

March 24, 2010

Bureau of Land Management
El Centro Field Office
Attn: Neil Hamada
1661 S. 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Subject - Bureau of Land Management Grants and Cooperative Agreements
Application comments

Mr. Hamada

Grant G09-01-09-G01 Ground Operations Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA)

This letter is in support of the grant request from the BLM El Centro Field office for \$181,000 to provide trash removal service for the visitors to the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) in the Imperial Country. The ISDRA is one of the largest OHV areas in the state and is utilized by a large number of OHV enthusiasts.

This trash removal service is utilized by OHV recreationalists at the ISDRA that are primarily using green stickered vehicles that have paid the State of California for registering these vehicles.

These grant funds will supplement the visitors user fees and thus the matching visitor fees should allow this grant to be fully funded.

Grant G09-01-09-S01 Safety and Education

This request from the Safety and Education grant fund is necessary to provide four OHV non-law enforcement seasonal park rangers, medical supplies, and rescue buggy maintenance which will assist in providing emergency medical services to off highway visitors in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA).

These services provide emergency medical response to visitors who may be injured at the recreation area. These funds also will provide for the medical supplies needed to support these emergency medical response personal and training for first responders.

This is valid and necessary use of the safety and education grant funding.

Grant G09-01-09-L01 Law Enforcement

This grant for law enforcement funds will be utilized to provide service to OHV visitors to the BLM El Centro Resource Area including by not limited to the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA), Superstition Mountains, Plaster City East and West Open Areas and the Yuha Desert all located within Imperial and eastern San Diego counties.

The labor dollars requested in this application will assist the BLM by providing funding for additional Ranger staff needed to better manage OHV recreation occurring in the El Centro Resource Area. The purchase of In-car camera units will assist Rangers in the documentation of OHV related enforcement contacts and assist in the successful prosecution of law violators. The in-car camera units will also provide objective documentation of OHV enforcement contacts conducted by Rangers in order to better address public comments and concerns sometimes expressed about these encounters, thereby increasing public trust in OHV law enforcement.

These grant funds come partly from the registration fees paid by OHV users of the desert areas and thus these grants are an appropriate use of OHV trust fund revenue.

Thank you for your support of OHV recreation.

Richard Holliday
Member BLM California Desert District Advisory Council

CC:
California State Parks
OHV Division
Grants and Cooperative Agreements