



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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ISDRA Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad Lottery Information

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Vendors are responsible to know and understand the special stipulations for the 2009-2010 vendor season

A lottery will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, April 24th, 2009 to select the vendors at the Gecko Vendor Pad. Applicants for the Gecko Vendor Pad sites **must** have their complete application and the **\$95.00 non-refundable fee** submitted by the close of business on **Monday, April 13, 2009** in order to be accepted for the lottery. All completed applications received by mail or in person by April 13th, 2009 at 4:30 pm will be considered as being received at the same time. Applications received after the close of business on April 13th, 2009 **will not** be included in the lottery.

Lottery Information

Applicants are to pay a minimum of **30 consecutive days** in advance and be open for business 7 consecutive days each week. Assigned/Exclusive Use site fees (\$190.00) apply only to the Gecko Road Vendor Pad sites. The \$190.00 site fee is due once the lottery site is secured. Delay in payment of the \$190.00 fee will result in cancellation of the permit and lottery site.

Vendor permits will not be issued for parking, camping, storing equipment, storing vehicles or sub-leasing. Vendor permits are considered a commercial use (43 CFR 2932.5) of public lands for business and/or financial gain and that also support sand dunes related recreational use.

Applicants **may be present** or they will be contacted via telephone during the lottery to choose their space. If the **applicant is not available** in person or via telephone at the time of the lottery drawing that applicant will receive the remaining fourth space; regardless of the order their name was selected. The awarded applicant must confirm their lottery space by the close of business, **Monday April 27th at 4:30 pm** to hold their space on the Gecko Pad.

The **first** selected applicant will choose a site and dates. The **second** selected applicant will choose from the remaining sites and dates. This process will continue until all 4 sites and dates for the Gecko Road Vendor Pad are filled or there are no more applicants. If there are any remaining sites and/or dates they will be assigned on a first come first serve basis in a **minimum of 30 day blocks**. If the current permittee does not choose to continue on the site or fails to pay the fees, the site will be assigned to a new applicant.

If at the close of business, on April 24th, 2009 there are **four or less** applicants for the Gecko Road Vendor Pad sites, the lottery will not be held. In this circumstance vendors may submit a signed, written agreement as to which vendors will occupy which spaces and dates.

Frequently Asked Lottery Questions

What is the Gecko Lottery? The lottery is a random drawing to occupy one of the four spaces on the Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad located off of Highway 78 and Gecko Road. The lottery is conducted at the end of each vendor season for the following season beginning October 1st. The selected permittees must pay for a minimum of 30 consecutive days and be open 7-days a week. The selected permittee may also choose to stay on the Gecko Pad for the entire season from October 1st to May 31st.

Who can apply for the Lottery? Any business or business owner may apply. Applicants must have the complete vendor application package submitted along with payment of the appropriate fees to the El Centro Field office by April 13, 2009 at 4:30 pm to be entered into the lottery drawing. Post marked applications that are received after April 13, 2008 **will not** be accepted. Please visit the Imperial County Health Department for current rules and regulations on food vendors before applying for the Gecko Lottery.

Why is there a Lottery at the Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad and why does the permittee of the Gecko Lottery have to be open 7 days a week? The lottery is to provide vendors with a long term stationary vendor area. In addition, the lottery provides the public with 7-day a week service on BLM lands within the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). In order to be considered for the lottery drawing, vendors must at least be open to the public during normal business hours (8am-4pm) for 7 days a week. The Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad is for those vendors interested in vending for longer periods of time than other BLM vendor areas allow for.

What are the rules and regulations of the Gecko Lottery? The Long Term Gecko Pad vendors must follow all the stipulations they signed in the current year application package. Gecko vendors must provide trash cans with lids, proper lighting around their vending units for night vending and proper signing and advertisement of their business. In addition, vendors are not to sublease their reserved space on the Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad at any time.

Can I win more than one vendor site in the lottery for the Long Term Gecko Pad sites? The stipulation states that each business can reserve only one site on the Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad. However, separate businesses are considered, by law, as separate persons even though they are owned or operated by the same individuals. In this situation, each separate business would be considered as a different vendor. Each separate business name must be displayed on the vendor unit. A separate vendor permit and business license is required for each business entered.

Why do food vendors need to discuss their operation with the Imperial County Health Department before applying to the Gecko Lottery?

The Bureau of Land Management will not consider a food vendor for the lottery unless the vendor can regularly remove their facility for cleaning as required by the Imperial County Health Department. In addition, all vendors on the Gecko Pad must provide services and remain open to the public 7-days a week.

Please note that Section 114295 of the California Retail Food Code, which became effective on July 1, 2007, requires all mobile food facilities to operate in conjunction with a commissary, mobile support unit, or other facility approved by the local health department. The Imperial County Health Department is requiring that all mobile unit businesses planning to operate **more than 5 consecutive days** during this season move their mobile food units to a location with cleaning facilities where the units can be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before returning to resume operations. Mobile food

units operating at Gecko Pad or other areas of the Imperial Sand Dunes must be able to meet the above requirement.

A detailed operation plan must be submitted to the BLM along with the food vendor's application package. The operation plan should state how the business will be conducted and include proof of an approved commissary within Imperial County. Food vendors must also provide a cleaning schedule/timeline for the entire season, and a write up of how they will comply with the Imperial County rules and regulations. Proof of the visit to the commissary will also be required to be submitted to the BLM on a monthly basis. If the above documentation is not included within the original application package, and throughout the season, the permit **will not be approved**. Any vendor who violates the cleaning schedule/timeline presented to the BLM will automatically have their vendor permit **revoked/suspended**.

For additional questions or comments, please contact the El Centro Field Office, Vendor Specialist at 760-337-4457 or 760-337-4400. Emails, including attachments, are limited to 5 MB.