BLM Proposing Significant Fee Increase at Little Sahara Recreation Area

Little Sahara Recreation Area, Utah - Federal officials are proposing a hefty increase in fees for users at Little Sahara Recreation Area. Nearly 300,000 enthusiasts flocked to the dunes in 2009 and BLM says they have not been collecting enough money to pay for services that are provided.

"The new plan is to try to get the revenue that we generate to approximately match the amount that we spend every year," said Glenn Carpenter with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Under the proposal, the annual vehicle pass would jump from $75 to $120. The one-day pass, which currently costs $8 per vehicle, $10 on holidays, is being scrapped entirely.

Instead there will be a two-day pass for $25, $30 on holidays or a new seven-day pass for $40.

The BLM is accepting written comments for the next month. The new fee plan is expected to be approved in January and in effect in April.
The 2010 annual passes for Little Sahara Recreation Area went on sale in November, 2009. The cost of the first vehicle pass is $75. Additional vehicle passes are available for $50.

**About Little Sahara Recreation Area:**

Little Sahara Recreation Area lies about 115 miles Southwest of Salt Lake City. The area features 60,000 acres of sand dunes, trails, and sagebrush flats. The recreation area is about 12 miles long and 10 miles wide. Sand Mountain, a wall of sand climbing nearly 700 feet, is the primary focal point for hill climbing.

The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management - Fillmore Office