



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Great Sand Dunes  
National Park and  
Preserve

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## **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve**

### **News Release**

For Immediate Release  
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### **National Park Facilities and Services Open Despite Wildfire**

Visitor facilities at Great Sand Dunes National Park are open and operating as usual, despite the Medano Fire burning nearby, said Superintendent Art Hutchinson. “The campground, Visitor Center, dunes area and most of the trails are just like they always are,” he reported. To date, there has been very little smoke in the park and few impacts to most park visitors.

“Our biggest impact right now is probably the fact that the Medano Pass Primitive Road is closed,” he said. The Medano Pass Road, a 4WD road that crosses the Sangre de Cristo mountains northeast of the park’s Visitor Center, is closed from Castle Creek to State Highway 69, south of Westcliffe. Additionally, the northern portion of the Sand Ramp Trail and the back-country campsites it accesses in the northeast portion of the park is closed at Castle Creek, and the Mosca Pass Trail is open to day use only, as a precaution.

The park’s Visitor Center, daily ranger-guided interpretive programs, and the Pinyon Flats campground are all operating as scheduled. For campground reservations, call 877-444-6777 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). For information about the park, upcoming interpretive programs, or trip planning assistance, visit [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa) or call the Visitor Center at 719-378-6399. For information about the Medano Fire, visit [www.nps.gov/fire](http://www.nps.gov/fire) or [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)

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