

Desert Advisory Committee
Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Subgroup
Meeting Minutes
November 20th, 2013

Attendance:

DAC ISDRA Subgroup Members

Tom Acuna-CA OHV
Bob Ham- Local Community
Jim Bramham- CA OHV
Ed Stovin- OHV Organization

Absent

Chuck Hattaway- OHV Organization
Lee Banning- AZ OHV
Don Wharton- Local Community

BLM

Tom Zale-Field Manager
Neil Hamada, Dunes Manager
Brian Puckett, Park Ranger
Daniel Baca, Park Ranger
Michelle Puckett, Outdoor Rec. Planner

Public

Nicole Gilles-Public
Dick Holiday-Public via phone

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 by Tom Acuna and subgroup reviewed the June 27, 2013 meeting minutes.

Motion by Bob Ham - To pass and accept the minutes. Jim Bramham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Desert Advisory Committee (DAC) and Subgroup Charters / Subgroup Memberships

According to the DAC Charter, the chairperson for a subgroup is appointed by the DAC. The Subgroup charter contradicts the DAC Charter and states the subgroup votes on membership positions (i.e. chairperson, vice chair, secretary, etc.). A discussion was held about the discrepancies in the charters and how to proceed.

Tasks – This item will be on the next agenda for discussion. BLM will review other Subgroup Charters and provide a recommended change to the subgroup. Members will review their Charter before the next meeting. A Vice Chair will be elected at the next meeting.

Membership and current ISDRA DAC Subgroup vacancies were discussed. The Subgroup Charter states there should be an odd number, 7-9 members with preferably two from the DAC. Bob Ham's and Chuck Hattaway's appointments end December 2013 and Lee Banning has not been active. Expiring members need to re-apply, if interested. Members are selected by BLM making recommendations to the DAC Chairperson who will make the final approval.

Tasks – BLM will correspond with the DAC Chair to clarify if Tom Acuna is the appointed DAC Representative. BLM will solicit for new members to apply and send recommendations to the DAC Chair. BLM will ask Imperial County (Ralph Cordova) to select representative to serve on the subgroup and forward that name to the DAC Chair. BLM will ask the DAC to appoint a Chairperson. BLM will determine if Lee Banning is still interested in serving on the subgroup.

Future Meetings

Future meeting dates, topics, outreach and attendance were discussed. Meetings have been held at different times and places to increase attendance. BLM issues press releases, advertises meetings on the BLM website, and Facebook page. Two key points were raised; first, based on history, the best attendance is during controversy, however if we don't have the controversy, meetings in El Centro Field Office are acceptable. Second, there is a value in having morning meetings, rather than late afternoon meetings, in case meetings run long. In order to allow for time to travel to the meeting, future meetings will start at 9:30 am.

Future meetings were set for May 22, August 21, and December 11, 2014. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. All meetings are scheduled to meet at 9:30am at the El Centro Field Office.

Old Business

BLM reviewed the April, 25 2012 chart that contained priority ideas brainstormed by the subgroup [See Attachment A] to identify a range of things to work on if funding becomes available further in the year. BLM identified projects that have already been addressed such as trying to obtain funding to pave Wash Road and repaving Gecko Road. BLM wants to ensure they are taking Subgroup priorities seriously. BLM is working towards completing some of the projects; however it could be years out. The scopes of these projects are large and it may have to be phased out over several years. BLM is working together with the [BLM] National Operations Center to get large projects into the system.

There was discussion about BLM contacting the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to acquire text for dust abatement signs and to partner with them on utilizing dust suppression mitigation funds for paving and dust suppressants. Ocotillo Wells State Vehicle Recreation Area is currently paying about \$10,000/mile for dust suppressants. This could be opportunity to mitigate dust and would be helpful to the APCD. An environmental document would have to be prepared, however BLM does not think that it will be controversial. BLM believes it could mitigate dust and reduce the cost of road maintenance. This application could also help meet the dust requirements in the "State Implementation Plan".

At the next meeting, time should be set aside to discuss some long and short term planning since only two of the 12 priorities were discussed. Although there are challenges, BLM recommended the children's riding area, replacing Cahuilla Ranger Station, and the application of a dust suppressant on Wash Road.

There was a discussion about the availability of having "Shovel ready" Interpretive projects to apply for "RTP" grants to develop the watchable wildlife area. The deadline may be too close for this year, but it might be available next cycle.

Tasks- BLM will meet with APCD to discuss a partnership in dust suppression on Wash Road and report to subgroup through e-mails on the pros and cons. Provide an update on the idea of developing a children's riding area. BLM will research RTP interpretive grants.

Public Comment Period

- Nicole Gilles- "I just wanted to let you know the ASA is working on our official comment and they will be forthcoming prior to the deadline for the comments."
- Nicole Gilles- "Can we get the agenda posted prior to the meeting?" BLM responded and stated they will do a better job at getting the agenda posted.

BLM Report

A season pass has been provided to each of the subgroup members to visit the area, make some notes in the role of a subgroup member, and help us identify what we can improve.

See Attachment B for BLM Report. BLM is working on a continuing resolution budget through January 15. The forecast for federal appropriated dollars is 11% lower than FY13. El Centro Field Office (ECFO) was \$200,000 overspent which is better than last year, but they didn't fill any employee vacancies. ECFO management is at half staff levels. The law enforcement chief is not filled and applications are currently being accepted.

Although BLM completed the fee approval process with the DAC and was prepared to collect fees beginning October 1, 2013, revenues were lost because of the government shutdown. BLM law enforcement staff worked through the furlough to maintain health and safety on public lands; however no permits were sold because all contracts were suspended. On day four of the shutdown the management team brought field managers in for patrol. During the shutdown people were able to use the dunes, however; no other amenities were available.

BLM provided an Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Update. See the Attachment C- ISDRA Subgroup Update. The decrease in visitation since 2006 was discussed; there is no scientific evidence as to why this has occurred however; the economy and fees could both be factors. The Subgroup reviewed the EMS statistics and asked if there were any specific trends to the accidents and the BLM responded that there was no study done. The discussion covered topics such as the reduced cost and increased efficiency of the EMS services, and questions about the

chances of having an accident in the dunes being higher, and comments on the excellent response times to calls for service. There was also a description of the other duties that Park Rangers do between calls such as visitor contacts and education.

The fee report was not provided since FY 13 has not been closed out yet. The new fee contract is estimated to cost \$271,000 per year, a significant drop from previous years. This will result in a reduction of fee collection services. The responsibility will lie heavily on the visitor to acquire a permit prior to arrival or to visit the ranger stations during open hours. During FY13, fee compliance was 95%. This year there has been an increase in weekly permit sales, and a decrease in the number of seasonal permits in the field. In FY13, 50% of the permits on site were season permits even though 20% permits sold were seasonal. In 2014 so far, 34% season permits on site are seasonal. However, non-compliance has increased to 11%. Law Enforcement Rangers are making it a priority to educate visitors about the permit changes. There are 10% of people not applying the season permit properly. If visitors refuse to adhere the permit correctly, they receive a citation. The BLM has developed a system with the fee contractor to address concerns about stolen or damaged permits. So far 5 requests for replacement have been received. One person claimed their permit was stolen, but would not provide proof (police report) or submit a request form.

There was a short discussion about the need for volunteer camp hosts and the BLM was advised to contact OHV groups to advertise in their newsletters.

Follow Up on Fee Recommendations to DAC for Fee Increase

A letter of recommendations was sent to the DAC and they approved the fee increase. The letter also stated that the Subgroup wanted to work with the BLM to provide a second vehicle, day permit, medical cost, and reduce the cost of collections. The reduced cost of collection is complete. The medical cost recovery cannot be done. BLM has completed research since the recommendation and discovered that they fall under the National Search and Rescue Plan of the United States. It states that, unless required by law, civil search and rescue services provided to persons in danger or distress will be without subsequent cost-recovery from the person(s) assisted.

Day permits were discussed. The BLM has had some internal discussion about this item. Discussions included the ability to allow a person to be able to purchase a week permit and come back to the ranger stations by a set time and be issued a refund for a set amount. So a day permit would put the responsibility on the permit holder to return the permit by the set time or not be refunded. There might be complications, such as ranger station hours. If a visitor came out on a Monday, then the stations would be closed. BLM preferred not to implement the option now and to give the current changes time to get off its feet and allow the current plan a chance to operate before writing a new one. BLM also stated that the authority to collect fees was set to expire in 2014 but has been extended for one year. There could be changes in the new fee authority that

we don't know about yet. BLM wants to maintain the most efficient and simple way to collect fees. The members proposed to move forward using the current plan, without an update.

There was discussion of developing a program to address local visitors with a day permit and the need to have a drive through permit available at private 24 hour sites that could be returned on the other side of the dunes at another 24 hour private site. This idea would allow day visitors to drive through the dunes and not to return permits to the ranger stations. All agreed that the "Core charge" idea sounds reasonable and that more research and discussion needs to occur.

Task – BLM will listen to more ideas and do more research on how the logistics would work and what it might cost.

Park Rangers discussed feedback they receive in the dunes about the fee program. BLM stated that most of the negative comments received are about visitors not wanting to apply the sticker and the fee increase.

Second vehicle permits were discussed by the subgroup. The subgroup discussed the idea of collecting personal information from each person wanting a second permit to ensure they had two vehicles registered to the same name, home addresses, etc. BLM stated that they tried something like this before and identified Privacy Act compliance issues and other challenges with the process that lead to significant customer dissatisfaction. BLM stated that they want to give the current fee structure a chance first.

Motion by Jim Bramhan- The BLM have a proposal for a one day pass as an agenda item for the May 22, 2014 meeting. Tom Acuna seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

Attachment A

APRIL 25, 2012 ISDRA Subgroup Meeting Exercise Review Priority Projects

ISDRA Subgroup Wish List Categorized Activity on ways to improve ISDRA. During the group exercise, the members were provided five green stickers to place next to their personal priorities. They then used a red or pink marker to indicate their five items they wanted removed from the list.

The ISDRA Sub-Group **highest priorities** were:

| Votes | Item |
|--------------|--|
| 4 | Pave Wash Road |
| 4 | Long Term Visitor Area in the ISDRA |
| 3 | A new rescue trailer |
| 3 | Children's fenced practice/ride area for safety training sites |
| 2 | Build an OHV bridge from Buttercup to Test Hill |
| 2 | New Cahuilla Ranger Station |
| 2 | A Road Grader |
| 1 | Re-pave Gecko Campground |
| 1 | Day use parking |
| 1 | Harden the road into Ogilby |
| 1 | Create and post signage that relates to dust abatement |
| 1 | Create and Pave a road along the canal with camping pads |

The items the Subgroup members indicated as **lowest priorities** were:

| Votes | Item |
|--------------|--|
| 5 | Boardwalk into the Wilderness area |
| 4 | Build a parking area in the high dunes for wilderness access on the north side of Hwy 78 |
| 4 | Have a cell site on western edge |
| 3 | Improve ingress and egress in Dune Buggy Flats |
| 2 | Establish reservations sites |
| 1 | Improve the watchable wildlife area |
| 1 | Magnets for maintenance to clean the camping areas |

The following items were not selected as high or low priority:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Create additional camping pads | Write a new business plan |
| Add a camp host pad at Ogilby | Write a Vendor Plan |
| Create a new campground on the south side of I-8 east of the canal | Second vehicle permit |
| Pad Maintenance | Re-pave Gecko Road |
| Build a walking patch to Gecko Vendor Pad | Extend Gecko Road 1,000 feet |
| Vehicle hoists for storage | Repave Grays Well Road |
| Increased EMS for when BLM is not in service | Gecko Road shoulder |
| East side of the ISDRA development per the 1987 RAMP | Create a new Plank Road interpretation area |
| Write a concessionaire contract | Hire more visitor outreach personnel |
| | More campground hosts |

Attachment B

Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area 2013 Accomplishments

Sustainability

- 1. BOTANY, WILDLIFE & HABITAT RESTORATION - Conserving habitat for T&E and BLM sensitive species, promoting healthy public lands:**
 - a. Worked with the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) to have student interns from the University of Arizona completed Flat-tailed horn lizard (FTHL) demographic monitoring sessions in FTHL management areas.
 - b. Actively participated with the interagency FTHL management oversight group and coordinating committee to continue implementation of the conservation agreement and management strategy for this species. Membership of the oversight group and coordinating committee is comprised of several federal and state agencies in California and Arizona who work together to maintain habitat for the viability of the species.
 - c. Completed a noxious weed inventory of 225 acres and treated 10 acres for Sahara mustard, an invasive noxious weed, near the Buttercup Ranger Station in the ISDRA.

Heritage

- 1. HERITAGE RESOURCES - Preserving America's Heritage Resources for future generations:**
 - a. Provided program support for ISDRA projects with the potential to affect historic properties, including taking required steps to obtain compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations at 36 CFR 800, and the BLM's protocol agreement with the California State Historic Preservation Officer. Prepared Section 106 findings and determinations to document compliance for all projects.
 - b. Facilitated Section 106 meetings and field visits with tribes and other consulting parties.

Community

1. EDUCATION & OUTREACH - Working with America's youth for a sustainable future

- a. Provided a variety of education and outreach opportunities for America's youth. The Dunes Guard and Take it Outside programs focus on safety and environmental education in the ISDRA. With help from partners, ECFO made tee shirts, frisbees, and Take it Outside cards available to kids to promote environmental awareness and reinforce safe behavior.
- b. Converted Pathways Intern after completion of schooling, placing him into a into career Park Ranger position.

2. RECREATION

A. OUTDOOR RECREATION - Providing safe and exciting opportunities to Take it Outside in America's Great Outdoors

B. IMPERIAL SAND DUNES RECREATION AREA - Providing family friendly off-highway vehicle recreation opportunities in America's Great Outdoors for >1,000,000 visitors per year

- a. Provided effective visitor services, including law enforcement, emergency medical services, education and outreach for over 1,000,000 visitors during the 2012-2013 visitor use season.
- b. Managed visitor use on the four busiest holiday weekends as national incidents under the incident command in conjunction with the ISDRA.
- c. Continued to exercise management controls to reduce costs and increase efficiencies during both incident weekends and throughout the use season including cost savings measures to reduce emergency expenditures by 41% of over the past two fiscal years.
- d. Issued 79 commercial vendor Special Recreation Permits for the El Centro Field Office.
- e. Issued 22 permits for commercial filming, all within the ISDRA.
- f. Completed the final ISDRA Business Plan and coordinated approval with the DAC and the CASO. The Final ISDRA Business Plan assesses alternative approaches to change in the context of fair market value and cost recovery and weighs these against the need provide effective visitor services, including law enforcement, emergency medical services, education and outreach.
- g. Completed the Imperial Sand Dunes Proposed Recreation Area Management Plan, Proposed Amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (Proposed RAMP/CDCA Plan Amendment) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS). The Final EIS describes and analyzes eight alternatives for managing approximately 214,930 acres of BLM administered lands within the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Management Area (ISD SRMA)

in Imperial County, California. Major issues addressed in the Final EIS include management of recreation and public access, special designations, special status species, mineral resources, and lands and realty.

- h. Hired six seasonal Park Rangers. Including five military veterans.
- i. Worked extensively with volunteers to provide quality visitor service to visitors. Volunteer campground hosts clean restrooms, staff ranger stations and help provide facilities maintenance.
- j. Law Enforcement and EMS staff responded to 325 emergency medical services incidents and five fatalities (2 OHV related, 3 Non-OHV) in ISDRA.
- k. Sold 54,260 ISDRA individual Special Recreation Permits and generated over \$2,000,000 in fee revenues. Off-site permit sales are 79% and, based on 12,313 compliance checks, obtained a 95% permit compliance rate among dunes visitors.
- l. Worked with the NOC to select a new fee contractor for the ISDRA, reducing the cost of fee collection.

3. PARTNERSHIPS

A. FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES

- a. Coordinated projects with other agencies including US Fish and Wildlife Service, State Parks and Recreation, US Border Patrol, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- b. Coordinated with the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, Imperial County Sheriffs Office, Imperial County CEO, Imperial County Planning and Public Works Departments and the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.
- c. Implemented flat-tailed horned lizard population monitoring studies to meet the responsibility of the agencies identified in the Rangewide Management Strategy for FTHL. These management activities assist in accomplishing the goal of maintaining the species and prevent the need to list the species under the Endangered Species Act.
- d. Collaborated with the Border Management Task Force through quarterly meetings to discuss Border Patrol activities on public lands.
- e. Continued to meet and collaborate with the ISDRA DAC Subgroup.
- f. Collaborated with the United Desert Gateway and American Sand Association to develop OHV safety messages and associated outreach and interpretive projects for ISDRA visitors.

- g. Partnered with local EMS providers, hospitals, County EMS department, Border Patrol, air and ground ambulance services, and local search and rescue to provide enhanced medical services to visitors on public lands.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY

A. LAW ENFORCEMENT – The largest and busiest law enforcement program in the BLM:

- a. Participated in a law enforcement ranger swap program where two ECFO Rangers spent the summer in Idaho to assist the BLM during Idaho’s busy season.
- b. Participated in Details to Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Montana and Northern California.
- c. Coordinated four National Details to provide law enforcement and public safety services to the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.

B. OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE - Maintaining and improving facilities to protect investments and enhance employee and visitor health & safety:

- a. Completed road and facility maintenance in the ISDRA on Wash and Gecko Roads, Gecko and Midway Campgrounds, Osborne Overlook, and Ogilby Camp Area. Made repairs and improvements to Cahuilla and Buttercup Ranger Stations, and 61 vault toilets.
- b. Constructed a accessible parking area at vault toilets in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area to meet ADA standards for restroom facilities.
- c. Maintained signage demarcating ISDRA administrative closures to protect sensitive habitat for Pierson’s milkvetch by installing new signs and resetting existing signs.

C. FIRE

- a. Provided support to the California Desert District Fire program and California State Fire Program by making staff available as public information officers and wildland firefighters both in state and out of state.

Policy & Procedure

1. NEPA & LAND USE PLANNING – Documenting effective decision-making and public participation:

- a. Land Use Planning efforts for the Imperial Sand Dunes
- b. Ensured effective DOI solicitor involvement in document preparation for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area RAMP.

- c. Provided effective support to DOI solicitors and DOJ attorneys representing BLM in various IBLA appeals and federal complaints (e.g., ISDRAMP), including assembly of administrative records, input and review of briefs, and preparation of declarations.

2. ADMINISTRATION – Providing customer service to ECFO employees and the public alike:

- a. Processed Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA) for agency records by members of the public, coordinating searches of agency records among the various divisions in the ECFO, and producing responsive documents in a timely manner.

Attachment C

Desert Advisory Council (DAC) Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) Sub-Group Update

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

BLM Action: DAC ISDRA Sub Group Update

Contact: Tom Zale, Field Manager, El Centro (Designated Federal Officer)

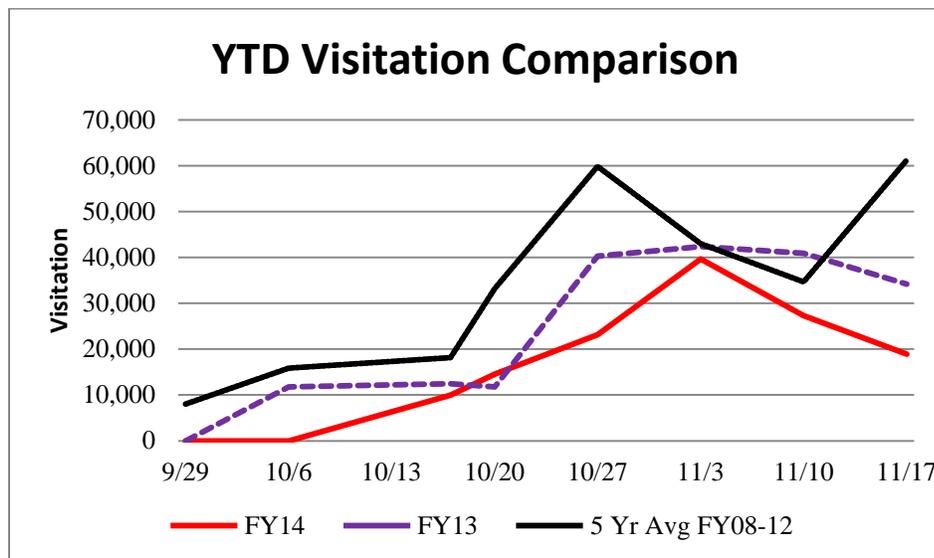
Status: Teri Raml, has delegated the DFO duties for the ISDRA Subgroup to Tom Zale.

BLM Action: ISDRA Visitation

Contact: Daniel Baca, Park Ranger

Status: For FY14 YTD, the cumulative visitation is 133,482, which is down 32% (60,926) from the same time in FY13. When comparing FY14 to a 5-year (FY08-FY12) averaged visitation total, the cumulative decrease in visitation is 52% or 140,454.

Note: Several vehicle counters were damaged this season and did not collect data for short intervals.



BLM Action: ISDRA Emergency Medical Services / Search and Rescue (EMS/SAR) Update

Contact: Brian Puckett, Park Ranger

Status: For the 2013/2014 season, BLM has hired a total of seven Seasonal Park Rangers funded through fees and grants. One is a returning seasonal Park Ranger and four of six new military veteran staff completed and passed EMT and Rescue training. In addition, one Permanent Park Ranger/Paramedic and one Permanent Park Ranger/Advanced EMT are primary leads for EMS/SAR staff for ISDRA. EMS/SAR Park Ranger staffing is planned for mid-October 2013 through mid-April 2014.

During FY13 EMS/SAR expenditures totaled \$513,000. When compared to FY12, BLM reduced total EMS/SAR expenditures by over 14%. When compared to FY11, BLM reduced total EMS/SAR expenditures by 41%.



Figure 1 - BLM Park Rangers respond during Veterans' day weekend to an OHV rescue at Wash Road for an ATV rider with head and back injuries with a punctured lung.

Park Rangers have responded to 64 calls YTD in FY14, down 7% from same time last season. There are no significant differences between FY13 and FY14 in regards to medical and rescue statistics. BLM continues to respond to many severe injuries. In the north, most of the calls are in the deep dunes, however, most of the calls are in the campground areas in the south. Emphasis is being placed on more advanced EMS in-house training and certifications completed through BLM interagency partnerships with Reach Air Medical Services, and US Border Patrol.

BLM Action: ISDRA Fee Program Update

Contact: Neil Hamada, ISDRA Manager

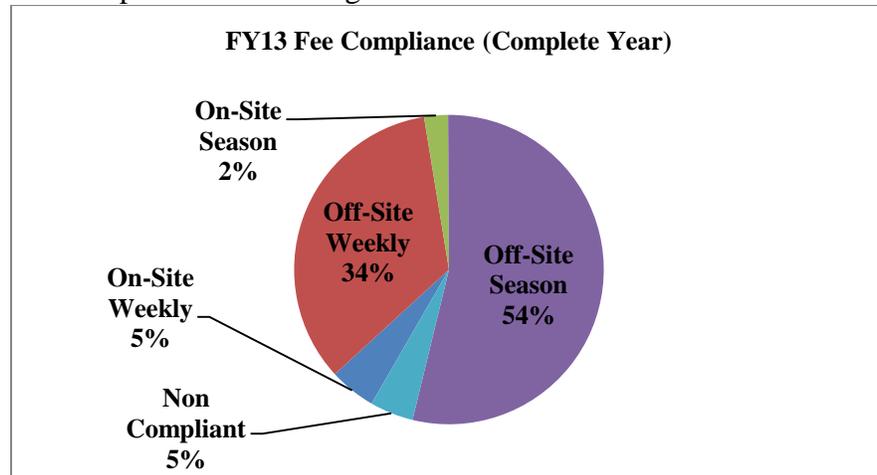
Status: BLM will post the FY13 fee budget report as soon as the data becomes available.

BLM is in the process of closing out the old collection contract and the new fee collection contract is in place. The cost of fee collection has decreased significantly. The estimated cost for FY 14 is \$271,300. The cost was reduced through a reduction in services. Visitors will need to plan when and where to purchase a permit in advance instead of on site near the main access points.

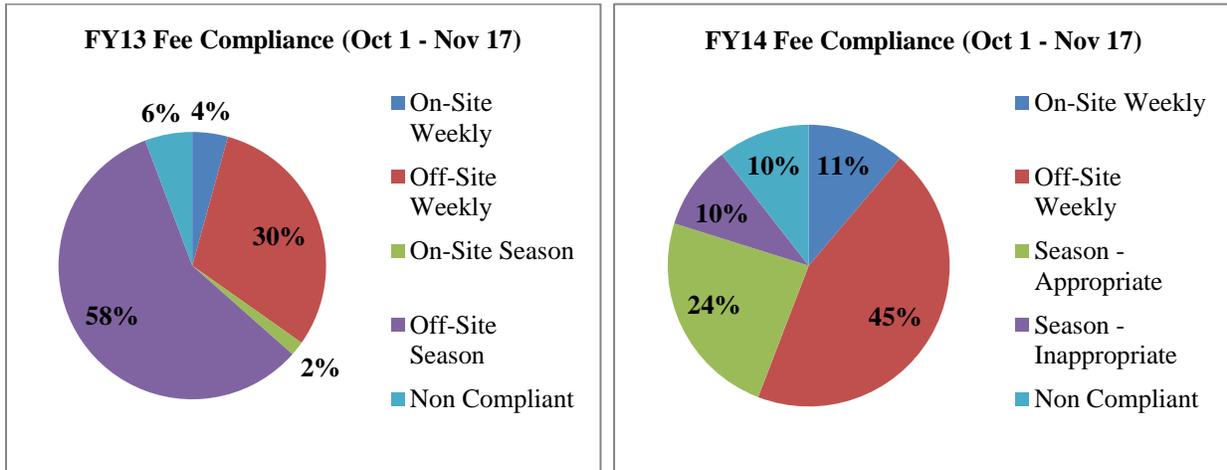
Customers, and the DAC, were concerned about the new season permit stickers being stolen and how they would replace them when they break their windshields. In response, BLM has developed a system with the fee contractor to address their concerns. During September and October, there have been four completed permit replacement forms submitted and approved.

The contractor has made permits available at the Sand Sports Super Show, on-line, over the phone, through 55 vendors around Southern California and Arizona, and at both ranger station in the dunes. During September and October, 10,551 permits were sold generating \$813,647 in revenues.

Fee compliance monitoring 2013:



Permit Compliance Data (October 1 – November 17) FY13 vs. FY14 YTD



Significant Compliance Changes between FY13 and FY14:

- Increase in both on- and off-site weekly permits (+7% and +15%)
- Decrease in season permits (-27%)
- Increase in non-compliance (+4%)

BLM Action: ISDRA Update

Contact: Neil Hamada, ISDRA Manager

Status: Both ranger stations opened late this year, on October 25, 2013, due to government shutdown but are now fully operational and staffed Friday-Sunday.

OHV Grant funded projects are underway. Current projects include ECFO Law Enforcement (part ISDRA) - \$600,000, ISDRA Education - \$10,000 for map reprinting, ISDRA Ground Ops - \$145,000 for facility maintenance, and ISDRA Safety - \$105,000 for EMS/Rescue services. The fee program allows BLM to have the sufficient matching funds to apply for the projects.

Education programs - BLM continues to emphasize OHV safety, new ROV laws, RAMP, and fee program through new outreach programs in the dunes schedule throughout the season. The schedule is located at www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/recreation/ohvs/isdra/dunesinfo/outreach.html. The BLM's Official ISDRA webpage (www.blm.gov/ca/isdra) was viewed 10,405 times in October and November. The home page, permit information, and law enforcement pages were the most popular sites. BLM is also working cooperatively to try and borrow interpretive resources from the Ocotillo Wells SVRA this season.

ISDRA Facebook (www.facebook.com/blmimperialsanddunes) currently at 2,415 likes since September 2012. During October and November, we averaged 1,679 views per day and peaked at 3,755 people reached on November 8th.

Discussion/Notification topics have included: weather updates, outreach, education, road conditions, event announcements, animal pictures, safety reminders, and more.

We continue to work together with UDG to provide guides, maps, Frisbees, and “Dune Guard” shirts, at ISDRA.

BLM partnered with Imperial County, UDG, ASA, and Kawasaki to fund new kiosk panels for this season. Buttercup kiosk unveiling is scheduled for November 22, 2013.

BLM Action: ISDRA Facility Maintenance

Contact: **Martin Gibson, Force Account Supervisor**

Status: A new well pump was installed at Cahuilla Ranger Station and ongoing water quality issues are being address at Buttercup Ranger Station. Trash collection contract continues and expires at the end of the FY 2014 season. Four seasonal maintenance workers and one emergency hire are providing toilet cleaning and closure signing service. Sand removal is ongoing however Greys Well road was inaccessible during the shutdown due to sand buildup. One complaint was received about lack of camping pad maintenance on Gecko Road.

BLM Action: ISDRA RAMP Update

Contact: **Neil Hamada, Dunes Manager**

Status: Administrative closures remain in place while the plan is reviewed and briefings occur with the court, plaintiffs, and interveners this season.

BLM Action: Volunteers

Contact: **Daniel Baca, Park Ranger**

Status: Homer Himes, camp host at Buttercup Ranger Station, is still working full time. He works on site all year and continues to maintain the facility, vault toilets, vehicle counters, and campground. He also greets the constant flow of visitors throughout the year and provides them information about the area, OHV safety information, and educates visitors about the historic Plank Road.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to be camp hosts. For more information, visit

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/recreation/ohvs/isdra/dunesinfo/volunteers.html>