

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

FOR

*Great Sand Dunes National Monument*

FISCAL YEAR 2003

OCTOBER 1, 2002 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent Date

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA)

This Annual Performance Plan was written in part to fulfill the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). Congress passed this law in 1993 to bring the federal government into the "performance management revolution." Performance management is a goal-driven management concept and practice already widely adopted by the private sector, state and local governments, and many others. GPRA requires federal agencies to develop 1) a **Strategic Plan**, 2) **Annual Performance Plans**, and 3) **Annual Performance Reports** in order to more effectively and efficiently manage their activities to achieve their missions, and to more effectively communicate with the Congress and the American people. Please see the park's Strategic Plan for more information about GPRA and performance management. Copies of this Strategic Plan are available from Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve's (GRSA) headquarters, or by calling (719) 378-2312 ext 200.

### About This Plan

An Annual Performance Plan is written each fiscal year as a one-year increment of the GRSA Strategic Plan. The five-year Strategic Plan was first submitted on September 30, 1999, for fiscal years 2000-2005. It complements the National Park Service (NPS) Strategic Plan and displays how GRSA addresses Service wide mission and goals as well as the specific mission and long-term goals of this park. The Strategic Plan contains a mission statement, mission goals, and long-term goals - generally five years in length - as well as information on how the long-term goals will be accomplished. There have been substantial changes at Great Sand Dunes since 1999 as a result of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000, including increased acreage and funding. The 2000 Strategic Plan does not address some of the new responsibilities added as a result of the legislation; however, each year's Annual Performance Plan gives a more accurate picture of those recent projects and plans

This Annual Performance Plan lays out, as annual goals, this year's increments toward achieving the long-term goals of the Strategic Plan, and thus the mission goals and mission of the park and the NPS. Mission goals are statements of ideal conditions pursued "in perpetuity" to achieve the mission of Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve. Each goal is listed in context of its parent mission and long-term goal. Like the parent goals, each annual goal is results- or outcome-oriented. Each is objective, quantified and measurable with performance measures built right into each goal statement itself. With each goal is a brief narrative giving some background explanation, an overview of how the goal will be accomplished, and an indication of how accomplishment will be measured.

**GRSA's Mission Statement: The mission of Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve is to preserve and protect the Great Sand Dunes and their associated geologic, biologic, and cultural resources, watersheds, and wilderness values; to promote scientific knowledge; to provide opportunities for visitor understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship; and to ensure the perpetuation of the entire ecosystem for the enjoyment of future generations.**

## Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve Annual Goals for 2003

The numbering sequence follows that of the NPS Service wide plan, while the GRSA #s are our internal reference numbers. Where service wide goals are omitted, there are no Great Sand Dunes NM&P goals matching that particular service wide goal. SERVICE-WIDE GOAL CATEGORIES and Mission Goals are underlined.

Service-wide Goal Category I: Preserve Park Resources

Mission Goal Ia: Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.

Ia01A (GRSA 1) : Restoring Disturbed Park Land-Hazard Fuel Reduction By September 30, 2003, By September 30, 2003, 8 acres of hazard fuel reduction around the Piñon Flats Campground and in the aspen grove east of the Visitor Center will be completed.

- Funds have been requested to continue reducing hazard fuels around the developed areas in FY03.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Visitor and Resource Protection, which intends to commit \$40,000 and .6 FTE to accomplishing it.

**Ia0 (GRSA 31): By September 30, 2003, 16 acres of non-native leafy spurge along the Medano Road corridor in Great Sand Dunes National Preserve will be inventoried and contained.**

- We are using this goal to reflect inventorying and future control measures for the national preserve rather than Ia1B because we were not responsible for the preserve in that goal's base line year of 1999.
- The leafy spurge infestation was managed by the USFS before the land was transferred to NPS responsibility in 2000. Ongoing control will likely be necessary. The goal originally read that there would be 14 acres of leafy spurge but with better mapping technology we have established that the area to be contained is closer to 16 acres.
- Other non-native vegetation on the newly acquired Great Sand Dunes National Preserve will be inventoried, monitored, and contained or eliminated as deemed appropriate.
- In addition, Great Sand Dunes has partnered with Glacier National Park, Little Bighorn National Battlefield, and Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site to inventory areas along the Medano Creek corridor, especially drainages for exotic plant populations. In 2003, we will have bio technicians w/ GPS units identifying previously unknown infestations for future control needs. This project is managed by IMR-Pam Benjamin.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$3,000 and .1 FTE to accomplishing it.

**Ia1B (GRSA 4): By 9/30/2003, exotic vegetation on 10 acres of the estimated 22 acres of targeted acres of parkland affected by non-native vegetation is contained.**

- The control of exotic vegetation is an ongoing challenge due to weather extremes, external factors, and major local agricultural areas upwind of the park. The base map of the locations of infestations will change with the dynamics of the plant populations as well as with successful control efforts. The acreage of 22 was postulated from known areas where non-native

plants have been found. As we GPS areas of infestation more accurately, we suspect the total # of acres needing control will change.

- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$43,000 and .2 FTE to accomplishing it. This amount includes \$8500 received in FY03 from Conservation Cooperative Initiative to gather and propagate native seeds from within the monument, which will be used in future revegetation projects.

**Ia3 (GRSA 5): By September 30, 2003, air quality in Great Sand Dunes N.M. has remained stable or improved.**

- In 2003, ambient air quality will continue to be monitored on a biweekly basis. The data produced from this effort will be evaluated to insure no degradation has occurred from the legislated Class I Air Quality designation. Daily photographic monitoring will continue and to insure no degradation of the visual quality. Region assists with annual funding.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$4,000 and .1 FTE to accomplishing it
- During the summer of 2002 the air quality at Great Sand Dunes dropped by 1/10 of 1 decaview on some very smoky days. The large number of fires in the area during the summer is the cause of the degradation of the air quality. This is the first time that there has been this large of a deterioration of air quality since we began monitoring it.

**Ia4: (GRSA 6): By September 30, 2003, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve has unimpaired water quality, both as measured in the Technical Guidance and according to state standards for Outstanding Water Quality Designation.**

- USGS provides funding for monitoring water sources to meet requirements of state's Outstanding Water Quality Designation standards. Funding pays for salaries of field staff and lab test and transportation. The USGS-NPS partnership project has completed the fieldwork and a draft report has been completed for review. The NPS will continue to monitor the water quality using ONPS funds, and will assist USGS in any follow up monitoring.
- In 2003, NPS staff will complete testing for bacterial contamination in recreational waters.
- The USFS has been conducting a water quality-monitoring program in the high altitude lakes now within the national preserve. In 2003, this activity, which focuses on evidence of atmospheric pollution, will be continued by NPS and entered into the USFS dataset.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$10,000 and .2 FTE to accomplishing it

**Ia5 (GRSA 7): By September 30, 2003, both of the two Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve historic structures on the 1998 LCS are in good condition.**

- In 2001 we completed restoration of the Superintendent's residence and checking station, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Good condition is where the structure and significant features need only routine or

preventative maintenance. In 2003, the staff at Great Sand Dunes will pursue updating the LCS database.

- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management. However, the Division of Facility Management budgets \$5,000 and .1 FTE for ongoing structure maintenance.

**Ia6 (GRSA 8): By September 30, 2003, 89 of the 131 applicable preservation and protection standards for the Great Sand Dunes NM&P museum collection are met.**

- The Museum Collection at Great Sand Dunes is currently housed in a historic structure, which does not allow for adequate humidity, temperature, or pest control. However, cabinetry, frequent inspections, and a good security system allow us to give it moderate protection.
- In July of 2002 a biologist was hired with the collateral responsibilities of curation and assistance with helping design the new curatorial facility. Construction of this facility is scheduled to begin spring 2003, which should enable us to protect the park's collection much more fully.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$10,000 and .3 FTE to accomplishing it

**Ia8 (GRSA 9): By September 30, 2003, at least 12 of Great Sand Dunes NM&P archeological sites listed at the end of FY01 on the Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) with condition assessments, are in good condition.**

- GRSA has 108 sites entered into ASMIS at the end of FY01, and 67 of them have condition assessments.
  - Sites in good condition are defined as those that are stable, and its current archeological values are not threatened. A site in good condition is not deteriorating from either natural processes, such as erosion, or human impacts, such as vandalism, looting, or visitor use.
  - In FY03, data from condition assessments performed on archeological sites in FY01 will be documented and entered into ASMIS. We anticipate at least 12 (perhaps many more) will meet the definition of 'good' condition.
  - Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$30,000 and .1 NPS FTE and .2 contractors' FTE to accomplishing it.
- 
- **1b01 (GRSA10): By September 30, 2003, two of the four targeted Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve natural systems are monitored and evaluated for management objectives, establishing and/or maintaining baseline data, according to park defined standards.**
  - The data sets relate to natural quiet, unimpaired night skies, park vegetation, and monitoring of park fauna (as a follow up to inventories completed through the Study Plan for Biological Inventories).
  - In FY03, we're targeting inventorying and monitoring activities related to vegetation and park fauna.
  - Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$39,000 and .8 FTE to accomplishing it

**1b0 (GRSA 32): By September 30, 2003 annual inventories are completed of all 8 of the 8 dunes specific datasets that relate to the eolian (wind driven sand deposit) system.**

- These datasets provide critical information relating to the overall 'health' of the dunes system. We intend to gather data annually.
- The data sets are: monitoring surface water including stream flow, ground water, wind, dune movement, dune height, sand transport by the creek, sand dating, and precipitation.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$139,000 and 3.1 FTE to accomplishing it.

**1b2A (GRSA11): By September 30, 2003, the number of Great Sand Dunes NM and Preserve archeological sites listed on ASMIS increases by 108 to 110.**

- This goal is supported by a four-year project, the Great Sand Dunes Archeological Program, which is focusing on the historic and prehistoric cultural components of the Great Sand Dunes. This project includes geomorphology, ethnography, and archeological survey and testing. Outcomes will include maps of areas surveyed, site locations and descriptions, artifact curation, and both technical and lay publications. The project has many partners, including the Nature Conservancy, The Smithsonian, USFS, BLM, the San Luis Valley Archeological Network, and the Friends of the Dunes. Primary funding sources include NPS and the Colorado State Historic Fund. The Friends of the Dunes have graciously agreed to facilitate all aspects of the projects.
- In FY03, work will include an inventory of high use areas within the park for archeological sites, continued study of extant collections from local amateurs, testing of selected areas and special analysis (dating, etc.), continued coordination with tribes for consultation, database management activities (GIS and GPS sites and other feature location), updating ASMIS records, and curatorial activities related to artifacts, including entry into ANCS.
- Due to the drought and the extreme fire danger during the field season of FY02 the focus of the project was moved from fieldwork to report writing and drafts were submitted from the field archaeologist, geomorphologist and the ethnographer.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$6,000 and .1 NPS FTE to accomplishing it through the use of \$139,000 in granted funds, largely from the Colorado State Historic Fund.

**1c2C (GRSA12): By September 30, 2003, Great Sand Dunes NM and Preserve has updated its two LCS records.**

- The Great Sand Dunes Resource Management staff will pursue the process by which the LCS records are updated.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which will accomplish this clerical task with little cost or expense of time.

**1b2G (GRSA13): By September 30, 2003, the number of objects cataloged in ANCS will increase from 5574 in FY99 to 5804.**

- Funding received for FY03 should enable progress on this task. Construction for a new curatorial facility is scheduled to begin in FY03, and a curator has been hired.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Resource Management, which intends to commit \$19,000 and .2 FTE to accomplishing it

**Ib2F (GRSA 14): By September 30, 2003, Great Sand Dunes NM and Preserve likely will not have both Administrative History and Historic Resource Study completed and approved as of 1980, barring additional funding.**

- Although we recognize the need for these documents, we have not yet found funding for them. We will continue to pursue funding through SEPAS or other sources.

**1b3 (GRSA 33): By September 30, 2003, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve has identified its vital signs for natural resource monitoring.**

- The baseline inventories are being completed through our NPS network, which include Glacier National Park, Little Bighorn National Battlefield, Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Florissant Fossilbeds National Monument, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Vital sign monitoring is being planned by the Network, with no funds dispersed directly to Great Sand Dunes. Funding has been secured for vital signs monitoring by the network. I&M activities are progressing, with data supporting identification expected by 2005.
- In FY03, we expect to conduct an inventory of bats, small mammals and birds.

Goal Category II: Provide for the public enjoyment and visitor experience of parks - IIa: Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity and quality of park facilities, services and appropriate recreational opportunities.

**IIa1 (GRSA15): By September 30, 2003, 95% of visitors are satisfied with park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.**

- This is a multidisciplinary goal and all divisions contribute to it. 95% of the resources of Facility Management are dedicated to this goal, as are about 60% of Interpretation's resources, 30% of Visitor Services resources; 20% of Protection's resources and 30% of Administration's resources. Outcomes related to this goal include things such as clean and safe facilities; access to information from courteous and professional park staff; accessible media; roads and trails in safe condition; availability of EMS and LE services when needed; and visible evidence of a well cared for park. Total budget commitment: \$647,000. Total FTE commitment: 11.8 FTE.
- In FY03, construction is underway for improvements to the Visitor Center, including addition of an audio/visual room, increased exhibit space, and an expanded bookstore.
- Also in FY 03 and in FY04, expansion of offices at the Visitor Center could have a significant short-term negative impact on visitors' experience. We have installed a temporary Visitor Center with full services at the Dunes lot in an effort to avoid inconvenience or lack of service for visitors and travelers.

**IIa2 (GRSA16): By September 30, 2003, the number of Visitor Accident/Incidents (VAI) remains no higher than the FY '92-'96 5-year average of 11.2 VAI's**

- This is a multidisciplinary goal and all divisions contribute to it. We estimate that Interpretation dedicates about 10% of its resources, that Visitor Protection dedicates about 75% of its resources, and that Visitor Services dedicates about 30% of its resources to Visitor Safety. In addition, about 30% of the resources of the Administration division facilitate this work. Total budget commitment: \$346,000. Total FTE commitment: 6.5.
- Aspects of this goal relative to Visitor Protection include insuring that at least 95% of park visitors are satisfied with law enforcement, assistance, and emergency services. That is, most visitors will think that there is an appropriate ranger presence to deter crime, prevent accidents, respond in a timely fashion to requests for assistance (lockouts, jumpstarts, etc) and to respond to and handle emergencies ( EMS, SAR, fires).

**IIa0 (GRSA 34): By September 30, 2003, the number of bear incidents will no higher than the 1996-2000 five year average of .5 incidents per 100,000 visitors.**

- A bear incident is defined as bear caused property damage resulting from a habituated bear looking for human caused food sources; trapping a nuisance bear when all other negative conditioning attempts have failed; or a bear attack resulting in personal injury or serious bluff charge (but excluding an accidental backcountry encounter when it can be shown that a mother bear was naturally protecting her offspring).
- In order to reduce the number of incidents, we will 1) better educate park visitors about safe behavior in bear country 2) diligently patrol campgrounds and front country use areas to **improve** visitor compliance 3) **strive to negatively condition bears that begin to frequent the campground or garbage dumpsters and** 4) work with the Colorado **Division** of Wildlife to remove habituated bears as necessary.
- In 2002, we created and distributed a free publication about safety in bear country, produced bear safety signs and installed them on all picnic tables in the campground and picnic areas, and made thousands of preventative contacts with campers and picnickers. Despite these efforts, we had many bear sightings and incidents (and many places in Colorado had the same experience). We attribute the rise in incidents to the extremely dry conditions in the mountains, and subsequent lack of natural food for black bear populations.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Visitor and Resource Protection, which intends to commit \$19,000 and .5 FTE to accomplishing it.

**IIb1 (GRSA18): By September 30, 2003, 85% of Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve visitors will understand and appreciate the significance of the park and its resources.**

- This is a multidisciplinary goal and nearly all divisions contribute to it. We estimate that Interpretation dedicates about 30% of its resources, that Visitor Protection dedicates about 5% of its resources, and that Visitor Services dedicates about 40% of its resources. In addition, about 30% of the

resources of the Administration division facilitate this work.  
Total budget commitment: \$235,000. Total FTE commitment: 4.5

**IIb1X (GRSA 17): By September 30, 2003, 75% of students and their instructors participating in Great Sand Dunes National Monument & Preserve educational activities understand the park's significance.**

- Great Sand Dunes National Monument has a growing educational program, staffed by a newly created STF Education Specialist and supported by part-time seasonal and volunteer help. The program is based on Colorado public school curricula as they relate to park resources. The number of participants has doubled since we piloted the program several years ago. We began to formally track and measure outcomes and satisfaction in FY01. Participation in FY2002 was about 4900 and we expect to maintain the 75% understanding rate to remain about the same.
- In 2002, teacher and student evaluations indicate that understanding is about 95%. However, we are not confident this is an accurate number. Record keeping was sporadic at best in 2002 as the new Education Specialist position was vacant until June. Therefore, while we would love to think that 95% of participants understood the park's significance, we will retain the 75% expectation until we have better supporting statistics.
- Responsibility for this goal rests with the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services, which intends to commit \$52,000 and 1.1 FTE to accomplishing it

Goal Category IV: Ensure Organizational Effectiveness - IVa: The NPS increases its managerial resources through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations and individuals.

**IVa3A (GRSA19):** By September 30, 2003, at least 14 of the park's 17 employees have performance agreements, which are linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance goals and position competencies

**IVa5 (GRSA24):** By September 30, 2003, only two of an initial eight employee housing units, classified as being in poor or fair condition in 1997, still need to be removed, replaced or upgraded to good condition.

**IVa6 (GRSA25):** By September 30, 2003 the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve employee lost time injury rate will match our 5 year average (92-96) of none (0).

- In FY03 and every year, we will strive to keep the LTR very low and COP costs to a minimum. We will continue to require all employees to read, understand, sign and comply with the monument's Safety & Risk Management Plan. All employees will meet quarterly to include safety training, and Divisions will meet at least twice/month to discuss safety topics & training. Annual park-wide safety inspections or checks will occur. Needed training and equipment to safely carry out tasks and jobs shall be provided in order to meet regulations. Employees will return to work ASAP after injury/illness in other capacities if needed.

**IVa6B (GRSA26):** By September 30, 2003, Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve worker's compensation costs (\$0) and hours (0) will be maintained.

**IVb1 (GRSA27):** By September 30, 2003, increase donated volunteer hours from the 1997 level of 9,043 hours to 9,766 hours.

- Although this goal is laudable on a service wide level, it may not be appropriate for Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve. We consistently benefit from volunteer hours (7,216 in FY01), but our small staff is incapable of properly supervising ever-increasing numbers of VIPs. We will consider reworking this goal in our next Strategic Plan revision.

**IVb2A (GRSA28):** By September 30, 2003, cash donations are at least \$3300.

- All cash donations at Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve are managed by our Friends' Group, and are received through donation boxes at the Visitor Center. One donation box is dedicated to Visitor Center improvements and the "Sand wheelchair" donation box is dedicated to maintaining a wheelchair usable by disabled visitors on the dunes. In FY2002, donations were \$4056. In 2000, donations were \$3224.

**IVb2C (GRSA30):** By September 30, 2003, increase the value of donations, grants and services from WNPA from \$35,116 to \$42,139.

- Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve has a strong relationship with its cooperating association, Western National Parks Association (WNPA). In Fy03, we anticipate ISA funding (based on our sales in FY02. Both sales and visitation declined in FY02 compared to 2001) of about \$18,500, publications support

for the reprint of a local history publication, and staff support of our full-time area manager and two sales assistants. We've also requested support for a research project and a second publications project, and are awaiting a decision.

### **III. RESOURCES FOR ACCOMPLISHING THE WORK**

Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve's annual goals for FY 2003 will be accomplished using a base operating budget of approximately \$1,455,000. Our workforce totals 24 permanent full-time and permanent subject-to-furlough positions (17.06 FTE) and 13 seasonal positions (4.35 FTE). This work force will be supplemented by over 10,000 hours of Volunteers-in-Parks and Student Conservation Assistants service.

The park staff of 24 permanent employees is led by a Superintendent, organized into five operating divisions: Resource Management, Interpretation and Visitor Services, Visitor and Resource Protection, Maintenance, and Administration. Expertise and specialties on the permanent staff include Park Rangers, one Geologist, one Ecologist, one Education Specialist, one Resource Management Specialist, an Intake Student in Resources Management, and a Facility Manager. Administration staff includes the Administrative Officer and an Administrative Technician. In 2004, there are 13 seasonal (temporary) employees with 4 working in fee collection (one part-time), 2 in interpretation (one part time), 4 in visitor and resource protection, and 3 in Maintenance. This staffing level will be supplemented and/or supported this year using special project funds, contracts, and/or the assistance or expertise of various NPS and other organizations as available.

Additional specific assistance in achieving the park's FY2003 annual goals will be provided by the National Park Service's Intermountain Support Offices in Denver and Santa Fe. We have found it invaluable to collaborate in everything from staff training, project planning and completion, resources and resource knowledge with the following organizations and individuals:

Friends of the Dunes, Adams State College, Colorado State University, Western National Parks Association, Great Sand Dunes Oasis, Rocky Mountain Bison/Medano Ranch, Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, National Parks and Conservation Association, Alamosa and Monte Vista Chambers of Commerce, City of Alamosa, Alamosa County Tourism Development Board, Alamosa and Saguache County Commissioners, State Historic Preservation Office, San Luis State Park, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, USDA US Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI Bureau of Reclamation, USDI US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other NPS park areas. We deeply appreciate the time, effort and dedication of all.

Park infrastructure for accomplishing the FY 2003 annual goals includes one visitor center with interpretive exhibits, Western National Parks Association book display area, information and sales desk, offices and a separate restroom building. Two major construction projects will occur in 2003, which will provide long-term benefits to park staff and visitors, but may generate some short-term headaches. Construction on an Environmental Education Room/Auditorium is now underway. Funded as a Fee Demonstration project, it will add about 1100 square feet of public space to the existing Mission 66

Visitor Center. As that project is completed, line item funded construction will begin to expand curatorial and office space, also at the Visitor Center. We expect both projects to significantly impact the building and WNPA bookstore, so are erecting a temporary Visitor Center and bookstore at the Dunes parking lot. Park operations will be adjusted to accommodate these changes with the least possible inconvenience to visitors.

Other facilities include one entrance station; one campground with 88 individual sites and three group sites, five comfort stations, one amphitheater and one pay station; one picnic area with two comfort stations; two self guided trails; 38 miles of hiking trails; 12 miles of paved and unpaved roadways; one central maintenance facility; a main park headquarters building; two potable water systems; one sewer lift station and fourteen housing units for protection and management of park resources.

#### NEW EXTERNAL FACTORS

In November 2000, President Clinton signed the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000, which authorized the expansion the national monument into a national park and preserve almost four times its original size. Implementation of the expansion is continuing but has not yet been completed. As of September 2002, all transfers from other federal agencies are complete, and a purchase contract has been signed between the owners of the Baca Ranch and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Closing is expected before April 2003, at which point the federal government, The Nature Conservancy, and the State of Colorado will hold the property in joint ownership. Public access will not be permitted until Congress appropriates reimbursement funding for the state and TNC, and ownership transfers to the United States. Numerous issues and needs relate to this change in size and designation, and much of work in 2003 and beyond will relate to incorporating them into park operations.

Great Sand Dunes is initiating the General Management Planning (GMP) process in 2003, and will consider the new areas as well as the older national monument. Part of the legislation established an Advisory Board to insure citizen involvement in the planning process. Upon completion of the GMP, the advisory Board will be disbanded.

#### **V. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN PREPARERS**

The following park staff members were involved in preparing this Annual Performance Plan:

Superintendent Steve Chaney and, in alphabetical order:

Jim Bowman, Chief Ranger

Fred Bunch, Chief of Resources Management

Barbara Irwin, Administrative Officer

Mark Seaton, Facility Manager

Carol Sperling, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services

Many thanks to an excellent working team!

Questions or comments about this plan? Please contact Carol Sperling, Great Sand Dunes National Monument GPRA Coordinator, at (719) 378-2312 ext. 223.