

Operation Little Sahara General Operation Plan 2007

There are primarily three (3) major areas of concern within LSRA during the Easter weekend where visitor's camp and large crowds gather. In other more remote areas, however, smaller crowds may attempt to gather to isolate themselves or avoid law enforcement patrols. See attached maps for specific locations of the areas.

1. White Sands Campground,
2. Oasis Campground, and
3. Sand Mountain

Juab County has adopted specific ordinances (41700-A & 6-06-2005) regarding the use of glass containers, wooden pallets, large bonfires, failure to pay fees, sanitation, burning green trees and other violations not adequately addressed in State Law. PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU request an update to these county ordinances during the initial briefing on Friday, April 06 at 1700 hours. The above violations are already addressed under 43 CFR supplementary rules.

In addition, be alert to gathering crowds of young people at Sand Mountain so law enforcement can address the problem BEFORE they get out of control. Also be alert to small groups of "gang type" individuals during the early morning hours that may be attempting to steal from campsites or engage in altercations with others.

Situation

The 2006 Easter weekend at LSRA saw a significant decrease in visitation over previous years due to poor weather. Every indication leads officials to believe, that there will be a significant increase in visitation this year. Along with this increased visitation, the Sand Mountain area will see a continued rise in the number and severity of incidents involving crimes against persons. Alcohol consumption at LSRA appeared to be on the rise resulting in increased unlawful behavior including damage to personal property, driving under the influence, and disorderly conduct. Concealed weapons carry, both legal and illegal, also grew. The demographics of the visitors to LSRA also showed an increasing number of people who did not appear to be visiting for the primary purpose of off-highway vehicle recreation. This is in addition to the types and level of incidents naturally generated by a large number of people assembled in this area for the purpose of "recreation" including but not limited to a high number of personal injury accidents, lost persons, littering, burning of flammable materials on the mountain and various safety violations, such as speeding. The problems have advanced to the stage that some law-abiding citizens are fearful of using LSRA during these times. The overall rising tenor at the Sand Mountain over holiday weekends resulted in a nearly all-reactive law enforcement operation with little opportunity to deter or reduce unlawful behavior.

There are enforcement actions within White Sands, Jericho, and Oasis Campgrounds regarding quiet hour violations. Current regulations dictate that the hours between 2200 hrs. and 0600 hrs. are reserved for those visitors that would like to sleep or relax without the 24 hour commotion of Sand Mountain. There are no quiet hours at Sand Mountain in an attempt to allow those that want to "recreate" to move to that area and not congregate in the campgrounds.

Mission

Based on the situation, officials from the various agencies have agreed that a dedicated law enforcement effort be directed to address the concerns stated in this Incident Action Plan. Strict enforcement of all applicable Federal Laws, State Laws and local ordinances is requested. Strict enforcement of these laws and ordinances has in the past demonstrated increased visitor compliance throughout the year.

Command and Control - Incident Command Post Procedures

Overall command of the LSRA incident, as well as enforcement priorities, are determined by the Incident Commander (IC) through the Operations Section Chief. The Operation Section Chief will work directly with the Agency Officer's in Charge (OIC) working on scene.

Concept of Operations

Teams of law enforcement officers (LEO) from BLM, Juab County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), Utah Motor Vehicles, Utah Highway Patrol (UHP) and LEO's from various state agencies will patrol these areas.

The primary enforcement priority is to enforce drug and alcohol related violations, permit compliance, the campground with posted quiet hours and other safety related issues/violations.

Methods

The campground with quiet hours will be enforced by the installation of signs notifying the public of the night time restrictions for the area. Officers will be assigned to monitor the area for violations. Response to violations by an appropriate number of LEO's, as determined by the shift lead, will be swift so as to prevent the number of violators in the area reaching an unmanageable level.

Permit enforcement will be accomplished by LEO enforcement efforts. They will support the non-law enforcement personnel working the use fee permit checkpoints. When appropriate, the shift lead may assign a limited number of officers to patrol the camping areas for use fee permit compliance. This permit compliance team will work the daylight hours. Officers working the night shift will be encouraged to enforce the use fee permit regulations during their normal patrol of the dunes. However, use fee permit compliance will not be their primary mission.

The officers working the night shifts primary mission will be drug and alcohol enforcement, response to assaults, quiet hour enforcement and other public safety issues. They will patrol in 4X4 SUVs, pickups. Night OHV enforcement must be approved.

Plainclothes LEO's may be assigned to the operation for deployment at the discretion of the agency OIC. The plainclothes LEO's will operate under the direction of their agency OIC. The plainclothes LEO's will collect intelligence information, handle drug related violations such as possession of large quantities of drugs and drug dealing incidents. Plainclothes LEO's are also available to provide backup to uniformed LEO's. The plainclothes LEO's will generally not make arrests nor identify themselves to citizens unless the risk of not doing so might endanger the lives or safety of other LEO's, citizens or other BLM employees and volunteers.

The UHP's primary mission will be driving under the influence (DUI) enforcement and responding to major or fatal injury accidents. A major injury accident is one in which a subject has received

apparently life or limb threatening injuries. In addition to arresting DUI's on roadways, the UHP may also take DUI "hand-offs" from other agency LEO's.

BLM and other agencies will concentrate their enforcement efforts on off-road areas and campgrounds.

Use of Force

LEO's assigned to the operation will abide by the use of force policy for their respective agency. This includes deployment of any less than lethal devices. State/Local LEO's who are qualified and equipped with chemical agents (not including duty belt canisters of O/C spray), or sting/stun devices will notify their Agency OIC's. All LEO's assigned to the area will be briefed on the procedures for deployment of these devices. Deployment of these devices will be at the discretion of the Agency OIC's.

An Incident Report and BLM Use of Force Report may be required on all incidents involving the use of force as defined by BLM General Order # 14, regardless of the employing agency of the officer exercising the force.

Re-deployment of personnel

There will be officers assigned to various areas of the dunes made up of officers from various participating agencies. If a problem should arise in another area of the dunes that cannot be handled by on scene officers, a team will be identified that can respond. Request will be communicated through Dispatch/Ops Chief or the Agency OIC's or team leads.

Disengagement Criteria

Emergency rally points for incidents will be identified at shift briefings. Point identification and an all-personnel notification will be completed prior to initiating this action. Notification will be done through Agency/Ops Chief who will take up position at the scene until such time as the problem has been resolved. All radio traffic will cease at the order of the OPS chief and or Agency lead. Disengagement, withdrawal tactics and personnel updates will be communicated to dispatch at regular intervals until all personnel are accounted for. All leads will be responsible for accounting for all team members and reporting to the Dispatch/Ops Chief as soon as the team has reached the designated rally point and all personnel are accounted for. When the command to disengage is given all personnel are authorized to utilize any and all vehicles to extract personnel. Quads are authorized to carry two officers out of the area.

Radio Communication Procedures

The Radio channel to be used for each agency will be identified at shift briefings. In the event of an emergency, a **CODE 33** will be broadcast over all radio channels. At this time any and all radio traffic not associated with the emergency will immediately cease.

ALL TRAFFIC WILL STAY ON THE RADIO FREQUENCIES IDENTIFIED FOR USE BY AGENCY DISPATCH. THIS WILL STAY IN EFFECT UNTIL THE DISPATCH/OPS CHIEF HAS CLEARED THE CODE 33.

Emergency Medical Services

In the event that any LEO personnel should require medical services, on scene personnel will administer it and the OPS Chief will notify the Agency Chief immediately. Under no circumstances should EMS personnel respond to the scene unless cleared through Agency/Ops Chief first. EMS personnel can be deployed to the Rally points.

Rally Points

Sand Mountain for LEO/EMS/FIRE	White Sands for LEO/EMS/FIRE
Vendor Area-New LEO Area	White Sands Junction
Champlin Point LZ	LSRA Visitor Center
Sand Mountain Junction	
Oasis for LEO/EMS/FIRE	
Oasis CG Entrance	
Jericho CG	