

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Why is Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve proposing to increase its entrance fees?**

Great Sand Dunes proposes to increase its entrance fees to align with a new entrance fee rate schedule developed by the National Park Service for parks throughout the United States.

### **What would entrance fees be under the proposal?**

Great Sand Dunes proposes to phase in the entrance fee increase over two years beginning no earlier than summer 2015. It also proposes new per vehicle and per motorcycle fees. The entrance fee changes and their implementation would be as follows:

	<b>Current</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Annual Great Sand Dunes Pass	\$15	\$30	\$40
Per Vehicle	n/a	\$15	\$20
Motorcycle	n/a	\$10	\$15
Per Person	\$3	\$7	\$10

### **What is the difference between the per person fee and the per vehicle and motorcycle fees?**

Under the proposed entrance fee schedule, vehicles and motorcycles would pay a “flat rate” entrance fee, regardless of the number of passengers. This is a change from how Great Sand Dunes currently charges fees, with each passenger being charged individually. The park would maintain a per person fee under the new schedule, but it would apply only to visitors entering the park by means other than private, non-commercial vehicle or motorcycle.

### **How long would the per vehicle, per motorcycle and per person passes be valid?**

As is currently the case with the per person pass, these passes would be valid for seven days from the date of issue, allowing visitors to enter and exit the park multiple times during that 7-day period by showing their paid receipt.

### **Why is a fee increase needed?**

The majority of entrance fees across the National Park Service have not increased since 2006. At Great Sand Dunes, the last entrance fee increase was in 1997. In the meantime, the cost of maintenance and improvements at the park has grown considerably.

### **How much does Great Sand Dunes currently collect?**

Great Sand Dunes collects approximately \$600,000 in entrance and campground fees each year.

### **How much do we project our revenues will increase based on the new fee schedule?**

At this time, we can only speculate that revenues would increase. If the new rate schedule is implemented, we will track and provide accurate figures on changes in revenue.

### **How much do we keep?**

We are authorized by Federal law to keep 80% of what we collect, to be used here at Great Sand Dunes. The other 20% is distributed to parks throughout the National Park System.

### **What types of projects and programs are funded by entrance fees?**

Entrance fees are used to provide enhanced visitor services at Great Sand Dunes, including facility repair and maintenance, visitor amenities, and visitor programs and services. Specific work at Great Sand Dunes funded by entrance fees includes:

- Providing park brochures and newsletters
- Repairing and replacing Visitor Center exhibits
- Installing and replacing signage at trailheads and on trails
- Repairing and updating the park’s campground, picnic area, and amphitheater

- Rehabilitating restrooms
- Providing bear-proof trash and recycling containers
- Maintaining trails in the park and preserve

**Are increases to other fees at Great Sand Dunes being proposed?**

No. Increases to other fees, such as campground fees, are not proposed at this time.

**How can I comment on the proposal?**

Great Sand Dunes is seeking comments through January 2, 2015. You may submit comments:

By email: [GRSA\\_feechanges@nps.gov](mailto:GRSA_feechanges@nps.gov)

In person: by filling out a visitor comment form at the Visitor Center which is open between 9 am and 4:30 pm (except for December 25 and January 1)

By US Mail: Mail written comments to: Superintendent, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, 11500 Highway 150, Mosca, CO 81146

