperial County currently receives.

17. Q: Are fireworks illegal in government directed areas such as the dunes? What is the Enforcement Policy?

A: Mark Mc Nay - Federal fire codes and county ordinance laws require a permit in order to light fireworks. Enforcement comes under county codes, which is a misdemeanor with a fine of up to $500.00.

County ordinance 8.24.010:

No person, firm or corporation shall offer for sale, sell, use or display, within the unincorporated territory of the County of Imperial, fireworks of any kind other than those included within the definition of "safe and sane fireworks," as set forth in Part 2 of Division 11 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California…

Violators may be assessed a five hundred dollar fine and have any fireworks remaining in Imperial County confiscated.

18. Q: Why isn't the border patrol more active in law enforcement in the dunes?

A: Ruben Conde - Their primary focus is border patrol and they are not peace officers.

19. Q: When is a safety flag, on a whip, eight feet above the ground required at the ISDRA? A whip with a flag doesn't appear to be required on motor homes or trucks when they are in camping areas but ATVs are required to have them. Why does a truck need a whip with a flag at the drags - off of Gecko road - if it isn't going to go out in the dunes ? The drags at Gecko are as flat as the camping areas. What is the rule of thumb on when a whip and flag are required?

A: Mark Mc Nay - When the motorized vehicle leaves the payment, a flag is required. Federal supplemental rules require a flag measuring eight feet starting from the ground to the tip. Common sense says a motorhome doesn't require a whip if in a camp area.

20. Q: There is no parking or camping within 10ft of the pavement on Gecko Road, although I've never seen it enforced for camping. Does this apply for the road that goes into Buttercup also?

A: Ruben Conde - That rule is specific to Gecko road only; however, we urge everyone to drive safely along all *Continued on Page 14*

ASA Joins Tread Lightly!®

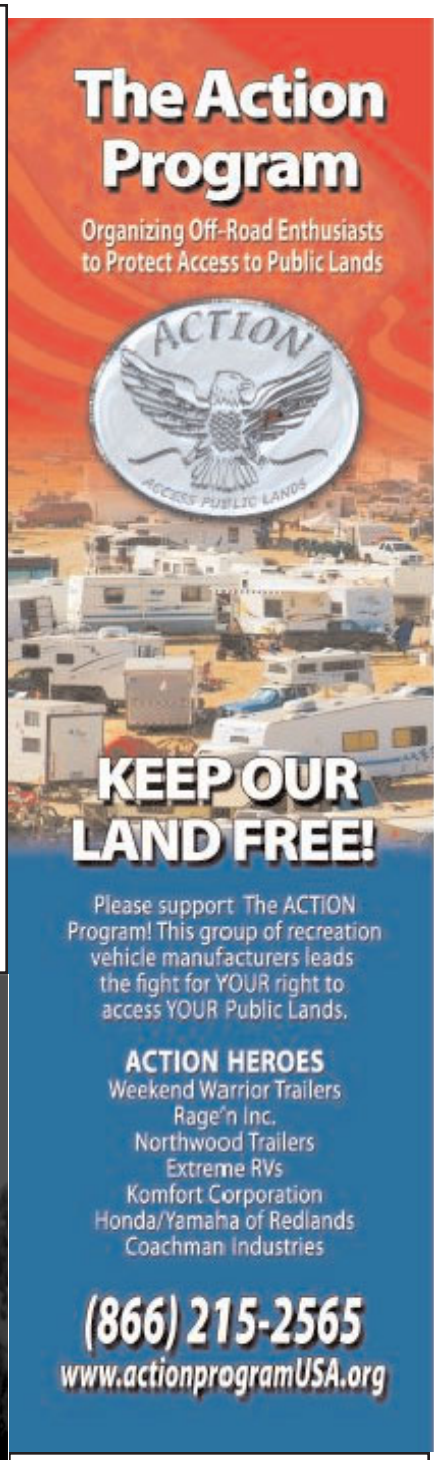
ASA has recently been invited to join Tread Lightly! In conjunction with BLM, Tread Lightly! will develop a new publication entitled "The Tread Lightly! Guide to Responsible Motorized Vehicle use in Sand Dunes.Tread Lightly! is an educational program dedicated to increasing awareness of how to enjoy the great outdoors while minimizing impacts. It emphasizes responsible use of off-highway vehicles, other forms of travel and low impact principles related to outdoor recreation activities. To learn more about Tread Lightly! go to www.treadlightly.org/about.mv

ASA Chairman, Bob Mason says "as an Official Sponsor of Tread Lightly! ASA will support the concepts of the Tread Lightly! program and will portray and display materials and messages in a manner that promotes responsible environmental use of the outdoors." Mason continued, "This is part of ASA's effort to extend its public outreach partnership to other environmentally conscious organizations." By joining Tread Lightly! ASA will join with such organizations as HUMMER and Yamaha in supporting the Tread Lightly! misson and pledge;

"Tread Lightly! strives to preserve our planet by empowering generations to enjoy the outdoors responsibly through education and restoration."

***T**ravel & recreate with minimum impact*
***R**espect the environment and the rights of others*
***E**ducate yourself plan and prepare before you go*
***A**llow for future use of the outdoors, by leaving it better than you found it*
***D**iscover the rewards of responsible recreation*

The new Sand Dunes Guidebook will soon be available on the Tread Lightly! Website and will be distributed at the September 2005 Sand Sports Super Show held at the Orange County Exposition and Fair Grounds in Costa Mesa, California.



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DUNE SAFE
DRINK RESPONSIBLY
OTHERS DEPEND ON YOU TO BE SAFE
GO HOME IN ONE PIECE:
PHYSICALLY AND FINANCIALLY.
LIVE TO RIDE ANOTHER DAY AND BE AROUND FOR YOUR KIDS

ICSO - OHVEST

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Safety Team (OHVEST) is working hard to make the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area one of the safest and most family-friendly in the country.

Sheriff Harold Carter has made it a priority for OHVEST to have not only a presence on the dunes, but at trade shows, service clubs, and on the web.

Sheriff Carter said recently, "Working with groups like the American Sand Association has given us a team of people who love the dunes and want to see them remain open. This partnership is critical for us as we work to make the dunes a great place to bring your family and enjoy all that the Imperial Dunes have to offer."

OHVEST's presence at off-road and recreational trade shows is important because it gives the Sheriff's Office even greater exposure to people outside of Imperial County. People at trade shows like the Sand Sports Super Show in Costa Mesa, California get a chance to talk to deputies before they hit the sand and trails to learn more about safety, laws, and other recreational opportunities within Imperial County. Sgt. Mark McNay, the man in charge of day-to-day operations for OHVEST said, "These shows are a great opportunity for us to greet, meet and teach, and show some of what we have accomplished out at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area. It is important for the people who will use the dunes to see us outside of 'business' hours. That way we can help educate and answer questions before a visitor makes a mistake that may cost them a ticket or worse, an injury accident."

The ICSO website, www.icso.org has an area dedicated to OHVEST. The OHVEST pages provide visitors with information about OHV laws, off highway regulations, maps of the area, including El Centro and Brawley, local emergency contact numbers, a page of links to other agencies and sand groups, and much more.

Sheriff Carter stressed the need for Imperial County to have a strong off-highway team like OHVEST. "We value the thousands of off-road and recreational visitors to Imperial County every year. We want them to be safe and enjoy their time in the Valley. OHVEST is a big part of our commitment to insuring that safety and enjoyment."

Dune Etiquette or, Whoever You Are, You Ruined Our Day.

It was the kind of day where sitting under the awning sipping your choice of cool beverages and listening to the occasional fly buzz past you is your biggest goal in life. Not a cloud in the sky; slight breeze; scent of wild flowers wafting on the air. Those rare days are so quiet, that even Honda's best EU technology sounds like an overloaded 747 doing an emergency go-around at full throttle. It was such a day on a recent Wednesday that I pulled into Roadrunner to find only 3 other rigs. Image my delight. Wow, I thought, I'll actually get a day of the peace and quiet we used to have ten or so years ago.

As soon as I shut down the rig, I notice a generator running in one of the nearby camps. No problem, I think, its lunchtime and they'll turn it off soon. Hey, we all need 110 VAC from time to time. Nevertheless, 3 hours later, I'm getting an uneasy feeling.

On into the evening it goes. I could go ask to have them turn it off. However, having had offers to rearrange my anatomy in other instances, I decline. Besides, no one wants to be a nagging neighbor. They'll turn it off soon.

8:00 pm. OK, dinner is over. Now I am wondering just when will they turn it off? Will I have a peaceful campfire? No such luck. I go to bed at 10 PM disappointed; I know the rest of the night is ruined and the crowds will start arriving tomorrow.

Thursday morning - you guessed it.

As I write this on Thursday afternoon, no one is at camp yet the generator is still running. Does daddy own a gas station? I ponder what makes these self-absorbed people decide to burn what will turn out to be dozens of gallons of gas by Sunday. And, God, I do hope they are going home Sunday.

Are they running a heart lung machine? If so, God bless them for making the effort - I'll live through it. Are their batteries totally shot? Not likely, they've got over $100,000.00 invested in various toys, so I know they can afford batteries. TV & DVD? Just how many movies can a person watch? Did they forget to buy propane and need to run the fridge? I doubt it unless their gauge is broken. Are they just simply more secure knowing there are 110 volts at their fingertips? Maybe they feel they have mastered the wild by being able to use everyday appliances. Maybe, like the dog that licks himself, they do it just because they can. Perhaps they are just victims of our "consume at all costs" society.

Notwithstanding a health issue, to me, and many others, the reason doesn't matter. Buy some new batteries, propane, an inverter, or whatever it takes. Get therapy if you need to run a generator to deal with your insecurity issues. Do whatever you need to do so that you don't have to run a noisy machine all day and well into the night.

Sure, I run a generator, but only when I absolutely have to. I also understand that you need to "exercise" them. However, please, if you aren't using the 110, SHUT THAT NOISY THING OFF!

WAIT! What do I see? Is it too good to be? They've packed up and are leaving! Another rig is taking their place. The new arrival is running their generator; they just got here and are probably fixing something to eat. They'll turn it off soon…

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE COMING SOON

In the early days of the ASA, it was decided to offer a free membership for 2 reasons: to unite and inform those that recreate at the dunes and large membership numbers mean influence and power. More informed sand sport enthusiasts = the more support you receive from those overseeing the dunes. The strategy has worked.

YOUR membership and support is our biggest asset. With over 20,000 members, you provide us with the necessary "tools" to make the ASA what it is: a first class organization.

We are kicking off our first membership drive starting at this year's Sand Sports Super Show in September. Plans include new hand-outs for use at the dunes and around town combined with a membership drive contest with great prizes. We will keep you updated on our progress in each quarterly newsletter and on our website. Our next newsletter due out in September will have all the details.

Wouldn't you like more power in your toys? That is what the ASA wants. More members = more power. We use this power in both Sacramento and Washington DC where we fight to protect our rights to ride. This is how the game is played and we are making huge strides. Please help us to make the ASA stronger than ever by participating in the upcoming membership drive.

We have a lot of great volunteers making the ASA what it is and who continually strive to move us to the next level. However, not all of them can commit the time it takes to help oversee the many irons in the fire that we have at the moment and will continue to have. Just getting familiar with ISDRA issues and past decisions is a project in itself.

There will come a day when the current BOD, for whatever reasons, will need to step down. Attrition is inevitable. We must plan for that or the ASA will fizzle out. We prefer to promote from within but we cannot and should not demand the availability of those that graciously donate their spare hours to the cause. Therefore, ASA needs to increase our membership so that we have a wider base from which to cultivate and recruit future board members, committee chairs, and committee members.

Jim Colln has submitted a well thought out professional proposal that once adopted, will help increase our numbers. ASA has never done a membership drive and with the estimated 1.2 million ISDRA visitors, it seems likely that we should easily double or possibly triple the 20,000+ that we have now. Not only will this effort expand our potential talent pool, there is more political clout in huge numbers.

We will need to get these new members involved and informed so that they can become part of the team in hope that, one day, some of them can continue to build upon the foundation that our present membership has laid down.

We will be asking for help from all of you when this plan is set in motion. It is about the survival of the ASA. The CBD promised us that they aren't going away: we intend to make good on our promise to them that we aren't either.

Q&A from Page 11

roads. When camping along any road be sure to leave enough room for patrol and rescue vehicles to pass through.

21. Q: In AZ many sand rails don't have a title and are not street legal. They are bought and sold with a bill of sale. Is a non-resident sticker all they need to be legal at the ISDRA?

A: Mark Mc Nay - Yes. All they need is a non-resident permit. For locations to purchase them, go to http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21846.

22. Q: On busy holiday weekends at Glamis, there are LEOs from outside agencies and many are not familiar with the dunes or the rules. What process is used to bring them up to speed? Do they receive any information to review before they come to Glamis?

A: Ruben Conde and Mark Mc Nay - Officers are intensively briefed before heading out into the field. On holiday weekends, many officers return to ISDRA from outside areas and are already familiar with the most used regulations and laws. They are also given briefings each day before each shift, regarding current incidents and other items that are specific to the area they are going to work.

23. Q: Is Arizona considering a program similar to the California State Parks OHV Program? If so, what is the status?

A: Ed Jahrke - The answer to #1 is yes. One of the biggest goals is to keep the program simple. The agency that will handle the program has yet to be chosen. There is a real need out there for revenue and management in order to keep the public lands access open to the public. #2 is: Current status is that during the 2006 general session, there will be some sort of plan in effect, hopefully. The plan is to work with CA to utilize its program as a framework and to maintain an open dialog with the other states including Utah and New Mexico. OHV management is on the forefront of a lot of agencies minds. There has to be an inter-state system in effect for it to be successful.

24. Q: The top of my whip is 10 feet off of the ground. Our club flag is at the top and of the whip and at the 8 foot level is an orange flag. Am I legal?

A: Mark Mc Nay - It is required to have the orange flag at the top of the whip, and then the other club or decorative flag below the colored flag for visibility.

25. Q: Do AZ and CA driving and drinking laws apply off-highway? What is the rule on open containers? Can a passenger in my dune buggy drink while I drive? What about on OHV designated trails at the cinders near Flagstaff AZ? I have heard about the BLM National Alcohol Initiative. Is that a ban on alcohol on federal land?

A: Mark Mc Nay - California vehicle codes #23222, #23223, #23225, #23226 all apply to drinking and driving laws which also apply to off-highway vehicle use.

The BLM alcohol initiative is a campaign highlighting education of the public and increased attention by enforcement.

26. Q: Ron Scott asked about the law regarding red and blue lights on any off road vehicle.

A: Mark Mc Nay - The California Vehicle Code 38346 prohibits red or blue warning lights. This law allows for law enforcement and emergency personnel to be easily recognized in an emergency. This enables them to protect the public as well as the public lands on which the public recreates.

27. Q: If you have a Dual Sport bike and you have street legal and green stickered, can you have equipment on it disabled that is required for it to be street legal, when using it off road in California?

A: Daphne Greene - Yes, as long as the motorcycle is equipped as required for off-highway use. However, when traveling back on-pavement, be sure to have all the proper equipment needed for street legal travel.

ASA Writes Letter to Imperial County Sheriff Harold Carter

The following letter is self explanatory.

May 5, 2005

Sheriff Harold Carter
Box 1040
El Centro, CA 92244

Dear Sheriff Carter:

On November 19, 2002 the Imperial County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance that places a dusk-to-dawn curfew at Competition Hill in the Glamis area of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. Your office, in conjunction with the El Centro Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), requested this temporary closure to deal with law enforcement concerns.

The American Sand Association opposed the curfew and encouraged checkpoints at the entrance to Comp Hill to identify liquor violations, illegal activity or other rule violations. Beginning in January of 2002 the Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO), the BLM, and a coalition of law enforcement agencies implemented "Zero Tolerance" enforcement methods. Since then both the ICSO and BLM law enforcement leadership have publicly acknowledged significant improvement on numerous occasions.

In an October 25, 2004 report to the California State Parks Off Highway Motor Vehicle Commission Jim Keeler of BLM included the following information:
"Law Enforcement Summary- For upcoming 04/05 Season

- El Centro is working cooperatively with the BLM National Office and the American Sand Association on a safety education campaign.
- BLM will also be instituting an alcohol initiative this season in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.
- Our objectives for the season are the same as last year and will include:
  - Public Safety
  - Alcohol
  - Drug Enforcement
  - Minors in position of alcohol and/or illicit drugs
  - Resource protection

Overall, the BLM feels that things are improving in the Dunes and continues to work cooperatively with the Imperial County Sheriff's Department. Together, both agencies are continuing to monitor compliance of the Competition Hill closure and will be assessing the situation as the season progresses."

On September 30, 2004 Nicole Gilles and Cathy Kennerson of the United Desert Gateway, Jerry Seaver, Chairman of the ISDRA Technical Review Team and I met with you and your staff to discuss, among other things, the removal of the Comp Hill curfew. You indicated that following the 2004-05 season that your office would reassess the need for the curfew.

This letter is to formally request that the curfew be removed commencing with the Halloween weekend of 2005. Based on discussions with law enforcement personnel, the techniques currently employed by the coalition will attain the desired level of safety for ISDRA visitors and your personnel. BLM management has acknowledged that ISDRA has been returned to the "Family" recreation opportunity of years gone by. The ASA will strongly support the use of checkpoints at the entrance to Comp Hill during the evening hours on the holiday weekends to enforce the existing ISDRA rules and regulations.

Bob Mason,
Chairman American Sand Association
cc. Bill Woody, Director, BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security
Linda Hansen, Manager, BLM California Desert District
Vicki Wood, Manager, BLM El Centro Field Office
Gary Wyatt, Chairman, Imperial County Board of Supervisors
Wally Leimgruber, Imperial County Board of Supervisors District 5

TRT Report – By Jerry Seaver, TRT Chairman

The El Centro field office has been without a permanent field manager for a year. There have been acting field managers from within the office and another from outside that served a 60-day detail. The only TRT meeting to take place was during the 60-day period. Vicki Wood started May 16th as the new permanent El Centro Field Manager.

This coming season will be challenging with the possibility of a new management plan (RAMP) being implemented. A court that is scheduled to rule in late September will determine whether the RAMP is implemented next season. The Biological Opinion (BO) drives the new management plan and if nothing is changed after the judge makes her decision in September there will be some changes at the ISDRA.

One of those changes is how trash must be addressed regarding the dumpsters at the ISDRA. According to the RAMP *"BLM shall install and operate adequate facilities to allow appropriate disposal of trash in heavily used areas. Trash receptacles must be inaccessible to coyotes and ravens. BLM shall monitor trash build-up and will take immediate action, should any overflow occur."*

Accomplishing this will greatly increase the cost for trash removal and dumpsters at the ISDRA. Making this work with the limited amount of money that is available to operate the ISDRA will be difficult. With insufficient funds available, challenging decisions will have to be made on the use of the funds.

Part of the TRT's mission statement is giving input on the prioritization of the RAMP implementation schedule. The TRT will be asked to give their input. It is important that you give the TRT your input. Please take the time to find out how the new management plan affects you and give your input to the TRT.

You can do this in 2 ways: either through the web site, WWW.ISDRATRT.ORG or send you comments to:

Bureau of Land Management El Centro Field Office
Attn: TRT
1661 S. 4th St.
El Centro CA 92243

ASA thanks Jerry for his efforts on the TRT and his report. What Jerry does not go into in his report is that we have a huge dilemma regarding trash at the ISDRA. To see just how big the problem is requires a look at the big picture.

First you need to know that if the trash is allowed to pile up around dumpsters, the BLM is in violation of the BO and CBD will certainly use it against us to file for an injunction to close the dunes.

Next, looking at the chart below, you can see that we have collected less money this year than last to the tune of over $512,000. There is no indication that we will collect more in the near future or next season. Tie that information with the fact that the new coyote and raven proof dumpsters will cost double the $200,000 we are spending now, and you begin to see the basis of our problem.

Compounding our predicament is the numbers regarding dumpster capacities. The new dumpsters are only 5 cubic yards while the existing dumpsters are 40-yard bins: a difference of 8 to 1. To put it another way, the new bins have only 1/8 the capacity. It is being considered to empty them twice as often but then we are still at a 4 to 1 difference. Looking deeper at the situation one can see that even if we get them emptied twice as much, we are still burdened with 1/8 of the capacity on the weekends to start with. As things stand now, the capacity we had last season is inadequate.

It is easy to see that attempts to solve the trash problem could easily double our costs and still there would be no guarantees. With reduced funds and higher costs, other items in the budget must be cut. The 2 most flexible line items in the BLM budget are medical and law enforcement. So we are down to choosing what we prefer: lesser but consistent trash problems or reduced medical and reduced law enforcement.

Wouldn't it be a lot simpler for everyone to just

PACK IT IN AND PACK IT OUT?

fiscal month deposit	month fees were collected	FY04 Gross Collection	FY04 monthly cumulative	FY04% of total collection	FY 05 Gross Collection	FY05 monthly cumulative	Difference
nov	oct	$380,750	$380,750	12.62%	$527,765	$527,765	$147,015
dec	nov	$682,405	$1,063,155	22.63%	$954,880	$1,482,645	$272,475
jan	dec	$480,226	$1,543,381	15.92%	$299,113	$1,781,758	($181,113)
feb	jan	$586,952	$2,130,333	19.46%	$339,626	$2,121,384	($247,326)
mar	feb	$263,628	$2,393,961	8.74%	$259,947	$2,381,331	($3,681)
apr	mar	$178,555	$2,572,516	5.92%	$106,138	$2,487,469	($72,417)
may	apr	$149,300	$2,721,816	4.95%	$7,312	$2,494,781	($141,988)
jun	may	$13,235	$2,735,051	0.44%	$0	$2,494,781	($13,235)
jul	jun	$7,715	$2,742,766	0.26%	$0	$2,494,781	($7,715)
aug	jul	$2,835	$2,745,601	0.09%	$0	$2,494,781	($2,835)
sept	aug	$8,908	$2,754,509	0.30%	$0	$2,494,781	($8,908)
oct	sept	$261,621	$3,016,130	8.67%	$0	$2,494,781	($261,621)
		$3,016,130		100.00%	$2,494,781		($521,350)

New BLM El Centro Staff

Vicki Wood, the new El Centro Field Office Manager, reported for duty on May 15, 2005. The ASA Chairman has requested a meeting with Ms. Wood to discuss items of mutual interest.

From the BLM press release: “Wood has served as the Acting Field Manager at the BLM's Winnemucca Field Office in Nevada since June 2004, where she served as the Associate Field Manager since March 2003 prior to assuming the duties as the Acting manager.

"Vicki brings a broad range of leadership and management expertise to the El Centro Field Office," said Linda Hansen, BLM California Desert District Manager. "Her on-the-ground management experience and first hand knowledge of BLM's resource programs and field operations will be valuable assets to the California Desert District."

Wood has considerable understanding of BLM programs and organization and extensive experience in support functions and budget. Prior to accepting her position as Associate Field Manager in Winnemucca, she served as Supervisor of the Branch of Business and Administrative Services and principal advisor to the Deputy State Director at BLM's Eastern States Office. Her federal career began in 1992 in Lubbock with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Vicki was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas and will be moving to El Centro with her husband George and two college age daughters. She has a Bachelors Degree in General Studies from Texas Tech University and Masters in Education from Wayland Baptist University.

"I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that await me in El Centro," said Wood. "I am also looking forward to the warmer weather." She will assume her duties as the El Centro Field Office Manager in May.”

The BLM El Centro Field Office has also added a Park Ranger specializing in outreach and education for the Imperial Sand Dune Recreation Area. Joyce "Joya" Szalwinski has hit the ground running and has already represented the BLM at one outreach event, almost completed a new Tread Lightly! dunes booklet with the cooperation of the ASA, is working on the new adaptive management area permit program, will be project lead for the BLM multi-agency Sand Sports Super Show booth in September, and is working on a new dunes map. Joya is originally from Long Island, New York. She has worked for the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and for the BLM across the United States.

We have been informed by William Woody, BLM Director of Law Enforcement and Security that Troy Bolen has been selected to replace Roger Bruckner as the Special Agent in Charge of California activities. ASA's had an excellent working relationship with Bruckner, who retired at the end of 2004. Arrangements are being made to meet with Bolen in the near future.

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ISDRA, ROD, RAMP, AMA, PMV
The Alphabet Soup of Getting Closures Reopened

By Vince Brunasso

We have come a long way in the seven years since my partner and I started GlamisOnLine.org. We learned many lessons, assembled a lot of great volunteers, co founded one of the largest off road groups in America, did some fundraising and biological studies, lobbied in DC, went to countless meetings, and filed some lawsuits. It looks like those years of effort may finally be worth it.

Recently, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) filed a Record of Decision (ROD) that paves the way for implementation of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP).

You're probably asking, "Yeah, so? What the heck does all that mean?" What it means is that if the BLM is able to proceed with the plan, the 49,000 acres that were agreed to as TEMPORARY by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) in a 2000 lawsuit settlement, will, to a large degree, be lifted and we will have unrestricted access to all but 33,289 acres of them that will be known as the Adaptive Management Area (AMA). This is in addition to the 26,500-acre wilderness area north of highway 78 that was established in the early 70's and continues to stand forever. No vehicles - EVER. PERIOD. This closure was in place before the additional 49,000-acre TEMPORARY closure.

While I'm on the subject, are you aware that 26,500 acres is actually 41.4 square miles? Manhattan Island is only 22 square miles. San Francisco is 47 square miles with a population of 750,000. Boston is 44 square miles with a population over 500,000. But this is not enough: they want to add the 49,000 TEMPORARY acres for a total of 118 square miles or an area 2.5 times as large as San Francisco.

But I digress.

The AMA, which is pretty much most of the central part of the Algodones dunes (ISDRA), will be accessible through a permit system to a limited number of vehicles per day - 525 to be exact. It will be smaller than the closure that is there now, will not include Hill 6, provides for a wider sand highway on the canal side, and is open only during hours of daylight from October through April. In other words, closed to 98% of sand sport enthusiasts 75% of the time.

And did you catch the "IF" part of BLM being able to proceed? That's right, there's an "if". Because there are 2 species listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the dunes, the desert tortoise and the Peirson's milk vetch (PMV), the BLM was required to get a biological opinion (BO) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that approves the proposed RAMP.

And this they did - twice. Twice? Yup, twice because the CBD who sued the BLM, won, and agreed to TEMPORARY closures as part of the settlement went back to court when the first BO was issued that approved the RAMP. They didn't like that it said reopening the TEMPORARY closures was OK for the PMV. Judge Illston told FWS to go back and take another look at the BO. They did and came back with an even stronger one that addresses all of CBD's concerns.

Now CBD is back in court saying that they want the closures permanent because the second BO is also flawed. Trust me when I say that this is making a long story short. Remember it has been a 7-year battle AND THEY AGREED TO THE CLOSURES AS TEMPORARY.

So where do we go from here? Sparing you all the legal mumbo jumbo, Judge Illston is slated to make her final ruling known on September 30 of this year. That's right: a judge and not scientists will decide what is appropriate protection for a plant. Given that there are 2 separate Biological Opinions and the second is even stronger than the first, and given that the PMV is not a plant that needs protecting in the first place, I'd say we have a pretty fair chance of the RAMP moving forward.

But then again, I thought Bush would win by a landslide against Gore...

We would like to thank all the new and renewing supporting members that signed on so far this year. Your commitment goes a long way in supporting the fight to keep our riding areas open for now and the future.

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These are a top quality brand T-shirt with color graphics on the front and back. Sizes Youth Medium 10/12 to X-Large, Youth Large 14/16, S,M,L,XL $10 ea
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Specify size	Price	Quantity	Total

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Same as White Tee Shirt above but Ash color Tee Shirt. S,M,L,XL Price is $10 ea
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Specify size	Price	Quantity	Total

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Specify size	Price	Quantity	Total

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	Price	Quantity	Total

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Size	Price	Quantity	Total
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The ASA Bucks are redeemable for ASA Merchandise at ASA events where the ASA is selling merchandise and via mail order for all merchandise items. **To redeem via mail order, fill in the appropriate box above and mail the Bucks in with the order form.**

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