

Wayne Allard

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Contact: Dick Wadhams
202-224-6207
John Wood
202-224-5946

SENATE COMMITTEE APPROPRIATES \$11 MILLION FOR GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK ALLARD SAYS FUNDING COMPLETES PURCHASE OF BACA RANCH

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today was informed by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior that they have completed their mark-up and have approved his request to appropriate a total of \$11 million for the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

The funding is divided into two parts, \$9 million from the Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition and an additional \$2 million from National Parks Service's Land Acquisition and State Assistance fund. This combined funding will allow for the completion of the purchase of the Baca Ranch, thus completing the final piece of the puzzle for the Sand Dunes' transition from its current monument status into the nation's newest National Park.

“This is outstanding news for the entire San Luis Valley,” Allard said. “This \$11 million appropriation is the final funding needed for the purchase of the Baca Ranch thus allowing the completion of the Great Sand Dunes National Park.”

Allard's legislation established the Great Sand Dunes National Park three years ago, contingent on the purchase of the Baca Ranch. Since 2000, he has successfully secured more than \$22.5 million for the acquisition of the ranch.

“Today, we have taken a major step towards completion of the final piece of the puzzle that will establish our nations newest nation park,” added Allard. “I will be working closely with Senator Campbell to ensure this funding remains intact.”

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