

Date: 4/16/2012 9:18:08 PM

Subject: Postcard

---

Gypsum is a form of calcium sulfate. A whole bunch of it got put into White Sands, New Mexico and became A) a missile testing range and B) a National Monument. So when they're not testing missiles (which thankfully is most of the time) we can visit the park. And they were not testing missiles today. The other good news was that the wind that blew the gypsum into Ruidoso and Carrizozo Saturday had gone east, turned into tornados, and stopped vexing New Mexico.

On our way out of Ruidoso we discovered we had mistimed our trip by about 4 days.



Damn! Those Apache casinos get all the best acts.

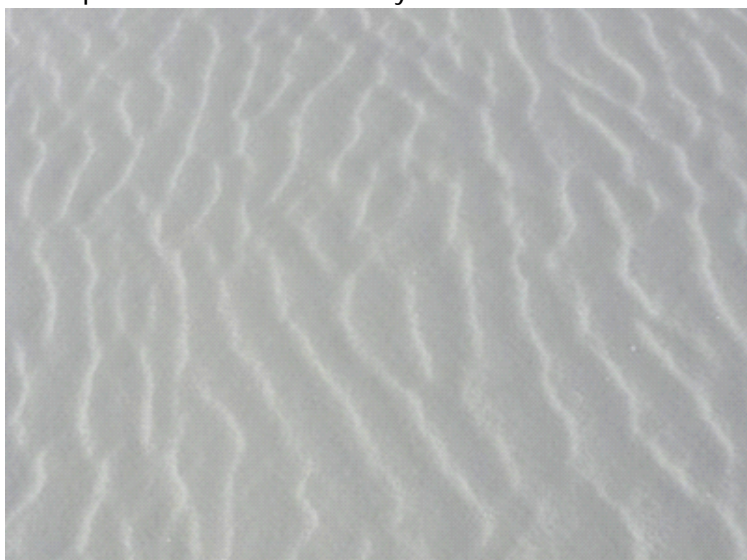
We hit the park around 9 and climbed dunes until lunch. Parts of it are stark and lovely.







Other parts look like this in every direction.



If you don't keep to the trail and follow the markers you can wind up like the couple who recently went there to get engaged. Three days later (literally) the Air Force rescued them. We kept to the trail and followed the markers. We were already engaged anyway.





But the border patrol did interrogate us at a checkpoint shortly after we left White Sands.



"Ma'am are you both U.S. citizens?" "Yes."

It was brutal.

D&S