

Dunes News

Continued from Page 32

Wash 25. The crews are currently working through the dune formation at washes 7-9 currently.

BLM has completed the Environmental Assessment required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and has concluded with a "Finding of no Significant Impact" and a decision to move forward with the construction of the Wash Road on BLM land west of the railroad fence. They have secured funding for the first phase of construction of the new road that will be complete for the 2009-10 season, have hired three temporary equipment operators, and have secured bids for rental equipment.

Additionally, volunteer support is still being accepted by BLM. According to BLM volunteer equipment and operators will compliment the BLM resources and provide better access to the Wash Road camping area. Contact Neil Hamada (BLM) at 760-337-4451.

Union Pacific Railroad has agreed to leave the old wash road open until the new one is constructed, so long as the new road is constructed in a timely manner.

Ted Kipf Road

The Imperial County Board of Supervisors has approved dual usage for the first three miles of Ted Kipf Road and is working to get California Highway Patrol approval. Currently Ted Kipf Road is not open for dual use and only licensed (on highway) vehicles are permitted to travel on Ted Kipf Road.

BLM's California Desert District Receives \$8.3 Million in OHV Grants

In a news release from the BLM dated July 9, 2009 BLM's California Desert District manager, Steve Borchard announced the California Desert District will receive about \$5.6 million in grants from California's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Program.

About \$3.2 million in OHV grants will go toward the operation and maintenance of designated routes that reduce impacts upon wildlife and their habitats. In addition, the grants will provide support services for high-quality OHV programs in recreation areas such as Dumont Dunes, El Mirage, and Imperial Sand Dunes.

California's OHV Recreation Program, a division of California State Parks, awarded BLM about \$1.3 million to ensure protection of visitors at OHV areas

recreation areas and to protect the natural resources of public lands through law enforcement. Another \$3.8 million was awarded BLM for restoration, education, and safety projects.

The California Desert District comprises 67 wilderness areas, all of which were closed to OHV use upon designation in 1994. However, 1,400 trails and ways crossed the 4,000 miles of wilderness boundary, encouraging illegal egress by desert OHV users. The BLM will employ boundary signing, preparation and distribution of current maps, education and outreach, 'hard barrier' [e.g., fences, barricades], a law

Dunes News continued on Page 36



Yamaha Test Rider at Glamis Photo by Mark Rolland

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