







Chapter Five: Consultation and Coordination

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, INCLUDING SCOPING

A 3-day workshop: "Community-Based Ecosystem Stewardship," was held in Alamosa, Colorado, on November 19–21, 2002. The National Park Service hosted the workshop with the goal of developing solid working relationships among people committed to effective management of public lands within Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. Approximately 40 participants, primarily from the San Luis Valley and representing various formal and informal groups, attended. Participants also included representatives from neighboring federal and state land management agencies.

In January 2003, the public was notified of the Great Sand Dunes GMP effort via three methods: (1) a *Federal Register* notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, (2) distribution of Great Sand Dunes GMP Newsletter 1, and (3) a press release announcing public scoping meetings for the GMP.

Newsletter 1:

- Provided an overview of the Great Sand Dunes system and the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000.
- Introduced the Great Sand Dunes Advisory Council.
- Discussed the concepts of general management planning and wilderness review.
- Outlined GMP issues and a general schedule for development of the GMP.

 Invited the public to attend four public scoping meetings about the GMP.

Seventeen people attended the Alamosa, Colorado, meeting held on February 13, 2003. Twenty-three people attended the Crestone, Colorado, meeting on February 14, 2003. Twelve people attended the Golden, Colorado, meeting held on February 20, 2003, and 13 people attended the Westcliffe, Colorado, meeting on February 21, 2003. Many questions were answered and about 33 comments were received at these meetings. Superintendent Steve Chaney held a supplemental informal question and answer session in Crestone in April 2003. About 80 people attended this meeting.

Great Sand Dunes National Park Advisory Council members also held formal and informal meetings with various groups and individuals to identify planning issues and concerns. Council members then shared this information with the planning team during advisory council meetings.

Seventy written scoping comments were received by mail, e-mail, or Internet between February 13, 2003 and May 31, 2003.

Newsletter 2, Issued in November 2003:

- Provided a synopsis of comments received from Newsletter 1 and the public scoping meetings.
- Reviewed the park purpose, significance, mission and interpretive themes.

- Outlined special park mandates, including the advisory council, water resources, wilderness, hunting, fishing, trapping, domestic livestock, and the Closed Basin Project.
- Discussed fundamental resources and values including the dunes system, natural diversity, human connections; and visitor opportunities.
- Updated the planning steps and the status of the wilderness review.

Seventeen written comments were received by mail, e-mail, or Internet between June 23, 2003 and January 3, 2004.

Newsletter 3, issued in April 2004:

- Summarized comments received from the second public comment period.
- Revised and condensed fundamental resources and values statements.
- Summarized an interagency meeting related to Great Sand Dunes planning.
- Provided a wilderness review update.
- Provided a Great Sand Dunes National Park Advisory Council update.
- Provided a planning steps update.

Newsletter 4, issued in July 2004:

 Discussed parkwide desired conditions (goals).

- Provided an overview of the draft management zones.
- Updated the status of the wilderness review.
- Provided an advisory council update.
- Discussed alternative management concepts.

Twenty-four comments were received by mail, e-mail, or Internet between January 4, 2004 and August 19, 2004.

Newsletter 5, issued in January 2005:

- Presented refined alternatives.
- Discussed actions considered but dismissed.
- Provided a planning steps update.
- Invited the public to attend four public meetings.

Ten people attended the Alamosa, Colorado, meeting held on January 31, 2005, about 40 people attended the Crestone, Colorado, meeting on February 1, 2005, four people attended the Golden, Colorado, meeting held on February 8, 2005, and six people attended the Westcliffe, Colorado, meeting on February 2, 2005. Many questions were answered and about 50 comments recorded at these meetings.

About 140 additional written comments were received by mail, e-mail, or Internet between August 20, 2004 and February 24, 2005.

Using input from the public and considering the probable environmental consequences and costs of the alternatives, the planning team developed a preferred alternative. Development of the preferred alternative is discussed in appendix E. A

draft general management plan and environmental impact statement was produced and distributed for public review.

Newsletters and draft documents were also available online.

Great Sand Dunes National Park Advisory Council meetings, which were held every few months and were open to the public, included additional opportunities for public comment. Great Sand Dunes Superintendent Steve Chaney also held several separate, informal question and answer sessions in Crestone as the need arose. These sessions were well attended.

CONSULTATION

The National Park Service initiated consultation with the Colorado SHPO in January 2005. The Colorado SHPO responded on January 13, 2005, indicating that it concurred with the intent to use the NEPA process and documentation to comply with section 106 of NEPA.

The National Park Service initiated consultation with the USFWS in January 2005, to determine the presence of federally listed threatened, endangered, and candidate species in the park. The USFWS responded on February 15, 2005, with a list of species.

Tribes affiliated with the Great Sand Dunes were identified via an ethnographic overview (White 2005). The National Park Service initiated consultation with these tribes on January 5, 2004, when a letter was sent to each tribe notifying them of the general management plan effort. The letter included as enclosures the GMP newsletters published to date. It also invited the tribes to participate in the planning effort. A year later, on January 11, 2005, a letter was sent to each tribe inviting representatives to participate in a March, 2005 meeting of the Great Sand Dunes National Park Advisory Council; the Oglala Lakota

and Jicarilla Apache responded affirmatively and participated in the meeting. On February 8, 2005, the National Park Service sent another letter to the tribes regarding a land exchange effort that is not directly related to the GMP. This letter included a reminder that the National Park Service also seeks their input on the GMP. Park staff conducted follow-up meetings and telephone calls with representatives from several tribes throughout the planning process.

A series of interagency meetings (for federal and state agencies) on the GMP / wilderness study were hosted by the National Park Service during the planning process. The first meeting was held in November 2004, to aid understanding of the different agencies' missions, roles, and concerns related to management of lands in and near the Great Sand Dunes. The second meeting was held in April 2004, and its purpose was to share the National Park Service and advisory council's preliminary ideas about management alternatives for the national park and preserve, and to get feedback on these ideas. The third meeting was held in March 2005, and its purpose was to gather input from the agencies on more detailed alternatives for the park.

TABLE 27. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Action	Section 106 Compliance		
 New bike lanes along the park entrance road Fee booth replacement in a new location near 	These elements of the NPS preferred alternative would not have an adverse effect on a historic property and therefore would not require consultation with the		
the park entrance	Colorado SHPO.		
 Adaptive use of Medano Ranch headquarters for an NPS administrative center, and for public uses on a limited, scheduled basis 	These elements of the NPS preferred alternative have potential to adversely affect an eligible historic property and therefore would require consultation with the Colorado SHPO.		
 Wilderness recommendation for areas within the park expansion area 			
 New backcountry zone in the north of the park (includes an access road and trailhead) 			
 New trails in as yet undetermined locations within the backcountry adventure and guided learning zones 	These elements of the NPS preferred alternative have potential to adversely affect a potentially eligible historic property and therefore would require consultation with		
 New hike/bike path connecting Pinyon Flats campground to dunes parking lot and visitor center 	the Colorado SHPO. If it is determined that a resource is not eligible, consultation would not be required for that resource.		
 Adaptive use of Medano Ranch headquarters for an NPS administrative center, and for public uses on a limited, scheduled basis. 			

LIST OF AGENCIES CONTACTED FOR INFORMATION OR SENT A COPY OF THE PLAN

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on
Historic Preservation
Bureau of Land
Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Federal Highway
Administration
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Natural Resources
Conservation Service

USDA Resource Conservation and Development

Tribes

Cheyenne and Arapahoe
Tribes of Oklahoma
Comanche Indian Tribe of
Oklahoma
Hopi Indian Tribe
Jicarilla Apache Indian Tribe
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Navajo Nation
Northern Arapaho Indian
Tribe
Northern Cheyenne Indian
Tribe

Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Indian Tribe Pueblo of Acoma Pueblo of Cochiti Pueblo of Jemez Pueblo of Picuris Pueblo of San Juan Pueblo of Santa Clara Pueblo of Taos Pueblo of Zia San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe Southern Ute Tribe Uintah and Ouray Ute Tribe Ute Mountain Ute Tribe White Mesa Ute Tribe

U.S. Senate / House of Representatives

Senator Wayne Allard Senator Ken Salazar Representative Bob Beauprez Representative Diana **DeGette** Representative Joel Hefley Representative Scott **McGinnis** Representative Marilyn Musgrave Representative John T. Salazar Representative Thomas Tancredo Representative Mark Udall

State Agencies

Colorado Division of Water Resources Colorado Division of Wildlife Colorado Historical Society/ State Historic Preservation Office Colorado State Forest Service Colorado State Land Board Colorado State Parks

Other Agencies and Organizations

Alamosa County, Colorado Baca Grande Library— Crestone, Colorado Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District Colorado College Library Colorado Mountain Club Friends of the Dunes National Parks and Conservation Assoc. Saguache County, Colorado San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council Southern Peaks Public Library—Alamosa, Colorado The Nature Conservancy West Custer County Library—Westcliff, Colorado The Wilderness Society

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Natural Diversity Information Source (NDIS)

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- 2005 NDIS Razorback Sucker Wildlife Page: http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/wildlifespx.asp?SpCode=010595.
- 2005 NDIS Yellow-billed Cuckoo Wildlife Page: http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/wildlifespx.asp?SpCode=040277.
- 2005 NDIS Bald Eagle Wildlife Page: http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/wildlifespx.asp?SpCode=040231.

- 2005 NDIS Canada Lynx Wildlife Page: http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/wildlifespx.asp?SpCode=051036.
- 2005 NDIS Black-tailed Prairie Dog Wildlife Page: http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/wildlifespx.asp?SpCode=051006>.
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