

Sand Creek National Monument

Contact Person: Dustin Perkins, email: [Dustin W_Perkins@nps](mailto:Dustin_W_Perkins@nps)

Web Page: <http://www.nps.gov/sand/>
<http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sopn/index.cfm>

Location within Domain: Latitude: 38° 33' 36 N, Longitude: 102° 31' 1.2 W The southern boundary of the site is approximately 32 km northeast of Eads, Colorado and 16 km north of Chivington, Colorado.

History: Administered by the NPS the Sand Creek Massacre Monument is located in the eastern part of the county. Currently, through its partnership with The Conservation Fund and with Colorado State Historical Fund assistance, the National Park Service has acquired approximately 920 acres of the proposed 12,500 acre site. In 2006, Darrell Flyingman, Governor of the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma signed legislation conveying, as trust, 1465 acres of land at Sand Creek from the Southern Cheyenne. Most land within the authorized boundary remains under private ownership.

Key Characteristics: Vegetation – The main native plant community is shortgrass steppe, with areas of salt-tolerant grasses where soils are alkaline. The ecosystem is dominated by short grasses, with very few dwarf shrubs. Climate – Typical of mid-continental temperate zones, with occasional periods of excessive heat June-September, excessive cold November-February, and intense drought. Mean annual precipitation averages 35 cm; mean annual temperature averages 10.5°C. Soils and landforms – Soils of the floodplain and adjacent dune fields are derived from sandy alluvium; soils of the uplands are derived from sandy eolian deposits, loess and shale residuum. Topography is characteristic of the High Plains section of the Great Plains Physiographic Province. Administration- National Park Service.

Existing Infrastructure: Member of the Southern Plains Inventory and Monitoring Network that will monitor several ecological indicators starting in 2009 (grassland and wetland vegetation, surface water quantity and quality, landscape dynamics, grassland birds, soil structure and chemistry, ground water quantity, exotic plants, fire dynamics, and human demographics). The Southern Plains Network consists of 11 national park units in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. There are 31 other networks covering the rest of the national park units in the United States.

Facilities: Currently no on-site facilities, but they are planned. Current facilities exist in Eads, CO. Year-round road access to the park.

Elevation: Elevation ranges from 1320-1750 m