

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

August 28, 2012

Attendance:

Sub Group Members

Bob Ham
Bob Mason
Larry Jowdy
Jim Bramham
Chuck Hattaway
Glenn Montgomery
Don Wharton

BLM

Margaret Goodro
Neil Hamada
Michelle Puckett
Brian Puckett

Public

Nicole Gilles (ASA)
Dick Holliday

Meg Grossglass -absent
Lee Banning -absent

Meeting Minutes and Introductions

- Meeting Minutes from the April 25, 2012 meeting were approved.
- Michelle Puckett will post meeting minutes online.

RAMP Update—Margaret L. Goodro

- BLM is working to have an online release date of September 7th.
- BLM should have CDs of the RAMP and more information at the Sand Sport Super Show.
- RAMP printing should be done in early October.
- Michelle Puckett will email the subgroup once the RAMP is available online.
- Dick Holliday inquired about the start date for the 30 day public comment period
 - Margaret Goodro stated the 30 day comment period begins once the EPA gets a printed copy of the RAMP (*Note – “Comment period” is actually the “Protest Period”*)
- BLM reminded the subgroup that even with the release of the RAMP-it does not mean the RAMP is in effect. The RAMP must go back to court for review before a Record of Decision is made. (*Note- the ROD will be signed first then it will go to the court*)
- Jim Bramham has asked BLM not to use the statement “new acreage” in regards to opening the closures. BLM would be “lifting administrative closures” not opening “new acres for OHV use”.

ISDRA Business Plan Update – Neil Hamada

- El Centro Field Office is still adding a few edits to the Business Plan Update
- After edits are made, the draft business plan update will be sent for internal review
- Margaret Goodro hopes that the internal review will be completed sometime in October. Margaret proposed that we have a meeting in October to go over the Business Plan Update when it becomes available
- The subgroup selected October 17th at 9:00 a.m. for the preferred date. Should the Business Plan Update not be available by that date, October 24th at 9:00 a.m. was selected as an alternative.

Sand Sport Super Show Update – Neil Hamada

- ISDRA will have a booth at the Sand Sport Super Show this year and will be next to Reach Air Medical
- ISDRA will focus on the RAMP and will have CD's to hand out with website information
- ISDRA will have an additional handout regarding the new ROV law AB 1595
- Bob Mason expressed that ASA will be conducting informational meetings regarding both the new ROV law and the RAMP
- In regards to the new ROV law, Larry Jowdy asked if BLM will be issuing citations or be educating. Neil expressed that there will be an education period in effect. The law is set to go in effect January 1, 2013.

Other Topics Discussed

- A motion was passed to request a response from the DFO at the next DAC Meeting regarding the recommendations relating to BLM development of "New Recreation Fees" at the ISDRA and Dumont Dunes". (See Attached)
- The next DAC Meeting will be held in El Centro on December 1st, 2012

Action Items for Next Meeting

- Write meeting notes – Michelle Puckett
- Send out notice of meetings - Michelle Puckett
 - **October 17th, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.**
 - Tentative date if the Business Plan Update is not available: **October 24th, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.**

Attachment

- ***Recommendations relating to BLM development of “New Recreation Fees” at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) and the Dumont Dune*** as noted below:
 - Development of a ***“Standard Report Format”*** that provides the public with information relating to fee revenue collected and how this revenue is used.
 - Development of a ***“Yearly Budget.”***
 - ***“Increased Public Participation”*** and DAC oversight for any BLM California Desert District (CDD) recreation fee proposal.
 - Implementation of a ***“Second Vehicle Permit”*** for the Dumont Dunes and the ISDRA available for the 2012-13 recreation season.
 - ***“Reduction in the Cost of Fee Collection”*** before any additional fee increase is proposed. This is particularly important since the cost of collection currently approaches 40% of the revenue collected at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.

These recommendations were adopted by the DAC in the following motion noted in the page 249 of the DAC Dec 3, 2011 meeting minutes:

Moved: Holliday
Seconder: (1) Mitzelfelt; (2) Johnston; (3) Hold;
(4) Hallenbeck; (5) Shumway
Motion: To accept recommendations from the User Fee Subgroup with the changes discussed on pages 150-203.

The recommendations were Included in the DAC Action Item list noted on page 250 of the DAC Dec 3, 2011 meeting minutes:

User Fee Recommendations:

1. Instituting family fee so second vehicles/family aren't charged extra
2. Allowing for a single-day permit
3. Make sure public involved in fee design and investment
4. Reduce cost of fee collection
5. Improved public announcements when fee change is required
6. Better public notice of how and where fees are spent
7. Better accountability for expenditures
8. Additional fee schedule for daily use
9. Fee for Sawtooth Campground