

Dumont Dunes TRT  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
September 6, 2008

Bureau of Land Management  
Barstow Field Office  
Conference Room  
2601 Barstow Road  
Barstow, CA 92311  
(760) 252-6000

1. Call to Order

With the absence of TRT Chairman Bill Presch, Vice Chairman Jim Bramham called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and led the TRT in a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim noted the strong attendance of some 25 members of the public to this special Saturday session and welcomed them to participate in the meeting.

A. Introductions

Members of the TRT, participating BLM staff, and members of the general public introduced themselves:

TRT Members Present:

Jim Bramham, vice chairman; OHV organizations  
Randy Banis, secretary; other motorized recreation  
Terry Allen, Nevada OHV interests  
John Dagleish, Friends of Dumont Dunes  
Gerry Hillier, San Bernardino County  
Kathleen Stosuy, California OHV interests  
Ed Waldheim, California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission

BLM Staff Present:

Roxie Trost, Manager, Barstow Field Office  
Mike Trost, Maintenance, Barstow Field Office

TRT Members Absent:

Dr. William Presch, chairman; California Desert District Advisory Council  
David Charlton, California Desert District Advisory Council  
Sheri Davis, commercial filming, California Desert District Advisory Council  
Ron Schiller, California Desert District Advisory Council

B. Agenda

Jim Bramham opened the agenda to additions and changes. The agenda was approved by consent.

C. Minutes

Copies of the draft minutes of the TRT's June 3, 2008, meeting were circulated to TRT members earlier via email. Gerry Hillier moved, and John Dalglish seconded, that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was approved by consent.

2. Old Business

A. Fringe-Toe Lizard Update

The BLM, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Dr. Presch are working to develop a conservation strategy for the Fringe-toe lizard. This is in response to a petition to list the species that is under consideration by the USFWS. BLM has assigned a wildlife biologist to develop the plan and to seek support for it.

Ed Waldheim asked if Dr. Presch's comprehensive study is being used by USFWS. Roxie Trost replied that the agency was interested in his data. Jim Bramham complimented the Barstow Field Office for proactively contracting with Dr. Presch early on, and that his data may have an impact as the listing process continues. The TRT recognized Roxie's foresight on this issue.

Terry Allen noted that Friends of Dumont Dunes will be doing an educational Poker Run on Veterans Day, November 9, 2008, and circulated a flyer.

The Chairman suspended the agenda to introduce Don Maruska who is an independent consultant studying BLM's advisory boards and their relationship and effectiveness with the agency. He explained that TRT members may be called upon to be interviewed on their experience as part of the study process.

B. Dumont Dunes Access

Mike Trost explained that a load of 35 tons of processed asphalt grindings is available at Newberry and the BLM is working to secure it for the Dumont Dunes Road. The first load in 2007 was 15 tons and the road has not changed significantly in its condition. The only cost might be paying for the transportation.

Ed Waldheim moved, and Terry Allen seconded, that the TRT support the BLM working to secure any available road material. Jim Bramham spoke in support noting that after several years of effort, the new crushed asphalt surface has proved to be the best yet in terms of compaction and hardening. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Trost discussed a new exit process to better route traffic to the new fee machines. This will make use of designated lanes for those with and without passes in hopes of moving the traffic more smoothly through pass compliance checks.

C. Fee Machine Update

Roxie Trost reviewed the new strategy for off-site vs. on-site pass sales, and that fee machines will not be at the Little Dumont Dunes area. Members of the public

commented on the need for new signs at Little Dumont clearly explaining the need to purchase passes from the fee machines at the main Dumont Dunes entrance.

The TRT and members of the public discussed the need for signs on the highway advising users to purchase passes off-site. Jim Bramham explained the new fee collection strategy being put into place at the Imperial Sand Dunes which uses RFID and an agency vendor contract that returns an appropriate level of funding to the BLM.

Visitors requested clarification on how users are to pay for and obtain holiday surcharge stickers for non-holiday annual passes.

Jim Bramham advised Mike Trost to make exit lanes as long as possible to better accommodate a long enough line for RV's and trailers.

Jim called for a short recess at 11:10 a.m., then resumed the meeting at 11:25 for public comment.

A member of the public suggested that emergency law enforcement officers and medical technicians fly whip flags bearing an emblem that better distinguishes them from other vehicles. Roxie Trost and the TRT agreed with the suggestion.

#### D. Helipad & Emergency Operations Center Update

Roxie Trost presented a slide show of photographs of constructing the emergency operations center area and helipad. Roxie reminded attendees that the project was funded by Federal funds and was not paid by fee money.

#### E. Amargosa River / Sperry Wash

Roxie Trost described a signing project and enforcement strategy to address off-route travel problems in Sperry Wash. Members of the public discussed need for more closed signs above the descent into Sperry Wash and not rely on those oriented toward coming up the wash or going up the hillsides.

Jim Bramham suggested using GPS locations on area maps to better assist users. John Dalglish explained the benefits of using a grid map to help with emergency response. Terry Allen followed up on his suggestion that boundary maps be posted outside restrooms. Jim noted that the tone of language used on outdoor signs affects their longevity against vandalism.

Roxie Trost announced that new Dumont Dunes brochures are being printed and will be available later in the month.

#### F. McKeon – Boxer Legislation

Gerry Hillier updated the TRT on the progress of the bill and that the protections for Dumont Dunes Road remain intact.

Ed Waldheim described Feinstein's new wilderness proposal and efforts by the access community to preserve roads & trails. Gerry Hillier noted that a degree of outreach by proponents that was not present during negotiations over the Desert Protection Act decades ago. He also noted how the 29 Palms Marine Corps Base expansion dovetails into these wilderness proposals by further shrinking opportunities for motorized access and recreation.

3. New Business

None.

4. Public Comments

Roxie Trost reported that 2007/2008 gross fee revenue from the sale of passes was \$815,000, and \$14,000 remains in the account for preparation for the upcoming season. Roxie also announced the grand opening of the new visitors center at the El Mirage OHV area.

Members of the public suggested greater color differentiation between the two annual pass types, and among the holiday surcharge stickers. The need for a license plate number on the annual pass was questioned as being too restrictive given many use multiple tow vehicles.

5. Next Meeting

By consent, the TRT set the following date, time and location for its next public meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 10:00 AM, BLM Barstow Field Office Conference Room

6. Adjournment

Gerry moved, and Terry seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Banis  
Secretary, Dumont Dunes Technical Review Team

Approved on January 20, 2009

## SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

### Dumont Dunes Road

Ed Waldheim moved, and Terry Allen seconded, that the TRT support the BLM working to secure any available road material. Jim Bramham spoke in support noting that after several years of effort, the new crushed asphalt surface has proved to be the best yet in terms of compaction and hardening. The motion passed unanimously.

### Public Comment

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