

ISDRA Sub Group Meeting Minutes
8-23-2011

Begins at 10:00am

Nicole Gillis-Moore ASA
John Stewart California Off Road
Rusty Massie ASA
Meg Grossglass DAC member
ETC!
Bob Ham with one M!
Larry Jowdy-absent
Glenn Montgomery-absent
Ken Rosevear- absent

Action Items Review from the previous meeting

Agenda Process – BLM will prepare, send it to Dick and then Dick sends out to Subgroup members. One week would be preferred for minutes to be sent out. Any corrections or additions would be going through the ISDRA Subgroup Chair.
Minute process- Minutes will be prepared by BLM and compiled. Submit to Subgroup for approval. Once approved then it will be posted to the website.
Meeting Dates- to line up meetings a few weeks before the DAC meetings
DFO can designate someone in her absence
Admin support to be provided by me.
Schedule a regular meeting date- Teri the objective is to give appropriate scheduling time for meeting dates. We cannot make the meeting dates set for example like the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Unfortunately the meeting dates can change. Meg Grossglass suggests we could set the meeting minutes for after the DAC schedules their meetings.
Jim Bramaham- usually it is 3 meetings a year.
Suggested meeting date-Margaret the next meeting date be on a holiday? Halloween, Thanksgiving, or New Years? To see the action and see the Incident Management Team work. Also, maybe the Dunes Clean up in January. The DAC meeting is Dec 2nd and 3rd

DAC Report- Update given by Neil

Highlights for the ISDRA

-See DAC Report ECFO

Has a wish list been prepared for what is needed in the dunes? – Dick Yes, the list is being compiled.

Treadlightly survey was initiated by the National Park Service.

Jim Bramham- wants to do a camplightly to cover everyone that camps/recreates. Leave No Trace is too specific to Wilderness users. If BLM could incorporate Camplightly into messaging it would be helpful. Leave Less, Be Less. Maybe UDG could do it?

Is there any Maintenance scheduled this year? –Dick. Neil-- Yes, we have done regular sand removal maintenance and signing of the dunes. They have also painted the inside of the restrooms and removed graffiti on the outside of the restrooms.

What is the status of the tower land? – Dick. Neil-- We're still waiting for Verizon to get their affairs in order with the purchase of the tower from another company (Alltel).

New NECO Maps were printed and they include a lot of information! BLM has also included trail ratings for difficulty/ease. Almost 100% of routes are well marked with signs and route numbers. The Mesquite Landfill rail spur is not included on the map but the route is still identified.

Randy Banis- Any rationale on listing the names of the plaintiffs? This could be a topic of discussion. The maps are beautiful and clear. The ease of the maps is great. The route is continues onto private land and looks great.

The ISDRA map is available online. On the BLM ISDRA website.

The Californiadesert.gov would be a good place to post this map online if we have it available. -- Jim Stewart.

Mission Overview- Teri Raml

Jim Bramham-- Everyone here and that recreates in the ISDRA has a vested interest in the management of the ISDRA.

Teri- The mission needs clarification.

Margaret- A lot of time goes into the management of the ISDRA in this ECFO. She would like to see the efforts continue to be effective in safely managing the ISDRA. We need the mission to be in line with the DAC Charter and Bylaws so that we work under the DAC.

Randy- We should look at user fee issues and then recreation issues separately. The recreation topics were already discussed with partnerships. The DAC in September will be opening discussion on USER FEES. From September to December the DAC will be working offline to discuss the topics that are presented in the meetings. So we should focus on topics at hand.

Jim-understands that the Subgroup would still operate the same as they had as a TRT unless something major happened and need to be passed along to the DAC. So he understands that the Subgroup doesn't have to follow FOCA.

Randy- The groups should have been operating under FOCA but were not. By instead pulling its nexus to FOCA is offered the subgroup to operate outside of FOCA but the advice that it generates need to be presented to the DAC. So it operates how it operates. So Don suggested that the Subgroup chair operates and has the subgroup chair reports to

the DAC so it skirts around FOCA. The subgroup would be suggesting fee advice to the group and not to the BLM. So it is not needed to follow FOCA.

Dick-This group is a subgroup of a chartered FOCA organization so the subgroup is not. This group is not a FOCA required group so we don't need the DFO or federal registered. So it doesn't have a public meeting requirement. If we were a subcommittee of the DAC we would have to follow these rules. But we are not. So we are not telling the BLM how to spend their money. We are getting the feedback and input to tell the public.

Don- The subgroups are to a FOCA entity. So the subgroup carries FOCA but we they do not have to take all the rules of FOCA. So the DAC has FOCA so we are a child to report to ensure FOCA requirements are met. CARRYING the spirit of FOCA.

Randy- The DAC did want operating rules so that meetings were open and that there were guidelines that the subgroup should follow from the DAC.

Don- There has been some evolutions from when this group use to be a fee focused group. The public was engaged effectively, 2. The group was operating correctly with FOCA and so the legal challenges were clear. And 3. There were significant tensions between BLM and the members of the ISDRA group about the level and detail of information required. The amount of time and money BLM has spent getting this information together for the group was too much. The level and detail of information that was given to the group needed an information system to support that. Information systems have evolved so the past was unsustainable. Consistent and clear financial reporting information that Dumont and ISDRA can use together needs to be made possible to the Subgroup. The level of detail that is requested is not compatible with FOCA guidelines. So salaries of individuals are prohibited under FOCA. Under FOCA the DAC and Subgroups are purely advisory; and I know that isn't something that you want to hear.

Don- There are clarifications to the Mission to clarify the relationship between the subgroup and the DAC is critical. So a preamble should make it clearer that the subgroup is a satellite to the DAC; not independent. Also, so what is the level of detail that is appropriate to present. You are all volunteering! So lets suggest the mission and clarify understandings. Ultimately to reinforce the BLM's to do list is to get together and get a clear consistent financial record.

Jim- So do we fall under the FOCA or are we in compliance to the FOCA rules by having the Subgroup chair to report to the DAC. So do we need a DFO to call the meetings? So Margaret has hidden behind the DFO so that we can't have a meeting without Teri knowing or calling a meeting.

Teri-Margaret and Roxi can call a meeting, I as the DFO can delegate that to those field managers.

Is it a requirement that a DFO call a meeting? – Kind of, The DFO can designate an official. A BLM representative is required to be present when a subgroup meets.

Continuation of the Mission, Charter, Bylaws

Don-

Key Understandings:

ISDRA subgroups reports to DAC and does not operate independently

RRAC has formal government responsibility for setting and approving fees.

ISDRA Subgroup does have an important role

Long term planning and resource management priorities

Potential infrastructure projects

Review of season's activities

Communications BLM to interest groups and vice versa

Project 3 meetings/year linked to DAC meetings/work plan and ISDRA operations

Resolution of Issues

1. Appropriate, consistently formatted information and regularly reported
 - a. Operations
 - b. Revenues/Expenditures
2. Process/Time Frame
 - a. Sept. (BLM staff meeting to develop framework and process)
 - b. Next ISDRA Subgroup meeting review and discuss

Recommendations:

Operations – Purpose: identify issues and get input on approaches.

Factors affecting access and use

Information to understand service levels and recreation issues to figure out how to engage constituents to address them.

- Planned improvements
- Visitation #'s
- Medical Statistics – fatality trends, OHV related?
- Major issues that may affect recreation
 - Example pipeline company, transmission line
- Generic Law Enforcement response types of citations
- Outreach and dissemination of Information

Factors affecting access and use

- Grant Requests
- Neighboring projects / construction projects (pipelines, canal, etc)
- Issues like trash / litter affecting the dunes
- Visitation trends

Issues: crossover with areas

Capacity to deliver

Frequency

Differences between Dumont and ISDRA

“Public ready”

Template—Complete as relevant—approximations OK

Teri- it is a big list, what frequency for this list? Is this annual or ever meeting? To what end do we need to as BLM to provide in order to serve the missions

Dick- We want this at every meeting. This should be do-able.

Don- So this could be a template and if there is something going on than address it. If nothing is happening then you don't have to put that into the template.

Randy- Approximations can be accepted. The DAC is comfortable with that approximate information.

Don- Regular reporting

Dick- The advantages to the BLM for regular reporting would help when it comes to raising fees. We could have historical data so we can get

Teri- The word “continually” scares me. The frequency needs to be addressed. There is only 2 district PAO's and that is a lot to put on those people.

Dick- The law says you can spend 15% of the fees collected for Overhead to be paid. The public pays for that to get this information and it should be do-able. When I hear we don't have any money to pay for this information to be gathered you can't say you don't the law says you have 15% of the fees to pay for it.

Teri- The time, money, and accuracy is critical. The context of all of this is critical.

Margaret- This information is being provided in the DAC report and this report is made available to you.

Bob- The partners need feedback and they are giving money to the BLM. The county likes the information after the holiday weekends and a visit of what happens after the big weekend. That information makes the want and need for the County to be involved and continue to be involved. BLM needs to take care of the local community and keep the board of supervisors informed. “Strategic reports”

Stewart- The data is important but what the data is used for is the most important part.

Revenues/Expenditures

Purpose: public to know what money is used for which purposes

How Applied to Services

- Appropriated
- Grant
- Fees

Executive summary level

- Broad categories/ at end of fiscal year (e.g. 4 months after)

- Total revenue and where spent
- Interim information
 - # of permits sold
- Summary of grants to get support for grants
 - How grant money was spent
 - Use of funds results
- Explanation of trends

Issues: Role in being a conduit of information

1. Challenging to quantify all elements not a defined business model
2. Personnel privacy disclosure
3. Where's the appropriate level?

Don- The advisory role of the subgroup really doesn't provide for the audit level. If you do have a template this will be helpful to look at trends.

Randy- I don't think you're going to get huge support from the DAC for the information you're looking for. This is getting into the weeds. At some point in time the subgroup could end up too far off the limb. These subjects are on our next agendas, the agendas and topics are going to be heard and covered.

Dick- This information is important to this group so we can give this information to the DAC. We care about this information as a subgroup.

Mission Revisions-

Dick- After the template is created then the information from the deleted bullet should be added back in somehow. My understanding is that these templates and requested mission draft will be discussed and then presented at the next subgroup meeting.

User Fees topic for the DAC; what questions and feedback is the DAC looking for?

Summarize

Key Understandings

Resolution of Issues

Hold the recommend changes until the next ISDRA subgroup meeting

Subgroup has provided guidance for operations and revenues/expenditures

Issues have been addressed by BLM and Subgroup

Feedback was given on DAC Preview

Next Meeting

DAC assignments- User Fee policies input

ICS Operation Overview

Site Visit

Review Templates (BLM)

Recommended next meeting date of end of October beginning of November. BLM should look at calendars. BLM get back to Subgroup Chair