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White Sands News Release

For Immediate Release

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New Museum Exhibits and Film Unveiled at White Sands

Alamogordo, N.M. – For the first time in over 30 years, White Sands National Monument has installed all new museum exhibits in the park’s visitor center. The new state of the art exhibits tell the story of the geology of the world’s largest gypsum dune-field, the unique plants and animals that have adapted to it, and how humans have used White Sands throughout history. An all new high definition orientation film, entitled *A Land in Constant Motion*, complements the exhibits with stunning cinematography.

The exhibits – three years in the making – include interactive features for both children and adults. Kids can make tracks of kit fox and other animals in a sandbox, delve deeper into recent scientific discoveries through a touch screen computer, or explore the Tularosa Basin through a tactile three dimensional map. The exhibits are fully bilingual with English and Spanish text and are accessible for visitors with disabilities.

“Our new museum exhibits will help visitors better understand and connect with White Sands,” said Superintendent Kevin Schneider. “White Sands is a spectacular outdoor classroom and these museum exhibits represent a treasure trove of learning.”

The public is invited to a grand opening and ribbon cutting on August 3, 2011, at 3:00 pm. The grand opening will include the premier of the new orientation film and light hors d’oeuvres and refreshments. Children are invited to participate in the grand opening through Crafty Kids, a special ranger-led program in which kids will make their own kit fox puppets and earn a Junior Ranger badge.

Randy Granger, a Native American musician from Las Cruces, will also be performing his interpretation of traditional melodies and heartfelt music during an evening concert in the dunes to celebrate the new exhibits. The concert will begin at 7:00 pm August 3 at the evening program area in the Heart of the Dunes.

Both the gift store and the bookstore at the visitor center will also offer store-wide sales of 15% off for August 3 only. The visitor center will be until 8:00 pm for the day.

The exhibits were funded through revenue from the park’s entrance fees and gift store sales. The grand opening event is hosted in partnership with Western National Parks Association and White Sands Trading Company.