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## Full text:

 to discover the Great Sand Dunes were probably nomadic people. Long ago, these people followed herds of mammoths and prehistoric bison into the valley. They hunted • animals, gathered plant foods, and moved with the seasons. More recently however, the Ute, Apache, Navajo, and pueblo peoples camped and hunted in the San Luis ● Valley. Some of these tribes peeled ponderosa pine trees to use the inner bark for food. Scars are still visible on some pines today. The first known European ● visitors to the valley were Spanish explorers Don Diego de Vargas and later Juan Bautista de Anza. Over 200 years later, in 1806, as Lewis and Clark's expedition was returning • east, Zebulon Pike was sent to explore a more southerly route across America. Upon entering the valley, Pike was amazed to discover the sand dunes and wrote that he "ascended one of the largest hills of • sand." In the late 1800s, homesteaders began to make their homes near the dunes. Teofilo Trujillo raised sheep just west of the dunes. Ulysses Herard raised • cattle in mountain meadows east of the Dunes. The Wellingtons built their home just south of today's campground. By the 1920s, the dunes had become loved by many ● people of the San Luis Valley. Members of the Ladies PEO sponsored a bill to Congress asking for the creation of Great Sand Dunes National Monument. In 1932, • President Herbert Hoover signed the bill into law. Today, as a National Park and Preserve, almost 300,000 people visit Great Sand Dunes every year. Geologists, hydrologists, biologists, • and archaeologists also visit to learn more about the natural and human history of the Great Sand Dunes. Archaeologists believe the first people •