American Sand Association Inc.
www.asasand.org

American Sand Association
"IN THE DUNES"

Volume 9 Issue 2
May 2009

Unite, Inform, and Mobilize

WE NEED YOUR HELP
To Defeat the Youth Motorcycle/ATV Ban

This country, concerned for its youth, created the Consumer Safety Act of 2008 which limits the amount of lead in sellable toys. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has classified motorcycles/ATVs as toys. This classification is targeted at children 12 and under, and has effectively outlawed the sale of the smaller bikes and their replacement parts. This ban will severely affect the sport of motorcycling, possibly resulting in the ban of all motorcycles.

Electronic toys (video games and consoles) were exempt from this statute; can you imagine a world without a Playstation or Xbox? So imagine a world without motocross, supercross, desert riding and racing? This is what the Consumer Product Safety Commission has taken away from our country's children.

Dedicated business owners, riders and racers have rallied together to help fight this ban and reverse this unfair law. The plan is to call, visit, and write letters to our elected representatives to get as much support as possible to make this reversal happen. By flooding the offices with thousands of letters we can present the fact that this issue is serious and that it needs to be resolved immediately. Ask yourself, how is it legal for a child to purchase a solid lead fishing weight but not ride his OHV?

This law affects every motorcycle and ATV rider.
This law affects every motorcycle and ATV business.
This law could end the sport of Motorcycling!

Please do what YOU can to help, see page 6 for all the details

BLM Announces RAMP Alternatives

The BLM has announced seven alternatives for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP).

These draft alternatives will be the basis for the Draft RAMP (DRAMP) that is expected to be released sometime this summer. When the DRAMP is released there will be a comment period for the public to respond to the preferred alternative that the BLM has selected. This revision is based on a 2008 publication by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of its final rule on critical habitat for the threatened Peirson's milk-vetch.

The ASA will have the information on making substantive comments and hold workshops to help the public make informed comments. Watch our web site and for email notices when the comment period is opened. We will also send out an email to those that have requested to be contacted with important information about ISDRA issues.

The seven alternatives can be viewed on the BLM web site at:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/recreation/ohvs/isdra/dunesinfo/docs/isdramp.html

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Gary Jordan
Mike Sommer
Scott Swenka

PRESIDENT
Bob Mason

Contact:
asaboard@asasand.org

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 1872
Canyon Country, CA 91386-1872
Phone: 888-540-SAND

ASA Quarterly Newsletters
February
May
September
November

Editor:
Jim Colln
newsletters@asasand.org

President's Message

By Bob Mason

"ARE YOU PREPARED TO BE HEARD?"

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently published seven alternative plans that will be considered when they identify their preferred plan in the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) in May or June of this year. The seven alternatives range from total closure of the dunes to no closure at all. A table prepared by BLM comparing the seven alternatives may be viewed at:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/recreation/ohvs/isdra/dunesinfo/docs/isdramp.html

How can you prepare? Start now by reviewing the 2003 RAMP and the comments submitted by the ASA and the coalition of OHV organizations. You can view this information at:

http://www.americansandassociation.org/pages.php?pageid=16

2003 Draft RAMP -- ASA Comments -- OHV Coalition Comments

When the draft RAMP is released in May or June you will have 90 days to provide your comments. Public meetings will be scheduled. Your written comments will be important and will be considered.

What will ASA do? **ASA will coordinate meetings with other OHV organizations and provide assistance to it's members and others in preparing comments to BLM. Let's start early and be prepared. Please plan to attend one of several ASA RAMP information meetings - you will get all the facts, directions for making useful comments, and be able to ask questions. We will alert you as the meetings are scheduled.**

What is the RAMP? **It becomes the "Bible", or handbook, used by BLM to manage the ISDRA while fulfilling their assigned responsibilities under various federal laws. This is the document that directs future managers' actions for years, if not decades, to come.**

Why is the RAMP important to the ISDRA visitors? **The RAMP will determine (1) where you can or cannot ride, (2) where your fees will be spent, (3) what facilities will be developed, i.e., alternate Wash Road access, (4) the level of law enforcement, etc.**

Why do you have an interest in this document?

Once it is written and placed into effect, further changes to it are all but impossible. We can not get major changes instituted until the next revision which will be years at best.

Those in opposition to our chosen form of family recreation will be prepared and will make a huge effort to influence this document: this consistently happens. Doing nothing allows them to have an unbalanced amount of influence. We must make our voices heard in order for the BLM to produce a balanced document. Your participation is vital to this effort. If there is a single-most important action that we must take, this is it.

We understand that your time is valuable and that you may be waiting for your effort to have the most impact - this is that opportunity.

We can't do it without you.

As Always, thanks for your support,

President

Chairman's Report

By Bill Jones

A while back I shared a few reasons why I love to go to the dunes. I encouraged some of you to e-mail me and share your reasons for duning. I would like to share a couple of interesting comments I received. The reasons are as varied as our dune toys.

Steve Hart, ASA Member wrote:
I have been an ISDRA user since the early 70s and the number of people making dune trips with me has gone up and down like a yoyo over the years. This changed a bunch about 6 years ago after a friend of my nephew was convinced to drag his buggy and a dirt bike to the dunes. Since then our camp has grown and now averages about 25 people per trip ? new friends.

Concerning a sense of accomplishment, mine are similar to yours but also different. As you know, there is no substitute for horsepower when navigating the dunes. Well, the engine in my buggy is Corvair and has caused a power race in our camp. There are a couple guys with high-dollar machines that will always blow me away, but then are the guys with VWs that keep getting larger between trips and now all sport turbos.

Power, more power and Steve is not afraid to use it.

Heather Cross, ASA Member offered us a woman's point of view.
Summer in Arizona is treacherous, even for the seasoned professional. Some of us get anxious for the cooler weather for completely different reasons than the typical Phoenician, simply because we are anything but typical!!! With summer ending we seem to run out of time, scurrying around like rats and working late into the nights and weekends preparing... not for hibernation, we know that Halloween is coming and there is sh#% to do!!!
The first trip is always the best. The soft fresh sand, and the long missed smell of fire! God I love this!! I was introduced to the Dunes by my husband 7 years ago when we first met. I had never ridden anything, had no idea how to use the clutch, the hand and foot break, keeping my butt from going over the handle bars when I made a bad call or hesitation (Never do that!) and realizing for the first time that yes, I can go up that huge hill!!! Needless to say that I was hooked and surrendered to the beauty that is the dunes. I am a long way from that 35 year old Dune virgin yet every time I go my life improves, my family improves, my friendships improve, and I never forget every detail of every trip and how I feel when I am there. It is sad that more women do not appreciate how amazing it is to ride. They complain about the sand, dirt, and dust. They complain about the time their husbands spend away from them and the memories that they are not apart of. They complain about their relationships falling apart, their families falling apart, and yet it is all so simple. Get out of the Malls, put on a sweatshirt and jeans, and go play with your husband, family, and friends!!! Understand what is important and what is NOT! Go be with your husband, DO NOT complain! Open your eyes and appreciate all that is the Dunes!

The world needs more wives like Heather.

Keep those e-mails coming in and I will keep sharing them with you. Send them to: bjones@asasand.com Until next time- See you in the sand!

Chairman of the Board

WHAT IS THE ASA?

The ASA is the lead organization fighting to keep the Imperial Sand 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.

The ASA has joined with the Off Road Business Association (ORBA), San Diego Off-Road Coalition (SDORC), American Motorcycle Associaton (AMA District 37) to fund EcoLogic Partners Inc. Ecologic has filed lawsuits against the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service and has standing in other lawsuits affecting the ISDRA. 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, 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 $180,000 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.

"ARE YOU LEGAL"

Foddrill Motorsports Hosts Arizona ASA Info Meeting

On May 2, 2009 Arizona OHV enthusiasts will attend an ASA Info Meeting hosted by Foddrill Motorsports in Peoria, AZ. Representatives of the BLM, US Border Patrol, AZ Game and Fish, AZ Dept of Transportation, Tonto National Forest, AZ State Parks, AZ State Land Dept, CA State Parks and the AZ Off-Road Coalition were on hand to answer questions about the new AZ OHV law and several other topics of interest.

There will be discussion of the laws and rules that apply to AZ OHV registration and the reciprocity with the CA agencies responsible for law enforcement at the Imperial Sand Dunes. Representatives of the AZ agencies will discuss the OHV registration and permit requirements for recreating on AZ State Trust Land, the National Forest's and land Managed by the BLM in AZ.

Other topics of discussion will include the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), Wash Road alternatives, camping and OHV activity east of the Union Pacific Railroad in the proximity of the Ted Kipf Road, the potential for an increase in the ISDRA fee and the status of the ISDRA Technical Review Team (TRT).

The info meeting will be a live WebCast, and if you miss the WebCast, you will be able to view the meeting online from the ASA website, or this web site. Here is the link the online webinar: https://asasand.ilinc.com/join/pwcmyzz You can join 45min prior to the 10am start. (attendees may be asked to approve a "Window Active X Control") The webcast will show various live events on site starting at 10am, however the actual "Info Meeting" itself does not start until 1pm. You can also check the site for details after the meeting. You may view the entire list of questions and answers addressed at this meeting and at previous meetings held in AZ and CA on the ASA website at:

http://www.americansandassociation.org/pages.php?pageid=13

Lunch will be hosted by Fat Cat Catering and Triple X Industries. In addition to the Q & A program, Foddrill Motorsports is sponsoring a Show and Shine event.

BLM Establishes Commendation/Complaint Line

Kynan Barrios, Chief Ranger for the El Centro Resource Area has established a Commendation/Complaint Line.

This mailbox will be checked on a regular basis by me or a supervisor. If you have anyone request a telephone number to reach me or a BLM law enforcement supervisor for this purpose, please have them call 760-337-4471.

The line's greeting is: If this is an emergency, hang up and then place a call to emergency services by dialing 911.

Hello, this is Bureau of Land Management Chief Ranger Kynan Barrios of the El Centro Field Office. If you have a comment, compliment, constructive criticism or a complaint about the Law Enforcement Program or an employee, I want to know about it. Please provide your name, telephone number and a brief description of the commendation or complaint. You may remain anonymous and all information is treated as confidential. I am committed to ensuring a high quality of life and safety by partnering with our community to maintain trust and to preserve life and property. A supervisor will respond to your message as soon as possible.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

The ASA Board of Directors has elected a new Board member to serve on the Board of Directors. Vicki Cossey was elected to serve as Board member at the April 7th Board of Director meeting. Vicki will continue her duties as Chair of the ASA Legislative Affairs Committee and is also Director of Legislation of the San Diego Off Road Coalition and Treasurer of the American Desert Foundation. Vicki is devoted to her family and shares a passion for off roading with them. The Cosseys are frequent campers on Wash Road at Glamis.

Incumbent Board members who were elected to continue their positions with the ASA are Bob Mason, Jim Bramham and Gary Jordan. Officers were also elected with all officers returning for another term. Bob Mason-President, Bill Jones-Chairman, Dick Holliday- Chief Financial Officer and Bob Gagliano - Secretary.

The ASA also wishes to thank retiring Board Member Brian Crain for his term as Board of Director and Vice Chairman of the ASA.

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All proceeds to benefit the ASA General Fund

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

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Winners need not be present!

Duncan Hunter writes letter asking for Youth ATV BAN to be lifted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Everyone concerned about this issue should visit the Motorcycle Industry Council's (MIC) "stop the ban" website.

http://www.mic.org/stoptheban.cfm

BAKERSFIELD, CA (March 25, 2009) Recently ORBA Vice President Jim McGarvie sent a letter to U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) expressing his concern about the youth ATV ban, which is negatively impacting many ORBA members. Congressman Hunter—an off-roader himself— sent a letter to the Consumer Product Safety Commission asking them to expedite consideration and grant the petitions for the exclusion submitted by the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC), the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) and some of their member companies.

In the letter Congressman Hunter stated that is was not the intent of the Consumer Product Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA of 2008) to create undue economic hardships on the OHV industry, especially during a time of already unprecedented economic conditions. The congressman also goes on to state that if the requested exclusion was granted to the OHV industry that the CPSC would be engaging in a reasonable interpretation and implementation of the CPSIA of 2008.

ORBA, MIC and SVIA continue to closely monitor the implementation of the CPSIA of 2008 and to work for relief for the OHV industry. In addition to the pending exclusion petitions with CPSC, Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) and Congressman Denny Rehberg (R-MT) have introduced bills in Congress which would grant exemptions from the lead content provisions for youth ATVs and motorcycles. You can help by visiting the MIC's "Stop the Ban" website (http://www.mic.org/letters.cfm) for several ways to contact your Congressional representatives and members of the CPSC oversight committees to urge them to support the pending bills.

# # #

ORBA is a national trade association composed of off-road related businesses united to promote common goals that support the prosperity and growth of the off-road industry.

OFF-ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Youth Motorcycle/ATV Ban

Here are the steps needed to reverse the problem:

1. **Visit the website http://www.visi.com/juan/congress to find your local representative's name, address and phone number. Just type in your address and zip code.**
2. **Visit one of your congressperson's local offices and explain your position. Personal letters and pictures of your kids riding and/or families riding together will have added value. Visiting the office during business hours makes a statement that this issue is important to you.**
3. **Send as many personal written or typed letters as possible to their office. The letters do not need to be long just an original (not form letters), and must have your signature, hometown and zip code. The personal letters will let your representative know that you take this matter seriously and why the reversal of this law is important to you.**
4. **Get as many powersports related companies in your area to write letters to your congressperson explaining the economic damage to their business on company letterhead with a business card enclosed.**
5. **Call the congressperson's office once a week and request updates on the progress, what has been done so far and a projected date when this problem will be corrected.**
6. **Call the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) once a week to complain about the law and request an estimated date for correction. Contacts are Nancy Nord (Office of Acting Chairman) 301-504-7901 and Joseph Martyak (Office of Public Affairs) 301-504-7908.**
7. **Forward this message to as many of your friends and family as possible and ask them to help you perform these important tasks.**

We need your help to amend this law and grant an exemption for youth dirt bikes and ATVs. Accomplish as many steps as you can but most important let others know about this ban and encourage them to fight with us.

Congress passed the Consumer Safety Act of 2008 which limits the amount of lead in toys sold to children under twelve. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has classified MOTORCYCLES AND ATVS as TOYS.

Thanks, Ray Engelhardt right2ride@rocketmail.com

Annual Dunes Cleanup a Success

By Charla Teeters, United Desert Gateway Project Manager

On Saturday, January 17th, the United Desert Gateway (UDG) held their 12th annual Dunes Cleanup in the north and south regions of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. This event was a great success! Duners from all over California and Arizona, and from many other locations in the US and Canada, donated over 5,000 hours of their time to cleaning up the dunes. These volunteers are to be commended for their altruistic spirit.

Another group of people we would like to thank is the event sponsors. Without them the UDG would not be able to put on this premier event. This year's presenting sponsors were: Duner's Diner, RideNow Powersports, Monster Energy Drink, Quad Magazine, Sand Sport Magazine and the Bureau of Land Management.

We would also like to thank our Supercharged level sponsors: KD Cycle, Gilmore Off-Road, Take Pride In America, Sand Style, MGM Design, San Diego Off-Road Magazine, the El Centro Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, the Brawley Chamber of Commerce, Mesquite Regional Landfill, Glamisnews.com, Extreme Performance, the American Sand Association, Gibson Performance Exhaust and Yuma Duners.

This year's Nitrous level sponsors were Alford Distributing, SoCo Group, the Sand Sport Super Show, De Anza Search and Rescue, Kawasaki Motors Corporation, RATV/MX Warehouse, Mendeola Transaxles, Rancho Performance Transaxles, Crazy Keven's, RBP and Sidewinder Shell.

A pick up point in the North dunes.

High Octane level sponsors were The Brawley Inn, Cochise Motorsports, Dave Folts Transmissions, F&L Racing Fuel, Luv2Camp, ACRO Lights, Glamisweather.com, Imperial Valley Cycle Center, IMS Products Inc., Sand Posse Dune & Desert Apparel, Off-Roader's Outreach, OMF Performance Products, Raw Motorsports, San Diego Off-Road Coalition, Sweet Marie's, True Excitement, Trail Tech Inc., Axia Alloys, Superstition Services and Gold Cross Ambulance Services.

The UDG would like to extend our genuine thanks to all of our event sponsors, those companies who graciously donated products to the prize drawing and to all of the thousands of volunteers who gave of their time to keep the dunes clean and open for all to enjoy.

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Friends of Oceano Dunes is a 501 (c)(3) Not for Profit Public Benefit Corporation dedicated to preserving all forms of responsible recreation at Oceano Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area (ODSVRA)

ARTWORK BY ONSIGHTSIGNS.COM

SOBE Bomb's in the Dunes

by Scott Swenka, ASA Board of Director

I was asked to write this article on the problem of "SOBE bombs" in the dunes. Being a professional pyrotechnician (who works on professional fireworks shows out of the Phoenix, AZ area) I felt motivated to write the piece on the dangers and legal ramifications involved with SOBE bombs.

In the event you are not sure what these are, they are the explosive results of gasoline being placed in a metal capped bottle that has been poked with a tiny vent hole and then placed upright in a campfire. Then eventually getting superheated, they can explode 30-70 feet in the air with a mini mushroom cloud like a fireball and the associated thump. I am fairly certain that you have seen them.

As neat as it may seem these firebombs are catastrophe time bombs waiting to happen. Not only are you working with superheated burning gasoline, molten flying breaking glass, flying shards of the metal cap, and the overall lack of experience when it comes to pyrotechnics (keep in mind that devices such as this ARE NOT to be confused with REAL PYROTECHNIC EFFECT devices) not to mention that they are extremely illegal just about anywhere, and are considered a FELONY according to California Penal Code 12301(a)(5). It should also be noted because this is considered a FELONY, a deputy DOES NOT need to witness the act in order to take action on the incident.

Think about it… what would happen if this destructive device misfired in a camp?… it could throw hot burning gasoline all over the people, RV's, sand toys, etc.. With EMT services already being taxed, and fire assistance having to come from the next closest town, depending on where the incident occurs, a number of people could be severally burned or killed, not to mention the damage to personal property and all the legal liabilities that follow those sorts of situations.

I also had the chance to interview Sgt. Ed Preciado of the Imperial County Sheriff's Office via e-mail on this subject, and his response was: "Sobe Bombs have been addressed by Deputies on numerous occasions. A Sobe Bomb is considered a destructive device under Penal Code section 12301.(a)(5) PC, Any breakable container which contains a flammable liquid with a flash point of 150 degrees Fahrenheit or less with an igniter. The Imperial County Sheriff's Office wants to remind every dune visitor that this act is a "FELONY" and you are subject to arrest. As part of the enforcement process with a felony the deputies do not need to witness the suspect in the act with a Sobe Bomb to take action on the incident."

In closing I just want to say, is endangering your family and friends in your camp with the possibility of getting busted, charged with a felony, some jail time, worth a few seconds of fun? In my opinion, I think not.

It should be noted that the pictures used in this article were taken off the Internet from various free video sites, and that no Sobe bombs were built or tested during the writing of this article.

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American Desert Foundation

Last year the ASA Board of Directors established a 501 C3 non-profit corporation to apply for California State Park Grants to help the ISDRA with projects that will benefit ISDRA users. The ASA can not apply for these grants because the ASA has a different non profit tax status. This corporation is called the American Desert Foundation (ADF).

The ADF has applied for funds to do:

1) Provide ATV safety training at Glamis each month during the duning season. This project proposes to provide opportunities to recreationists/enthusiasts in the training of safe and responsible use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) by using ASI's hands-on, half-day ATV Rider Course which will be conducted by a licensed ASI instructor. The goal is to educate the public, especially parents and children under 16 years of age, about safe ATV operation and how to be an environmentally responsible ATV rider.

2) Provide sound testing for ATVs at the safety training site. This will enhance education about California OHV sound limits and help owners to determine if their vehicle is compliant with existing laws

3) Provide 5 Automatic External Defibulators for the BLM Cahuilla Ranger Station. This grant will place 5 AEDs in emergency vehicles or stations used by the BLM, Camp Host/EMT and the KCDF volunteers.

4) Provide a Camp Host off highway vehicle for Buttercup. Providing the Camp Host with a suitable off-highway vehicle will expedite emergency services as well as education and outreach activities.

5) Support the United Desert Gateway in publishing their UDG Visitors Guide for ISDRA visitors. The guide is one of the main educational tools for all outreach partners, including the ASA, UDG, and BLM.

6) Assist the BLM in designing and producing a interpretive center inside the Cahuilla Ranger Station to provide information specific to the area and intended to educate the ISDRA visitor to the resource. The interpretive panels will increase the visitor's awareness of the importance of the resource to plants and wildlife, explain the history of the dunes and promote a stewardship ethic

This is a very ambitious project, but there are lots of great people available to make it work.
AND we all agree that Mother G is worth it.

Watch the ASA web site and newsletters for updates on these projects.
If you wish to visit the American Desert Foundation web site the address is: www.americandesertfoundation.com

Help Keep Wash Road Open

The Union Pacific Railroad has indicated that they will close the Wash Road along the eastern border of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area to public travel on May 31, 2009. While the road is on Union Pacific (UP) property, it has been used to gain access to popular camping areas for many decades. It is the ASA's position that the publics' use of Wash Road on Union Pacific property for more than 45 years establishes a public easement. We have informed UP that we are willing to take legal action as necessary. (we sent out an email alert but,,, please read page 12)

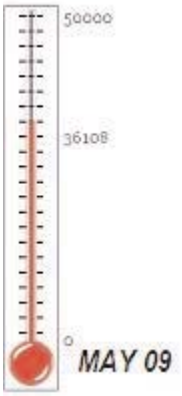
Civil Code section 1009 prevents such easements after March 1972. However, if the ASA can document that the public enjoyed use of the road for at least five years before March 1972, where the landowner (Union Pacific) neither objected nor granted permission, we may be able to escape the restrictions of Civil Code section 1009.

Here is how you can help: If you used Wash Road from at least March 1967 to March 1972, please contact us. Or you can provide a narrative stating your family and friends' personal use of the road. Download an affidavit form on our web site, put your narrative on the form, and have it notarized. (Auto Club will notarize for free as will some banks). If available, include photos that demonstrate the use. Put contact info on back. If available, include newspaper or other sources of date certain information. Put contact info on back. Include any other evidence you think may be appropriate.

Mail to: Vince Brunasso
c/o American Sand Association
PO Box 1872
Canyon Country, CA 91386

>>> MEMBERSHIP NEWS <<<

Help the ASA Keep You Informed



The ASA has as one of its major goals to keep our members informed on the latest news about the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA).

We need to have all our members that would like to receive our newsletter and or informational updates via email to be sure we have your current email address. As many people change email addresses when they change internet service providers or change jobs our list of members with invalid email addresses has ballooned. When an email message is returned to us as undeliverable we note that by putting a pound sign (#) in front of your name and marking that member to not receive email notices any longer. We now have over 6000 members that we once had a valid email address for but are now set to not receive our information via email.

If you see a pound sign (#) in front of your name on the address label for this newsletter, please give us your current email address. You can send your current email address to membership@asasand.org along with your name and we will update your profile. Let us know if you wish to start receiving the ASA newsletter by email as this will save us money in postage and printing costs. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter via US Mail, no problem, as we want you to get the latest information concerning the ISDRA.

Thank you for your support of the ASA in our fight to keep our riding areas open
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!

Dennis Allison	Dennis Dahlin Sr.	Joseph Johnson	Jack Oakes	Roger Starkey
Eric Amadio	Patrick Deuth	Michael Jones	David Pallas	Jon Steinhilber
Luther Anderson	Kathie Dike	Kevin Kandarian	John Papigian	Mark Stevens
Christopher Bader	Fred Dimmitt	Dennis Kelso	Steve Parker	Danny Stewart
Russell Baker	Lance Down	Michael Kettle	Linda Parker	Roger Sugamele
Rob Beggs	Jeff Dunn	Dale King	Gary Patton	Glen Sutton
Brandon Beggs	Dennis Edmondson	Leslie Klinke	John Peterson	Russell Sutton
Calvin Beggs	Randy Eller	Bryce Lindenberger	Travis Poore	Mark Swift
Jenee Beggs	Bill Elmore	Neal Linn	Steve Preciado	Jerry Tangeman
Reid Beggs	Kendall Ereth	Mark Lorenzana	Ray Rapue	Greg Taylor
Susan Beggs	Jaime Estrella	Matt Lutrick	Arjun Reddy	Linda Tebo
Thomas Bert	William Ewing	Cesar Maciel	Lars Reshatoff	Roger Tebo
Norman Blackman	Tom Face	Ronald Mason	Chester Richardson	Don Techen
Byron Boaz	Lena Fawson	Charles McBrayer	Paul Riffle	Karen Theodorelos
Dave Bonvicin	Rick Fisher	Bob McCoy	Leopoldo Rodriguez Jr.	Ken Tondreau
Russ Borman	Linda Freeman	Kevin McCune	Steven Rose	Lance Wanger
Vern Bowen	Jeff Friese	William McIlmoil	Stewart Ross	Darrell Waterman
Gary Boyd	Chuck Fruchey	Jeff Meeker	Peter Roundy Sr.	Sharon Weber
Ed Bracken	Rob Gagne	Jody Meeker	Kurt Russell	George Wildberger
Vancie Bronson	Fred Glandon	Chris Meeker	Thomas Rutherford	Eric Wood
Jay Bronson	Wayne Gray	Kelly Meeker	Stan Sandgren	Bob Woodward
John Burton	Jim Green	Wayne Meyer	Jason Schmidt	Dana Woudenberg
Dan Button	Paul Grossberg	Chris Michaud	George Schultz	Bryan Wright
Jeremy Byrnes	Brad Guske	Michael Miller	Jeff Scott	
Lee Cahill	Terry Haines	Phil Mirabell	Buck Shelden	
Jerry E. Canning	Tom Hedrick	Robert Modisette	Robert Sheridan	YOUR NAME
Matthew Carter	Michael Henshaw	Greg Moore	Sheila Sherman	HERE
Mark Chalfa	Elmer Hibbard	Matthew Moses	Lynnette Short	
Cecilia Cleveland	Peggy Hibbard	Butch Myers	John T. Signorelli	
Steve Cody	Chuck Hilliard	Fred Nea	Michael Slaven	
Bill Colwell	Kyle Hodder	Douglas Nordgren	Dave Soper	
Brad Cooper	Corry Huff	Michele Nordgren	Abigail Srader	
Jason Cross	David C. Johns	Eric Norquist	Steven St. Pierre	

NEW USER ADVISORY GROUP

In order to be in compliance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) the Technical Review Team (TRT) is being reconstructed as a sub-group of the Desert Advisory Council (DAC). This new user group will be called the DAC Sub-Group (DSG).

There will be a new DSG for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) and one for Dumont. These DSG's will operate in a similar fashion as the old TRT's did with a few modifications. There will be 9 members of the ISDRA DSG and each member will have a three year term with one third being replace each year.

Any formal recommendations from the DSG to the BLM will be directed through the DAC member that is assigned to each DSG.

The BLM will shortly be calling for volunteers to apply for the positions on the ISDRA DSG. It is anticipated that the recommendations for the members will be made at the June 13th DAC meeting in Barstow.

The ASA will announce when the application period is open.

The nine members of the ISDRA DSG will be selected in the following categories:

- **Two California OHV interest appointments**
- **Two Arizona OHV interest appointments**
- **One OHV organization appointment**
- **One local community appointment**
- **One Imperial county appointment**
- **One at large appointment**
- **One DAC appointee**

The documents associated with the DSG's can be accessed at this location on the ASA web site.

http://www.americansandassociation.org/access_files.php?dir_all=/DAC%20Sub-Group%20Information&dir_member=

Volunteers Needed

The Extreme Motorsports Expo is scheduled for May 16, 17, & 18 and the ASA plans to have our booth there again this year with the ASA Raffle Car at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, CA

We need Volunteers to assist in setting up the booth in advance of the show and tearing it down afterwards. In addition, we are looking for people who would like to represent the ASA to the show's public by being one of our personnel in the booth during show hours. Signing up new members, selling raffle tickets & merchandise is all very cool. But, my favorite part of helping in the booth is informing fellow duners of the PMV, Border Patrol and LEO issues facing us in the ISDRA. What's your favorite part? Interested in helping the ASA? Let's talk about it! E-mail Mike at volunteers@asasand.org

>>> ASA STORE SPECIALS <<<

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>>> UPCOMING EVENTS <<<

7th Annual Extreme Motorsports Expo - May 15-17th - Costa Mesa, CA

Annual Oceano Dunes Poker Run - July 4th - Oceano Dunes, CA

Ocotillo Wells 4th of July Annual Golf Tournament, Ocotillo Wells, 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: 888-540-SAND

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Ted Kipf Road and the Areas East of the Railroad Tracks

There have been some questions on the use of OHV's on the Ted Kipf road, east of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). This is an Imperial Country maintained road and thus is not legal for travel by OHV's. This road has been used for many years by OHV's without problem, however it seems that the BLM and Imperial County are now enforcing the no OHV regulations. So to prevent the chance of receiving traffic citations please do not operate OHV's on this road.

The area east of the Union Pacific railroad tracks and south of highway 78 is in the Northern and Eastern Colorado planning area (NECO) and as such has areas that are open to OHV travel and camping is permitted within 300 feet of any legal route of travel. There have been reports of campers being evicted from these legal camping areas and we believe this is due to the BLM law enforcement officers (LEO) not being informed that camping is legal within 300 feet of a legal route of travel in this area of the NECO plan.

The ASA and a Desert Advisory Council member are both working to have the BLM get the legal routes of travel signed and put on a map so the visitors and the BLM LEO's will know exactly where it is legal to recreate and camp in the NECO plan area.

The ASA will keep you up to date on the issues affecting this area adjacent to the ISDRA.

>>> 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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OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION INFORMATION BULLETIN

Volume 01 April 24, 2009 Number 02

Green/Red Sticker Fee Increased to $52

The issue
The OHV green/red sticker fee increased from $50 to $52 on January 1, 2009. We understand the significance of this increase coming one year after the doubling of the green/red sticker fee from $25 to $50 pursuant to SB 742.

What caused the CHP fee to increase $2?
Senate Bill 1055 was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis on October 8, 2003. This law increased forty-one different Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) fees on January 1, 2004, to: avert a shortfall in the California Highway Patrol (CHP) budget and the Motor Vehicle Account (MVA); adjusted the truck weight fee schedule to a level supported by the trucking industry; and make other budget related changes.

In addition to the original fee increases, the bill directed the DMV to implement future fee increases when the California Consumer Price Index (CCPI), as calculated by the Department of Finance, showed increases in inflation. The CCPI measures inflation by tracking a number of common items purchased by consumers. The increases in the CCPI over the past five years triggered previous $1 increases on other vehicle code sections, but not until now has it affected the two, $3 OHV fees given to CHP from OHV identification (registration).

How does this affect Green/Red Sticker fees?
CVC Sections 38225.4[1] and 38225.5[2] were each raised $1, from $3 to $4, on January 1, 2009, giving the (CHP) a total of $8 ($4 + $4) for every green/red sticker issued by the DMV. Both of these fees are contained in the $52 collected for green or red stickers for OHV identification (registration). The current breakdown is:

$33 to OHV Trust Fund (CVC 38225 b)
$7 to DMV for administration (CVC 38225 a)
$4 to CHP to maintain the uniformed field strength (CVC 38225.4)
$4 to CHP to maintain the uniformed field strength (CVC 38225.5)
$4 to counties for In-lieu Tax (CVC 38238)

$52 total

Heber Dunes SVRA General Plan

Project Purpose

The California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division has recently launched a process to develop a General Plan for the Heber Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA; see map on back). The General Plan will serve as a guidebook for future development and enhancements to Heber Dunes SVRA. It will establish a long-term vision for the park, identify potential recreation and facility improvements, and direct future park management, resource stewardship, and appropriate public use.

Public Involvement

Public input will play an essential role in the formulation of recommendations, programs, and priorities for the Heber Dunes SVRA General Plan. State Parks has initiated a stakeholder-driven process whereby issues and ideas voiced by community members will guide project research, alternatives analysis, and recommendations.

Two public workshops will be conducted during the project. During the first workshop, scheduled for late Spring 2009 (see box on this page), California State Parks will present concept alternatives for the park. During the second workshop, which is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2009, the Heber Dunes vision and land use plan will be presented.

Public Workshop #1
Taller Público #1

Coming in late Spring

For more information contact:
Para más información favor de contactar:

Cris Sanguino
State Parks Superintendent II
(760) 767-0156
cksanguino@parks.ca.gov
http://www.parks.ca.gov/
Se Habla Espanol

El Objetivo del Proyecto

The California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (División de Recreación de Vehículos Fuera de Terreno de Parques Estatales de California) recientemente lanzó un proceso para desarrollar un Plan General para Heber Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). El Plan General servirá como guía para el desarrollo de Heber Dunes SVRA. Establecerá una visión a largo plazo para el parque. El Plan General identificará potenciales mejoramientos para las instalaciones y oportunidades recreativas. Además el Plan General dirigirá la administración futura del parque, la administración de los recursos, y el uso público apropiado.

Participación Pública

La aportación pública jugará un papel integral en la formulación de recomendaciones, programas, y prioridades para el Plan General de Heber Dunes SVRA. Parques Estatales ha iniciado un proceso guiado por miembros de la comunidad donde los asuntos e ideas aportadas por la comunidad guiarán la investigación del proyecto, el análisis de las alternativas, y las recomendaciones. Durante el proceso se llevarán a cabo dos talleres públicos. Durante el primer taller, programado para los fines de la primavera, (vea el cuadro en esta pagina), Parques Estatales de California presentará conceptos alternativos para el parque. Durante el segundo taller, el cual está programado tentativamente para el verano del 2009, se presentará El Plan de Visión y Usos de Tierras de Heber Dunes.

Step-by-Step Process | *El Proceso Paso a Paso*

Step 1: Conduct stakeholder and visitor surveys

Paso 1: *Realizar sondeos de la comunidad y de los visitantes*

Step 2: Perform resource evaluations

Paso 2: *Llevar a cabo evaluaciones de los recursos*

Step 3: Develop and evaluate land use alternatives

PublicWorkshop *Taller Público*

Paso 3: *Desarrollar y evaluar alternativas para usos de tierra*

Step 4: Select preferred alternative

Paso 4: *Escoger alternativa preferida*

Step 5: Prepare Heber Dunes vision and land use plan

PublicWorkshop *Taller Público*

Paso 5: *Desarrollar el Plan de visión y usos de tierras de Heber Dunes*

Step 6: Prepare the Draft General Plan and EIR

Paso 6: *Preparar el borrador del Plan General e Informe de impacto ambiental (EIR)*

Step 7: Public review

Paso 7: *Revisión pública*

Step 8: Plan adoption

Paso 8: *Adopción del plan*

WHERE AGAIN DOES THE MONEY GO?

On numerous occasions posts on the ASA bulletin board indicate that many Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area (ISDRA) visitors do not understand the disposition of the revenue collected as a result of citation fines. I'm sure you have heard some rumors of the unrealistic reasons why citations are written. Some say that the the funds go to pay for the Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) wages. So the ASA asked the following in regards to some of the comments/questions that we most frequently hear:

Is there a difference between tickets written by Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Imperial County Sheriff Office (ICSO) and the State Parks? Yes.

Is the fine the same for the same violation? Depends on what type of citation is issued. County ordinances, state law, and federal law have different bail schedules.

Do I have to appear in court for a federal, county or state citation? On a federal citation you only have to go to court if you want to contest the cite or if the mandatory appearance box was checked by the federal officer. You do not have to go to court for county ordinance citations.

Where does the money I pay go?

Federal citation:
Funds collected from the payment of petty offense cases are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund. The Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 and is a major funding source for victim services throughout the country. For more information about the Crime Victims Fund and how the funds are disbursed, visit the Office for Victims of Crime website at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc The $25 processing fee is used to offset court costs.

State citation:
To the state of California and Imperial County.

County citation:
To Imperial County (ex: Off-Highway Vehicle Safety Enforcement Team (OHVEST), Imperial County Arson & Bomb).

Can BLM Rangers write citations on a county ordinance? Yes, if they have state authority.

Fireworks Yes
ISDRA permit compliance Yes
Others Yes

How does a federal citation differ from a county ordinance citation for failure to have an ISDRA permit? A federal citation is for a federal offense. County ordinance citations are for violations of county ordinances, enacted by the county.

If I fail to pay the citation is my vehicle registration affected. Yes, and a warrant can also be issued for your arrest (county, state or federal).

Take Time Out For Safety

UDG United Desert Gateway

ASA American Sand Association Inc.

Partners in Dunes Safety and Stewardship

A Letter You Might Relate With

(below is part of a letter written to some friends, could it be you?)

Hello "Life is Dunes" gang, After everyone finished telling their story about how they made the connection with this great group of "dune rats" surrounding the campfire, Dave and I looked over at the "kids" fire where we both said, "there is the next generation" of duners. They too have caught the "bug" for playing at the dunes like their folks. When it gets close to the first trip of the season to the dunes, Casey gets giddy just like I did when I was his age. I still get excited and can't wait to hit that first dune as soon as possible. My co-workers don't quite get it and trying to explain it to them is just impossible. How do you describe the thrill of riding in the dunes? I've tried over the years, you just learn to smile and say "its just a sand thing", you have to experience it to understand it.

I underestimate the number of people who have not experienced camping and riding like we do. They don't understand the awesome views of a desert sunset, blazing campfires and endless stars while sharing all this with your closes 30-40 friends. Happy Hour in the desert, "talking story" about the day's ride, Hula Hoop contest, "Duner-a-Riter" margaritas, Tiki bars and the "fukowe" tribe leaders re-living moments in the dunes over a couple of beers. Man, does it get any better than this! See, it's not just about riding that brings all of us together. Although there are us gear heads that also love the smell of 2 stoke in the air, a turbo charger spooling up, the throaty sound of V8 being rev'd and the adrenaline rush of throttling over "virgin" sand! Whew…. I just got all excited thinking about it. These are symptoms of the "bug" and yes we all have the "bug" for camping and riding our OHVs!

We take it for granted that this will continue for ever and a day. The truth is that there are people out there that would love to close the desert and ALL riding spots throughout our country from all of us from ever riding any OHV …PERIOD. Many are couch potatoes that have never experience this. These are the same people who have a poor outlook at outdoor people. "They are destroying our natural resources" They think that seeing nature is sitting on the couch and watching Discovery Channel. There is a group of people I refer to them as Extreme (Nazi) Environmentalists, that believe "It is my way or no way" when it comes to getting rid of all OHVs. They have been trying to close the sand dunes for many years.

Just a couple of years ago, they came damn close! In the middle of the dunes, between Gordon's Well and Glamis is a no ride zone. This is the results of a core of these Extreme Environmentalists that used the Endangered Species Act to force the Forest Service (FS) to close this area due to a weed called the "Pierson Milk-vetch weed". They claimed it should be on the Endangered Species list. This action forced the BLM, at a minimum, to close a HUGE portion of the dunes until research could verify their claim. The enviros submitted "evidence" that was greatly flawed which should have not resulted in the closures. Interestingly, there is a valid argument that the paddle tires help spread the seed and that this weed has been growing in numbers over several years based on research that a group of OHVers paid to have done to dis-prove the claims that these extreme environmentalists made. It is in the efforts of OHV groups that have kept what dunes we have open. It is due to their time, effort and money they have spent that has helped to keep our deserts open. They realized that we must stand up and take a stand against them otherwise the politicians will only hear one side of the argument and it wont' be ours.

Its groups like ASA, CORVA, FoOD, and many other small groups pooling their resources together to create a presence in Sacramento (CA. State Capitol) to represent us and our interests and to make sure the environmentalist don't run all over us. By the way, it is recognize that what happens in California, will happen to other states. This is why the key battle state is California. Arizona will follow suit with policy, regulations and limitations based on what California has implemented. They have done it before, they'll do it again. It has been said that if they close the dunes, the rest (that is ALL) of the desert and OHV areas will follow suit shortly thereafter. This is the crown jewel of OHV areas and when the Extreme Enviro's have taken it they will be very much in control of closing all the rest.

I can state many instances and incidences of the cheap stunts that the Extreme Environmentalist has tried to pull to get us out of the desert. They have abused the Endangered Species Act, sued the Forest Service and BLM to try to strong arm them into decisions in favor of their agenda. These are things I have learned about through being a member of the ASA.

We all have had at one moment or another a thought that there is nothing "I" can do particularly against such a large organization like the Sierra Club. Wrong, 2-stroke breath! There is something we can all do! As individuals it is hard to get our government's attention but as a large group they will listen. This is exactly what the Sierra Club banks on. They have 100,000+ members. When they show up at a hearing, guess which group that our "honorable" politicians pay attention to. (Remember these are VOTING citizens) NOW imagine this, we show up with 100,000 OHVers, we WILL get there attention!

Make Sure ALL of your family and friends are members in the ASA