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Great Sand Dunes National Park

Colorado National Parks

1937 Parkway & Recreational-Area Study of Great Sand Dunes National Monument

Paul R. Franke

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
COLORADO

November 17, 1937

Acting Regional Director,
Region III, National Park Service,
Post Office Box 1728,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Subject: Park, Parkway and Recreational-Area Study
Great Sand Dunes National Monument

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith in sextuple form 2, Park, Parkway and Recreational-Area Study for the Great Sand Dunes National Monument.

Very truly yours,



Paul R. Franke,
Acting Superintendent.

Encl-69228

cc- 1 with original

IMC

For file

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PARK, PARKWAY and RECREATIONAL-AREA STUDY

EXISTING AREAS AND FACILITIES

GENERAL

1. STATE Colora do COUNTY Alamosa & Saguache
2. NAME (Legal) Great Sand Dunes National Monmment
3. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY National Park Service
4. TYPE OF RECREATION
Lands: PARK _____ RESERVE _____ PARKWAY _____ MONUMENT X
FOREST _____ WAYSIDE _____ MEMORIAL _____ WILDLIFE RESERVATION _____
5. CLASSES OF RECREATIONAL AREAS

PRIMITIVE CLASS	MODIFIED CLASS	DEVELOPED CLASS	SCIENTIFIC CLASS <u>X</u>
ROADLESS AREA _____	BUFFER AREA _____	OBSERVATION PT. _____	WILDLIFE REFUGE _____
VIRGIN AREA _____	WILD AREA _____	PICNIC GROUND _____	GEOLOGICAL AREA <u>X</u>
WILDLIFE AREA _____	SCENIC AREA _____	CAMPGROUND _____	HISTORICAL AREA _____
WILDERNESS AREA _____	PARKWAY _____	RESIDENCE AREA _____	BOTANICAL AREA _____
SANCTUARY _____	ROADSIDE ZONE _____	RESORT AREA _____	ARCHEOLOGICAL AREA _____
PRIMEVAL AREA _____	WATERFRONT ZONE _____	SPORTS AREA _____	
6. WHEN FIRST ACQUIRED
 Date March 17, 1932 Acres: LAND 46,034 WATER yes
 Date _____ Acres: LAND _____ WATER _____
 ADDITIONS ACQUIRED
 Date _____ Acres: LAND _____ WATER _____
 Date _____ Acres: LAND _____ WATER _____
 TOTAL ACREAGE: LAND _____ WATER _____ GRAND TOTAL _____
7. WHEN OPENED March 17, 1932 TO BE OPENED _____
8. ATTENDANCE 1936 3,000
9. OPTIMUM CAPACITY
 Spring 5,000 Summer 25,000 Fall 10,000 Winter None
10. ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

11. ACCESSIBILITY (to area)
 Auto X Bus _____ Boat _____ Railroad _____ Air _____
12. NATURE OF ADJOINING LANDS
 Industrial _____ Residential _____ Resort _____ Farms X
 Forests _____ Federal lands X State lands X
13. OBJECTIONABLE EASEMENTS
 Factories _____ Water Pollution _____ Refineries _____
 Railroad on area _____ Water _____
 Others (name) _____

NATURE OF AREA

14. LAND CHARACTERISTICS

Mountains ☒ Hills ☒ Rolling _____ Flat _____ Marsh _____ Beach _____
Desert _____ Rocky surface _____
Soil: CLAY _____ LOAM _____ SAND ☒ GRAVEL _____
Range of Elevation: LOW 7,600 feet HIGH 8,600 feet

15. GEOLOGIC FEATURES

Surface Rocks mostly: SANDSTONE _____ LIMESTONE _____ IGNEOUS _____

Check any important examples of the following features known to be present:

CAVES _____ NATURAL BRIDGES _____ HIGH CLIFFS _____
MESAS _____ BALANCED ROCKS _____ ROCK FIGURES _____
SAND DUNES ☒ VOLCANIC FORMATION _____ BAD LANDS _____
SPRINGS ☒ WATER FALLS _____ HOT SPRINGS _____
GLACIERS _____ PETRIFIED LEAVES OR WOOD _____ FOSSILS _____

Are there mining operations on area yes If so, what kind gold placer
STILL OPERATING some prospecting OR ABANDONED yes

16. WATER

Ocean: SHORELINE LENGTH _____
Lakes and Ponds: NUMBER _____ SIZE _____
Beach: LENGTH _____ WIDTH _____ SLOPE _____ SAND _____ STONY _____
Rivers and Streams: LENGTH ON AREA 12 miles FALLS _____ RAPIDS _____
GORGES _____ BEACHES _____

17. CLIMATE

Range of Temperature: WINTER: max. _____ min. _____ SUMMER: max. _____ min. _____
Average Precipitation: WINTER: max. _____ min. _____ SUMMER: max. _____ min. _____

18. FLORA

Forest types: CONIFEROUS ☒ DECIDUOUS ☒ MIXED _____
Heavily wooded _____ Partially wooded _____ Sparsely wooded ☒
Low Ground Cover: DENSE UNDERBRUSH _____ THIN UNDERBRUSH _____
WILD FLOWERS _____ GRASS ☒ MOSSES AND FERNS _____

19. FAUNA

Principal Species: MAMMALS, BIRDS, FISH Jays, crows, hawks, buzzards, sparrows, rabbits,
woodchuck, gray squirrels, chipmunks, coyotes, fox

20. HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC FEATURES

Historic Structures: TYPE _____ CONDITION _____
Other Historic Remains: TYPE _____ CONDITION _____
Markers and Memorials: TYPE _____ NUMBER _____
Prehistoric Remains: ☒ MOUNDS _____ Other scattered camp sites
Comments: _____

21. OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE AREA

America's highest sand dunes

FACILITIES

	No.	Size or Length
22. GENERAL		
Museums	_____	_____
Arboreta	_____	_____
Aquaria	_____	_____
Trails	_____	_____
Bridle Paths	_____	_____
Bt. Gardens	_____	_____
Zoo. Gardens	_____	_____
Drives	_____	_____
Amphitheatres	_____	_____
Historical Sites	_____	_____
Children's Plgds.	_____	_____
23. SPORTS		
Skating Areas	_____	_____
Ski-Jumps	_____	_____
Toboggan Slides	_____	_____
Ice Hockey Rinks	_____	_____
Golf Courses	_____	_____
Archery Courses	_____	_____
Baseball Field	_____	_____
Softball Field	_____	_____
Soccer Field	_____	_____
Tennis Courts	_____	_____
Croquet Courts	_____	_____
24. WATER		
Lakes and Ponds	_____	_____
Streams	_____	_____
S. Pools	_____	_____
W. Pools	_____	_____
Beaches	_____	_____
25. STRUCTURES		
Recreation Bldg.	_____	_____
Pavilions	_____	_____
Boat Houses	_____	_____
Bath Houses	_____	_____
Craft Shops	_____	_____
Stables	_____	_____
Trail Lodges	_____	_____
Lookout Towers	_____	_____

ACTIVITIES

	Participation, No.	Spectators, Visitors
26. AESTHETIC		
Art Appre.	_____	_____
Music	_____	_____
Dramatics	_____	_____
Nature	_____	_____
Dancing	_____	_____
Pageants	_____	_____
27. SOCIAL		
Parties	_____	_____
Folk Games	_____	_____
Picnics	_____	_____
Camping	_____	_____
Recreation Games	_____	_____
Story Telling	_____	_____
28. PHYSICAL		
Cycling	3,000	3,000
Hiking	_____	_____
Horseback Riding	_____	_____
Boating	_____	_____
Swimming	_____	_____
Fishing	_____	_____
Skating	_____	_____
Skiing	_____	_____
Coasting	_____	_____
Hockey	_____	_____
Golf	_____	_____
Archery	_____	_____
Baseball	_____	_____
Softball	_____	_____
Tennis	_____	_____
Croquet	_____	_____
Lawn Bowling	_____	_____
Hunting	_____	_____
29. CREATIVE		
Handicrafts	_____	_____
Photography	_____	_____
Writing	_____	_____
Painting	_____	_____
Graphic Arts	_____	_____
Exploration	_____	_____

OTHER ACTIVITIES (list)

FACILITIES — CONTINUED

30. ORGANIZED CAMPS

Number: CHILDREN None ADULT _____ GIRLS _____ BOYS _____ COED _____
 Seasonal Capacity: CHILDREN _____ ADULT _____
 For each camp give the following:
 Name of camp _____ P. O. ADDRESS _____
 NAME OF DIRECTOR _____ PERMANENT ADDRESS _____
 NAME OF OWNER _____ PERMANENT ADDRESS _____
 If organization camp: NAME OF SPONSORING AGENCY _____
 ADDRESS _____
 Sleeping Accommodations: Number: CABINS _____ TENTS _____ DORMITORIES _____
 Central Buildings: NUMBER _____ AVERAGE LGTH. SUMMER SEASON, WEEKS _____
 AVERAGE STAY SUMMER SEASON: CHILDREN _____ ADULTS _____
 Persons Accom. 1936: CHILDREN _____ ADULTS _____ Camper Weeks: CHILDREN _____ ADULTS _____
 Rentals: ANNUAL \$ _____ PER CAMPER PER DAY \$ _____ Fees to Camper: PER DAY \$ _____ PER WEEK \$ _____
 Utilities: WATER SUPPLY _____ LIGHTING _____ LAUNDRY _____ BATHS _____
 LATRINES _____ FLUSH _____ CHEMICAL _____ PIT _____

31. INDEPENDENT CAMPS

None
 Number _____ Total Acreage _____ Total Capacity _____ Season Lgth. _____
 Length stay permitted _____ Average length stay _____ Winter use _____
 Equipment: TENTS YES _____ NO. _____ CHARGES PER DAY \$ _____ PER WEEK \$ _____
 PLATFORMS YES _____ NO. _____ CHARGES PER DAY \$ _____ PER WEEK \$ _____
 TABLES YES _____ NO. _____ OPEN FIREPLACES, NO. _____
 Auto space YES _____ NO. _____ CHARGES PER DAY \$ _____ PER WEEK \$ _____
 Tent space YES _____ NO. _____ CHARGES PER DAY \$ _____ PER WEEK \$ _____
 Shelters YES _____ NO. _____ CHARGES PER DAY \$ _____ PER WEEK \$ _____
 Trailer space YES _____ NO. _____ CHARGES PER DAY \$ _____ PER WEEK \$ _____
 Utilities: WATER SUPPLY _____ LIGHTING _____ LAUNDRY _____ BATHS _____
 LATRINES _____ FLUSH _____ CHEMICAL _____ PIT _____

32. PICNIC GROUNDS

None
 Total No. _____ Total Acreage _____ Charges \$ _____
 Equipment: FIREPLACES, NO. _____ TABLES, NO. _____ SHELTERS, NO. _____
 Parking space: NO. _____ CHARGES PER DAY \$ _____ PER WEEK \$ _____
 Attendance (1935): AVERAGE PER DAY _____ PER HOLIDAY _____ YEAR TOTAL _____
 Utilities: WATER SUPPLY _____ LIGHTING _____ GARBAGE DISPOSAL _____
 LATRINES _____ FLUSH _____ CHEMICAL _____ PIT _____

33. COTTAGES

None
 Ownership: PUBLIC: NO. _____ RENT PER WK. \$ _____ MONTH \$ _____ SEASON \$ _____
 PRIVATE: NO. _____ GROUND RENT \$ _____ SEASON \$ _____ YEAR \$ _____

34. HOTELS OR LODGES

None
 Ownership: PUBLIC: NO. _____ OPERATION: PUBLIC _____ LEASED _____
 PRIVATE: NO. _____ OPERATION: OWNER _____ LEASED _____
 Rates to Guests: PUBLIC: \$ _____ DAY \$ _____ WEEK \$ _____ MONTH \$ _____
 PRIVATE: \$ _____ DAY \$ _____ WEEK \$ _____ MONTH \$ _____

35. ADMIN. AND SERVICE FACILITIES

None
 Admin. Bldg. _____ Infirmary _____ Refectories _____ Stores _____ Restaurants _____
 Workshops _____ Storage Bldgs. _____ Garages _____ Gas Stations _____ Dwellings _____
 Central Bldgs. _____ Museum _____ TYPE OF COLLECTION _____
 Combination Buildings (state use) _____
 Comfort Stations other than listed above _____ FLUSH _____ CHEMICAL _____ PIT _____