

BLM Desert District Advisory Council
Dumont Dunes Subgroup Minutes
November 19, 2013

Meeting was held in the BLM Barstow Field Office in Barstow, CA.

1. Call to Order and Pledge

Meeting was called to order by Terry Allen, Vice Chair, and he led the subgroup in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Introduction of Attendees

Terry Allen, Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle enthusiasts, Vice Chair
Randy Banis, DAC Member
Ed Waldheim, Off-Highway Vehicle interests
John Dalgleish, Friends of Dumont Dunes
Gerry Hillier, Public-at-Large
Tim Hough, Park Ranger, Barstow BLM
Patrick Chassie, Chief Ranger, Barstow BLM
Katrina Symons, Field Manager, Barstow BLM
Dan Taylor, Inland Empire Film Commission
Sheri Davis, Inland Empire Film Commission

3. Agenda

The agenda was presented by Terry Allen. Katrina requested to add BLM updates to the agenda. John Dalgleish moved to accept the agenda with addition, Randy Banis seconded. The agenda was approved by consent.

4. Minutes

Minutes from June 11, 2013 meeting were previously distributed to members, no changes noted. Randy Banis moved to accept the minutes, John Dalgleish seconded. The meeting minutes were approved by consent.

5. Business

Subgroup Membership

The Dumont Dunes Subgroup members include: Randy Banis, Gerry Hillier, Ed Waldheim, Andy Silva, Terry Allen, John Dalgleish, William Presch and Brian Brown. Membership is posted on the BLM internet site at:

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/dumontdunestrtdumontdunestrtdmembers.html>

Dumont Fee and Usage Report

The FY 2013 Budget Summary for the recreation fee account was given to the meeting attendees, as well as a side-by-side comparison of the previous two years.

The FY 2013 visitation increased by 6% from 2012.

John suggested that BLM place material on the Dumont Dunes access road to reduce the amount of dust and maintain the rock base.

Terry expressed a concern with the loss of rock to the side of the road. Terry will look for the information on a piece of equipment that is used in the Midwest that pulls side-cast road material back onto the surface of the road. Terry will forward the equipment information to Katrina.

Ed stated that RTP has 1.5 million dollars and suggests BLM apply for an equipment operator.

Randy suggested that Terry's equipment idea be purchased via RTP.

Update on DAC/RRAC and Fee Increase

A new Business Plan must be prepared before a revision of fees will be considered. Currently Barstow does not have the staffing to complete a Business Plan, but has requested assistance from the California Desert District Office. Assistance may be available the summer of 2014.

Suggestion: When the Dumont Dunes fee structure is presented to the RRAC, add the ten dollar discount for pre-season (September) purchase of annual passes.

Funding of Law Enforcement on Off-Weekends

Katrina informed the subgroup that the recreation fees funds a BLM Law Enforcement (LE) Ranger, as well as Park Rangers. Park Rangers are responsible for maintenance, visitor services and compliance.

Terry is concerned with decline in revenue due to no compliance checks on non-holiday weekends; concern with no penalties for non-payment of fees; and acknowledged the balancing act of education versus "the hammer coming down". Terry suggests that LE start issuing citations for non-payment of fees.

Patrick talked about the LE focus during Thanksgiving on wearing helmets, safety belts, and pass compliance.

Heritage Trail – T&T Railroad Road

Katrina informed the subgroup that BLM has concerns moving forward with a national heritage trail proposal at this time because: 1/ concern with potential safety issue on the grade given location of the fencing and erosion; 2/ concern with lack of legal access on private property; and 3/ concern with lack of a transportation system network and logic track for how it serves the communities.

BLM Updates

Katrina provided Barstow staffing updates including the current inability to fill vacancies (e.g., Recreation Branch Chief, Park Ranger, LE Ranger, Equipment Operator) given reduced federal budget. Katrina will continue to serve as the primary Point of Contact (POC) for the recreation program. Tim Hough is the POC for Dumont Dunes and has been coordinating staffing for the five major holidays.

Member Items

- BLM is still working on dual band radio and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD)

- Gerry suggested that the Dumont Dunes Subgroup support having a MOU with SBCSD. Randy volunteered to work on a statement to bring to the Desert Advisory Council. Tentative statement that was approved by the Dumont Dunes Subgroup: With the goal of improved communication, effectiveness and efficiency in operation in this time of decreased resources, we encourage BLM to work with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to reinstate an MOU for Law Enforcement.
- Concerns expressed with the 29 Palms Expansion including: 1/ potential impacts to the Lucerne Valley economy with OHV users going elsewhere; and 2/ creating overuse of other OHV open areas and or expanding OHV use into the limited use areas with potential for increased off-designated route travel.
- Concern expressed that annual passes were not available until the end of September. BLM missed an opportunity to sell passes early in the season. Also, the 16-day furlough impacted BLM's ability to sell passes.
- Last Friday of October is historically the busiest time at the Dunes. BLM incorrectly identified the Halloween Holiday, as it missed Nevada Days. Both Terry and John suggested establishing the Dumont Dunes 2014 holiday season at the next meeting.

6. Upcoming Meetings

- Desert Advisory Council Meeting on December 6-7, 2013
- State OHV Grants Workshop in Ontario, CA on January 13-14, 2014
- Dumont Dunes Subgroup Meetings at the Barstow Field Office from 10 AM to Noon on the following days: March 11, 2014; June 3, 2014; and September 9, 2014.