

Graham County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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NEWS RELEASE

For release: Upon receipt

Hot Well Dunes sand drag races offer rip-roarin' action

SAFFORD, ARIZ. — Some of the fastest off-highway vehicles outside of the showroom can be seen at Graham County's Hot Well Dunes on April 1 during the annual Sand Drag Races.

From custom bikes to stock racers, thousands of people gravitate to a section of Bureau of Land Management land to watch the bravest riders challenge each other in races up a large sand dune.

The races bring competitors and spectators, but also those looking for a good time on the sandy slopes.

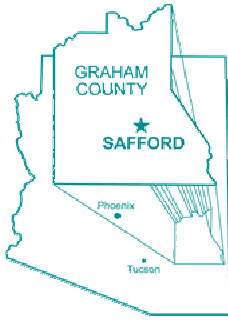
All types of vehicles including sand rails, ATV's, motorbikes and four-wheel-drive trucks are allowed to ride anywhere within the fenced boundary. There are low, sparsely vegetated dunes for those preferring a slower-paced ride, while several larger dunes provide a challenge for the adventurous rider. Off-highway vehicle use is allowed outside of the fenced area on existing roads and trails.

Sandy dunes and some the best off-road activity in the state aren't the only draws to the Hot Well Dunes, however. As the name suggests, visitors can relax in one of the hot tubs filled with 100-plus degree natural spring water.

(more)

Camping sites are available at the Hot Well Dunes, and trailers, tents, campers and trucks spread as

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far as the eye can see on the first weekend in April. For those wanting a sit-down meal, hot shower and soft bed at the end of the day, Safford offers a number of hotels ready to aid weary travelers.

The best Sonoran-style Mexican food can also be found in the Safford area, as well as many other family style and fast food restaurants.

Events run all weekend at the dunes, so it's worth the stay through the weekend.

Held at the start of spring, the weather is ideal for a weekend outside. At an elevation of 3,400 feet, the temperatures run lower than those in Phoenix, with the sun's touch providing just a hint of the summer to come.

Recreation use fees of \$3.00 per vehicle per day or an annual permit for \$30.00 are collected at the recreation area as part of a congressionally initiated program to generate revenues for improvements and maintenance of federally-managed recreation sites.

The dunes are 32 miles southeast of Safford. For driving directions or more information about Graham County, contact the Graham County Chamber of Commerce at (928) 428-2511, toll-free at 1-888-837-1841, fax to (928) 428-0744, email for information at info@graham-chamber.com or visit the Web site at www.visitgrahamcounty.com.

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