

and conservation measures so as to preserve their historical integrity. Broader interpretive themes highlighting the more complex role of Fort Davis in the history of the American West would complement existing interpretive programs. The interior of the post hospital will be partially restored and refurbished to more fully tell the story of Fort Davis and therefore provide the visitors with a more comprehensive learning experience. This restoration and refurbishing project would be dependent on partnerships resulting in private sector funding. The park will continue to encourage adjacent landowners to use their land in ways that complement park values, thereby promoting the natural and scenic character of the landscape.

This course of action and four alternatives were analyzed in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. The full range of foreseeable environmental consequences was assessed, and appropriate mitigating measures were identified.

The Record of Decision includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative, a finding on impairment of park resources and values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process, and a Statement of Findings

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jerry Yarbrough, Fort Davis NHS, 1379, Lieutenant Flipper Dr., Fort Davis, TX 79734; 915-426-3225 (P), [Jerry\\_Yarbrough@nps.gov](mailto:Jerry_Yarbrough@nps.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Copies of the Record of Decision may be obtained from the contact listed above or online at <http://planning.nps.gov/parkweb/what.cfm?RecordID=56>.

Dated: November 5, 2002.

**Michael Snyder,**

*Deputy Director, Intermountain Region,  
National Park Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### **General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve, Colorado**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the general management plan, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the general management plan for Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve. The Environmental Impact Statement will be approved by the Director, Intermountain Region.

Great Sand Dunes National Monument was established by President Herbert Hoover in 1932 "for the preservation of the great sand dunes and additional features of scenic, scientific, and educational interest." The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000 enlarged Great Sand Dunes National Monument from 39,000 acres to almost 150,000 acres to protect the entire Great Sand Dunes natural system. The name will change to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve when sufficient lands are acquired within the new boundary. The legislation expanding the park identifies a variety additional features for long term protection, including "geological, hydrological, paleontological, scenic, scientific, educational, wildlife, and recreational resources of the area." Land in and adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes is recognized for the "culturally diverse nature of the historic settlement of the area, offering natural ecological, wildlife, cultural, scenic, paleontological, wilderness, and recreational resources." The law further notes that the "preservation of this diversity of resources would ensure the perpetuation of the entire ecosystem for the enjoyment of future generations." The legislation directs establishment of the "Great Sand Dunes National Park Advisory Council" to "advise the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the preparation and implementation of a management plan for the national park and preserve."

The general management plan will prescribe the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained in the monument over time. The clarification of what must be achieved according to law and policy will be based on review of the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, and the body of laws and policies directing park management. Management decisions to be made where law, policy, or regulations do not provide clear guidance or limits will be based on the

purposes of the monument, the range of public expectations and concerns, resource analysis, an evaluation of the natural, cultural, and social impacts of alternative courses of action, and consideration of long-term economic costs. Based on determinations of desired conditions, the general management plan will outline the kinds of resource management activities, visitor activities, and development that would be appropriate in the monument in the future. Alternatives will be developed through this planning process and will include, at a minimum, no-action and the preferred alternative. Major issues include protection of natural and cultural resources; the adequacy of interpretive programs; wilderness suitability; potential partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and local interests; and land status within the new boundary.

**DATES:** The Park Service will accept comments from the public through April 16, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Information will be available for public review and comment in the office of the Superintendent, Steve Chaney, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve, 11500 Hwy. 150, Mosca, CO 81146-9798; Tel: (719) 378-2312; (719) 378-2594; e-mail: [steve\\_chaney@nps.gov](mailto:steve_chaney@nps.gov).

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Contact Superintendent Steve Chaney, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve; Tel: (719) 378-2312; (719) 378-2594.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Park Service is planning to begin public scoping in January 2003 via a newsletter to state and federal agencies; associated American Indian tribes; neighboring communities; county commissioners; local organizations, researchers and institutions; the Congressional Delegation; and visitors who signed up to be on the mailing list. In addition, the National Park Service will hold public scoping meetings regarding the general management plan, beginning in January 2003. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media and will also be available by contacting the Superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve. There will also be opportunities for input at Advisory Council meetings. There will be a web site for the general management plan. The purpose of the newsletter, public meetings, and web site is to explain the planning process and to obtain comments concerning appropriate resource management; desired visitor experience and use, and