

ISDRA TRT Agenda

December 12, 2008

BLM El Centro Field Office

1661 S. 4th Street

El Centro CA 92243

9:00 AM

Additions to agenda

Roll Call

Introduction from TRT members and guests

Approval of minutes

Status of motions (no motions on the table)

TRT/FACA progress report (Don Maruska)

Law Enforcement Report to include, citations issued, arrests made, future major weekend outlook and any plans to provide a safe environment for sand dune visitors.

Possible wash road fencing and limitations on travel*

DAC report

Fee program update (Compliance, Collections to date WEP Bert Alderete)

12:00 PM

Public comment

12:30 PM (or at the conclusion of Public Comment)

LUNCH (1 hour)

Outreach programs

Community involvement (MLK clean up)

Trash reduction programs

EMS report on number personnel assigned, number of injuries, and fatalities.

Budget report to include expenditures, estimated budget shortfall, how removal of trash bins will effect future budget.

ISDRA Fee collection process *

Status of FWS decision and how it affects ISDR

Report on closure signs and placement

Items of concern reported to TRT via web site, email and person to person

Public Comment

Adjourn

(Items with * denote additions)

TRT notes

Friday, December 12, 2008

Roll call - Bob Ham, Glenn Montgomery, Jim Bramham, Dick Holiday, Nichole Nicholas-Gilles,
Larry Jowdy

J. Seaver is not present (sick)

1. Joe Ascutto has resigned – letter read into the minutes, no longer visits the dunes
2. Motion to accept last minutes – carried
3. Wash Road Fence – discussion and description on railroad fence, BLM proposal to grade road and run through the Fish and Wildlife Service for approval, Bob Ham –no permit required by railroad if the fence is less than 6 feet high, he will be looking into further. Jim Bramham– Neil said the railroad said the openings in the fence were for tortoise.
 - a. Bob Mason – Did BLM have to comply with tortoise monitoring for the toilets – yes
What about RR? Don't know.
 - b. Rob Tron – Main priority is access down the wash road. What happens if there is a washout? Do we need to go through NEPA? Safety – dangerous. Derailment occurs – causes gridlock, blocks EMS. Are they going to close the road? They are building the fence now. Being at the whim of the railroad is major concern. Larry Jowdy – shares concern and the TRT is trying to do what they can. TRT is also concerned about safety. Is it the BLM's responsibility to give access parallel to fence to the closure.?
 - c. Neil Hamada– Discussion on the Glamis easement, display map, comments should be addressed in the RAMP this spring.
 - d. Dick Holiday – need funding for the project, maybe a grant from OHMVRD.
 - e. Bob Ham – look into grading the wash road / whoop-de-dos road through FWS, county might have funding
 - f. Jim Bramham – Public should know that many access points in the Dunes go over non – BLM land.
 - g. Lori Jensen- Wash road access in jeopardy, using the wash road is not good since we are at the mercy of the railroad. One cable in the openings could close access. Wants to see short and long term plans. Wants to see another committee formed to address this issue. Concerned about safety. Wants to see EMS road in the wash 7 and 8 area. When is the RAMP scheduled to be done? What can we do to make a difference to get a road on the BLM side?
 - h. Bill Vickers – Need a plan “B”. Work on guaranteed access from railroad. What if we limit travel to non-OHV only. Try to work with the railroad. How is this related to the RAMP? RAMP is the BLM's plan to manage the Dunes. Concerned about safety.
 - i. Erin Dreyfuss – ISDRAMP Scoping start last summer, working with RECON and FWS on draft, info on BLM website, timeline draft in spring 09, 90 day comments until May /

June, then analyze comments, 10,000 comments last time, may take a few months, final in fall of 2009, need to get formal consultation on PMV and tortoise. Early 2010 for signed record of decision.

- j. Bob Mason – asks Dick Holiday to post three ASA RAMP comment documents. Lori’s comments interests him. Jerry says – how can we link the fence to the trash issue? Would you rather have a road or have someone pack your trash home for you? Building access is more important. FACA discussion is coming up later. TRT has not had good visibility about where the fee dollars go.
 - k. Bill Jones – railroad’s lack of outreach is not good. Fence could be a hazard at night since it is low.
 - l. Bob Gagliano – Need to think outside the box about access in the wash rd area. Duner’s have skills and resources not available to the BLM, Can they help? NeilHamada– willing to discuss. Bob Ham – ask Friends of Jawbone for help since they have equipment and trained tortoise monitors.
 - m. Jim Bramham– leaders of the boards should meet to determine the best way to tell the railroad their concerns
 - n. MOTION – Jim Bramham – To recommend to the BLM to make it a priority to explore an MOU with Union Pacific Railroad to secure public access / maintenance agreement on the wash road, ~~to limit the use to non-OHV and to 25mph~~, also to include the upcoming RAMP a secondary access road to secure camping access in the washes. Second by Glenn Montgomery, discussion, motion amended, and then **Passed unanimously.**
 - i. Discussion – Ham – concerned with eliminating OHVs from the wash rd. Maybe county should make a new road. Can we remove from the motion? Yes, motion amended to: recommend to the BLM to make it a priority to explore an MOU with Union Pacific Railroad to secure public access / maintenance agreement on the wash road, also to include the upcoming RAMP a secondary access road to secure camping access in the washes. above motion.
4. Don Maruska – see PPT.
- a. Is TRT supportive of reconstitution as DAC subgroup? Yes.
 - b. MOTION – Larry Jowdy - the TRT moves to ask the DAC to reconstitute the ISDRA advisory group for the El Centro Field Office in accordance with FACA and other pertinent regulations. Jim Bramham second No vote
 - i. Discussion – Jim Bramham – move to another system is a leap of faith for TRT, meeting schedule will have to be significantly adjusted due to DAC step, no gut feeling of assurance. Don – the CA Desert District Manager is aware and sensitive to the issue. Dick Holiday - the DAC is approving some actions over e-mail now between meetings.
 - ii. Expertise/interests needed – OHV users of ISDRA, Business interests, County, AZ and NV, DAC, reps should have interests related to ISDRA, 2 yr terms, 7 members
 - c. Public Comments

- i. Cathy Godley – KD cycle – disturbed by presentation. Wants to support TRT, supports personal communication, in regards to Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) law enforcement - people are perceived as criminals immediately, perception is on the border of harassment, Duners will get more confrontational (not physically) if attitude is not changed. Submitted petition to TRT to comment on removal dumpsters - 150 signatures, she was asked by duners to voice their opinion.
 - ii. Mike Gilmore – Gilmore Off-Road, Thanksgiving LE was most heavy hand in 25 yrs. Now seems like law enforcement is out looking for things, he had more comments on ICSO than BLM, 1/100 visitors received citations, he was pulled over for flag violation by ICSO for improper whip mount, Does ICSO have authority for the action they are taking? Seems like harassment, law enforcement in his area is not good for his business. Pass System – charging \$30 for delivery, equates to \$.75/permit. Not ordering enough permits since they have to pay in 15 days.
- 5. Law Enforcement Report- Chief Mike Boxx - Addressed public comments for BLM. This his last TRT meeting, he has a new position, new Chief will be here on New Years holiday. See stat sheet handouts to TRT.
 - a. Impounding vehicles – Chief Boxx - info on BLM / ASA websites – BLM seizing CA vehicles without VIN/PIN. AZ residents need to meet registration requirements. BLM is familiar with AZ new law. Bob Mason – Decal can be ordered on 1/1/09. If greater than 1,800 lbs., the vehicle will need the CA OHV non-resident sticker. Priority is OHVs, not motor homes. Keep the receipt from the internet order on the OHV and present to Ranger if stopped. Chief Boxx - Oldsmobile entry was shut down during the day; Halloween was close to an unlawful assembly (UA). Shut down stripper poles and DJs. Used tactics to keep Olds open for OHVs and reduce congestion. Traditional tactics would have closed Olds. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) needed law enforcement escorts to get to medical incidents. Unauthorized event in Olds caused more crowding. Thanksgiving night, BLM busy with camp eviction while someone launched a commercial firework at ICSO in Olds, they considered announcing an unlawful assembly to clear out the valley. It gets busy in camp areas when Olds is shut down. Larry Jowdy – Please pass negative information on to ICSO counterpart. Montgomery – heard complaints about San Diego Sheriff's Office (SDSO), in particular his son has had two separate incidents with SDSO that were purely harassment. Bob Mason – has BLM had meetings with Sheriff to discuss this issue? Bob Ham – first to hear of it. Vicki Wood – double edged sword. Need them to do the things we do. Troy Bolen will do a ride along with ICSO if allowed on New Year's weekend. BLM has seized about 20 vehicles this season (for no paperwork etc.), not incl. DUIs. Jim Bramham / Glenn Montgomery – ICSO making BLM look bad.
- 6. WEP – Bert Alderete

- a. Vendor sales – discussion on vendor terms for permit sales. Bringing on more vendors, trying to keep web site up to date, got complaints on Halloween, Thanksgiving was better. Report on fee stats see handouts to TRT.
- 7. Mesquite Regional Landfill (MRL) – Michelle Ochs
 - a. On site construction done, able to accept trash on Jan 1 but not accepting through the first quarter, rail spur vegetation clearing is underway and will be done by end of year, no announcement of bid for rail spur constructions (few weeks away), construction in late spring, 18 mo to 2 year construction, three OHV routes will be open, during construction will require staggering the three open routes. How can they best advertise the start up of MRL to control rumors? Conditional Use Permit amendment not released for increase proposal for trucking. Environmental Impact Report released in Mar 09. MRL wants to be part of the solution for the trash issue in the dunes, but they are forbidden by law to collect trash and all trash must be pre-sorted per their Conditional Use Permit for Imperial County. Jim Bramham– Where is the aggregate for the railroad spur construction coming from? Will it cause more truck traffic in the Dunes? Michelle need to research. Glenn Montgomery – Is there a raven report update? Michelle will review next time. Jim Bramham – Is self pre-sorting ok? Michelle says Imperial County says no.
- 8. Martin Luther King Weekend Volunteer clean up – Nicole Nicholas-Gilles– proceeding with plans, less sponsors due to economy, two clean ups will be held in the dunes simultaneously (north and south).
- 9. Desert Advisory Council Report Dick Holiday – last meeting on Nov 14-15, tour in Surprise Cyn, updated DAC on ISDRA trash issue, generally in favor of pack it in, pack it out action. Terry Allen Ridgecrest Field Office report, no pallet firewood issue update. 29 palms marine base expansion update. New DAC nominations are being advertised one will be renewable resources. Un-adoptable wild horse and burros, BLM spend \$21M / yr. Marsh 22 next meeting tour in the Hammers 4x4 area.
- 10. Neil Hamada Budget Review, see handout
- 11. Kris “Chili Dog” Frick – Hamada – Ask for update especially on Gold Cross Truck
- 12. PMV Critical Habitat (CH) Rule- Erin Dreyfuss – Final on 2-14-08, it is the driver of the RAMP, BLM now tasked with rewriting the RAMP, Are there any changes? No, still managing with the admin closures, including the CH out of the closures. The CH lines are basically drawn around the 2005 monitoring densities. Dick Holiday - Are we planning seed bank studies? BLM Conf call set up next week to discuss. Jim Bramham – are we looking at corridors through CH? BLM team is looking at all viable options.
- 13. Closure signs – Jamie Neilans – Don’t have signing contract due to budget, trying to handle in house with resource staff help. Mammoth not done, Small Central Closure done, Large Central Closure done except south side, Cherry stem done, Buttercup done. Ordered more stickers, lots of signs were gone over summer. Plan to have done by the end of month
- 14. Trash Plan – What is law enforcement going to do? If funds come from outside BLM, will BLM accept it? The county will not let BLM facilitate trash collection off site. BLM will not collect trash in the dunes after Jan 31st.

15. Items of Concern from BBS Glen Montgomery –

- a. Speed limit sign on Gecko at CRS – complaint as speed trap, BLM had “your speed is...” sign up, and speed limit signs up.
- b. Complaint – supp rules are not available to public – they are available in the maps, on signs, at kiosks, BLM, ASA, and other websites, and UDG newspaper.
- c. Towed in vehicles – confusion among staff per Rusty Massie need to discuss with Ranger Carmen Prisco
- d. Is there a rule prohibiting non-CARB fuel cans? No but can’t sell or transport fuel in them. Could be related CHP citing citizens with fuel in inappropriate containers on the highway and on trailers open to view.
- e. Will the gates continue to be locked at the canals? Yes, it is also blocked now by the Drop 2 reservoir project.
- f. Will BLM issue day permits? No

16. Motion to adjourn – Jim Bramham, second Larry Jowdy, unanimous vote at 4:25pm

TRT MEETING 12/12/08

PRINT LAST NAME, FIRST NAME

REPRESENTING

ZANG SHANN	SAND ADDICTION MAGAZINE
Steve Winters	GLAMIS DUNES STORAGE
Jon Pongl	ASA / Below10k.com
Steve Frakes	Glamis Dunes
Ten Hutson	Glamis Dunes
BILL JONES	ASA
BOB GAGLIANO	ASA / GLAMIS DUNES.COM
SONATHAS ROY	ASA / GLAMIS DUNES.COM
Godley Kathleen	KD cycle
Poland Craig	KD cycle
Tim Gantz	GBS
Jensen, Lorie	DUNE USER
COSBY, VICKI	SPRUE & ASA
Pat Wirt	DUNE USER
Daniel Konthauer	Glamis Dunes.
John Allen	Glamis Dunes
Ed Frederico	Glamis Dunes Storage
VICKERS, Bill WildBill	GLAMISDUNES.COM
RTRON	GLAMISDUNES.COM
MICHAEL LINARES	GD.COM
JANELLE SCHARFUNG	GLAMIS DUNES.COM
JOE SCHARFUNG	GLAMIS DUNES.COM
LEONARD DYER	GLAMIS DELIVERY Co. 282
Cuccio Joe	Dune Sofa
Mike MacMahon	GD.COM
FRANK FOLMSBY	" "
KIM LORD	RCSID
NATE GRIFFITH	GD.COM
MATT HARDESTY	GLAMIS DUNES.COM

