



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office

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www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html

ISDRA Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad

Lottery Information

April 30, 2014

A lottery will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, June 16, 2014 to select the vendors at the Gecko Vendor Pad. Applicants for the Gecko Vendor Pad sites **must** have their complete application, operations plan and the **\$105.00 non-refundable fee** submitted by the close of business on **Friday, May 30, 2014** in order to be accepted for the lottery. Applications received after the close of business after May 30, 2014 **will not** be included in the lottery.

Applicants are to be open for business **30 consecutive days** at a minimum and pay in advance. Assigned Site fees of **\$210.00** apply only to the Gecko Road Vendor Pad sites. The **\$210.00 site fee** must be paid once the lottery site is secured and is **non-refundable**. Delay in payment of the \$210.00 fee will result in cancellation of the permit and lottery site. All additional documents must be submitted by the close of business on **Tuesday, September 2, 2014**. Failure to turn in documentation will result in forfeit of the lottery site.

Vendor permits will not be issued for parking, camping, storing equipment, storing vehicles or sub-leasing. Vendor permits are considered a commercial use (43 CFR 2932.5) of public lands for business and/or financial gain and that also support sand dunes related recreational use.

Applicants **may be present** or they will be contacted via telephone. If the **applicant is not available** at the time of the lottery drawing in person or via telephone, that applicant will receive the remaining fourth space, regardless of the order their name was selected. The awarded applicant must confirm their lottery space by the following close of business day on, **Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 4:30 pm** to hold their space on the Gecko Pad.

The **first** selected applicant will choose a site and dates. The **second** selected applicant will choose from the remaining sites and dates. This process will continue until all four sites and dates for the Gecko Road Vendor Pad are filled or there are no more applicants. If there are any remaining sites and/or dates they will be assigned on a first come first serve basis in **minimal blocks of 30 days**.

In the event the chosen permittee only pays for the site for 30 consecutive days, another individual may apply for the site for 30 consecutive days or more. The permittee assigned to the site will be given the right to continue to use the site with the payment of the fees for the period. If the current permittee does not choose to continue on the site or fails to pay the fees, the site will be assigned to a new applicant.

If at the close of business, on June 16, 2014 there are **four or less** applicants for the Gecko Road Vendor Pad sites, the lottery will not be held. In this circumstance vendors may submit a signed, written agreement as to which vendors will occupy which spaces and dates.

Frequently Asked Lottery Questions

What is the Gecko Lottery? The lottery is a random drawing to occupy one of the four spaces on the Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad located off of Highway 78 and Gecko Road. The lottery is conducted at the end of each vendor season for the following season. The selected permittees must pay for a minimum of 30 consecutive days and be open 7-days a week. The selected permittee may also choose to stay on the Gecko Pad for the entire season from October 1st to May 31st.

Who can apply for the Lottery? Any business or business owner may apply. Applicants must have the complete vendor application package submitted with the appropriate fees to the El Centro Field office to be entered into the lottery drawing. Please visit the Imperial County Health Department for current rules and regulations on food vendors before applying for the Gecko Lottery.

Why is there a Lottery at the Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad and why does the permittee of the Gecko Lottery have to be open 7 days a week? The lottery is to provide vendors with a long term stationary vendor area. In addition, the lottery provides the public with 7-day a week service on BLM lands within the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). In order to be considered for the lottery drawing, vendors must at least be open to the public during normal business hours (8am-4pm) for 7 days a week. The Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad is for those vendors interested in vending for longer periods of time than other BLM vendor areas allow for.

What are the rules and regulations of the Gecko Lottery? The Long Term Gecko Pad vendors must follow all the stipulations they signed to in the current year application package. Gecko vendors are reminded they must provide trash cans with lids, proper lighting around their vending units for night vending and proper signing and advertisement of their business. In addition, vendors are not to sublease their reserved space on the Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad at any time.

Can I win more than one vendor site in the lottery for the Long Term Gecko Pad sites? The stipulation states that each business can reserve only one site on the Long Term Gecko Vendor Pad. However, separate businesses are considered, by law, as separate persons even though they are owned or operated by the same individuals. In this situation, each separate business would be considered as a different vendor. Each separate business name must be displayed on the vendor unit. A separate vendor permit is required for each business entered. If there a less than four vendors by the time of the lottery a business may be able to reserve and pay for more than one vendor site.

Why do food vendors need to discuss their operation with the Imperial County Health Department before applying to the Gecko Lottery?

The Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) will not consider a food vendor for the lottery unless the vendor can regularly remove their facility for cleaning as required by the Imperial County Health Department. In addition, all vendors on the Gecko Pad must provide services and remain open to the public 7-days a week.

Please note that Section 114295 of the California Retail Food Code, which became effective on July 1, 2007, requires all mobile food facilities to operate in conjunction with a commissary, mobile support unit, or other facility approved by the local health department. The Imperial County Health Department is requiring that all mobile unit businesses planning to operate **more than 5 consecutive days** during this season move their mobile food units to a location with cleaning facilities where the units can be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before returning to resume operations. Mobile food units operating at Gecko Pad or other areas of the Imperial Sand Dunes must be able to meet the above requirement.

A detailed operations plan must be submitted to the BLM along with the food vendor's application package. The operations plan should state how the business will be conducted and include proof of an approved commissary within Imperial County. Food vendors must also provide a cleaning schedule/timeline for the entire season, and a write up of how they will comply with the Imperial County rules and regulations. Proof of the visit to the commissary will also be required to be submitted to the BLM on a monthly basis. If the above documentation is not included within the original application package, and throughout the season, the permit **will not be approved**. Any vendor who violates the cleaning schedule/timeline presented to the BLM will automatically have their vendor permit **revoked/suspended**.