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County announces changes to Imperial Sand Dunes

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IMPERIAL COUNTY - With Sand Dune season almost in full stride, the Bureau of Land Management wants the public to know of a few changes about The Imperial Sand Dunes.

In a public meeting held in El Centro on Wednesday, the BLM discussed those changes.

Among them is one that is now a California state law that requires the use of helmets and seat belts when riding side by side vehicles or UTVs.

Officials also talked about the newly released proposed management plan that discusses the changes that will be made to the closures in the Sand Dunes.

And of course the hottest topic was the fee increase that they are proposing.

According to the BLM, the fee increase will ensure that the dunes are properly maintained and remain open.

"We wanna continue on that path", says Dunes Manager Neil Hamada. "We wanna continue to keep the dunes opened and we wanna continue to provide those Access Points; Wash Road, Gecko

Road, Dun Buggy Flats Road, and Buttercup Roads. We want to keep those opened and we need funds to do that so we're proposing the fee increase".

The Imperial Sand Dune season began earlier this month and according to Hamada, everyone is excited about the season, no matter the changes.

"Everybody's excited about the new season, including us", says Hamada. "We're always happy to say goodbye to the Summer heat and go back out to the Dunes and talk to our friends, that come out to the Dunes, and recreate with them".

The BLM are welcoming comments from the public until November 30th.



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