National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK

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Mosca, Colorado 81146

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Superintendent's Compendium
Of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements and Other Restrictions Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

2014

Approved:

Lisa Carrico, Superintendent

4-17-14
Date

36 CFR § 1.5 -CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS

(a)(1) The following closures and public use limits are established for all or listed portions of the park to all public use or to a specific use or activity:

Closures

Public Entry:

The following areas are closed to public entry:

- The National Park Service (NPS) residential and maintenance shop area.
- The water tank road at the Pinon Flats Campground.
- Entering the national park from San Luis State Park and State Wildlife Area, from the Lane 6 North right-of-way, or from the Colorado State Highway 150 right-of-way unless accompanied by an authorized national park employee or contractor.

Determination: This restriction is intended to provide for the privacy and security of park residents by limiting entrance to the housing area to residents and their invited guests, employees, and contractors. Similarly, this restriction provides additional security for government facilities, vehicles, equipment, and other property kept at the NPS Maintenance Area.

The water tank road at the campground is for service use only.

Those areas of the national park accessible from the San Luis Lakes State Park and State Wildlife Area, Lane 6 North, or Colorado Highway 150 are closed to park entry for the following reasons: 1) Numerous sensitive archaeological sites have been documented in this area plus it is probable that there are additional undocumented sites. This area is well known in the local community for the abundance of artifacts present and has been targeted for collection as recently as 2010. 2) Much of the area is within an area zoned as "Guided Learning" as designated in the 2007 GRSA General Management Plan. This area was so zoned to protect sensitive archaeological resources and is intended for public visitation only when accompanied by an authorized park employee or contractor. 3) There are scattered parcels of private land within the park. This measure is intended to prevent unauthorized

trespass onto private land. 4) A private herd of bison ranges on an inholding and on government owned lands within the park. This measure is intended to prevent disturbance of privately owned livestock as well as protection of individuals from these unpredictable and dangerous animals. 5) A high voltage electric fence contains the bison herd and persons who come in contact with the fence could be seriously injured.

Camping:

The following areas are closed to overnight camping:

- The **No Camping Zone** as described below and as shown on the attached map.

  The ***No Camping Zone*** *(*excluding designated backcountry campsites and within designated sites at the Pinon Flats Campground) is defined as within a boundary line beginning where the southern park boundary intersects with the eastern Great Sand Dunes Wilderness boundary, then northeasterly along the wilderness boundary to a point due west of park headquarters, then westerly to the west bank of Medano Creek, then northerly to the top of the main ridge on the eastern front of the dune field, then following this ridgeline in a northerly direction to the juncture of Little Medano Creek and Medano Creek, then easterly to the wilderness boundary, then northeasterly along the wilderness boundary to the boundary between the park and Great Sand Dunes National Preserve, then southerly along the park/preserve boundary to the southeastern corner of the park, then westerly along the park boundary back to the beginning. A map depicting this area is attached.

- The entire Deadman Creek Riparian Corridor which is defined as all areas within the outer tree line along the streambed.

Determination: The No Camping Zone is the most frequented and popular area of the park. This restriction is intended to prevent unnecessary visual intrusions for day users and prevent additional resource impacts associated with camping, primarily waste disposal, sanitation, and degraded water quality. Designated campsites are established to concentrate campsite impacts to areas where such impacts can be managed and minimized.

The Deadman Creek riparian corridor is closed at least until potential resource impacts can be evaluated. Lower Deadman Creek has a riparian community different from the upper part of the creek, and includes a combination of juniper and cottonwood that is the largest of only ten occurrences of such a community in the state of Colorado. Deadman Creek also has fish and bat species which are rare, including the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and the pale-nosed bat.

Commercial Use Authorizations:

- Effective March 01, 2007 and until further notice no new Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA's) will be issued for commercial operations that utilize any backcountry area. Examples of such operations include, but are not limited to, guided hiking services, guided hunting services, horse rides, or services that pack in supplies and equipment using livestock. Backcountry is defined as those portions of the national park outside the 'no-camping zone' as shown on the attached map and defined in the Camping section above. This restriction does not apply to persons or businesses that held a CUA in 2006.

- The boundary between Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Baca-Grande subdivision is closed to entrance by any commercial entity and their clients.

Determination: This moratorium is established until a Wilderness Management/Backcountry Management Plan can be prepared as a supplement to the park's General Management Plan. Such a plan is necessary to assure protection of natural and cultural resources, implement management responsibilities, assure equitable allocation and use of the area, and avoid overuse or conflict among the various uses and users of the area.

Public Use Limits

Use of Segways and Similar Devices by Persons with Disabilities:

The following areas in Great Sand Dunes National Park are open to the use of Segways and similar devices by visitors with disabilities:

- Visitor Center, sidewalks, parking lots, Pinon Flats Campground, Mosca Creek Picnic Area, non-vegetated areas of the dunefield, park roadways, and that portion of the Liberty Road between the NPS boundary with the Baca Grande Subdivision on the north and the Rio Grande National Forest on the south, provided:
  - The person operating the Segway or similar device must be at least 16 years of age.
  - The maximum speed that the Segway or similar device is operated must not exceed 8 MPH while being operated in places other than along park roads.
  - Segway or similar device operators will yield the right-of-way to other pedestrians.

Determination: Per memorandum from the Director of the National Park Service dated May 24, 2007, the NPS has concluded that allowing the use of Segways and similar devices by individuals with mobility disabilities is compelled by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Department of the Interior's (DOI) regulations found at 43 CFR Part 17, Subpart E. DOI regulations acknowledge that there are limits to accessibility in the outdoor environment. The NPS believes that the use of Segways and similar devices by persons with disabilities may be appropriate in certain locations but may not be in others. Because of topography, surface characteristics, and other attributes, these devices are suitable for use in the areas described above subject to the described conditions which are intended to provide for the safety of the operator and other visitors. All other locations not listed above are not open to Segways and similar devices because of the nature of the terrain which would render use of these devices unsafe for the operator and/or other visitors (such as gradient, narrowness of trails, stream crossings, rocky ledges, or drop-offs) or could cause resource damage (such as to vegetation along trail-sides because the wheel width of the Segway is larger than the trail width).

Camping group size limits:

- The group size limit for all wilderness and other backcountry areas of the park is 6 persons. Additionally, groups with livestock may have up to 6 animals per group.

- The group size limit in Loops 1 and 2 of the Pinon Flats Campground is 8 persons or one immediate family (defined as parents and children) per site.
- The group size limit in Loops 3 of the Pinon Flats Campground is: site A 20-40; site B 20-40; and site C 15-20.

Determination: Group size limits are set to minimize or prevent undue impacts to individual campsites and surrounding areas; to prevent campsites from growing to prevent the increase of social trails; to prevent intrusions on other visitors enjoying backcountry or campground experiences; and to manage human waste accumulations in backcountry areas, thereby protecting water quality.

Vehicles in Pinon Flats Campground:

- Only two vehicles are allowed in the parking spaces for any campsite in Loops 1 and 2 of the Pinon Flats Campground. A trailer of any type or a motorcycle is counted as a vehicle for the purposes of this section.

Recreational vehicles/camper trailers are not allowed to be parked in the group loop (Loop 3) of Pinon Flats Campground.
Determination: The parking spaces for individual campsites in Loops 1 and 2 are limited in size. This limitation is intended to prevent extra vehicles from being parked in a manner so as to extend out into the roadway and present a traffic hazard and to prevent resource damage from individuals parking off the paved area and on vegetation. Finally, this limitation is published on the www.recreation.gov website which is the internet location for campers to use to reserve campsites in the campground and we must enforce this limitation per agreement.

RV's and camper trailers are not allowed because the group loop is identified as a tent camping area only and none of the parking spaces available are configured for RV or camper trailer parking.

Number of Tents

- All tents and sleeping covers used by a group at a campsite must fit on the established tent pads provided by the NPS.
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- *Determination: This restriction is intended to minimize impacts within the campground.*

Camping Overnight stays:

- The overnight stay limit within the park for all persons, groups, and organizations is 14 consecutive days and 21 total days per calendar year. This limit does not apply to holders of Commercial Use Authorizations or their employees who are conducting business operations under the terms and conditions of the company's CUA, but it does apply to their clients.

Determination: Overnight stay limitations are a 'standard industry practice' to ensure the equitable use and allocation of campsites and campground facilities.

(Refer also to § 2.10, Camping, on page 8 for other regulations relating to campground and backcountry area camping.)

Hunting camps:

- Hunting camps are not allowed within any backcountry/wilderness area of the park. A hunting camp is defined as a campsite occupied by one or more persons who are conducting, or intend to conduct, any hunting activities.

  Determination: Hunting is not allowed within Great Sand Dunes National Park. This restriction is intended to protect the wildlife residing within the park and to prevent giving others the mistaken idea that hunting is allowed.

Glass Containers

The use of glass containers in the wilderness area is prohibited.

Determination: This restriction is intended to prevent broken glass containers in an area where visitors frequently go barefooted.

Medano Pass Primitive Road

The Medano Pass Primitive Road is closed to motor vehicle traffic during those periods: When stream crossings become hazardous due to weak ice or excessive runoff; snow accumulations make travel hazardous or may result in motorists traveling off-road in an attempt to bypass snowdrifts;when muddy and wet conditions may result in road damage or motorists traveling off-road in an attempt to bypass muddy sections; when the road washes out due to flooding or landslide; or when hazard trees have fallen across the road.

Determination: During the late fall or early winter when stream crossings begin to ice over an ice condition often results wherein the ice cannot support the full weight of a vehicle. During this time one or two wheels of the vehicle may break through causing the wheel or wheels to get stuck behind a ledge of ice from which it is impossible to get out without significant help. Closing the road at these times is intended to protect drivers who may get stuck at remote crossings during cold weather.

Snow accumulations can cause the road to become impassable, thereby presenting a safety hazard should motorists become stuck. Patrol resources are limited and stuck motorists may not be discovered for days. Also, experience has shown that many motorists will attempt to drive off road around snowdrifts so this measure will prevent associated off-road travel impacts.

During spring snowmelt or warm periods the road frequently becomes very muddy and snowmelt often runs down or across the roadway. During these periods vehicle traffic can cause damage to the road in the form of rutting or by causing runoff to cause additional erosion. This temporary closure is intended to minimize road damage. Also, during runoff, stream flows may reach a point where vehicles could be swept downstream when attempting to cross.

Due to fires in the area thunderstorms can cause flooding that create debris flows that cover the road making it impassable due to rocks, dirt and trees. In the same area the fires have created areas of dead standing trees. Winds from thunderstorms cause these trees to fall across the road.

Motor and Non-motorized Vehicles:

The following roads are closed to the use of two-wheel drive vehicles:

- The Medano Pass Primitive road between the *Point of No Return* and the park/preserve boundary.

Determination: The Medano Pass Primitive road traverses a section of soft, deep, sand that frequently results in even four- wheel drive vehicles becoming stuck. Much of the road is also only one lane in width. When vehicles become stuck, traffic can be obstructed until the roadway is cleared. This restriction is intended to prevent two wheel drive motorists from becoming stuck with the subsequent inconvenience to them and other motorists, as well as preventing them from incurring costly tow bills. This restriction may also prevent damage to private property that may occur while trying to free a stuck vehicle, and damage to natural resources as other motorists may travel off road to get around the stuck vehicle.

The following roads are closed to the use of motorized and non-motorized vehicles, including bicycles and livestock or human drawn carts, wagons, sleighs, or sleds except for administrative use:

- All roads within the Baca Unit.
- All roads located on lands now owned by the National Park Service but which were formerly administered by the Bureau of Land Management prior to November 22, 2000.
- All roads located on lands now owned by the National Park Service but which were formerly owned and administered by the State of Colorado prior to December 14, 2009.

Determination: Until future management actions are approved in accordance with the 2007 General Management Plan, these roads are closed to public vehicle use to ensure that non-conflicting, inappropriate, or resource degrading activities do not occur.

Overnight parking

Overnight parking (excluding registered campers in Pinon Flats Campground) is prohibited in all areas of the park except for the following locations upon condition that the owner/operator has obtained a Backcountry Use Permit and associated trailhead parking pass:

- Amphitheater Parking Lot
- Horse Trailer Parking Lot
- Dunes Overlook Trailhead
- Point Of No Return Trailhead
- Montville Trailhead
- Headquarters Parking Lot (during the off-season period between Labor Day and Memorial Day only)
- Sand Ramp Trailhead

Determination: Reasonable accommodation for visitors engaged in overnight backcountry trips for which a Backcountry Use Permit has been issued. Parking spaces are limited at each of these areas so, in order to provide fair allocation, permits must be obtain beforehand.

Picnicking

The Pinon Flats Campground is open to picnicking only during the period of October 1st – April 30th.

Determination: During this period there are adequate campsites available for both picnickers and campers. However, during the period of May 1- September 30, the campground is often near capacity. This limitation is instituted in order to prevent persons who are not intending to camp from occupying a site for an unreasonable amount of time or discouraging would-be campers from using the campground.

Animals or livestock that may be ridden

Horse, mules, burros, and llamas are designated as authorized for riding within the national park.

Determination: The animals listed have historically and traditionally been ridden within the area now encompassed by the national park. All other animals capable of being ridden have neither a traditional presence in the area nor have they been evaluated for the possibility of being a disease vector to wildlife.

(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:

Camping

Please refer to §2.10 of this compendium for specific camping area designations.

Pets

Please refer to §2.15 of this compendium for specific pet area designations.

36 CFR § 1.6 –PERMITS

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the superintendent is required:

§ 2.1 Wood Sales/Collection
§ 2.2 Wildlife Protection
- (d) Transport lawfully taken wildlife

§ 2.4 Weapons, Traps, and Nets
- (d) Carry or possess a weapon (non-firearm), trap, or net

§ 2.5 Research Specimens
- (a) Collect or take plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals

§ 2.10 Camping
(a) Camp in the Pinon Flats Campground or backcountry camping in wilderness and non-wilderness portions of the park§ 2.12 Audio Disturbances
- (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas
- (a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51

§ 2.17 Aircraft and Air Delivery
- (a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter, or other airborne means
- (c)(1) Removal of downed aircraft

§ 2.23 Recreation Fees
- (b) Special recreation activities

§ 2.37 Noncommercial Soliciting
- Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods, or services

§ 2.38 Explosives
- (a) Use, possess, store, or transport explosives or blasting agents
- (b) Use or possess fireworks

§ 2.50 Special Events
- (a) Conduct a sports event, pageant, regatta, public sector attraction, entertainment, ceremony, and similar events

§ 2.51 Public Assemblies, Meetings
- (a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades, and other public expressions of views

§ 2.52 Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter
- (c) Sale or distribute printed matter provided it is not solely commercial advertising

§ 2.60 Livestock Use and Agriculture
- (b) Livestock use

§ 2.61 Residing on Federal Lands
- (a) Residing on park lands

§ 2.62 Memorialization
- (b) Scattering human ashes

§ 4.11 Load, Weight, and Size Limits
- (a) Exceeding established vehicle load, weight, and size limits

§ 5.1 Advertisements
- Display, posting, or distribution

§ 5.3 Business Operations
- Engaging in or soliciting any business (requires permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations)

§ 5.5 Commercial Photography
- (a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings, or crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television
- (b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising

§ 5.7 Construction of Buildings or Other Facilities
- Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, paths, structures, etc.

§6.9 Permits
- (a) Operation of a solid waste disposal site

36 CFR § 1.7(b) – PUBLIC NOTICE

Closed Circuit Television Policy: The National Park Service's use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) for law enforcement and security purposes will only be to visually monitor public park areas and public activities where no constitutionally protected reasonable expectation of privacy exists. Such CCTV use – which will have adequate privacy and First Amendment safeguards – will be to help ensure public safety and security; facilitate the detection, investigation, prevention, and deterrence of terrorist attack and crime; help insure the safety of citizens and officers; help assist in the proper allocation and deployment of law enforcement and safety resources; help facilitate the protection of the innocent and the apprehension and prosecution of criminals.

This policy does not restrict the official use of CCTV in government administrative areas including administrative buildings, jail holding facilities, revenue collection sites, etc., where the government may record/monitor its facilities. For example, the government may perform unrestricted video/audio recording at revenue collection points (entrance stations, visitor center counters, etc.). This policy does not restrict the use of Mobile Audi/Video Recording Equipment (MVAR) in patrol vehicles driven by commissioned rangers; that use is addressed by other policy documents.

36 CFR § 2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(a)(4) Dead wood on the ground that is less than four (4) inches in diameter may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the park in the following areas:

- Within ¼ mile of the Sawmill Canyon and Sand Creek backcountry campsites that have fire grates provided.

Determination: Adequate quantities of dead and down wood exist to provide fuel for campfires in these areas without causing significant negative resource impacts. Wood that is less than four inches in diameter can be easily sawn or broken into manageable pieces and help ensure that firewood is burned completely. This requirement also reduces smoldering and subsequent fire hazards associated with larger pieces.

(c)(1) The following fruits, berries, or nuts may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption:

- Pinon nuts
- Edible Mushrooms
- Currants
- Gooseberries
- Raspberries
- Strawberries

(c)(2)(i) Quantities of designated fruits, berries, or nuts that may be gathered by one person during a calendar year is as follows:

- Pinon nuts – 1 gallon
- Currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries – 1 quart each
- Mushrooms – 2 pounds

Determination: Adequate quantities of the named fruits exist to allow for personal use in the designated quantities without causing undue competition with wildlife for their food needs.

36 CFR § 2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(a)(2) All Park areas are closed to the use of elk bugles, varmint calls, audio attractions or other artificial or natural means of attracting or disturbing wildlife, including rattling antlers or verbal imitations.

(d)(1) Conditions for retrieval of legally hunted and wounded wildlife which enters the national park:

- Under no circumstances may a hunter pursue and shoot wildlife in the national park.
- Hunters must contact the park immediately if they wound an animal and it enters the national park.
- If an animal dies inside the national park as the result of being legally shot and wounded outside the national park, a park ranger will determine if the animal's carcass can be tagged and removed from the park by the hunter.
- If a wounded animal enters the national park, the hunter may be requested by a park ranger to show the location outside the national park from which the animal was shot.
- Hunters must present their park registration, hunting license, carcass tag, and driver's license upon request of any park ranger.
- Hunters will be responsible for the removal of the animal as directed by a park ranger. In most cases, the entire animal must be removed from the park. In cases where the animal is field dressed within the national park, no part of the animal will be left within 200 yards of a trail, foot path, water source, roadway, parking lot, campground or other developed area.
- With the exception of signed Federal facilities, such as visitor centers and other buildings containing park employees that are open to the public, hunters may carry loaded firearms into the national park, however, bows and other hunting weapons are only permitted within Animal Transport Corridors only.

(d)(1)(i) Wildlife legally taken outside the park in accordance with Colorado hunting laws and regulations, and properly tagged and identified, may be transported through the park via the following:

- Highway 150 (Entrance Road) through the park from the Pinon Flats Campground to the southern boundary.
- Medano Road from the national preserve to the Pinon Flats Campground.
- Animal Transport Corridors, located at Liberty Trail, Sand Ramp Trail North of the Medano Road and North of Point of No Return to the Preserve Access Point.
- Hunters must pay all applicable entrance fees.

- Hunters must register on website at www.nps.gov/grsa/hunting.htm or at the south entrance station on Hwy 150.

(d)(1)(ii) Conditions of Transport through Liberty Corridor:

- Hunters must have been register on line or at the Hwy 150 park entrance station in order to transport legally taken game through the park.
- Registered hunters are ***not*** required to contact the park prior to transporting legally taken game through the Park on the Liberty Trail Access Corridor.
- Hunters must provide their hunting license, carcass tag and driver's license information when registering for hunting and/or produce their hunting license, carcass tag and driver's license information when requested by a park ranger.
- ***With the exception of firearms***, hunters must possess only weapons that meet the definition of "unloaded" during cross-park transport (36 CFR 1.4 – "Bows, crossbows, spear guns or any implement capable of discharging a missile or similar device by means of a loading or discharging mechanism, when that loading or discharging mechanism is not charged or drawn.")
- Transporting in a vehicle: Upon condition that the game carcass is not readily visible.

(d)(1)(iii) Conditions of Transport through Sand Ramp Trail:

- Hunters must have been register on line or at the Hwy 150 park entrance station in order to transport legally taken game through the park.
- Hunters must notify the park *prior* to transporting legally taken game through any animal transport corridor.
- Hunters must provide their hunting license, carcass tag and driver's license information when registering for hunting and/or produce their hunting license, carcass tag and driver's license information when requested by a park ranger.
- ***With the exception of firearms***, hunters must possess only weapons that meet the definition of "unloaded" during cross-park transport (36 CFR 1.4 – "Bows, crossbows, spear guns or any implement capable of discharging a missile or similar device by means of a loading or discharging mechanism, when that loading or discharging mechanism is not charged or drawn.")

(d)(1)(iii) Conditions of Transport through Front Country Hunting Transport (Medano/Hwy 150) Corridor:

- Hunters must have been register on line or at the Hwy 150 park entrance station in order to transport legally taken game through the park.
- Hunters must notify the park *prior* to transporting legally taken game through any animal transport corridor.

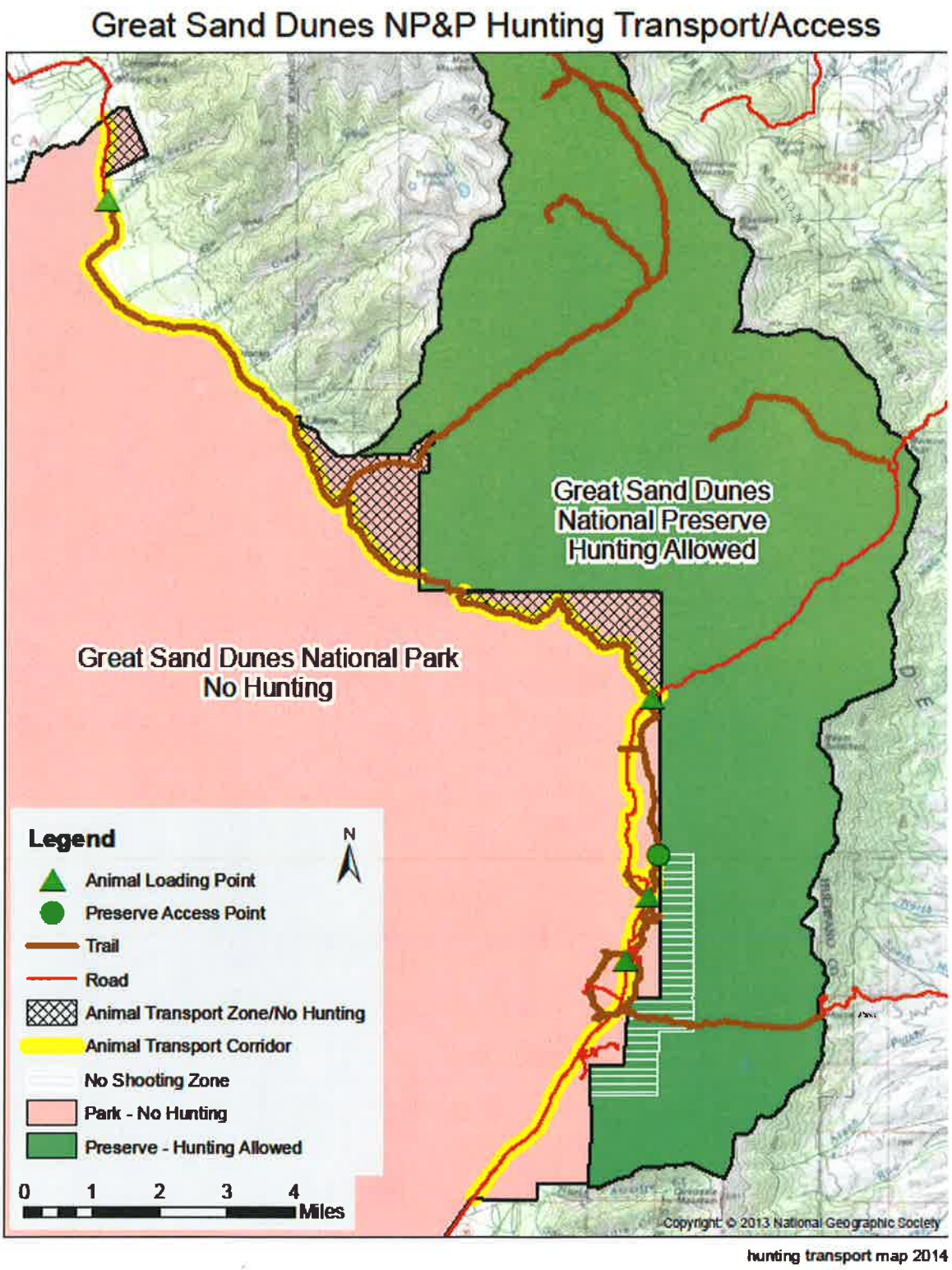
- Hunters must provide their hunting license, carcass tag and driver's license information when registering for hunting and/or produce their hunting license, carcass tag and driver's license information when requested by a park ranger.

- ***With the exception of firearms***, hunters must possess only weapons that meet the definition of "unloaded" during cross-park transport (36 CFR 1.4 – "Bows, crossbows, spear guns or any implement capable of discharging a missile or similar device by means of a loading or discharging mechanism, when that loading or discharging mechanism is not charged or drawn.")

- Transporting in a vehicle or on horseback: Upon condition that the game carcass is not readily visible.

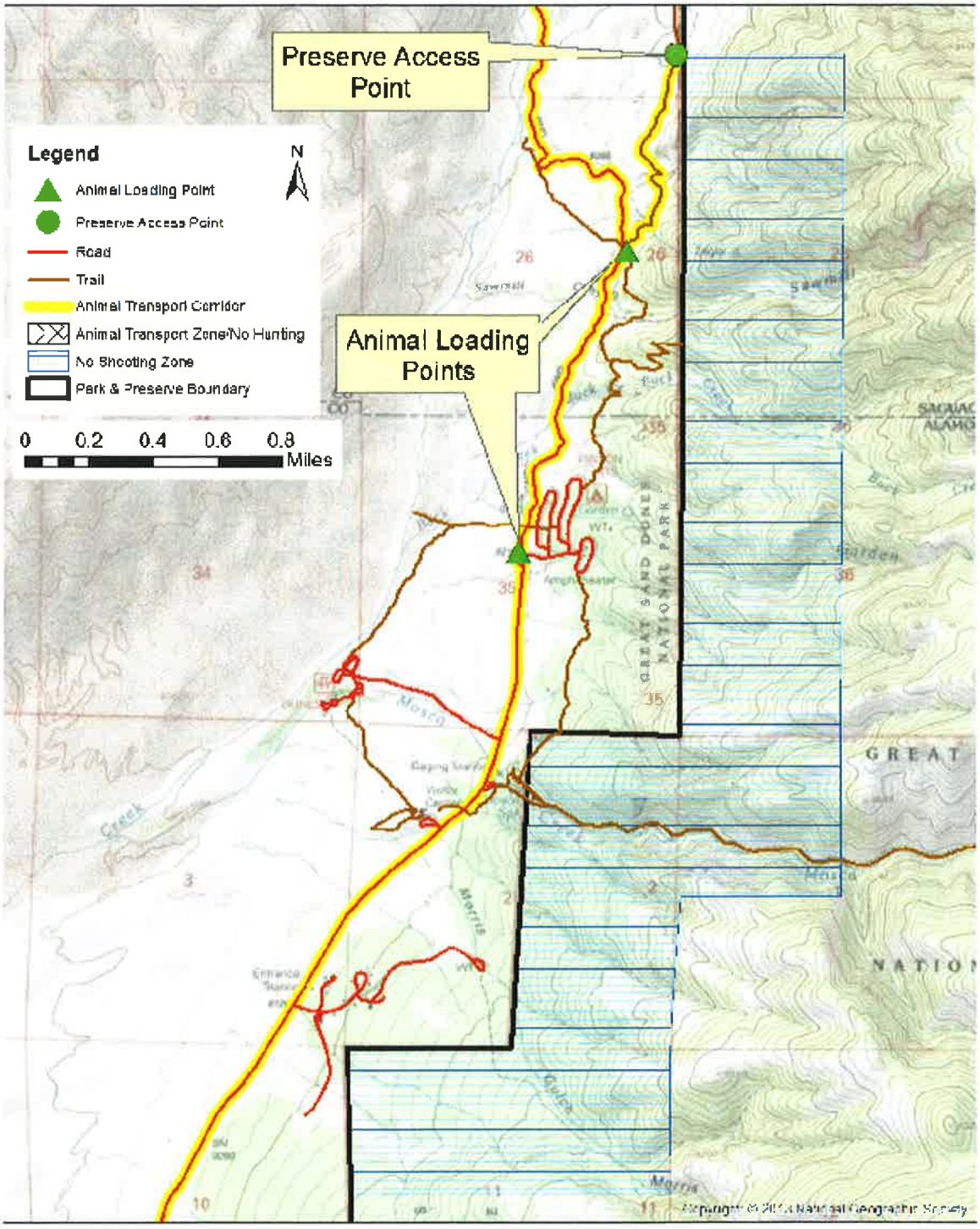
See Maps

Determination: Adjacent to the park are lands on which it is lawful to hunt but the only reasonable way to access these areas is by traveling through the park, either on foot or horseback. Requiring hunters to register is a mechanism by which park can better monitor access areas and game transport through the park and assist managers in monitoring and quantifying this particular activity. Notification of transport is required in all areas except for the Liberty Transport Corridor. Transport od carcasses in vehicles and horseback are required that the animals not be readily visible is intended to prevent causing alarm in other visitors.



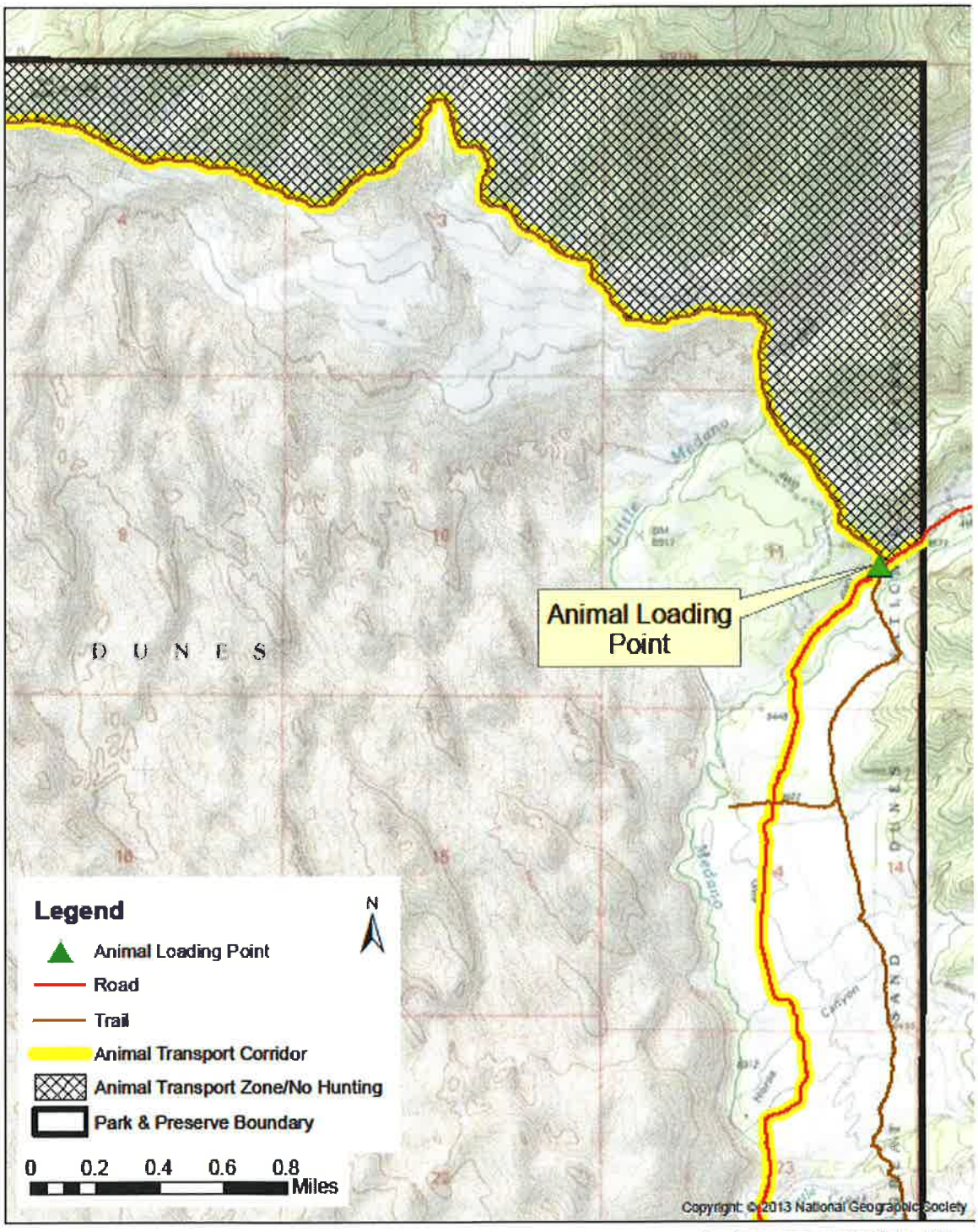
hunting transport map 2014

Front Country Hunting Transport/Access



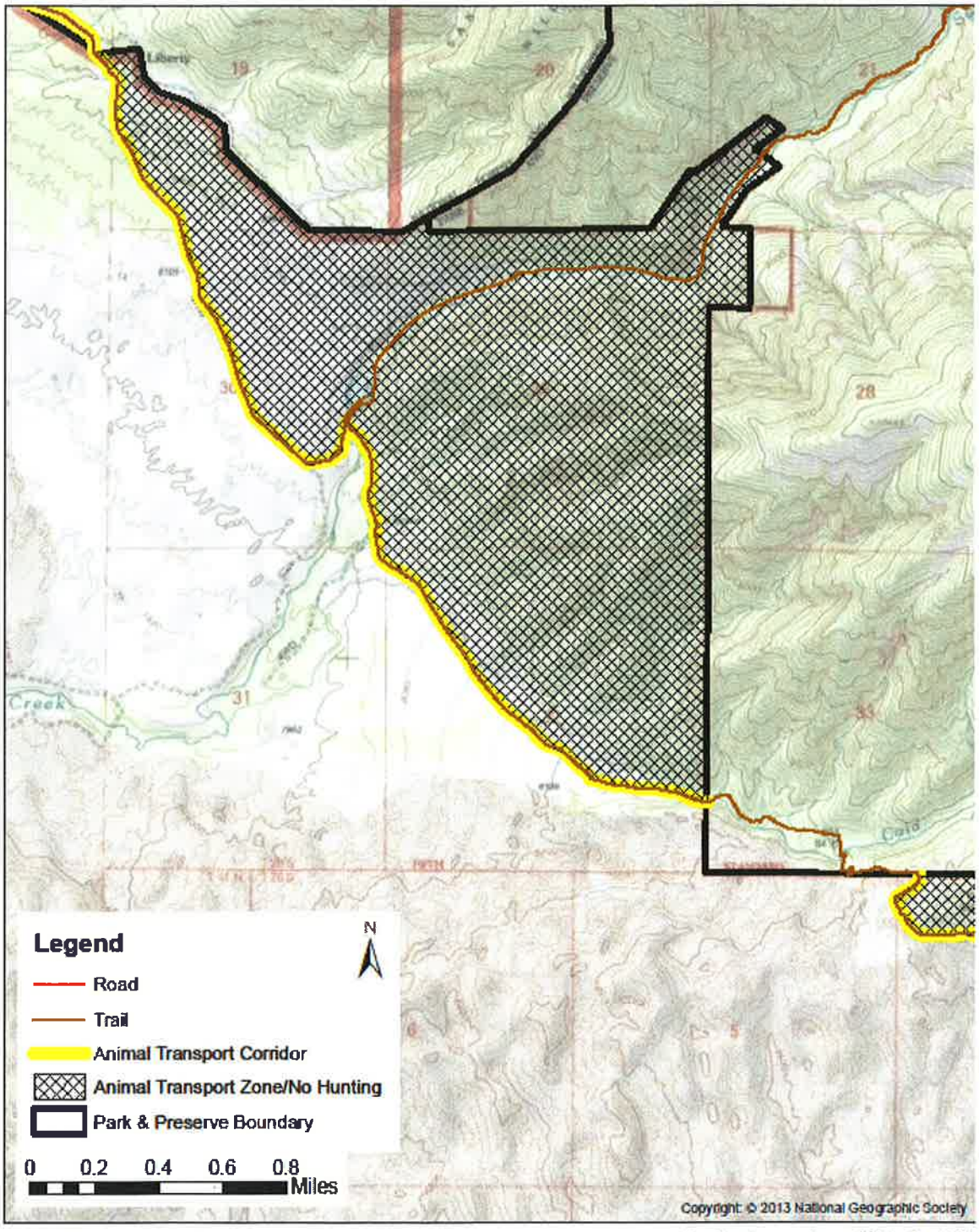
hunting transport map 2014 - central

Northeast Sand Ramp Hunting Transport/Access



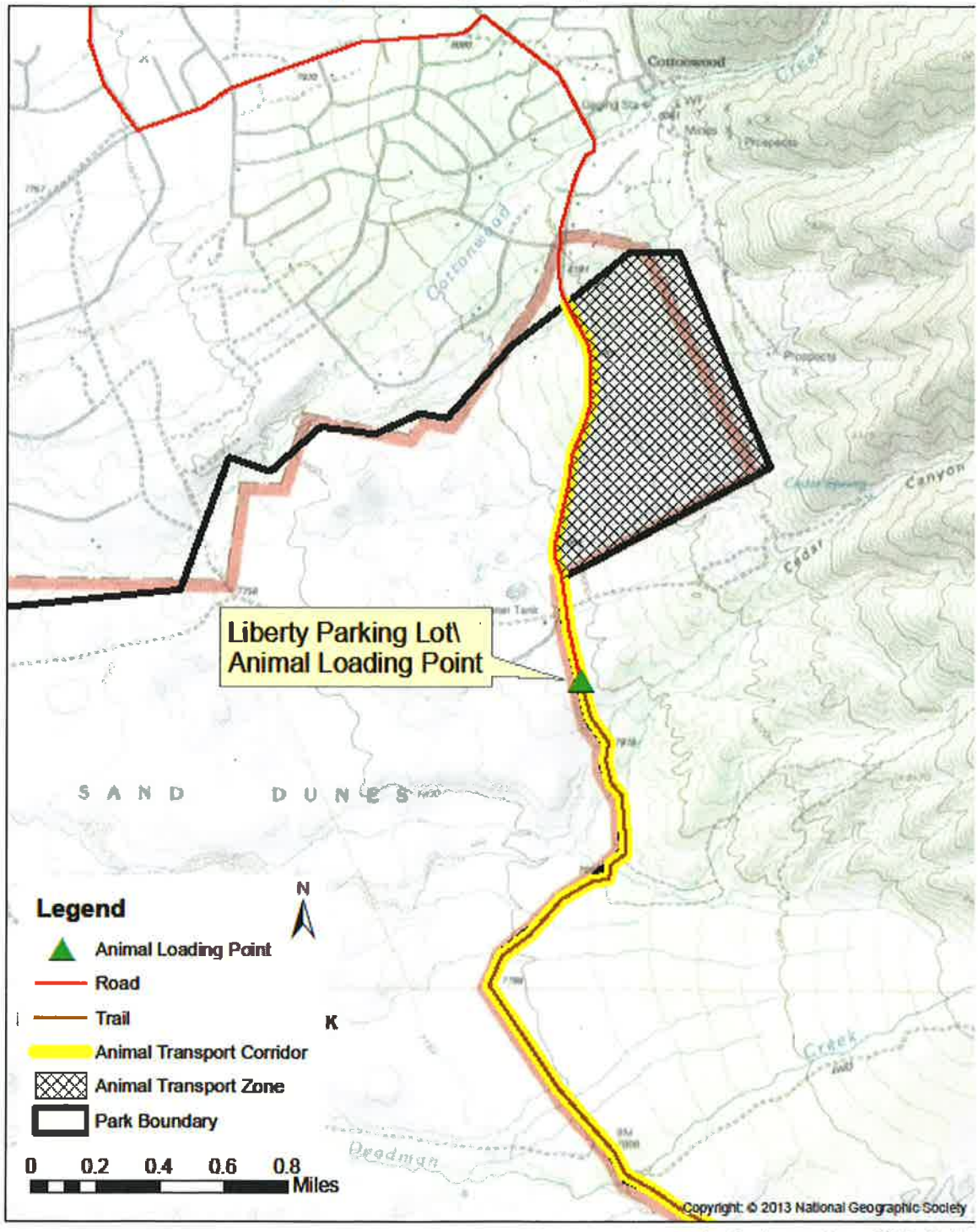
hunting transport map 2014 - NE

Sand Creek Hunting Transport/Access



hunting transport map 2014 - Sand Ck

Liberty Hunting Transport/Access



hunting transport map 2014 - North

(e) The following areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light:

- All areas within the park.

Determination: This closure is intended to prevent frightening or disturbing wildlife engaged in their normal activities and maintain natural lighting conditions for wildlife to the extent possible. It is also intended to prevent using light as an aid in the unlawful taking of wildlife and to maintain natural darkness for the enjoyment of other visitors.

36 CFR § 2.10 - CAMPING

(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping. A permit system has been established for camping areas and camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:

Pinon Flats Campground:

- A permit is required to camp. During the period of May 4 through September 9 the permit may be obtained through the on-line reservation system or from the campground ranger station. During the off season period of September 7 through May 2 the permit may be obtained on a self registration basis from the campground kiosk. The permit must be obtained, paid for, and posted at the campsite within 30 minutes of arrival.
- Tents must be pitched within tent pads provided or, where no tent pad has been constructed, within the rock walls.
- No more than two vehicles may be parked at an individual campsite. Each vehicle must be parked entirely on the paved driveway or parking space and clear of the traffic loop. Extra vehicles may be parked at the amphitheater parking lot provided a note is left on the dashboard indicating which site the vehicle is associated with.
- Generators must be turned off during the period between 8:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M.
- Portable showers are allowed provided all used water is captured and disposed of properly at a comfort station wastewater disposal sink.
- Checkout time is 1:00 p.m.

Determination: These requirements are intended to provide for the equitable use and allocation of campsites and campground facilities, prevent undue impacts or wear and tear to campsites, prevent undue intrusions on other visitors, and help manage and maintain campground facilities.

Wilderness areas:

- A backcountry use permit, available at the Visitor Center, is required to camp in the wilderness portion of the park.
- Camping along the Sand Ramp Trail is allowed only at designated backcountry campsites, namely:
    - Little Medano Campsite
    - Aspen Campsite
    - Cold Creek Campsite
    - Sand Creek Campsite
- Camping is prohibited within:
    - ¼ mile of the Sand Ramp Trail (except at designated campsites), or any park roads. Campsites beyond ¼ mile must also be out of sight from trails and roads.
    - The designated *NO CAMPING ZONE* as described in Section 1.5 above.

Non-wilderness areas:

- A backcountry use permit, available at the Visitor Center, is required to camp in the non-wilderness portion of the park.
- Camping along the Sand Ramp Trail is allowed only at designated backcountry campsites, namely:
  - Sawmill Canyon Handicapped Accessible Campsite
  - Buck Creek Campsite
  - Escaped Dunes Campsite
  - Indian Grove Campsite
- Tents or sleeping areas must be within fifty (50) feet of the brown arrowhead post at these campsites.

Determination: These requirements in wilderness and non-wilderness areas are intended to provide for the equitable use and allocation of backcountry campsites, inform visitors of regulations or leave-no-trace principles, and prevent unnecessary visual intrusion on other visitors hiking along the Sand Ramp or other trails. Designated campsites are established to concentrate campsite impacts to areas where such impacts can be managed and minimized.

(d) Except while being consumed or being prepared for consumption, food and lawfully taken fish, plus toiletries, garbage, and equipment used to cook or store food, must be kept sealed in a vehicle, or in a camping unit that is constructed of solid, non-pliable material, or suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet horizontally from a post, tree trunk, or other object, or in provided bear-proof storage lockers in the following areas:

- All areas within the park.

Park rangers may inspect all unattended items that have the appearance of being used for food storage, food preparation, or food waste.

Determination: Bears and many other species of wildlife are found throughout the park. These requirements are intended to provide for the personal safety of visitors, prevent property damage, maintain cleanliness and sanitation, and prevent habituation of wildlife to human food sources thereby maintaining natural conditions.

36 CFR § 2.11 - PICNICKING

Conditions for picnicking:

The maximum time limit for parking or using a picnic table in the picnic area or at pullouts along the Medano Pass Primitive Road that have picnic tables provided is three hours, excluding persons who have reserved the South Ramada area of the picnic area.

Determination: This limitation provides for the fair and equitable use and allocation of limited picnic area facilities.

36 CFR § 2.13 - FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:

Designated Areas:

- Campfires are allowed only in provided fire grates in the Pinon Flats Campground or at the Sawmill Canyon and Sand Creek backcountry campsites.

Established Conditions:

- Only charcoal fires are allowed in the picnic area fire grates.

Determination: These designations and conditions are intended to prevent wildfires by restricting campfires to provided fire grates and prevent proliferation of fire pits. The picnic area has only pedestal grates which are intended only for charcoal fires to grill food.

36 CFR § 2.14 - SANITATION AND REFUSE

(a)(5) Designated fixtures for washing food, clothing, dishes, or other property:

- Outside sinks located at the comfort stations in the Pinon Flats Campground.

(b) Conditions for the disposal, containerization, or carryout of human body waste:

- Toilet paper must be carried out of backcountry and wilderness areas except where toilet facilities are provided.

- Human body waste shall be disposed of in the following manner:
  - Within the dune field – buried in one (1) inch of sand.
  - Within all other backcountry areas – buried in six (6) inches of soil at least 200 feet from any water source.

Determination: These designations and requirements are intended to maintain sanitary conditions for both humans and wildlife.

36 CFR § 2.15 - PETS

(a)(1) The following areas are *closed* to the possession of pets:

- All areas within the following zones as described in the 2007 General Management Plan (GMP) and shown on the GMP Preferred Alternative map: and also
  - Guided Learning
  - Backcountry Adventure (excluding the Sand Ramp Trail from Loop 2 in the Campground to Point of No Return, the Dunes Overlook Trail, and the Point of No Return to Sand Pit Trail).

- Natural/Wild

Stated conversely, pets *are allowed* in the following zones as described in the GMP plus the Sand Ramp Trail from Loop 2 in the Campground to Point of No Return, the Dunes Overlook Trail and Point of No Return to Sand Pit Trail:

- Frontcountry
- Dunes Play
- Backcountry Access
- Liberty Road Administrative Zone

The open and closed areas are also shown on the attached map titled "Where Can I Walk My Dog?"

Determination: This restriction is in accordance with a management action prescribed by the 2007 General Management Plan (GMP). The issue of dogs was raised in scoping prior to preparation of the GMP. After considerable discussion of visitor comments and environmental consequences, the planning team decided on a "middle ground" policy restricting dogs (leashes required) to the described zone. The action was approved by the Great Sand Dunes National Park Advisory Council.

(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed in accordance with the following conditions:

- Persons possessing pets in areas that are open to pets must remove pet excrement and deposit it in toilet facilities or dumpsters only.

(e) Pets may be kept by park residents under the following conditions:

- Park residents must adhere to the pet policy as established by the Superintendent.

36 CFR § 2.16 - HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

(a) The following are designated as pack animals:

- Horses
- Mules
- Burros, donkeys, asses
- Llamas

Determination: The listed animals are traditional pack animals, have historically been used in the area, or do not pose a threat as a disease vector to wildlife.

(b) The use of horses or pack animals is permitted on the following trails, routes, or areas:

- All trails and areas within the park except for the following:

  - The No Public Horse Use Zone as described below and shown on the attached map:

    The ***No Public Horse Use Zone*** is defined as the visitor center area; the main dune use area (that area within the no camping zone from the southern shore of Mosca Creek Island north to the 'Campground-to-

Dunes' trail); Picnic Area, Dunes Parking Lot; and the Pinon Flats Campground. A map depicting this area is attached. *Exception: For those riders who want to ride south from the horse trailer parking lot, horses may be ridden southerly between the park road and Medano Creek, then across Mosca Creek, and continuing southerly between the visitor center and Medano Creek until out of the No Public Horse Use Zone.*

- Visitor Center to Montville Parking Lot Trail
- Montville Nature Trail (excluding that portion of the trail which coincides with the Mosca Pass trail)
- Visitor Center to Picnic Area Trail
- Sand Sheet Loop Trail
- Wellington Ditch Trail
- Pinon Flats Trail
- The portion of the Sand Ramp Trail between the Dunes Overlook trailhead (Loop 2 in the campground) and Point of No Return trailhead, including the Buck Creek Campsite access trail.
- Dunes Overlook Trail
- Any paved road, except when crossing
- Deadman Creek riparian corridor

Determination: Horse and pack animal use in the park is a long-standing and appropriate recreational activity. The exceptions listed above are to prevent conflicts with other users, primarily pedestrians, in concentrated use areas and trails in the developed area. The Deadman Creek riparian corridor is closed at least until potential resource impacts can be evaluated. Lower Deadman Creek has a riparian community different from the upper part of the creek, and includes a combination of juniper and cottonwood that is the largest of only ten occurrences of such a community in the state of Colorado. Deadman Creek also has fish and bat species which are rare, including the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and the pale-nosed bat.

(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:

- Horses may be unloaded year-round only at the Horse Trailer or Montville parking lots. Riders offloading at Montville must move their horse trailers to the Horse Trailer or Amphitheater parking lot prior to conducting their ride. Horse trailers may be left overnight only at the Horse Trailer and Amphitheater lots provided an overnight parking pass has been obtained.
- Horses may also be unloaded at large turnouts south of the visitor center during the period of October 15 – April 30th. Trailers and towing vehicles may be left unattended at these turnouts during daylight hours only and may not be left overnight.
- Owners must shovel any manure into trailers at the parking area before and after riding.
- Horses, burros, mules, and llamas may cross the northern boundary between the park and the Baca-Grande subdivision only at the Liberty Gate trailhead.
- Horses and pack animals may be kept overnight only at the Little Medano, Aspen, Cold Creek, and Sand Creek backcountry campsites. Livestock must be picketed at least 100 feet away from the campsite marker post.
- Livestock must be picketed or corralled in a manner as to prevent damage to trees and pawing around tree trunks, grazing to an extent that plants are eaten to ground level or individual plants pulled up by the roots, denuding the area of vegetation by grazing or trampling, or causing other damage to natural or cultural resources.

- Livestock may also be kept overnight in wilderness portions of the park. Leave-no-Trace principles must be followed at all locations where stock is kept overnight.
- Stock must be fed weed-free hay at least 24 hours before entering the park. Only certified weed-free hay, grain, or processed pellets may be packed into the park's backcountry.

Determination: These conditions are intended to provide for the fair and equitable use and allocation of park facilities and areas, prevent conflicts with other users, help maintain park facilities, prevent damage to campsites, prevent damage to or degradation of natural resources, and prevent introduction or proliferation of invasive plant species.

36 CFR § 2.20 - SKATING AND SKATEBOARDS

The use of skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices is allowed only in the following areas:

- NPS residential area.
- Employee's parking lot at the Visitor Center except during hours when the Visitor center is open to the public.
- The north Dunes Parking Lot during the period of November 1st through March 15th.

Determination: These designations provide for safe areas and times during which such activities can be enjoyed without danger to the participant or others and other visitor activities will not be disrupted.

36 CFR § 2.21 - SMOKING

(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures, or facilities are closed to smoking:

- All buildings and facilities.

Determination: This restriction is intended to reduce the risk of fire in government facilities and provide for the comfort and health of employees and visitors.**CFR § 2.23 - RECREATION FEES**

(a) Recreation fees, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events, or specialized recreations uses:

Entrance Fee Areas: All persons age 16 years and older entering Great Sand Dunes National Park are subject to paying the $3.00 entrance fee except in the following cases:

- They are in possession of (or riding in the same private family vehicle as a person who possesses) a valid Interagency Annual Pass, Interagency Senior Pass or Interagency Access Pass.
- They obtain upon entering an Interagency Annual Pass, Interagency Senior Pass or Interagency Access Pass.
- They obtain a Great Sand Dunes Annual Pass, the price of which is $15. This pass has two signature lines for the purchaser and spouse or, if no spouse, one other person. The

pass is non-transferable and is valid for one year until the last day of the same month in which it was purchased. The pass may be used for entrance only and admits person/s as signed on the pass and accompanying passengers in a single, non-commercial vehicle. For per-person entrance fees in other circumstances, it admits person/s as signed, spouse, children, and parents.

Entrance permits issued upon receipt of the entrance fee amount are valid for seven (7) days from the date of purchase.

Commercial Vehicles

- Commercial passenger carrying vehicles are charged a flat rate according to vehicle capacity. Great Sand Dunes has been designated a Tier IV area. Interagency Annual Passes, Interagency Senior Passes or Interagency Access Passes possessed by passengers in a commercial vehicle do not qualify for entrance or reduced fees.

  - Motor coach (26+ passenger capacity) = $100
  - Mini-bus (16-25 passenger capacity) = $ 40
  - Van (7-25 passenger capacity) = $ 40
  - Van (1-6 passenger capacity) = $ 25 + $3 per passenger

Daily Site Use Fee Areas:

Pinon Flats Campground:

- Individual sites on loops 1 and 2 (campsites 1-88) are $20.00 per night per site.
- Loop 3, sites A, B, & C, are available on a reservation basis for larger groups. Rates are as follows:
  Sites A & B: $80.00, limit of 40 people per site.
  Site C: $65.00, limit of 30 people

36 CFR § 2.35 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to the consumption of alcoholic beverages and the possession of a bottle, can, or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or that has been opened, or whose seal is broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed:

- Any parking lot, pullout, or roadside area, **excluding** the picnic area , Pinon Flats Campground, or parking areas along the Medano Pass primitive road which have picnic tables provided.

Determination: The consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container is inappropriate considering other uses of these locations and the purposes for which they are maintained or were established, namely for short term use to view or visit the dunes and other park locations. They are not intended for picnicking and are frequented by other visitors, many with small children. This restriction is intended to prevent violation of other regulations regarding open containers in motor vehicles; prevent driving while impaired or under the influence of alcohol, prevent littering, and prevent those who would park in these areas for the express purpose of consuming alcoholic beverages, thus ensuring that traffic moves regularly through pullouts and short term parking areas.

36 CFR § 2.51 – PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS

(e) The locations available for public assemblies are designated as:

- Those areas shown on the attached map entitled "Public Assemblies Areas". These areas are described as:
    - At the visitor center parking lot the first three parking spaces immediately west of the handicapped space.
    - At the dunes parking lot, the first three parking spaces immediately south of the handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the Main Boardwalk.
    - At the amphitheater parking lot, the paved area within 50 feet of the tire air station.

Determination: These areas provide for First Amendment activities that are visible to the public while allowing for other visitor activities to proceed without disruption.

36 CFR § 4.21 SPEED LIMITS

(b) The following special speed limits are established:

- 35 mph in both directions along that portion of the Park Road known as the 'S-curves'.
- 30 mph along the northbound portion of the Park Road beginning ¼ mile south of the entrance station to the beginning of the posted 10 mph zone.
- 30 mph along the southbound portion of the park road beginning 300 feet south of the entrance station to the beginning of the posted 45 mph zone.
- 30 mph in both directions along that portion of the Park Road north of the entrance station to the intersection with the Medano Pass Primitive Road.
- 30 mph in both directions along the Dunes Lot Access Road.
- 10 mph in both directions along that portion of the Park Road within 300 feet of the entrance station.

Determination: The reduced speed limit along the 'S-curves' portion of the park road is intended to prevent recurrence of auto accidents, including roll-overs with injuries, that had occurred when the speed limit was set at 45.

The 30 mph zone for northbound traffic nearing the entrance station is intended to slow traffic prior to reaching the 10 mph zone.

The 30 mph zone north of the entrance station to the Medano Pass Primitive Road intersection is in an area with concentrated pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic with autos frequently pulling into and out of pullouts and parking lots along curves and hills with limited sight distance.

The Dunes Lot Access Road is relatively short with limited sight distance and autos frequently park along the roadway shoulders when the parking lot is full.

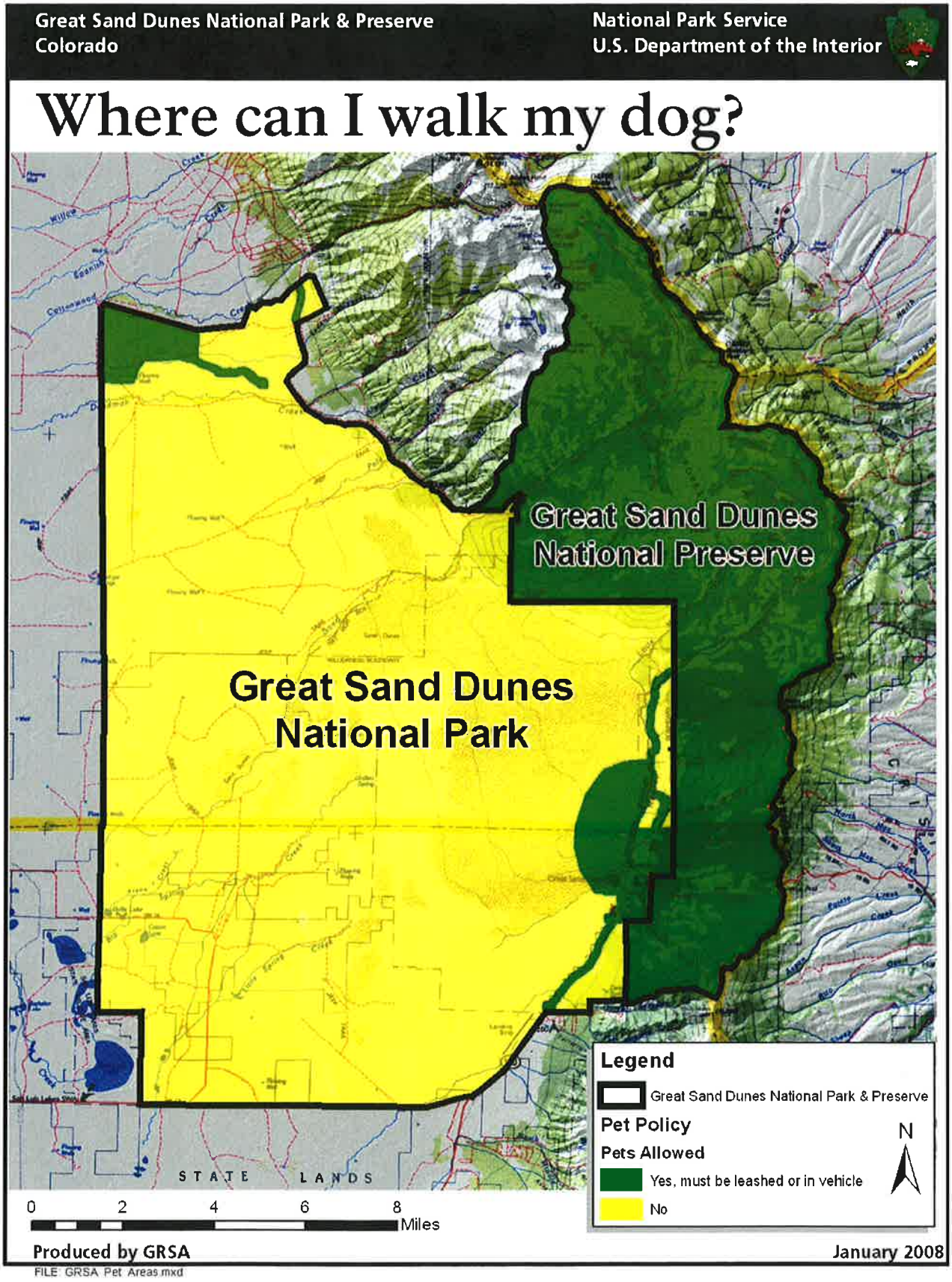
Visitors must stop at the entrance station when entering and leaving. Additionally, the northbound lane is constricted. This zone is established to slow traffic down in preparation for stopping.

36 CFR § 4.31 HITCHHIKING

Hitchhiking is allowed in the following areas:

- Along all roadways.

Determination: The park is remote from the nearest city served by public transportation and so other transportation options are not available to some visitors. Up to now hitchhiking has been an infrequent occurrence that has not presented any problems related to criminal activity, traffic obstruction, or other safety hazards.


Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Colorado
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Where can I walk my dog?
Great Sand Dunes National Preserve
Great Sand Dunes National Park
STATE LANDS
0 2 4 6 8 Miles
Legend
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Pet Policy
Pets Allowed
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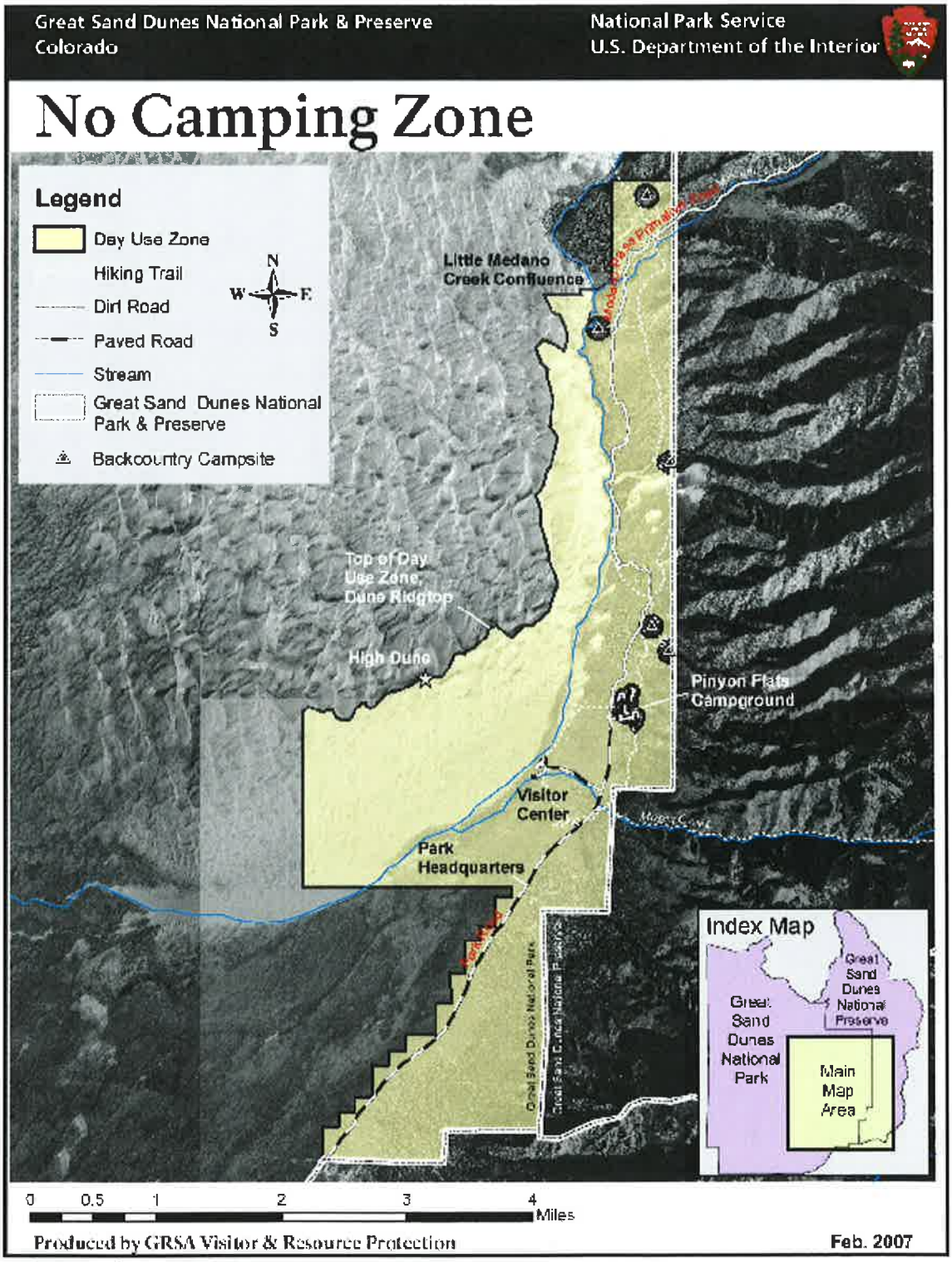
No
N
Produced by GRSA
January 2008
FILE: GRSA Pet Areas.mxd


Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Colorado
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
No Camping Zone
Legend
Day Use Zone
Hiking Trail
Dirt Road
Paved Road
Stream
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Backcountry Campsite
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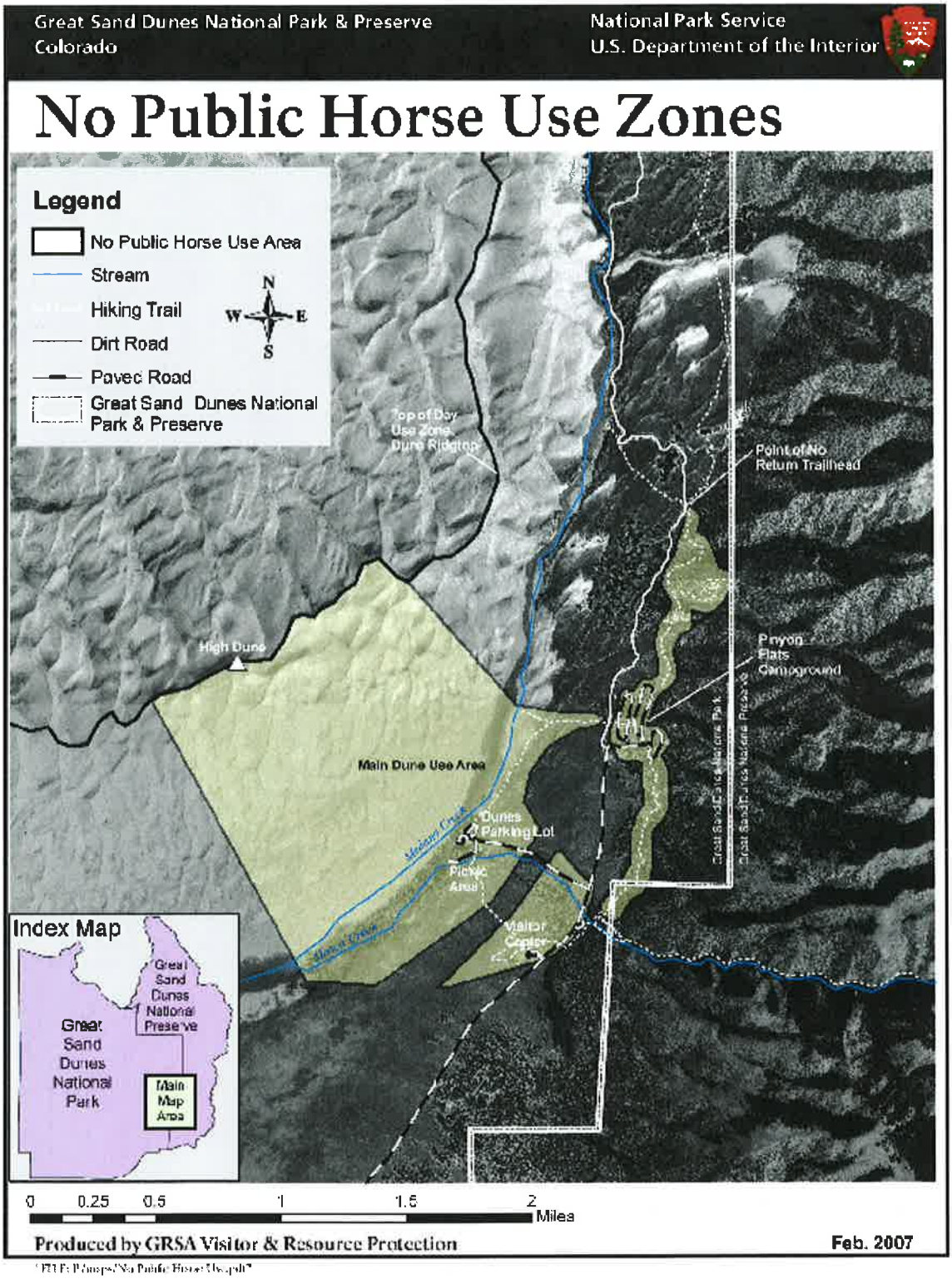
Little Medano Creek Confluence
Top of Day Use Zone, Dune Ridgtop
High Dune
Pinyon Flats Campground
Visitor Center
Park Headquarters
Index Map
Great Sand Dunes National Park
Great Sand Dunes National Preserve
Main Map Area
0 0.5 1 2 3 4
Miles
Produced by GRSA Visitor & Resource Protection
Feb. 2007


Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Colorado
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
No Public Horse Use Zones
Legend
No Public Horse Use Area
Stream
Hiking Trail
Dirt Road
Paved Road
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Top of Day Use Zone Dune Ridging
Point of No Return Trailhead
High Dune
Pinyon Flats Campground
Main Dune Use Area
Medano Creek
Dunes Parking Lot
Picnic Area
Visitor Center
Great Sand Dunes National Park
Great Sand Dunes National Preserve
Index Map
Great Sand Dunes National Preserve
Great Sand Dunes National Park
Main Map Area
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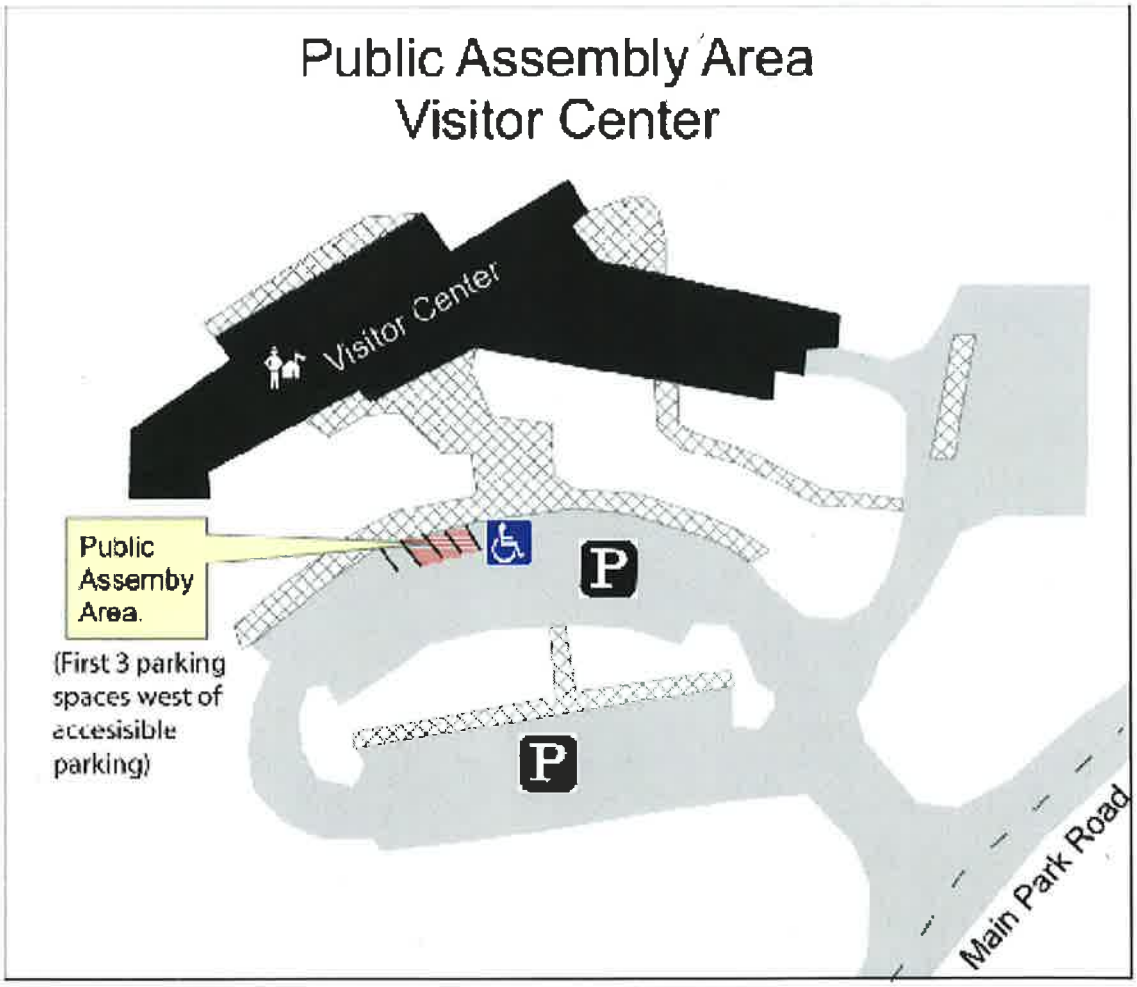
0.25
0.5
1
1.5
2
Miles
Produced by GRSA Visitor & Resource Protection
Feb. 2007

Great Sand Dunes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve

Public Assembly Area
Visitor Center



Legend

- Public Assembly Area
- Sidewalk
- Paved Area
- Visitor Center

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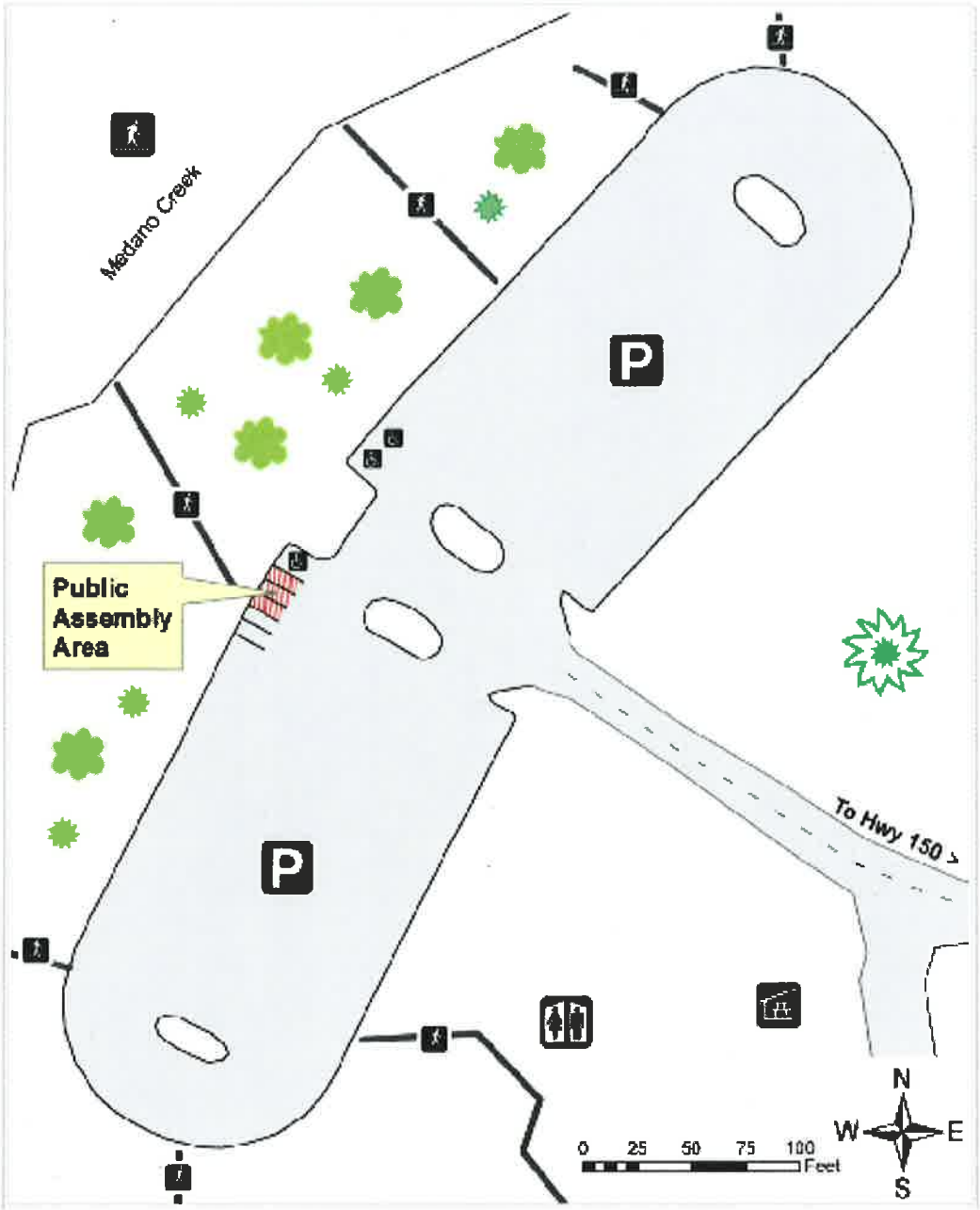
0 50 100 150 200 Feet

Great Sand Dunes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve

Public Assembly Area
Dunes Parking Lot