

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

November 3rd, 2011

Attendance:

Sub Group Members

Dick Holliday, Chair
Bob Ham
Jim Bramham
Larry Jowdy
Glenn Montgomery
Bob Mason –via phone

BLM

Margaret Goodro
Neil Hamada
Michelle Puckett

Public

Nicole Gilles (ASA)
Charla Teeters (UDG)

Chuck Hattaway -absent
Ken Rosevear –absent

Action Item Review from the Previous Meeting

- Mission and Subgroup structure draft review: The mission and subgroup structure will not be changed.
- Information templates: The templates provided at this meeting are adequate. BLM will also provide the DAC report to the subgroup to gather feedback before it is presented to the DAC.
- DAC assignments- User Fees policies input listed in meeting minute notes below

ISDRA Update – Neil Hamada

- Visitation Stats
 - FY11 total was 1,133,132 visitors, 12% less than FY10.
 - 78,362 visitors the week of Halloween
 - 142,875 visitors YTD, 9% less than last during the same time period
- Fee Program Stats
 - Checked 720 vehicles since Oct1., 96% compliance
 - Targeting 80% sales off-site this season
 - FY11 Annual Report – see handout
- Rescue Stats
 - Halloween
 - 51 emergency calls
 - Assisted 54 patients
 - 30 self-transports
 - 6 transported by air
 - 18 transported by ground
 - Year to date

- 67 responses
 - 35 self-transport
 - 32 transported (will not add up since there are incidents where one patient may be transported in several types of vehicles)
 - 8 by air
 - 18 buggy responses
 - 24 by ground ambulance
 - 6 by BLM truck
 - No fatalities
- Law Enforcement Stats - Halloween
 - 443 citations
 - 17 arrests
 - 11 DUIs
 - 82 drug and alcohol related contacts
 - 4 camp evictions
 - 62 K9 deployments which led to 59 positive outcomes for drugs and weapons
- Partnership Projects
 - United Desert Gateway (UDG)
 - Distributing UDG guides and frisbees with safety messages
 - CO poisoning
 - 15mph within 50ft
 - Seat belts usage
 - Distributing Dune Guard shirts
 - American Desert Foundation
 - 27 students trained over Halloween

DAC Presentation Preview-

Dick Holliday previewed the ISDRA Fee's Policy Review and ISDRA Overview presentations to be presented at the DAC. Feedback was given to improve the presentation.

1. What is working:

- fee compliance is high
- General public acceptance for user fees

2. What needs improvement:

- Additional public involvement in the fee process is desired
 - Fee design
 - Fee investment
- Improved public announcements for fee changes is required
- Better public notices of how and where the fee dollars are spent
- Better overall accountability for fee area expenditures
 - Fee expenditures
 - Appropriated funds
 - California OHMVR grants funds

- Partnership funds
3. What feedback does the DAC have about current fee schedules and any proposed changes?
 - Only proposed fee change currently proposed is at Dumont
 - Only proposed new fee is for Sawtooth Campground in Barstow
 4. What suggestions for ways that BLM can communicate and administer fees more effectively?
 - Better communication from the BLM to the public on the use of fee revenue
 - Increased use of DAC sub-groups and friends groups
 - Investigate a second vehicle permit
 - Investigate a daily permit for ISDRA

Second Presentation:

DAC Advisory Recommendations to the BLM:

1. Generate standard yearly public reporting format for all CDD recreation fee areas
2. Increased use of DAC sub-groups and friends groups
3. Request that the local BLM work to have the public oversight for the CDD FLREA fee program reside with the CDD DAC
4. Request that the CDD investigate the implementation of a second vehicle permit for the Dumont and Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) to be available for the 2012-2013 recreation season
5. Work to reduce the cost of fee collections before asking for any additional fee increases

Planning for ISDRAs Future

ISDRA Subgroup had a brainstorming session on ways to improve ISDRA.

- 2 EMS sand rails (vehicles)
- Pave Wash Road
- Repave Gecko Road/ campground
- Extend Gecko Road 1,000 feet
- Reservation sites
- Additional camping pads
- Concessionaire contract
- Road along canal with camping pads
- OHV bridge from buttercup to test hill
- Second Vehicle permit
- Pad Maintenance
- Harden the road into Ogilby with a camp host pad
- Cell site on western edge
- Repave grays well

- Gecko Road shoulder
- Walking path to Gecko Vendor Pad
- Plank road Interp area
- Watchable wildlife area
- Day Use Parking
- Parking area in the high dunes for wilderness North side of Hwy 78
- Long term vendor area in South Dunes
- CXT at Amos (Mammoth Wash)
- LTVA in the Imperial Sand Dunes
- Campground on the South Side of I-8 East of the canal
- More visitor outreach personnel
- Dump stations (Fee for service)
- Improve ingress and egress in Dune Buggy Flats
- Signage that relates to dust abatement
- New signs (speed limit)
- Applications for cell phones for ISDRA
- Board walk (Interp) wilderness area
- Vehicle hoist for storage
- New Rescue trailer
- Road grader
- Martin's Magnets
- New Business Plan
- Vendor plan
- Campground Hosts
- Safety training sites
- Children practice/ride area (fenced)
- New Cahuilla Ranger Station
- Increased EMS (BLM not in service) –Volunteers?
- East side of the dunes development (per 1987 Ramp)

Action Items for Next Meeting

- Send out wish list for ISDRA and divide list into different categories to determine priorities
- DAC assignments – Dick Holliday
- Write meeting notes – Michelle Puckett
- Review chair -- Dick Holliday
- Mesquite Mine presentation (Michelle Ochs) set up
- Membership Review
- January through September 2012-send announcement for application new members
- Set next meeting after Presidents Day (Mid Week?)
- Create a new agenda for the next meeting – Michelle Puckett