

Desert Advisory Council (DAC) Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) Subgroup Update

Thursday, August 21, 2014

BLM Action: ISDRA Update

Contact: Neil Hamada, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

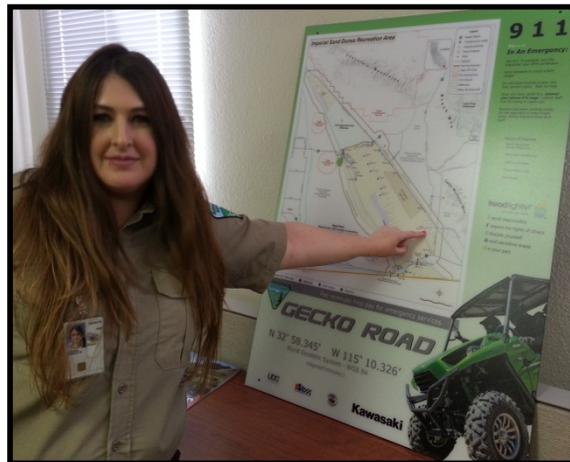
Status: Both ranger stations will reopen October 17, 2014. Cumulative visitation is 936,000, which is a 6% decrease from the same time in FY 2013.

OHV Grants have been approved for the 2014/2015 season. The El Centro Field is receiving three grants: ISDRA Safety (\$139,560), ISDRA Ground Operations (\$143,050), and ECFO Law Enforcement (\$436,050). All three applications total \$718,660 and require \$489,317 in match. The fee program and volunteers allow the BLM to have the sufficient matching funds to apply for the projects.

The ISDRA Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/blmimperiasanddunes) currently has 3,725 likes since it began in September 2012.

The El Centro Field Office continues to work together with the United Desert Gateway to provide maps, Frisbees, and “Dune Guard” shirts, at the ISDRA for the upcoming 2014-2015 season. This year the Dune Guard program will receive a “facelift” by offering newly designed t-shirts, can cozies, safety flags and safety goggles to safe riders.

All Dunes materials (brochure, kiosk panel, ranger station display, etc.) are being revised to capture new Pierson’s Milk-vetch critical habitat closure boundaries. Kiosk panels have been received and will be installed next season. Work continues on updating the new map brochure to educate visitors about the implementation of the ROD/RAMP and changes



Karissa reviewing the new kiosk panels for the dunes.

to the open area boundaries.

BLM Action: ISDRA Fee Program Update

Contact: Neil Hamada, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

Status: The ISDRA fee period came to a close on April 15th. Camping continues to be free through the end of September.

Between Oct and April, 46,472 permits were sold generating \$2,186,000 in revenues. After the fiscal year is complete and all the data is collected, BLM will provide the annual fee report.

A new fee contractor, Urban Park Concessionaires (UPC) was hired and is working closely with BLM to prepare for the new season.

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

Contact: Brian Puckett, Park Ranger

Status: The ISDRA will have two permanent and six seasonal park rangers for the FY15 season. Of the six seasonal park rangers, four will be returning staff, and two will be new hires.

Newly hired park ranger initial training will begin August 25, 2014 and run for six weeks. Returning staff will begin October 6, 2014 for two weeks of combined refresher training with new hires. The training will consist of: Five weeks of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic; one week of 4x4 and OHV driving and trailer towing; one week of technical rescue training in orienteering, tracking, rope rescue, vehicle extrication, and swiftwater rescue; and one week of rules, regulations, flora and fauna, fees, and other area information, frequently asked questions, and ranger station procedures and preparation.

BLM Action: ISDRA RAMP Update - Signing

Contact: Neil Hamada, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

Status: BLM Park Rangers, maintenance workers, wilderness staff, botanists, GIS specialists, compliance staff, and rangers have worked all summer removing the previous closure signs and signing the critical habitat closures. A special thanks to the BLM Yuma Field Office for their help by sending over three employees to assist in the signing project. All critical habitat closure boundaries have been signed, and crews are now out maintaining and adding additional signs to help improve



visibility. A seasonal staff will be hired in October to maintain the signs along the boundary during the visitation season.

Two volunteer events were held in partnership with the American Sand Association (ASA). These events occurred on May 3rd and June 14th. These volunteer events focused on the removal of signs for the administrative closures located in the ISDRA. A total of 299 volunteers donated 1,861 hours of labor and helped remove closure signs near Gecko and Buttercup Campgrounds as well as the north end of the large closure. The signs are being recycled and used for the critical habitat boundary.



ISDRA Subgroup Vice-Chairman, Ed Stovin, volunteering in the dunes.

We are continuing to recruit camp hosts to fill vacant positions at several camping areas within the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. Vacant camp hosts areas include; Gecko Campground, Ogilby, and Dunebuggy Flats. For more information please visit the following link:
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/recreation/ohvs/isdra/dunesinfo/volunteers.html>

Robert's Rules of Order

Process:

1. Call meeting to order
2. Introductions and roll call of members
3. Review and approval of minutes from last meeting
4. Public comments on items not on the agenda
5. Chairperson's report
6. BLM's Report*
7. Unfinished business*
8. New business*
9. Wrap up and announcements
10. Adjournment

Motions:

- Obtain the floor by waiting for the last speaker to finish, then address the chairperson
- Make your motion
- Wait for someone to second the motion or the chairperson will call for a second
- The motion is stated by the chairperson if a second is received; the motion is lost if no second
- Mover of the motion is allowed to elaborate and speak in favor of the motion
- Discussion and debate is allowed by members
- The mover may speak again after other speakers are finished, unless called upon by the chairperson
- The motion may be amended, withdrawn, or tabled for future discussion
- After the discussion the chairperson asks for a vote

*Rules of Engagement (Procedures for Public Comment)

- Comment cards will be available to ensure an orderly process for individuals who wish to make public comment on that agenda item and must be submitted prior to the start of comment period
- Public comments limited to three minutes, depending on number of speakers, time available and the discretion of the chairperson
- Public may bring up items not on agenda at 9:45 a.m., including requests for the subgroup to consider adding a particular item to a future meeting
- Public comment will be allowed before the subgroup takes action on an item