

## Wildfire Scenario for the Initial Response Exercise

A wildfire has been detected and verified. The information outlined below will establish direction and guidance for the management of this fire.

<b>Fire Name:</b>	<b>Preserve Fire</b>
Geographic Area:	Rocky Mountain
Jurisdictional Agency:	NPS Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve
Cause:	Lightning
Latitude/Longitude:	N 37.80639 / W 105.50583 N 37° 48' 23" / W 105° 30' 21"
GAC Preparedness Level:	4
National Preparedness Level:	4

### The Agency Administrator's Intent

This will be a multiple objective fire implementing monitoring, point protection, and modified-suppression strategies. Most of the area allows for resource benefit objectives to be met. I want those objectives to be met as much as possible, but I also want values within the planning area protected. This includes agency structures, infrastructure, cultural sites, private land, private structures, and any other identified values at risk. Take suppression action where necessary to meet any of the incident objectives but only if those actions can be accomplished safely. In other words, do not compromise the safety of the firefighters or the public to meet the incident objectives.

### Land Management Objectives: NPS Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve\*

The information outlined below will establish direction and guidance for the management of this fire.

- Ensure that 100% of all naturally ignited wildland fires are evaluated and considered for their ecological benefit in designated (approved) areas.
- Initial actions on human-caused wildfire. These fires will continue to be suppressed in order to minimize negative consequences with respect to firefighter and public safety.

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\*Nearby Forest Service lands have the same land management objectives.

- To the maximum extent possible, protect important scientific, scenic, historic, and prehistoric cultural resources from the fire.
- Ensure that all fire personnel are appropriately trained and qualified for the wildland fire assignment they receive.
- Manage all wildfires in a cost-effective manner with consideration for environmental impacts, while ensuring that firefighter and public safety is the highest priority.

## Values at Risk

Name	Description
Pinyon Flats Campground	NPS campground – 88 campsites and 6 structures
Snotel Site	NRCS snowpack telemetry site on Medano Pass
Wellington Cabin	1 structure
American Tower – Red Wing	Communications tower and 2 structures
Medano Cabins	2 NPS structures
Wickiup Site 1	Cultural site
Mosca Pass Trailhead	Interpretive signs
Champion Tree	Record state limber pine

## Fire Behavior

The Preserve Fire was detected on June 6, 2013, located in the Medano Creek drainage, approximately 19 miles southeast of Crestone, Colorado, NE of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Visitor’s Center.

The fire is burning on the west side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range at the mouth of Medano Creek approximately 5 miles northwest of Mount Zwischen just northeast of the sand dunes. Timber types in the fire area include open ponderosa pine, piñon-juniper woodlands, mixed conifer, and spruce/fir (Fuel Models TL3 and TU5) with seral aspen stands scattered throughout the higher elevations. Many of these aspen stands, created from stand-replacing fires around 1880, look green from aerial imagery and reconnaissance, especially near Medano Pass. Scattered pockets of dead standing spruce/fir exist in the fire area from past beetle kill, especially on the east slopes of the divide.

## **Observed and Current Fire Behavior**

The Preserve Fire was started the afternoon of June 6 by lightning within Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve between Little Medano and Medano Creeks. The fire originated in open ponderosa pine woodland at the 8,400-foot elevation approximately 4 miles north of the Park and Preserve Visitor's Center.

Lightning ignited the Preserve Fire the afternoon of Sunday, June 6, on a relatively flat area (less than 10% slope). The Sand Dunes RAWS recorded 0.3 inch of precipitation associated with the lightning event. The morning of June 7 the fire was mapped at 0.1 acres in size.

## **Local Fire History**

Park and Forest Service lands in the Preserve Fire area have experienced 11 fires larger than 10 acres in the last 14 years (current analysis includes Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve; Pike and San Isabel National Forests, San Carlos Ranger District; and Rio Grande National Forest, Saguache and Conejos Peak Ranger Districts).