American Sand Association Inc.
www.asasand.org

# American Sand Association
# "IN THE DUNES"

Volume 7 Issue 1
February 2007

Unite, Inform, and Mobilize

## POSSIBLY MOVING TO THE 9th CIRCUIT

### THE ONGOING MOVES TO LIFT THE CLOSURES

**In an unexpected and interesting turn of events, we received on 11/21/06 a NOTICE OF APPEAL from the Department of Justice (DOJ) requesting that the 9th Circuit Court review and overturn Judge Illston's decision in the Imperial Dunes litigation.**

**Keep in mind that the Notice of Appeal is a one-page document that simply alerts the court that appellate review has been requested. We won't know what arguments Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) are going to make until they file their briefs.**

**Our attorney, Dave Hubbard, called Mike Eitel, the DOJ lawyer, but there was very little information that he could provide.**

**In response to BLM's decision to appeal Judge Illston's ruling in this case, we filed a companion appeal, as did the BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC). This optimizes our rights and options should we (and BLM) decide to pursue the appeal all the way to a ruling by the 9th Circuit Court.**

**Meanwhile, ASA has had some discussions with Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), as well as the federal agencies regarding what shape the new Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) will take. The hope is that the combatants can come to an agreement to prevent future litigation over the dunes. Some ideas have been tossed back and forth --- all of them very conceptual -- but at this stage there has been no definitive movement by CBD or PEER towards a more centrist position. Nonetheless, the conversations are continuing. We'll just have to see where they lead.**

**For more details see the ASA Annual Report on the following pages.**

## *ORANGEWOOD RV CENTER Makes Donation To The ASA*

**Darrel Nagler of Orangewood RV Center, Surprise, AZ, presents the ASA's Don Johnson a donation of $2,000 in appreciation of the ASA's continued endeavor to Unite, Inform and Mobilize the sand duning community. The presentation took place at the recent Sand Expo in Phoenix. The donation represents a portion of the sales consummated during Orangewood's 3rd Annual "Pound Sand" event held in October. Nagler says, "the attendance at Orangewood's Pound Sand is always enhanced by the ASA's involvement". The ASA has been a vendor and sponsor at all 3 Pound Sand events.**

*FIND MORE INFORMATION AND STORIES IN OUR ONLINE VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER*

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Contact:
asaboard@ASAsand.org

Mailing Address:
1911 Foothill Blvd. PMB 108
La Verne, CA 91750-3511
Phone: 619-448-8078



ASA Quarterly Newsletters
February
May
September
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Editor:
Jim Colln
newsletters@ASAsand.org


# *American Sand Association 2006 Annual Report*

## *The past year proved to be ripe with milestone events.*

*Judge Susan Illston handed down the long-awaited ruling early in summer. In it, she ruled in favor of the Center for Biological Biodiversity (CBD) on essentially all the major issues. It is important to note that she did not directly strike down any decisions the federal defendants made, just their actions that created procedural errors in arriving at those decisions. Her ruling requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to vacate the Biological Opinion (BO), the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the Critical Habit Designation (CH). The agencies had the choice to go back and rewrite the documents or appeal. They chose the latter in a surprise move late in the year. The basis for their decision is to date unknown.*

*In conjunction with this court case, the Peirson's milk vetch (PMV) delisting remains a cornerstone of the litigation. Having not received a decision one way or the other from FWS, all concerned parties are required to present legal strategies that revolve around a listed species.*

*ASA agreed with FWS to extend the due date of the delisting ruling to enable them to take into account all the latest science. To facilitate their data gathering, ASA orchestrated a biological summit where Dr. Art Phillips met with agency botanists and biologists to share his research on the PMV. The belief that the PMV needs federal protection seems to be waning.*

*The extended date for the delisting ruling was October 21, 2006. To date we are still waiting for a decision. A favorable decision would hasten the appeal process, remove many of the land management constraints and requirements imposed by a listed species, and move the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) closer to implementation. In the meantime, ASA continues to spend considerable sums of dollars on the PMV field studies conducted by Dr. Phillips.*

*In mid December, CBD and PEER asked to meet once again with ASA. Their hope is to have us agree to their idea of balanced ISDRA management. The offer was similar to the one they made some 2 years ago and bears a close resemblance to Alternative #3 in the EIS. A map can be found on our website.*

*ASA made it clear that any agreement must be data driven and based upon only sound science. Threatened with years of litigation and stall tactics, ASA informed them of our staying power and tenacity.*

*The ASA facilitated interaction between land*

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

*managers, law enforcement agencies, the Gateway communities, and the duning community in general. This concerted effort has enhanced overall interaction between everyone involved. Several beneficial outreach projects resulted. With ASA's encouragement, a Public Safety Subcommittee of the ISDRA Technical Review Team (TRT) has been formed.*

*In 2004, the ASA was recognized as a high-profile, partner of value by the BLM when the Association received the Director's 4 C's Award. The partnership role was solidified with an invitation to participate in the Dec 2006 BLM Dune Summit. (see article on page 6)*

*The ASA completed its sixth year in June of 2006. In this short period, the Association has amassed 27,614 members and over 466 Business Sponsors. As the organization matures, its ability to influence activities in Sacramento and Washington, DC increases.*

*Partnerships with the agencies and the Gateway Communities have been supported by Sand Sport businesses. Donations of equipment and dollars have amounted to nearly $500,000 in the past two years. Installation of ISRDA rule signs and a business sponsored litter education program supported by volunteer-operated dunes outreach trucks are typical partnership programs.*

*Funding for the Association activities is supported mainly through the sale of sand car raffle opportunities. For the fifth year, sand car manufactures and component suppliers have donated a complete car. Business sponsors, membership dues, and donations by Sand Sport enthusiasts round out the Association's revenue sources.*

*This year we will see a high-dollar DeJong Monster Manx as the giveaway car. Sales volume is down slightly from last year at this time. To enhance ticket sales this year, the raffle committee secured a second place prize consisting of a 24' Pace Box Trailer. Pace American donated the trailer.*

*Various appearances of the raffle car and trailer are being scheduled with volunteers for ticket sales. These prizes will be awarded at the 2007 Sand Sport Super Show (SSSS) in Costa Mesa California. Raffle ticket sales are arranged through our office and various venues. We anticipate brisk sales at the SSSS in September.*

*The Association places a high priority on keeping its members well informed. During 2006, the Association held open board meetings providing an opportunity for its members and the sand sport community in general to interface with the Board of Directors. Speakers included ASA Legal Counsel David Hubbard, representatives of the BLM, the FWS, and the Imperial County Sheriff's Office. Discussion topics included access to public land, public safety, fee collection procedures, and many more issues of interest to the sand sport*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## 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). Leaders of the ASA are volunteers.

Working in concert with the Off Road Business Association (ORBA), San Diego Off-Road Coalition (SDORC), and others, the ASA has filed eight 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.

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 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.

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.

The ASA has received the US Dept. of Interior's 4C's Award, recognizing our organization's commitment to working with the Bureau and others to enhance recreational conservation on public lands in Southern California.

## ASA OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

***March 3, 2007***

**The ASA has scheduled an Open Board meeting in Chandler, AZ at the Radisson Hotel, 7475 W Chandler Blvd on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at 9 am. We hope to make this a very special meeting, and are currently in the early planning stages contacting guests. Be watching for a more detailed announcement soon on our web site.**

## ASA COOK BOOK

**The Premier Edition of Cooking in the Sand: A Collection of Duners' Favorite Recipes is well underway! This conveniently sized cookbook will fit in any camper, RV or even tent kitchen and features recipes by you – our duning community.**

**We are looking to send it to print in the next 30 days, but would like some additional inclusions. Anything in the categories of breakfast, lunch, dinner, appetizer, dessert and or holiday tips. We have an entire section of how to cook a turkey (no, not the obnoxious camping neighbor that parties all night).**

**If you would like to submit a recipe for this first edition, please send them to: recipes@asasand.com**

**Look for the recipe book on the ASA website soon!**

## TRT FORMS PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMITTEE

**In a November 24, 2006 email sent to Jerry Seaver, ISDRA Technical Review Team (TRT) Chairman, from Mike Pool, the BLM California State Director, it was stated that all issues including new considerations regarding the management of Glamis should be funneled through the TRT. Good leadership dynamics, quality agendas and effective moderation of discussions on the part of all participants should lead to effective TRT outcomes.**

**As a result of this statement, with a motion and by unanimous vote during the 11/30/06 ISDRA TRT conference call, a sub committee for Public Safety was created. The first order of business for the ISDRA TRT Public Safety Sub Committee (PSSC) will be to continue the efforts of the re-established Comp Hill Solutions Team (CHST). The role of the ISDRA TRT Public Safety Sub-Committee is to provide public input to the BLM on issues relating to Public Safety; and assist the BLM in communicating with the ISDRA visitors to promote awareness and improve Public Safety at the ISDRA. For more information on the TRT and the PSSC, visit: www.ISDRATRT.org**

**Large crowds still congregate at Oldsmobile Hill and other hills at night. Some members of these crowds engage in activities that give off roaders in general a bad image. Some of these activities are also illegal and compromise public safety. When this occurs, law enforcement officials deem it necessary to clear out the crowd. An unlawful assembly is declared and steps are taken to disperse the crowd. It is to our benefit to cooperate with their efforts. Those that do not cooperate are dealt with harshly since they are now breaking the law by ignoring the dispersal order.** **Please take time to read the TRT article found on page 8 titled "Unlawful Assembly: What Is It?"**

## Jagged X Presents
## Rhino Crash 2007

***Jagged Extreme invites you to their second annual Rhino Crash 2007, Saturday February 3, 2007 at the ISDRA's Pad 3 on Gecko Road.***

***There will be raffle prizes, group photos, and a carne asada cookout. Proceeds benefit the ASA.***

***Jagged Extreme wants to continue to be among the first Side By Side leaders to help give back to the off road community and this event helps to do just that. Last year's Rhino Crash 2006 raised $4,000.00 in proceeds which were donated to the ASA.***

# SUPPORT THE ASA

## AND WIN THIS AMAZING MONSTER MANX MX2

By DeJong Sand Cars

**GRAND PRIZE!**

Drawing will be held at the
**Sand Sports Super Show**
September 16th, 2007

**2nd Place Prize**
**Pace American Rallye**
*24-Foot Enclosed Trailer*

## Thanks to these generous sponsors!

*DeJong Sand Cars • Apache Gear • Baja Designs • Bug Shields • California Performance • CNC Incorporated • Cutting Edge Performance DezertGirl.com • Dezert Off Road Registration • DJ Safety Inc. • Douglas Wheel • Eliminator Motorsports • FK Bearing • Fox Racing Shox Howe Performance • IMI • IMS • Kartek Off-Road • Kennedy Engineered Products • KS Sand Flags • LineX of Temecula • Mac Fab • Mckenzie's Mendeola Transaxles • OMF Performance Products • Peregrine Industries • Precision Powder Coat • PRP • RBP • Saldana Racing Radiators Sand Tires Unlimited • Streight Edje • Spall Fans • Total Power Batteries • Toybox Covers.com • Turn Key Engine Supply • Weddle Industies*

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**All proceeds to benefit the ASA General Fund**

*Visit the ASA website at **www.asasand.com** for more information*

Ad design by dla design concepts.com

*Must be 18 years of age to enter and win.*
*Tickets are $20 each (only 15,000 will be sold).*
*Purchaser of ticket subject to all terms and conditions of raffle.*

**For mail orders send check or money order to:**

ASA/DeJong Buggy Raffle, 11487 Woodside Avenue, Santee, CA 92071

**Or Call:** 619-448-8078

**Winners need not be present!**

# *FIRST BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SPONSORED DUNES MANAGERS MEETING*

By Anna Atkinson
Bureau of Land Management
National Recreation Group
Washington, DC

NEPHI, UT -- In December 2006, Federal and State Dune Managers with American Sand Association and Tread Lightly! met for three days in Nephi, Utah to discuss management practices in sand dune systems. With duning growing year by year and becoming increasingly popular, this meeting was an opportunity for dune managers to gather and look at the state of dune systems administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service, and several State Parks, to share best management practices and to find solutions where solutions are needed. There were a range of issues addressed and the level of dialogue generated by the participants was high.

The Bureau of Land Management Filmore Field Office and the Utah State Parks provided logistical support for this meeting. This meeting was the beginning to help Federal and State Managers address dune management challenges, develop innovative solutions and create outstanding partnerships. This meeting had representation from fifteen sand dune recreation areas from Utah, California, Colorado, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona. It was a great way to stimulate communication and networking between the BLM dune area managers and state/other federal agencies on the unique issues of dune management.

During the week, the dunes managers identified actions items to develop a communication network to share best management practices and made recommendations to improve consistency in policy implementation and regulations (fees, safety, regulations, permits, concessions, vendors, etc) and generate innovative design options for facilities, signs, information and visitor services (websites, maps/brochures, etc.). The week also included a field visit to the Little Sahara Recreation Area and Visitor Center, where management practices were discussed.

Special thanks to Bob Mason and Jim Bramham of the American Sand Association; Selma Sierra, BLM Utah State Director; Sherry Hirst, Filmore Field Manager and her staff; and Bob Ratcliffe, BLM Recreation and Visitor Services Division Chief, who were available to make this meeting happen. This effort was a step forward in protection of resources and access, while promoting safe and enjoyable duning.

## *FORE!!!!!*

***Sign up now for the Weekend Warrior Inaugural ASA Benefit Golf Tournament! May 7th, 2007 at the Black Gold Golf Club in Yorba Linda, CA. The Tournament will be hosted by Cutting Edge Performance with RAW Motorsports providing a chance to win a RAW Motorsports Sand Car for a hole in one on a specific par 3, and Funco Motorsports sponsoring a helicopter golf ball drop. Aguirre Tequila will host tequila tasting on one hole as well! Don't miss out on the fun. Proceeds benefit the ASA.***

***There are still tee times available. We are looking for additional hole or event sponsors as well. Entry includes the following: Free Range Balls, Pro Shop Discounts, Tournament Golf Shirt, Goody Bag, Tequila Tasting, Lunch, Dinner/Awards Banquet, and Raffle Entry. For more details and to register.*** ***http://www.asagolf.golfreg.com***

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## -- ASA 2006 Annual Report cont' --

*community. Similar meetings will be held during 2007.*

*ASA upgraded its website to a more user-friendly format. Going live in mid 2006, the completely reengineered site continues to be improved upon daily. Through much effort, we achieved full Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance on December 27, 2006. Our website now meets the strict security compliance that is required by Visa and MasterCard.*

*The quarterly newsletter was reformatted to improve readership; an extended online version is uploaded to the site with each issue that contains more information than can be economically published in the hard copy form. Some 20,000 hard copies are distributed each issue. A monthly online communication called "What's New" adds to ASA member awareness of Sand Sport happenings. What's New fills the void in months where there is no newsletter issue.*

*Filming of the ASA "Take Time Out for Safety" video is complete. This video gives the ASA a public outreach tool to help decrease accidents at the ISDRA by communicating safety tips on driving in the dunes. In addition, it is an effective distribution channel to inform dune visitors about ISDRA rules, regulations, and other helpful information. The video committee is working with animators to produce sections of the DVD that were not feasible to film with live vehicles. Once all of the animation scenes are complete, the final editing process begins. Scheduled release date is February with an initial production of 10,000 copies.*

*The ASA partnered with BLM and the Gateway Communities to publish the second annual Imperial Sand Dunes visitor newspaper. An active media relations program assists the land managers and the law enforcement coalition by publishing public service announcements encouraging safe duning practices and knowledge of the rules and laws. Another ASA/BLM partnership was the development of a Tread Lightly's "Guide to Responsible Motorized Vehicle Use in the Sand Dunes."*

*The Checkered Flag committee presented a re-designed flag that was overwhelmingly well-received by the public at the 2006 SSSS. The entire initial run of 300 flags was sold out by the last day of the 3-day show. High demand for the flags created sales for the old style still in stock. Second and third orders for the new flags were placed to provide inventory for website sales, select dunes vendors, and stock for the Arizona Sand Expo. The flags continue to sell today along with the traditional checkered flags that reinforce the ASA's support of effective law enforcement.*

*The ASA's Business Sponsorship program saw continued growth in 2006. During the year, we signed up approximately 70 new business sponsors, bringing the total number of ASA business sponsors to 466 by year's end. The support of these businesses represents a significant portion of the funds raised each year by the ASA.*

*Of the total number of sponsors, 70 businesses are supporting the ASA at either our $500 per year Gold Sponsor level or our top-level $1,000 per year Platinum Sponsor. Each sponsor is contacted 30 days before the expiration of the 1-year agreement producing a retention rate of nearly 90%. In cases where the ASA does lose a business sponsor, it is usually because the business no longer exists.*

*Several Premium Sponsors offer discounts to card-carrying ASA supporting members. This encourages individual members to upgrade their ASA membership to supporting by paying a $25 annual supporting membership fee so that, in turn, the individual member can benefit by taking advantage of the discounts. In many cases, an individual can recoup the cost of their ASA supporting membership by making one or two purchases from an ASA Premium Sponsor.*

*Looking ahead, the Association has numerous challenges. Continuing to keep members informed is foremost. Identifying issues requiring attention is of prime importance. Lobbying to maintain access to public land is paramount. Reestablishing upper level contacts within the BLM becomes a priority with the resignation of BLM Director Kathleen Clarke and the election of a new Congress.*

*Sincerely, American Sand Association Board of Directors*

# ISDRA TRT Public Safety Sub-Committee

The Public Safety Sub-Committee (PSSC) of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Technical Review Team (ISDRA TRT) announces the release of an article titled "Unlawful Assembly: What Is It?". The article is the result of the joint-efforts of the members of the Public Safety Sub-Committee to provide information of what an Unlawful Assembly is, why it is declared, what ISDRA visitors can expect, and what they can do to help. For your convenience, the article is below.

## "UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY"

### *What is it?*

**The California Penal Code Section 407 states: Whenever two or more persons assemble together to do an unlawful act, or do a lawful act in a violent, boisterous, or tumultuous manner, such assembly is an unlawful assembly.**

**When the unlawful activities of a group of people escalate to an unmanageable level, in the opinion of the law enforcement officers in charge, they may declare the gathering to be an "Unlawful Assembly" and order the group to disperse.**

**During holiday weekends the number of visitors at the Imperial Sand Dunes can be in the hundreds of thousands. Along with the influx of law abiding sand sport enthusiasts comes a small segment of people that are not law-abiding. In some cases they bring along their unlawful behavior, which includes a host of felonious acts, which can include, grand and petty theft, battery, assault with a deadly weapon and rape. Our sport is not unlike other forms of recreation or social gatherings that attract this unsavory segment of our society.**

### What precipitates the "Unlawful Assembly" call?

**The "Unlawful Assembly" call is not something that law enforcement officers do without careful consideration of conditions and crowd dynamics. Officer and public safety is a prime consideration. The use of this law enforcement tactic at Oldsmobile Hill during the recent Halloween and Thanksgiving holiday was preceded by several unlawful acts such as swinging shovels at riders, throwing bottles, and a generally unruly crowd exhibiting no regard for other recreation enthusiasts. When "Gang-like" activity instills itself within the crowd the dynamic shifts from recreation to chaotic behavior. This requires immediate law enforcement action for the safety of everyone. This was not unique to Oldsmobile Hill. Similar activities were experienced at Buttercup Competition Hill on Thanksgiving. An "Unlawful Assembly" call was considered at Buttercup after tires were flattened on a Ranger vehicle. Gang-like activities were also observed at Ogilby and other areas of the ISDRA.**

### What California Penal Codes are used for enforcement of "Unlawful Assembly"?

**Title 11 of the California Penal Code, identifies the elements and punishments for Crimes against the Public Peace. Complete information can be found with an Internet search at www.findlaw.com**

**Section 409 states: Every person remaining present at the place of any riot, rout, or unlawful assembly, after the same has been lawfully warned to disperse, except public officers and persons assisting them in attempting to disperse the same, is guilty of a Misdemeanor.**

**Section 416 states: (a) If two or more persons assemble for the purpose of disturbing the public peace, or committing any unlawful act, and do not disperse on being desired or commanded so to do by a public officer, the persons so offending are severally guilty of a misdemeanor.**

### Public Safety Sub-Committee Steps are being taken by the law enforcement coalition.

**Officers are being deployed early in the afternoon and evening to enforce the laws and rules of the ISDRA. An "Unlawful Assembly" is declared by a consensus of the on-site law enforcement coalition agency leadership of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Imperial County Sheriffs Office (ICSO), and San Diego County Sheriffs Office (SDCO). However, if required and in the absence of other agencies, the leadership of any individual law enforcement agency may make a declaration. A pinch point is set up on the Oldsmobile Sand Highway to assist in the process of dispersing the "Unlawful Assembly". These actions are taken to limit the build up of undesirable activities at popular evening gathering spots.**

### What can the Sand Sport enthusiast do to help?

**Be aware of your surrounding conditions. Alert the law enforcement personnel of your observations. When you are requested to leave the area where an "Unlawful Assembly" has been declared, do not delay. As a law abiding sand sport enthusiast it is in your best interest to move through this area in an orderly fashion and leave the area. When individuals or groups attempt to circle back into an area after an "Unlawful Assembly" has been declared, it creates additional congestion and establishes the elements of "non-compliance" which can lead to more aggressive law enforcement tactics. Your direction of travel must be away from the law enforcement vehicles. Normally you will receive plenty of warning. Law enforcement vehicles will line up. Public address systems announcements will provide guidance, followed by law enforcement vehicle emergency lights and then sirens as the area is cleared. Don't delay because it is difficult for the law enforcement personnel to differentiate between you being slow to respond and someone that is unwilling to obey the dispersal order.**

### Why should you support Law Enforcement actions?

**For the safety of you and your family it is important that the Sand Sport community cooperate and assist the law enforcement coalition. The use of curfews is discussed as a tactic in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan. If unlawful nighttime activities continue to escalate at Oldsmobile and other popular gathering spots, law enforcement personnel may request an expansion of the Glamis Competition Hill holiday curfew. Our future, and the ability to enjoy this sport in the manner we are accustomed to, directly depends on each of us supporting the law enforcement coalition, acting in a responsible manner, and in being a good neighbor to the ISDRA.**

# The Oregon Dunes

**By Sharon Stewart**
**Dispersed Recreation Supervisor**
**Siuslaw National Forest, Central Coast Ranger District**
**Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area**

***First in a series on dune areas outside the ISDRA***

**Along a nearly 40-mile stretch of the central Oregon coast, you will find the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, home to the largest coastal sand dunes on the North American continent. Managed by the Siuslaw National Forest, the area draws over 1.8 million visitors worldwide including off-roaders from across the United States. The Dunes provide areas for both Off-highway vehicles (OHV) and non-motorized use. There are three different OHV areas totaling over 12,000 acres of wind carved dunes and shifting sand ridges where you can experience forested trails, rivers, lakes and ocean beaches. The winds off the ocean are constantly changing the dunes to make every ride a new challenge.**

**The Oregon Dunes are always open and sometimes full. Off-Roaders have quite a few choices for camping and day use year-round. The Forest manages four developed campgrounds, 136 primitive campsites (sand camping) and nine-day use staging areas all with direct access to the sand. Camping in the paved campgrounds costs $20/night for two vehicles. Day use fees are $5 day or $30 for an annual pass. Camping reservations are available through ReserveUSA.com, are required for all summer holidays and encouraged the rest of the year. On adjacent private and public lands, there are six additional campgrounds with direct sand access, for locations call the Oregon Dunes Visitor Center. There are other camping spots in local communities, but none provide direct sand access.**

**Sand camping is part of the Oregon Dunes strategy to maintain opportunities to get out in the sand, circle up rigs-wagon style, camp and ride. The sites are identified by numbered posts spread throughout the areas managed for riding. So how do you do it? Stop at the corridor fee station and grab a sand camping permit. When filling out your permit at the fee station, pay the camping fee or reference your reservation number. Completely fill out the fee envelope and deposit into the onsite fee tube. Separate the permit tabs from the envelope. The tabs should be filled out and placed on the dash of all primary vehicles camping in the site. You may have up to five vehicles and 20 people in a standard site and ten vehicles and 40 people in a group site. Standard sites are $10.00 per night, and group sites are $20.00 per night. Camp within 150 feet of the posts, bring a toilet, and use the dumpsters provided. Accessing sand camping sites requires four-wheeling through the sand. Maps are found at fee stations and online. Reservations are available and highly recommended from May through September, and are required for summer holidays and group sites year-round.**

**What about Alcohol? One of the major changes the Oregon Dunes did a couple of years ago was to completely prohibit the possession of any alcoholic beverages outside of paved campgrounds and staging areas. This has eliminated a lot trash, reduced accidents and made the Dunes a safer, more family friendly riding area. It does make it difficult for some folks because the prohibition includes the sandcampsites.**

**Know before you go! Some other key regulations include OHV permits. Anytime you drive off the pavement (sand camping included) on Oregon public lands you will need an OHV permit. If you have a permit sticker from most states it will be good for 60 days. If you do not have one (a California Street-Legal License Plate does not meet the Oregon OHV permit regulation), an Oregon OHV permit will cost $10 for two years. Like most dune riding areas, you need a red or orange flag 14"x 8" attached to a whip antenna 9 ft above the ground. Riders under 18 years old need a DOT approved helmet and be accompanied by a licensed adult when riding if they have not taken the ATV safety course.**

**Noise is an important issue in the Dunes because riding areas are close to residential areas. The sound limit is 93 decibels. A lot of after market exhausts and racing silencers are too loud for this area. Baffled mufflers, stock pipes and most Quiet series systems just about always meet the limit. If you would like to know what decibel your machine is operating at, you are encouraged to contact us for a courtesy sound check. Two of the three riding areas have nighttime curfews. The Oregon Dunes supports The American Sand Association checkered flag pledge of responsible dunning.**

**The local communities of Coos Bay/North Bend, Reedsport and Florence are full service communities for just about anything you would need including, Oregon OHV permits, dump stations, OHV supplies, and additional camping opportunities. For more information contact the Oregon Dunes NRA at: 541-271-6071**

**http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw/recreation/ohv/index.shtml**
**Reservations-1-877-444-6777 or visit ReserveUSA (www.reserveusa.com)**
**Oregon OHV rules and information http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/ATV**

## New Dunes Outreach Trash Truck

**The second dunes outreach "trash truck" appeared in the South Dunes over the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. With the new volunteer Bob Grubs from Winterhaven and Sponsorship from Joe Fab of Sand Limo the South Dunes are now covered. We plan to have a 3rd truck next season to cover the Gecko Road area.**

**I'm now looking for a 3rd volunteer to help with the outreach program so contact me.**

**When I started this program I never thought it would grow so fast! I am truly excited that it is growing and without the help of all you GREAT DUNERS this would never be so successful!**

**So look for the 3rd truck next season...**
**Thanks for all your support....Tim**

*Tim@GlamisWeather.com* **(619)519-3781**

## AZ Sand Expo

***December 8-10, 2006 http://www.arizonasandexpo.com***

***The show was a smashing success with several thousands of dollars raised for ASA. Our sincerest thanks to the many volunteers that made it a reality. Special thanks to member Don Johnson for heading up the effort.***

***Andy Myers, Promoter of the AZ Sand Expo, presented the ASA a generous $1000 donation. We had 100 new members sign up with 15 of those joining as Supporting Members. Lots of raffle tickets for the DeJong Giveaway Car were sold over the weekend as well. The event would not have been successful without the help of all the ASA volunteers who worked the show.***

***Thanks to you all.***

## "KNOW THE RULES"

### The Dunes Outreach Team Helps Visitors To The ISDRA Learn More About Riding Responsibly

***The American Sand Association (ASA) Dunes Outreach Team, led by Tim Gantz of GlamisWeather.com, has joined forces with the Partners in Dune Safety and Stewardship (a division of the United Desert Gateway) to install 50 "RULE" signs at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA).***

***Imperial sand dune visitors will see the signs in many of the popular camping locations. They are posted in highly-visible locations in an effort to help educate land users about safety, as well as important rules for camping and using off-road vehicles. This sign project is just one of several "Public Outreach" activities supported by the BLM, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, United Desert Gateway communities, and the ASA. Other public outreach projects which are new for 2006 include a full-size highway billboard at the Glamis Store, and the 2006 "Litter Education" bags that serve two purposes: A handy item to place litter found on the ground, and help spread the important message which encourages dune visitors to "Take Time Out for Safety."***

***The sign project was truly a cooperative effort. The signs were designed by Joya Szalwinski, BLM Interpretive Park Ranger, and printed by Elite Signs and Graphics. Fifteen business sponsors contributed over $10,000 for this project. BLM installed the signs with the help of Tim Gantz and his team.***

***The following names are a list of the sign sponsors thus far: Weekend Warrior, Willy's Electronics, Duners Pizza, Foddrill Motorsports, SandBlasterMotorsports.com, Glamis Beach Store, Team Banning Motorsports, Glamisweather.com, Funco Motorsports, GlamisDunesStorage.com, Extreme Performance, Sand Limo, Camp 'n Style, Gillmore Offroad, and KD Cycle.***

***If you would like more information about this program, or sponsor a sign in the dunes, please contact Tim Gantz at (760) 412-0727, or send e-mail to Tim@GlamisWeather.com***

***Photo on Gecko Road by Tim Gantz***

## *The California League of Off Road Voters*

**The California League of Off Road Voters Inc. (CLORV) is a coordinating and educational umbrella organization dedicated to keeping existing off road motorized recreation opportunities open.**

**The newly expanded membership of CLORV Inc. includes: the American Motorcycle Association D-36, American Motorcycle Association D-37, American Motorcycle Association-National, American Sand Association, California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, California Nevada Snowmobile Association, California Off Road Vehicle Association, Friends of Oceano Dunes, Off-Road Business Association, and the San Diego Off-Road Coalition, all working together for a common cause.**

**In order to elect more OHV friendly candidates to state offices, CLORV has formed a state level political action committee (PAC) to endorse candidates, donate money and provide volunteers to off highway friendly legislators and candidates. This is where you come in; The organizations making up CLORV cannot donate directly to candidates. This must come from the grass roots level, YOU. Several of the races in the primaries were won by candidates who attribute their success to the OHV community! This is fantastic, as it is these people who will remember us when they get into office. So help support our sport by completing the form to the left and sending in a donation today.**

**Every dollar helps, no donation is too small!**

**www.CLORV.org**

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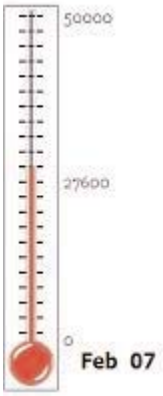
## >>> MEMBERSHIP NEWS <<<




## ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR NEWS ALERTS VIA EMAIL?

**If there is a pound sign (#) in front of your name on the mailing label of this newsletter it means that we tried to send you an email and it bounced or was returned as undeliverable.**

**We want to keep our members informed of the latest news concerning the ISDRA and to alert you to late breaking news but we need a valid email address to do that. Many long standing members may have changed email addresses over the years and no longer are able to receive our emails. To update your email address you can send it along with your name and address (for verification) to membership@americansandassociation.org and we will update your membership information. Let us know if you would like to receive the newsletter via email instead of US Mail and it will save the ASA some money.**

**If you have EarthLink as your Internet Service Provider be sure to have the ASA listed as a valid recipient in your email SPAM filter. News from the ASA will come with an address of ASA_News@asasand.org**

**One of our major goals is to keep our membership informed and to do that we need your current contact information.**

**Thanks for your support.**
**Dick Holliday**
**ASA Membership Director**

***We would like to welcome all the new and renewing Supporting Members that have signed up or renewed since our last newsletter. Their commitment goes a long way in supporting the fight to keep our riding areas open now and for our future. Thank You!***

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## >>> BIOLOGICAL UPDATE <<<

### *PMV Studies Underway for 2006-07 Season*

**ASA-sponsored studies on Peirson's milkvetch got underway for a seventh season on December 15-18, 2006. With the help of a number of ASA volunteers and their trusty rails, Daniela Roth and I visited our customary 25 sites ranging from the Buttercup area along the Mexican border to Glamis to count surviving plants from previous years and search for any seedlings that had germinated during the fall.**

**Since there were essentially no seedlings last season, any survivors we found would be perennials remaining from the big 2004-05 year or earlier. Yes, there were some, but not many: just 30 plants at all 25 sites. This is a survival rate of just 2.3% of the 1,288 we found last April, and a mere 0.04% of the 78,000 plants present in March 2005. The vast majority of Peirson's milkvetch plants live just one season, and their maximum lifespan is two to three years, except for a very few exceptional old-timers. Summers without rain, especially in June and July, are the critical filter for the plants.**

**I was very curious to see if the rain that fell on October 24th resulted in any seed germination. The Buttercup weather station received 0.2", while the Cahuilla Ranger Station got 0.8". There were no seedlings at any of the Buttercup sites, bolstering our contention that germination only occurs when there is greater than a half inch of rain, especially in fall when it's still warm. However, I was surprised to find more than 8,700 seedlings at the 12 Gordon's Well sites. These sites, near the southern boundary of the large closure, must have received much more rainfall than the Buttercup sites, enough to roust a large number of PMV seeds from dormancy. At Glamis we counted nearly 2,000 seedlings, but not all sites had them; rain there was apparently also local.**

**We'll continue the 2006-07 field work in March, when we'll be doing seed bank studies. This is literally playing in the giant sandbox, as we sift sand to find out how many seeds are present. We'll need lots of help, both drivers and "sifters," so please consider giving us a hand if you can. Watch your email and the Bulletin Board for dates and details. As always, we are eternally grateful to those who helped out in December!**

**Dr. Art Phillips, ASA Botanist**

## *2008 ASA Calendar*

**Personal Dune pictures will be added to the 2008 ASA Calendar! We have had a big demand for more dune pictures for the calendar. So for 2008 your requests have been heard! Please submit your dune pictures on the Bulletin Board at the ASA website or email them to: dderenard@aol.com**

## >>> *ASA STORE SPECIALS* <<<

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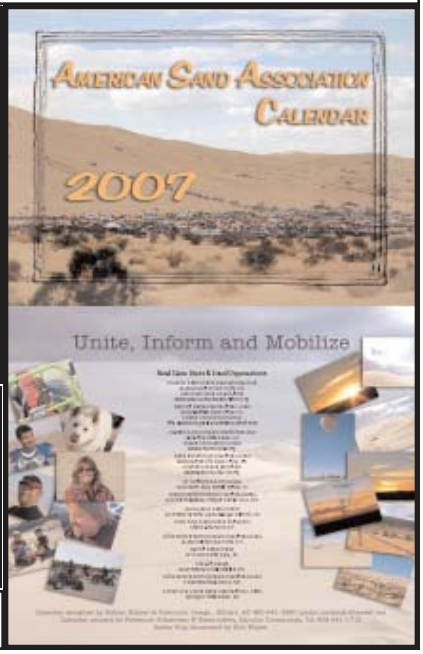


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## >>> UPCOMING EVENTS <<<

***ASA Open Board Meeting, March 3rd, Phoenix, AZ***

***5th Annual Friends of Dumont Dunes Clean-Up, March 17th, Dumont Dunes***

***ORBA's Super Show, March 24-25th, Barona Convention Center***

***OHV Lobby Day in Sacramento, March 26th, www.CLORV.org***

***ASA Benefit Golf Tournament, May 7th, Black Gold Golf Club in Yorba Linda, CA***

***Extreme Off Road Expo, May 18-20, 2007, Costa Mesa Fairgrounds, CA***

FOR UP-TO-DATE EVENTS & MORE INFO, PLEASE SEE OUR WEB SITE

**To help the ASA at the above events:**

Volunteers@AmericanSandAssociation.org or call: 619-448-8078

## ASA BUSINESS SPONSORS

***Our New and Renewing Sponsors since our November issue!***

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## Pace American Donates Trailer for ASA Giveaway Raffle

**Pace American Corporation donated this year's second place prize for the ASA giveaway raffle, a Pace American Rallye 24 foot enclosed trailer. Special thanks to Pace of Arizona's owner Anthony Verdone (left) for making this happen. Board Member Gary Jordan (right) thanking Anthony Verdone.**

## >>> ASA PREMIUM SPONSORS <<<

Become a **Supporting Member** and receive an ASA Membership ID Card. This card is valid for discounts at our "Premium Sponsors" listed below. This annual membership ($25) helps keep our organization funded and fighting for your right to ride!

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## ISDRA FEES

As you may be aware, funding operations at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) has been a key issue for some time. Without proper levels of funding, critical services such as medical emergency and law enforcement services are scaled back. Public safety then becomes an issue that can be used by the anti-access groups as another tool in their closure campaign.

While no one wants to pay more fees or taxes, it is important there is adequate funding for the ISDRA. This is especially true in light of diminished funding from the various agencies and the increased needs at the dunes. The dollars must come from somewhere.

The Imperial County Sheriff (ICSO) has been contracted by the Bureau of Land Management El Centro field office (BLM) to collect fees and follow up with enforcement. It is our opinion that neither function is adequately performed and likely results in a $2,000,000 per year shortfall. Moreover, it is not fair that visitors who choose to avoid the fees enjoy the same services that law-abiding visitors are providing through the purchase of their permits.

ASA feels the responsibility to speak out and learn where our money is going and why we are not getting the return on our investment that we deserve. We also want to know why fee compliance, thus revenue, is not at expected levels. To that end, ASA board member Brian Crain performed an in depth analysis of the agreement between the ICSO and BLM.

The results of Brian's study are astonishing.

ASA sent the following email to the chairman of the ISDRA Technical Review Team (TRT). We also sent a letter along with Brian's report. As you can see in the letter, it was also sent to the management hierarchy responsible for operating the ISDRA in an efficient manner.

Jerry Seaver, Chairman ISDRA TRT:

At the 1/8/07 meeting of the ASA Board of Directors, several Board members expressed deep concern that the BLM El Centro Filed Office has not fulfilled its fee collection responsibility at the ISDRA. Consequently, the Board directed fellow board member Brian Crain to perform an in-depth review of the implementation of the "Cooperative Agreement between BLM and ICSO."

At the 1/22/07 meeting the Board reviewed and adopted Crain's report entitled "Review of the Cooperative Agreement between the BLM and ICSO." You will find it as an attachment to this email as well as a letter from the ASA Board of Directors summarizing our concerns with the program.

Bob Mason, Chairman ASA

The documents can found at the following links:

http://www.americansandassociation.org/access_files.php?dir_all=/ASA_Correspondence&dir_member

or

http://www.newhouserv.com/isdra_fees.htm

**The BLM's Director of Law Enforcement and Security has made it clear,**

***"Let there be no misunderstanding, we will strongly enforce all DUI laws in full cooperation with state and local law enforcement agencies at all off-highway recreation locations."***

# Peirson's Milkvetch:
## the saga of a species at the interface of biology, management, politics and litigation

by Arthur M. Phillips, III, Ph.D.

Just slightly off the Arizona road in southeastern California is one of the most spectacular sand dune areas in the Southwest. The Algodones Dunes, sometimes called the Imperial Sand Dunes, lie about 20 miles west of Yuma along Interstate 8 and stretch for about 40 miles toward the northwest. The dunes are home to a number of plant and animal species uniquely adapted to withstand extreme summer temperatures, subfreezing winter nights, severe and prolonged droughts, and the abrading effects of blowing sand. It is indeed a land of environmental extremes, and the plants that survive there are tough, having evolved to survive conditions that other species could never withstand. And yes, the Algodones Dunes are the most popular dune area for off-road vehicles in the Southwest, drawing thousands of recreationists each weekend from October to April.

Of the 15 or so plants present (and mostly endemic) in the dunes, only one has been listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act. Peirson's milkvetch (Astragalus magdalenae var. peirsonii) was listed as Threatened in 1998, citing ORV issues as the main threat. An administrative closure of 30% of the dunes was imposed in 2000 by a Federal court judge over BLM's management of the dunes to protect the plant, sparking legal battles between recreationists and environmental groups over the closures that remain unresolved. A wilderness area encompassing about 20% of the dunes has been closed to motorized travel since 1971. More than $3 million has been spent by Federal agencies alone on monitoring and litigation in the past six years, and there is no end to the dispute in sight. This is a huge amount compared with the funds that are available to study and manage most Threatened and Endangered plants.

I began working on the biology, demography, and status of Peirson's milkvetch in the spring of 2001. With six seasons now completed, we are learning much about this fascinating plant. The BLM El Centro area office has monitored the plant annually since 2003, and sporadically before that back to 1998.

Our first task was to survey the open areas of the dunes and find as many places where Peirson's milkvetch grew as possible. At each site we located, we counted the plants, determined their age (first-year or older), noted reproductive condition, and mapped the outline of the site with a GPS. We found 126 places, of which 60 were large enough to circumscribe with a GPS, and counted nearly 73,000 plants. About 45% of the plants were reproductive, and less than 1% showed evidence of damage by ORVs. Nearly all appeared to be first-year plants, and a check of nearby weather stations confirmed that there had been a major storm in late October 2000. We concluded that the vast majority of plants had germinated as a result of that storm.

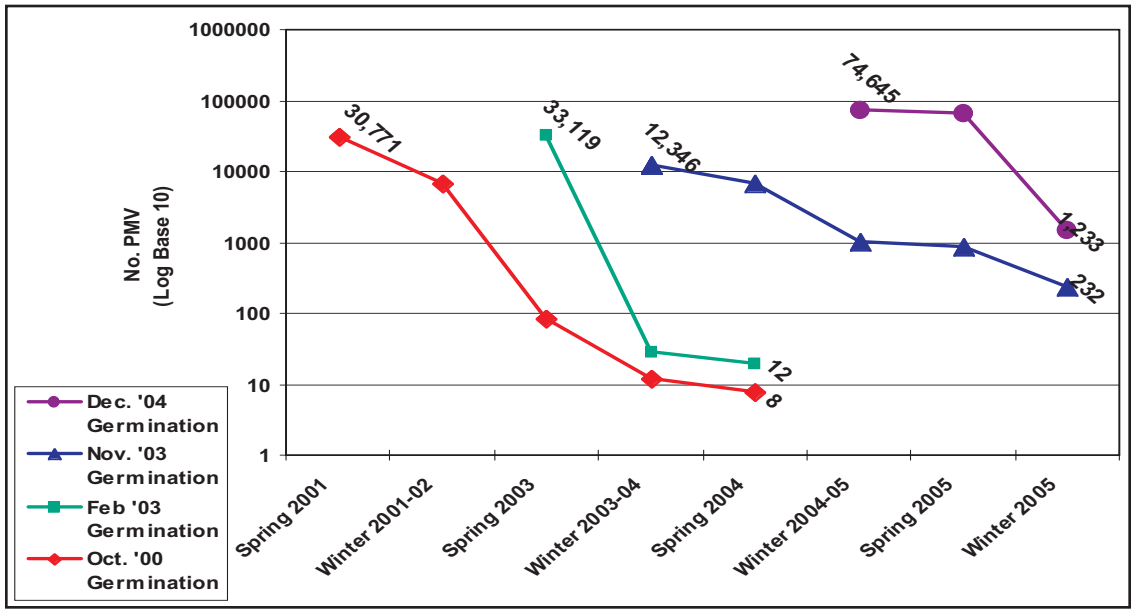


Figure 1. Yearly counts of Peirson's milkvetch cohorts at 25 sites in the Algodones Dunes. Vertical axis is on a log-base 10 scale. Maximum age of 99.9% of plants is about 3 years.

Although we were unable to obtain permission from BLM to enter the administrative closures, we were able to obtain the services of a helicopter and fly over the entire dunes area, noting occurrences of Peirson's milkvetch from the air and mapping them with the GPS. When we combined our ground surveys with the aerial points to map distribution, a pattern began to emerge: the plants grow along a narrow corridor that parallels the axis of the dunes, in the western third of the system, where well-developed dunes occur but outside the area of the highest, most active dunes.

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Moreover, the milkvetch consistently grows with the other plants in the dunes, forming pockets of vegetation on the lee sides of slipfaces and bowls where sand movement is less than elsewhere in the system. We were finding a pattern in the distribution of the plants, and their occurrences were predictable. We were also finding that the ORV'ers preferred the high, unvegetated dunes to the shrubby gentle slopes where vegetation is concentrated, and they largely avoid such places when possible. A de facto separation of plants and OHV use was becoming evident.

The following season, 2001-02, was very dry, and few seedlings germinated. However, timely rains during the summer allowed 21% of the plants we had enumerated in the spring to survive. Milkvetch seedlings quickly grow very long taproots after germination, and their roots may be 5-6 feet long by the end of their first season. This allows them to tap moisture deep in the sand, and makes it possible for robust plants to survive the terrific desiccating heat of summer – temperatures in the dunes regularly reach 115-120o at weather stations, and must be considerably higher at the sand surface.

Even without fall and winter precipitation in 2001-02, the surviving plants grew robustly and reached basketball to beachball size by late fall. Flowering began by December, and for a second season these survivors successfully reproduced. The previous uncertainty about whether Peirsons milkvetch is an annual or a perennial was resolved: it is both! We found that some robust plants can have as many as 800 pods; at ten seeds each, perennial individuals can be quite prolific.

The following season, 2002-03, lacked fall rain but a storm in mid-February resulted in a germination event that rivaled that of 2000-01. We waited to see if these seedlings would flower, but they didn't! Another twist in the reproductive strategy of the milkvetch had been revealed: plants that germinate in the fall can reproduce their first year, but those that germinate in late winter must survive a summer before flowering the next season. There simply would not be enough time for them to flower and produce seed before the onset of summer dormancy. The summer of 2003 was very dry, and more than 99% of the February seedlings died. This is a small return for a big investment, made feasible by the prolific seed production of second-year plants.

How long do the plants live? As figure 1 shows, between 80% and 99% fail to survive beyond their initial growing season, making them annuals. By the third season, 99.9% of the plants in a given cohort have died. Thus only a few plants survive to become short-lived perennials, but four or five robust survivors can produce enough seed to replenish the seed bank after a germination event in which few plants ever reproduce.

The 2004-05 season began with heavy rainfall in late October that continued at regular intervals through the winter. Germination began within days and continued unabated for weeks. By March there were twice as many plants as in 2001. Nearly two-thirds of these first-year plants flowered. In addition, the 1200 survivors from previous years produced copious amounts of seeds. It was a banner year for Peirson's milkvetch.

By comparing rainfall events with germination, we can easily see how storms influence germination. We find that summer rains may enhance survival, but there is no germination during the hot time of year. This is a good survival strategy, as seedlings adapted for cool season growth would never make it in summer. By mid-October the weather is usually cool enough for successful germination. In spring, rains occurring after mid-April do not result in any germination. Figure 2 shows the relationship between rainfall and germination between 2002 and 2005.

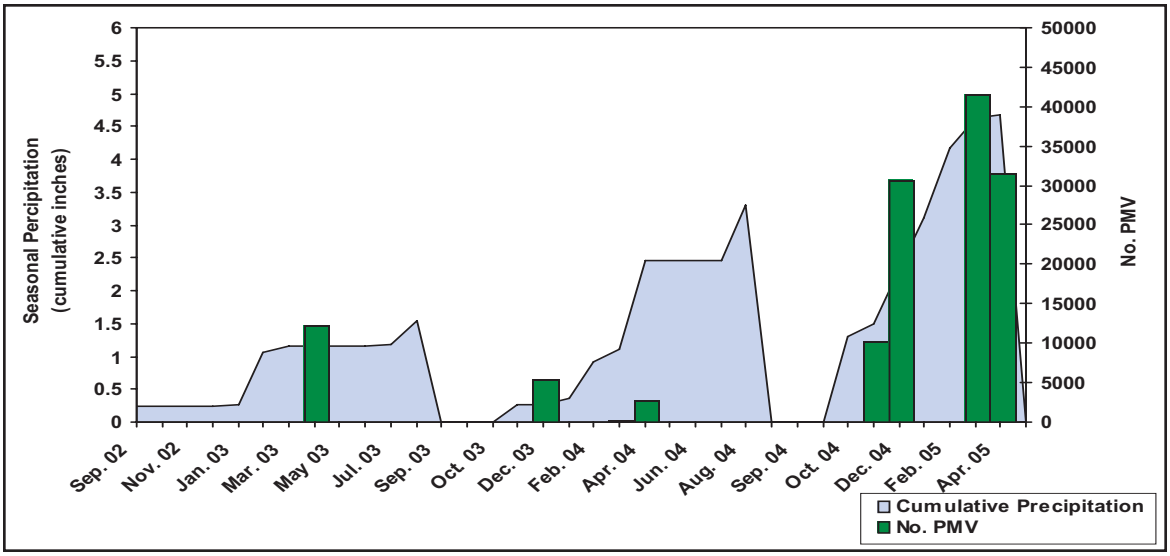


Figure 2. Relationship between precipitation and Person's milkvetch germination. Precipitation graphs are cumulative for the year, reset on October 1. Steep slopes indicate precipitation events, while plateaus are dry periods.

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## ANOTHER MEETING HELD WITH THE CBD

At the request of the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), the ASA attended a meeting in El Centro, CA on Monday 12/11/2006.

David Hubbard, Jerry Seaver, Vince Brunasso, and Bob Mason met with Brendan Cummings of the CBD. Brendan is the CBD attorney involved with the lawsuit which temporarily closed an additional 49,000 acres, since its inception.

Cummings offered an alterative that included a closure that, in his opinion, would protect the entire ecosystem of the ISDRA dunes including a broad range of species. It closely resembles Alternative #3 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), from which the new Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) was developed, and the offer made by CBD some 2 years ago at a previous meeting.

ASA reminded Cummings that the only species to have legal standing is the Peirson's Milk Vetch (PMV) and that ASA's consideration of alternatives would be limited to the PMV taking into account all monitoring data. Cummings agreed to consider a joint review of the PMV data by Dr. Phillips and a CBD biologist.

At the request of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) who is also a party to the suit that temporarily closed the 49,000 acres, we met with them on 12/14/2006 in San Diego.

Attending was Daniel Patterson who now works for PEER and Ilene Anderson, a CBD ecologist, also attended. Representing ASA were Jim Bramham, Jerry Seaver, Bob Mason, and Vince Brunasso. A joint request was made by the three groups to have a representative from the BLM and the FWS attend so that they would be available to answer questions and provide insight. They gladly accepted our invitation.

Patterson provided a map of what they believe to be balanced management of the dunes. It is their belief that what is on the ground now works and is very close to what they would like to see become permanent. It also had a striking resemblance to Alternative #3 in the DEIS and Cumming's offer.

Their stated desire is to end the legal bickering and move on. ASA reiterated the position that any changes on the ground must be data driven before the board would consider them. FWS and BLM offered to provide data and make resources available to aid in future discussions. Another meeting is tentatively scheduled sometime in February.

Alternative #3 can be found at:
http://www.blm.gov/ca/pdfs/elcentro_pdfs/FinalEISandRAMP/FinalEIS.pdf
on page 65 of the PDF document.

## *Director of Bureau of Land Management Resigns*

In a continuing sign of a shift of personnel during the last two years of the Bush Administration, Kathleen Clarke, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, has resigned. No word at this stage on a successor.

Kathleen Clarke has been a controversial Director because she advocated multiple-use management of the public lands under her jurisdiction. Much of this controversy evolved around the expansion of oil and gas drilling on BLM land.

We found Director Clarke to be a strong advocate of responsible recreational use of BLM land. She saw outdoor recreation as a growing responsibility of her agency and advocated greater interaction between BLM land managers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

Since 2006, we have seen a new Secretary of Interior come into office, Dirk Kempthorne, and a new Director of the National Park Service, Mary Bomar. Now we have a pending change at BLM. It probably won't be too long before we are telling you that Chief Bosworth of the Forest Service is also leaving office. Since that hasn't happened yet, please don't spread the rumor, since it isn't true, yet. But the winds of change seem to be blowing through much of Washington and long time Bush folks weary from being in office for up to six years are beginning to head off to less stressful environments. I expect I will be reporting to you more personnel changes in the months to follow.

Personnel changes at the top of Federal agencies can have an immediate impact on recreation policy issues. We saw this early on in Secretary Kempthorne's tenure when he approved the ill conceived Draft Management Policies for the National Park Service; policies that turned out not all that friendly towards recreation interests. (For more information, see the August and September Newsletters) Secretary Kempthorne later was surprised by the negative reaction to those Management Policies by members of Congress and the recreation community, but by then the damage had been done since the Draft Management Policies were now permanent NPS policy. Larry E. Smith, ARRA Executive Director **http://www.arra-access.com**

## Teen dies on New Years Day

Our daughter Nicole Marie Brown a 17 year old Centennial High School Student passed away on New Years day after our F250 traveling along freeway hill at the Imperial Sand Dunes rolled down a dune. This was a complete accident, she lost her life in flight from Yuma Regional Medical Center to our St. Josephs Hospital on New Years Day. Nicole was a very experienced quad rider and we too would worry about an accident possibly happening on any of our trips, but never would we have thought that something simple with our vehicle would cause such an accident for which we have traveled up the dunes in over and over and over again.

Her rememberance will live on as she was an amazing teen with alot of life, we appreciate the publics interest and those who attended her services this past Tuesday, January 10th at The Church of Joy for which 800 people attended. She was loved by many in the community and in her honor has many great developments within the school she attended and the community we resided in. The first student scholarship at Centennial HIgh School in Peoria, Arizona will be in honor of her name for future spirited and dedicated students of her peers. She also was Miss Teen Glendale USA 2006 and was a colorguard student for 4 years in her school. You may visit our guestbook on line at: www.azcentral.com listed under obituaries with Nicole Brown's name.

We want to get an important message across, this was not an inexperienced travel in our vehicle, but an unlucky one this time.....seat belts would have saved our daughter life, this was a one time thing that I dont' know why we thought it was OK not to wear a seatbelt that night as we always do no matter when or where and the distance. Nicole was ejected from the vehicle.

**SEAT BELTS DO SAVE LIVES!!!** It's not just the LAW, it's Your **LIFE**!

## Celebrating The Life of Nicole Brown

In an effort to bring attention to the importance of seat belt safety and to raise funds for the Nicole Brown Memorial Fund at Wells Fargo Bank, Martensen Racing, Pro Care Landscape and the Brown family will be raffling off an opportunity to ride in the 2006 Whiplash Class One Championship Buggy at the Vulture Mine 150, in Wickenburg, Arizona on February 24th and 25th, 2007.

The first place raffle ticket gets the opportunity to ride in the buggy for fifty(50) miles at race conditions and the second place raffle ticket gets the opportunity to experience the race from above during a thirty(30) minute ride in a helicopter. Raffle tickets are being sold for $25 per ticket. All of the funds will go to the Nicole Brown Fund at Wells Fargo Bank. In addition to your support through the raffle, contributions can also be made directly to Wells Fargo Bank, account 6579706752.

The first place winner of the raffle will have the opportunity to experience off road racing up close and personal. The winner will begin the experience during Friday afternoon's Pre-Run of the twenty-five(25) mile course at a slower pace and will conclude on Saturday with two laps of racing in the actual event. The second place winner will be able to navigate the entire course from above and witness the entire race while flying overhead with Flying M Air, LLC of Wickenburg, Arizona.

Additionally, the next ten(10) raffle winners will receive official Whiplash event tee-shirts from the Vulture Mine 150.

Please check out our website at: www.whiplashracing.com for additional information regarding this event and to purchase raffle tickets for this incredible opportunity. All mail-in requests through the website must be received, with payment, by Thursday, February 15th. For additional opportunities to purchase tickets, please join us February 15th and 16th in Wickenburg as we will be selling opportunities in person during the motor cross race. Winners will be drawn by Jay after the final race on the 16th.

ALL ENTRANTS MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE AND SIGN ALL APPROPRIATE WAIVERS INDEMNIFYING MARTENSEN RACING AND WHIPLASH MORTORSPORTS OF ALL LIABILITY.

PRO CARE

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Obviously, dormant seeds must be available in the sand to germinate quickly when conditions are right. We conducted studies of the seed bank in 2001-02 and 2005-06. By pushing frames into the sand, scooping it out, and running it through a soil sieve we were able to capture and count the seeds in a known volume of sand. We extrapolated these counts to determine the number of seeds at a site and in all of our sites. Both times, the numbers came out between 2.3 and 3 million seeds and were statistically identical. The seed bank appears to be a much more constant measure of size and status of the population than living plants.

There is an important lesson here for those who study the status of rare short-lived plants in arid climates: you must study the seed bank to determine the true health of the species. The vagaries of weather events result in tremendous variation in the number of living plants from year to year, while the seed bank provides a more consistent and accurate measure of the status of the species.

Peirson's milkvetch provides an excellent opportunity to gain insight into the interface among biology, management, politics, and litigation. All play a role in the ongoing saga of this species, and all are likely to be invoked in the decision-making process in any situation where controversy or conflicting interests arise in the management of rare plants and their habitat.

# *CORVA REPORT*

***By Ann Nosala***

**We all like to drive or ride off-road, which is why you are reading this publication, right? The sound of a V8 motor, 2-stroke motorcycle, or perhaps a VW running on high octane race fuel turns your crank. Whatever it may be, without pro-OHV groups fighting for our way of life, we would be parking our toys and remembering the good old days.**

**Benjamin Franklin is remembered as saying, "Half a truth is often a great lie." This statement still stands today. The lies told repeatedly by eco-organizations are a well known one-sided perspective. Their statements are designed to create the illusion that any person who wants to drive off-road is a criminal. To the average person, their propaganda works. Off-roaders, as a group, are seen in many ordinary households now as tortoise killers (that we destroy and do not care about the desert). The same type of propaganda was used by the Nazis in World War II, the 1950s McCarthy anti-Communist crusades, and today it is used against the off-road enthusiasts and all those that disagree with the Eco-Groups.**

**"All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move." Benjamin Franklin also said those words. Where do you as an off-roader fit? Let's look at these words he said from an off-road standpoint.**

**<u>Those that move</u>: At a recent poker run held in California City, California, that drew over one-thousand entries, CORVA member Wayne Nosala took the time to set up a booth. His mission was to educate and sign-up new members to CORVA. He arrived on a Friday and talked to many people. He signed up less then ten new members for CORVA. The most recycled excuse was "I don't have my wallet with me." This was followed by the question, "Will you be here tomorrow?" After a long night of this, Wayne decided to go back on Saturday, and not a single person signed up for CORVA. Not a single one!**

**<u>Those that are movable</u>: The people who did sign up for CORVA membership. The people who asked questions about what is going on with land fights and lawsuits. They are interested in more than just this weekend. They can understand the long-term point of view.**

**<u>Those that are unmovable</u>: One woman was approached and politely informed about becoming a member of CORVA. When she was informed that everyone needs to join the fight for our freedoms, her flippant response was "I don't care." "I don't care!" This from a person camped in the desert. Is this you? I sincerely hope not. We as a community don't need this type of mentality. If you "don't care," then the privilege of off-roading shouldn't apply to you. However, this is America and you are permitted to say "I don't care." It is called freedom.**

**As much as we would like to think freedom is free, it is not. Freedom comes with a price. Today this price comes in the form of us fighting lawsuits filed by well-financed groups like the Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity. We also need to lobby in our state capital and Washington DC for our rights; thus more money is needed to combat the big money the Sierra Club and other similar minded groups have.**

**I chose to join CORVA for one reason that I felt was a major factor. No one is paid in CORVA ... no one. Everyone involved is a volunteer. Even me, I do not get paid to write for CORVA, nor does anyone else. We do this for the love of our sport and the love of our freedom. Don't become the "immovable." A CORVA membership is only $30 a year. You know as I do that $30 is nothing compared to what is spent for a weekend of play in the desert.**

**The alternative looms ahead of us — we will be left setting in a city backyard, surrounded by asphalt and people, saying "I remember when it wasn't a crime to ..."**

**Please, join us at: <u>www.corva.org</u>**