

## Houston Sportsmen's Club

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

P. O. BOX 9751

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77015

February 14, 1972



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834

Attention: Superintendent of the Big Bend National Park

Re: WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Dear Sir:

The Houston Sportsmen's Club, an organization of 6,000 families and its 120,000 affiliate voices in the Gulf Coast areas, specifically request that this letter become a part of the testimony of the wilderness hearing record for the above Park.

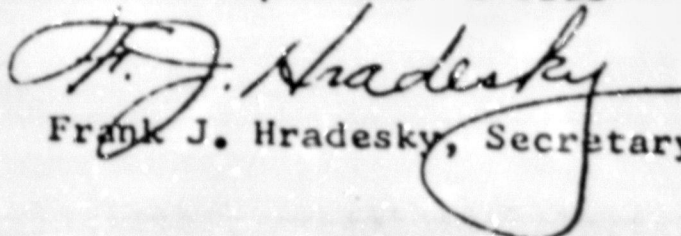
We specifically endorse the following proposals for the public interest:

1. That the Big Bend National Park remain a wilderness area.
2. That no construction be permitted in the Big Bend National Park now or in the future.
3. That all commercial visitor accommodations be removed from the Chisos Mountain Basin and other areas.
4. That no International Bridge be constructed in the Park.

Our members believe that this National Park should not become a sterile and antiseptic land but should remain as it is for all to enjoy.

We welcome the opportunity of further service to the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,  
Houston Sportsmen's Club

  
Frank J. Hradesky, Secretary



## Pecos Rotary Club

P. O. BOX 670

Pecos, Texas

Mr. George Hartzog, Director  
National Park Service  
Interior Building  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

Our club ~~xxx~~ had the opportunity to consider-study and discuss the Master Plan and the Park Wilderness Proposals for Big Bend National Park.

Our club of 66 members are unanimous in opposition to the Master Plan and the Wilderness Proposals.

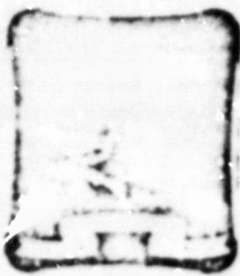
Our club is in agreement with the ideas and suggestions in the presentation as made by the Big Bend National Park Committee, Inc. of Alpine, Texas.

Sincerely,

*Bill Hubbs*

Bill Hubbs, President  
Pecos Rotary Club





# American Association of Retired Persons

First Page

January 20th, 1972.

Second Page

## STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS DECLARATION FOR THE BIG BEN NATIONAL PARK IN TEXAS

Jerry P. Johnson  
3510 Hartung Street  
Arlington, Texas 76010  
(817) 265-3982

70019

BY: Jerry P. Johnson, AARP AREA VII Vice Pres.

TO: Superintendent, Big Ben National Park,  
Big Ben National Park, Texas 79834



Using three-fourths of the Big Ben National Park for a hastily declared "WILDERNESS AREA" certainly defeats the very purpose and intent of the State of Texas in presenting the Big Ben area in Brewster to the Nation. It was definitely given for what it is now: BIG BEN NATIONAL PARK, to be set aside and apart for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, not for a chosen few. It is still called, as it is: Last United States unpoiled frontier.

Such action practically eliminates the elderly, particularly from Texas and the abutting four States: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico. These states make up the AREA VII of the American Association of Retired Persons. The 113 chapters in Area VII, operate tours to Big Ben National Park throughout the seasons, which are endangered by this proposal.

Should alleged wilderness preservation off-set the pleasures of visitors, not only from this area but from the nation at large, who visit this: the largest National Park in Texas and the most famous. I might add it is also located in the largest county of Texas.

Elimination of three-fourths of the park area for the benefit of a relative few persons does not make sense. Despite claims to the contrary, you are making Big Ben, in its reduced state, off-limits to a total of fifteen million persons 65 years of age and older. These folks do not possess the stamina of the wilderness visitor. They are not the type capable of extensive hiking carrying knap-sacks and sleeping bags, but certainly more entitled to greater consideration than you are giving.

The Big Ben National Park according to the record, has been host to nearly 250,000 visitors last year, and there is overwhelming evidence that this number is increasing annually. The proposed action will undoubtedly cause attendance to decrease.

There does not appear a single iota of justification for this proposal and we submit complete opposition.

We thank you for this opportunity to present our views and hope you will give them earnest consideration.

*[Handwritten signature]*





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION OF NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS  
2712 Bellway Way  
Dallas, Texas 75220  
February 13, 1972

Supt. Lee T. Smithers  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas 79814

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Action of North Central Texas, an organization of organizations from the North Central Texas area concerned with preservation of the environment. We are concerned about the Big Bend National Park Master Plan and the Wilderness Proposal.

We support relocation of all overnight, horse, or camping facilities to the Ceniza Flats area, where there is more than adequate supply of water. We oppose any bridge across the Rio Grande River within the park boundaries. And we endorse the National Park Service's Wilderness Proposal for the Big Bend Park.

I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the record of the Wilderness Proposal. The twenty-three member organizations of ENACT wish to register their concern about the plans for the Big Bend National Park.

Sincerely yours,

*Nancy J. Johnson*  
Nancy J. Johnson, President  
ENACT





204 N. E. 1ST ST. ANDREWS, TEXAS 79714



February 2, 1972

Mr Jim Carrithers  
Park Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park, Texas

Dear Mr. Carrithers:

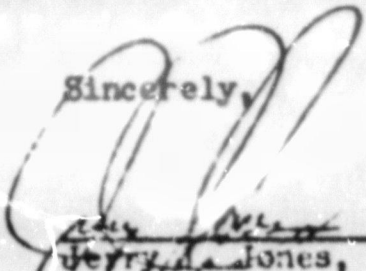
Andrews County Chamber of Commerce is very interested in the future of Big Bend National Park.

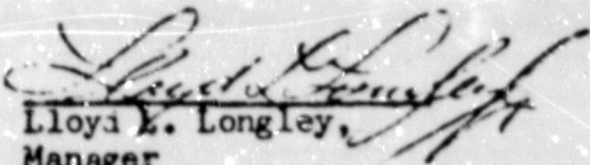
We would like to be on record as supporting the position on the West Texas Chamber of Commerce and the Big Bend National Parks Development Committee of Alpine.

We feel that it is important that the Basin Area remain open to public use, and that the Wilderness Area proposed is not desirable.

Our Chamber commends the National Park Service for your past management and hope West Texas can continue to attract visitors from over the U.S.

Sincerely,

  
Jerry Jones,  
President

  
Lloyd E. Longley,  
Manager

LLL/bm



January 12, 1972

The Hearing Officer and other Staff Members of the National Park Service  
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834

Re: The Wilderness Proposal for  
Big Bend National Park, Texas

Greetings:

The Midland, Texas Chamber of Commerce, after thoughtful consideration on the part of its Board of Directors and other membership personnel, desires to go on record as being strongly opposed to the Wilderness Proposal for Big Bend National Park, Texas.

We believe the designation of wilderness areas in this particular National Park to be inapplicable and in no way needed. However, if it can be proven that public visitation has impaired the environment, we will not strenuously object to a designation of the proposed wilderness units 4 and 5 and the Mariscal Mountain section of unit 7 as wilderness area.

The Big Bend National Park area was purchased by the citizens of Texas and presented to the federal Government for two purposes:

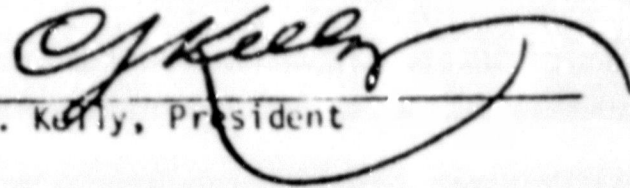
- (1) Preservation of the park area environment by means of professional management by the National Park Service, and
- (2) Availability of the entire area to public visitation under such rules as would protect such environment.

It was never intended by those citizens who evolved the Big Bend Park idea or activated the establishment thereof that any portion of the park area should be made off-limits to the public by wilderness designation or other procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Midland, Texas Chamber of Commerce

BY

  
C. J. Kelly, President

CJK/nt





NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDEN CLUBS, Inc.

President: Margaret S. Kittel  
Vice President:  
Secretary: Jeanne  
Treasurer: Mary

5

February 1, 1972

Superintendent Joe T. Carithers  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas 79834

Dear Superintendent Carithers:

We commend and support the National Park Service's Wilderness Proposal for Big Bend National Park but strongly recommend removing all overnight, horse and camping facilities, sewage ponds, etc. from the Chisos Mountain Basin.

The alarming deterioration of this area is evidenced in compacted soil, dried up springs and loss of surrounding vegetation. The Oak Creek volume of 250 gallons per minute in 1948 has now dropped to 30 gallons per minute.

More than adequate water is available from at least two locations at Ceniza Flats - without damage to existing springs or streams. We therefore strongly recommend only interpretive and day use facilities for the Chisos Basin and respectfully request that our letter be entered in the Wilderness Hearing Record.

Yours sincerely,  
(Margaret S. Kittel)

cc: Congressman Richard White  
Governor Preston Smith  
Congressman Jim Wright





# The El Paso Geological Society

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

El Paso, Texas 79968

Telephone 747-5501

February 7, 1972



National Park Service

Superintendent, Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend, Texas 79834

Gentlemen:

Our Society representing professional geologists from the El Paso Area of West Texas-SE New Mexico, by a vote of 24 to 10, wish to express our opposition to the proposed Wilderness Act (PL 88-577) for the Big Bend National Park. We support the recommendations of the West Texas Geological Society pertaining to the Master Plan for Big Bend National Park.

Although our vote of opposition was not unanimous, we are unanimous in our support of protecting the environment and ecology for not only the Big Bend Park but for the entire public domain.

To protect our environment and preserve our public domain it may become necessary to restrict the public use of our national and state parks by removing large areas of land and designating them as "Wilderness Areas," as advocated by our minority vote. However, the majority of our Society feels that the public is entitled to free access for the enjoyment and study of their parks and lands and that preventing or restricting this freedom of access would be a violation of our heritage.

The answer to a problem as complex as the protection of the ecology and environment of our public lands is not solved by a simple yes or no vote, nor by removing lands from service to the people; but, we feel the answer lies in education of the public to the seriousness of protecting our national resources by strict enforcement of the laws to protect our ecology and prevent pollution of our environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

D. E. Lockett, President

DEL:sed

cc: Mr. Hugh N. Frenzel, President  
Southwest Section, AAPG

P. O. Box 832



# Houston Audubon Society



January 13th, 1972.

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Alpine  
Texas.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed is to be included in the record-of-hearing of the public hearing on the future of the Big Bend National Park - 15th January 1972. at Alpine, Texas.

We regret it is not practical to attend this meeting. How about having one in the State Capitol or San Antonio?

If you can be of further help please contact us.

Yours sincerely,

David Marrack, M.P.

for Houston Audubon Society.

d. Marrack, N.D.  
Mulberry La.  
Alpine, Tex. 77401



# Houston Audubon Society

12 January 1972

## Big Bend National Park - Texas

Public Hearing 15 January 1972.

The following observations are submitted for consideration at this hearing on the future of this area, its management and public facilities.

A. The Parks Service proposal for some preservation areas and some areas in Class III "Buffer Zone" is supported if the Class III areas is to be used for limited non-commercial purposes such as instructional areas and possibly "motor-nature-trails"; studies in ecology and management since direct land management or control may become necessary to preserve some types of flora or fauna as the increasing impact of man is felt in the area; or for geological, fossil or Indian relic studies. Studies in the above being limited those with acceptable credentials and record, and approved by the Parks Service.

B. The automatic setting aside 1/8 mile along both sides of all roads is not justified and is indiscriminate. This should be reduced in general to 50 feet.

C. Permanent Accommodation and Camp grounds - Additional facilities should be outside the park proper though preferably operated by the Parks Service and any profits received by them. Those now in the Park should NOT be expanded except that, one in the Panther Junction - Green Gulch area is desirable and possibly a facility near Castolon (away from Castolon Peak) for winter month use. None should be commercially operated.



D. Primitive Campsites - A few of these may be desirable and if needed they should be kept to the perimeter of the park and their use restricted; Fires (kerosene or similar stove) all food, fuel and water carried in and refuse out.

E. Raft Camps must be similar (D) controlled. No additional number of such camps should be permitted.

F. Phase out all commercial enterprises within this National Park as is being practiced in other older parks.

G. Chios Basin

- No public accommodations or further buildings.
- No camping or trailers.
- No fires.
- No concessions or commercial enterprises.
- No sale of "take-away" foods or fluids.
- No horse stables or horse trails in the area.
- No gas stations - Use Panther Junction.
- No maintenance facilities.
- Maintain a few park personnel in residence, for security only.
- Provide guided and self guided ecology trails.
- Consider plans for a future need of a one-way loop road into the basin.
- Maintain picnic sites, drinking water and public conveniences.
- No increase in parking facilities.
- Facilitate restoration of the area.

This area of relict forest is a very delicate ecosystem already regrettably damaged by human overuse and misuse. Severer restraints will be necessary to preserve and hopefully restore partially this system.

Restricted horse trail access to the south rim by an alternative route is necessary if this is to be continued. The problem of water supply and waste disposal (sewage etc.) within the basin must be solved and the water table restored.

H. In contrast to the Park Service proposal stock tanks must be maintained. These support part of the fauna of the park and compensate in part for human intrusions. Some tanks should be permanently open and others available on a contingency basis with appropriate water pumps (wind or other powered) to stabilize animal populations and protect flora in times of severe drought, since water supply is a limiting factor in this arid region and is erratic and capricious.

The principle of flora and fauna support is acceptable and should be part of the master plan because the natural defense of migration to a "better" area is denied by man's activities. The limited use of temporary supplemental food support or limited irrigation cannot be discarded because this park size is too small and dry to support a balanced predator-prey long term breeding populations.

I. Take positive steps to eliminate poaching in the park and enforce federal and state wildlife protection laws in full in the ranch areas adjacent to the park.

J. Press urgently for a complete Mexican National Park.

K. Obtain extension of this park to the North and West as additional fine preservation areas and to "buffer" the present park against man's impact.

L. Use Helicopters for access not jeep roads.

M. Since the environment is not usually conducive to hiking, provide more maintained access roads and picnic sites and limit powers -




vehicles to them.

II. Block and attempt to violate the park with Rio Grande bridges and major highways in the park.

"Preservation" is difficult if not impossible to achieve with man around in increasing numbers and it is the antithesis of "public access"! The problem of water table levels changing adversely with increasing withdrawals of water inside and worse, uncontrolled withdrawals outside the park, must be anticipated by base line studies now with appropriate "follow-on" studies. Sewage and garbage disposal problems are also important for the long term stability of the area.

This report from the HOUSTON AUDUBON SOCIETY was prepared by D. Marrack, M.D., in cooperation with geologists, an botanist and an ecologist familiar with the area.

  
Dr. D. Marrack  
420 Mulberry La.  
Bellevue, Tx. 77401



WEST TEXAS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 1000  
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701

January 11, 1972

PRO. 11-11-72  
J. L. WARD, PRESIDENT  
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Hearing Officer - Wilderness Proposal  
c/o Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend, Texas 79834

Re: Wilderness Proposal  
Big Bend National Park, Texas

Dear Sir:

The West Texas Geological Society, which has 1,080 members and is one of the largest geological societies in the world, desires to submit the following statement to be included in the official record of the hearings on the Wilderness Proposal as follows:

The Big Bend National Park offers a great variety and complexity of geologic features from which geologists and the general public can learn a great deal about the history of the earth. Some suggestions were offered at the Master Plan hearing on how to achieve that goal.

We feel that the geologic significance of the Big Bend area should be recognized and that the results of the many geologic processes that are active, or have been active in the past, should be available for study by all interested persons. We feel that sampling, study, and organized field trips should be permitted to continue as in the past under the conditions and policies presently established by the National Park Service.

What concerns us with respect to the wilderness proposal is well illustrated on page 5 under the heading Paleontological Deposits:

"Significant [vertebrate] paleontological deposits have been discovered within the park. There are three [?] general areas that offer great potential for future research. They are in the



Upper Tornillo Flats - McKinney Hills area, Roadless Areas H and K, the Glenn Springs - Fresno Creek area, Roadless Areas C, F, and G and around Castolon, Roadless Areas B and C [we would have to include Roadless Areas L and D and parts of Areas A and E]. Future research activity in these areas may require the use of motorized equipment and structures not acceptable in natural area wilderness. (Emphasis is added)

The recommendations proceed to place most of the potential vertebrate localities within proposed legislated wilderness. The conclusion to be drawn is that there will be allowed no future vertebrate paleontological research. If this is correct, we heartily disapprove any legislation which would inhibit research.

Both Cretaceous vertebrates (chiefly dinosaurs) and Tertiary vertebrates (mammals and reptiles) have been collected from the Big Bend National Park. Cretaceous vertebrates were first reported in 1907. Collections have been made by such organizations as: University of Oklahoma in 1939, American Museum of Natural History in 1940, Texas Western College (now University of Texas at El Paso) in 1939 and early 1940's, Texas Technological College in 1947, the American Museum of Natural History and The Texas Memorial Museum.

Tertiary vertebrates were first found in 1950. John A. Wilson, in Geology of Big Bend National Park, Texas, Bureau of Economic Geology Publication 6711, 1967, points out the importance of the deposits "...they contain the first continental Paleocene Eocene mammals discovered in Texas. Another structural basin containing early Tertiary vertebrate-bearing beds may now be added to those of the Rocky Mountains region - the Sunken Block of the Big Bend ..., the most southerly of such basins in the United States." Miocene vertebrates were found and identified in 1963 and studies are far from complete. In addition to the described localities, other deposits certainly remain to be found.

There are many natural erosional gashes in the landscape of the Big Bend; indeed this erosion brought to light the first discoveries of vertebrate fossils in

the region. So any disturbance of the surface in the scientific excavation of sites would not be the unsightly, out of place, and permanent scar many might believe and is a small price for the knowledge to be gained. Certainly this is an important and acceptable use of the lands of our National Park System. Only minimal damage to the area would result from the minimum vehicular access required by bona fide research. Evidence of such vehicular access would certainly be as easily obliterated after the study was completed as would the roads the Wilderness Study proposes be closed.

We are not advocating unlimited use of off-road vehicles or that everyone entering the Park should be allowed to "dig for dinosaur bones". We are merely recommending that authority to approve and authorize access as <sup>well as</sup> issue collecting permits for legitimate scientific study in an area of primary interest to vertebrate paleontologists be retained within the National Park Service and the Department of Interior. The same applies to other fields of geologic research.

Land management practices would otherwise remain as at present for Class III and IV land - in other words, de facto wilderness. The National Park Service certainly does not require a formal designation by Congress of wilderness to properly manage the land, as is pointed out on page 18 of the Wilderness Proposal.

In making the following recommendations we have considered the topography as well as the geology. We suggest that the portion of Big Bend National Park submitted to Congress for wilderness designation be limited to these areas as shown on the enclosed map:

1. The Mesa de Anguila area, southwest of the Terlingua Fault or scarp;
2. Mariscal Mountain;
3. The Sierra del Carmen area from the end of the trail into Boquillos Canyon north to the terminus of the Dagger Flat Road;

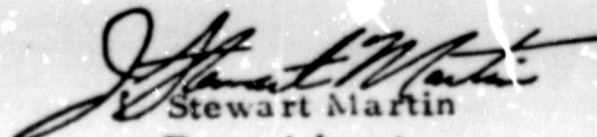


4. The topographic mass of the Chisos Mountains including as its southern limits Goat, Trap and Round Mountains, Mule Ear Peaks, Punto de la Sierra, Dominguez Mountain, Elephant Tusk, Hayes Ridge and Mugent Mountain, but excluding Cow Heaven Anticline and the outwash plains of the Chisos. In the upper elevations of the Chisos other criteria would be the determining factors of what areas can legitimately be considered for inclusion in wilderness under the definition of the Wilderness Act, so we offer no suggestions. We wonder, however, if the Lost Mine and South Rim trails are not developed and used to the extent that by strict interpretation they could not be considered a part of "Wilderness".

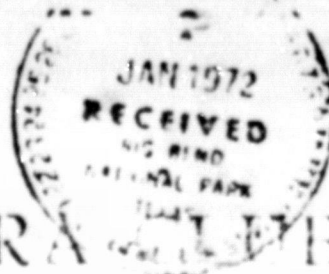
Each of these areas has easily recognizable topographic boundaries and, with the possible exception of a portion of the Chisos, appears to meet the necessary criteria for "wilderness".

We hope that these suggestions will be considered in any future legislation pertaining to the Wilderness Proposal, Big Bend National Park, Texas.

Respectfully yours,

  
Stewart Martin  
President

JSM:gf



SIERRA CLUB

2014 East Broadway, Room 212, Tucson, Arizona 85701

January 26, 1972

Hearing Officer  
c/o Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834

Re: Wilderness Proposal

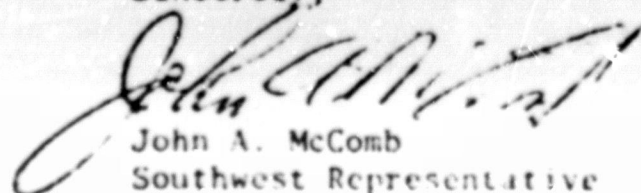
Dear Sir:

I would like this letter included in the record of the public hearing on proposed wilderness for Big Bend National Park in addition to the comments and material I submitted at the hearing on January 15, 1972.

I was very pleased to see that the preliminary wilderness proposal for Big Bend National Park did include the riparian ecosystem in the canyons along the Rio Grande River. Although riparian areas are indeed much more capable of recovery from man's abuse, they are also among the most threatened areas in the arid regions of the Southwest. I ask that consideration be given to inclusion in the wilderness of at least some representative riparian areas outside of the canyons. Some limits should exist to prevent the development of fish and float camps at every possible location outside the canyons, with some areas managed without substantial impact by man.

The other additional comment I would like to make concerns the stream below Cattail Falls. The water developments here are unwise and unfortunate. They should be removed and the area included within the designated wilderness.

Sincerely,

  
John A. McComb  
Southwest Representative

JAM:ab  
cc: Cass Germany  
John L. Baker  
Michael McCloskey  
Clifton R. Merritt  
Douglas Scott  
Bob Barleson



STATEMENT OF JOHN A. MCCOY, SOUTHWEST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SIERRA CLUB AT THE  
BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS HEARING HELD IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, JANUARY 15, 1973

I am John A. McCoy, Southwest Representative for the Sierra Club. My home is located at 2014 East Broadway, Room 212, Tucson, Arizona 85712. Although my home and office are in Tucson, my territory includes Big Bend National Park. From our founding in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club has continued to be strongly concerned with the management of our national parks and the preservation of wilderness.

I have attended many National Park Service wilderness hearings. Some of these have found the Sierra Club and other conservation groups to have major disagreements with the preliminary National Park Service proposal. In others, such as Big Bend, we have been very pleased with the Park Service recommendations, and our comments have been minor in nature. In all cases, however, the National Park Service has been responsive to public opinion.

Many others are far more familiar with Big Bend National Park and I will not attempt to detail the many features of this park. I plan to visit the park for a few days following this hearing to partially fill this glaring gap in my knowledge of the Southwest.

I am particularly interested in the possibility of wilderness designation of a significant and representative portion of the Chihuahuan Desert within Big Bend. The following quotation from Aldo Leopold, the father of wilderness preservation, is very appropriate. Referring to our system of wilderness he said:

"It is lacking, however, in desert areas, probably because of that under-aged brand of esthetics which limits the definition of 'scenery' to lakes and pine trees."

This was true when Leopold wrote it twenty years ago and it remains true today. Fortunately, the public is developing an appreciation of the many values found in desert regions. I am hopeful that the addition to the wilderness system of several areas in the Southwest which are currently under study by the National Park Service and the

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will help to correct the deficiencies described by Aldo Leopold. The Park Service is responsible for the wilderness system.

I was particularly pleased when I read the National Park Service Wilderness Proposal to see that the National Park Service had indeed included in their recommendations the vast majority of the qualifying wilderness in Big Bend. The proposal enjoys our support. Our comments concern primarily the details of the location of the boundary and the disposition of the utility lines.

One continuing bone of contention between conservation groups such as the Sierra Club and the National Park Service has been the 1/8 mile management zones between the wilderness boundary and the park boundary which the National Park Service has consistently excluded from the wilderness up until now. We maintain that these zones should be established only where there is a specific demonstrable need for them. Even then the width should depend on the nature of that need. Certainly, the mere fencing of the park boundary does not require the exclusion of a 660 foot wide strip.

We commend the National Park Service for recognizing that this management zone is not needed at least in some areas of Big Bend. We were gratified to note that no such zones have been proposed for those portions of the wilderness boundaries along the Rio Grande in the Santa Elena, Mariscal, and Boquillas Canyons. We urge the Park Service to carefully evaluate the remainder of the boundaries in Big Bend in this same light to determine if management zones are needed there.

The National Park Service has recommended two 10-acre enclaves around the Boot Spring Cabin and a radio repeater station on Imory Peak. In neither case do we believe that these exclusions are justified. The Boot Spring Cabin is used primarily for fire control, an acceptable administrative use of wilderness. The radio repeater station should more properly be included within the wilderness as a non-conforming use. In both cases the facilities should be evaluated to see if they are genuinely needed at these locations and whether or not they could be relocated in less sensitive



portions of the park.

We also commend the National Park Service for their continuing efforts to acquire the non-federal mineral and surface rights found in certain locations within Big Bend. Since the acquisition of these rights is planned, we recommend that the qualifying portions of them be included within the exterior wilderness boundary so that they would automatically become a part of the wilderness when they are acquired by the federal government. This procedure would eliminate the need for further congressional action when the rights are acquired.

Our final comments concern the utility lines found in many portions of the park. The large size of Big Bend and the varied locations of developments have necessitated the construction of many miles of electric powerlines, telephone lines, and water lines. In two cases they are the only feature separating two adjoining units of wilderness. Elsewhere, they bisect areas that would otherwise qualify for wilderness designation.

When they were constructed, these lines were justifiably routed away from main park roads in order to reduce the visual impact on the park visitor. Advances in technology have now made possible the relocation of the power and telephone lines underground. The National Park Service should plan on the eventual rerouting of all these lines underground and adjacent to roads. When this is accomplished, previously affected areas that would otherwise qualify should then be designated as wilderness.

Since a powerline is the only reason for separating units 2 and 3 and a water line the only reason for separating units 4 and 5, we urge the National Park Service to give serious consideration to combining these units and incorporating the lines within the wilderness as non-conforming uses. High priority should be given to the relocation of the powerline between units 2 and 3, while the water line could remain.

~~I hope that the length of these comments has not obscured our general overall satisfaction with the proposal of the National Park Service.~~

~~W. H. H. H.~~

~~2007~~

In several locations the wilderness boundary has been placed on minor topographic features and well removed from roads. We would generally favor placing the boundary adjacent to public roads.

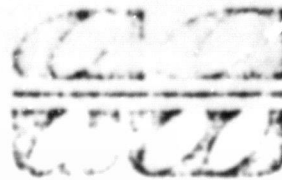
I hope that the length of these comments has not obscured our general overall satisfaction with the NPS proposal. Frank Tomaski has described this proposal in detail and I won't repeat it.

Designation of qualifying lands within Big Bend N.P. as wilderness will help fulfill that portion of the congressional mandate which directs the N.P.S. to preserve all national parks for the enjoyment of future generations. The wilderness proposal of the N.P.S. accomplishes this without undue conflict with appropriate visitor developments.

Thank you



American Association of University Women



Richardson, Texas 75080

February 8, 1972



Supt. Joe T. Carithers  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas, 79834

Dear Mr. Carithers:

We are in support of the National Park Service's Wilderness Proposal for Big Bend National Park, as well as the Big Bend National Park Master Plan.

We should like to be included in the record concerning the following points:

1. We urge the removal of all overnight camping, horse maintenance, and sewage ponds from the Basin, leaving only day-use facilities.
2. We favor relocation of all facilities, now in or planned for the Basin, to the area known as Ceniza Flats, approximately four miles south of Panther Junction.
3. We urge elimination of plans for a bridge across the Rio Grande River within the park boundaries. Alternatives exist outside the Park, among them the one at La Linda east of the Park boundary.

We respectfully request that this letter be entered in the Wilderness Hearing Record.

Very truly yours,

Marilla C. McGregor,  
Corresponding Secretary  
Environment Group



Marfa, Texas  
January 17, 1972

Supt. of Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend Park, Texas 79834

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to the Master Plan and Wilderness  
Plan for Big Bend National Park.

Although we had a representative at the meeting in  
Alpine on January 15, we did not have the opportunity of  
expressing our views.

We endorse the plan of the Big Bend National Park  
Development Committee. We are in opposition to the Master  
Plan and the Wilderness Plan.

Very truly yours,

*Hy Mecklin*

*Hazel Freeman*

Pilot Club of Marfa

Signed: Hy Mecklin, President

Hazel Freeman, Representative



VISIT  
WEST  
TEXAS



# PECOS *Chamber of Commerce*

POST OFFICE BOX 27 — PECOS, TEXAS 79772 — 506 S. OAK ST. — PHONE (915) 445-2406

*First Copy*

Statement made at the Public Hearing on Plans  
for Big Bend National Park at Alpine, Texas  
City Hall, January 15, 1972

I am Harold Meyer, Manager of the Chamber of Commerce in Pecos, Texas and I am present today with authority to speak for the Pecos Chamber Organization, consisting of 18 officers and directors and our membership consisting of approximately 280 business firms, professional men and individual citizen members. In addition I have letters which authorize me to speak for the County Commissioners Court of Reeves County, the Town of Pecos City, the Pecos Rotary Club, and the Downtown Pecos Lions Club.

The Pecos Enterprise - a daily newspaper in Pecos, has taken an opposing position and a copy of its recent editorial on the matter is included here.

I am therefore authorized to state that the organizations and local governmental agencies mentioned above oppose the Master Plan and the Park Wilderness Plan as outlined in the packet of proposals sent to us from the U. S. Department of the Interior National Park Service - pertaining to Big Bend National Park. I am further authorized to state that the above mentioned organizations subscribe to the proposals in the presentation of the Big Bend National Parks Development Committee, Inc. of Alpine, Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Meyer, Manager  
Pecos Chamber of Commerce

# Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 125

AREA CODE 512 JORDAN 32444

JEFF MURRAY, Manager

BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS 78832

## PROPOSAL FOR BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS STUDY

Compiled by Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.,  
P O Box 125, Brackettville, Texas

My name is Robert Pruett and I am a Power Use and Member Relations representative for the Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc., with main offices in Brackettville, Texas. The Rio Grande Electric Cooperative has been supplying electrical service to a vast rural area of West Texas since 1948 and to the Big Bend Park exclusively since 1953. During these years we have watched and in many instances feel that we have played a specific role in the development of this area. We feel that in the past several years West Texas with its Amistad Recreation area, Big Bend National Park, the newly formed Guadalupe National Park, Fort Davis Historic site, various State Parks, development areas, and other tourist attractions, has blossomed into the tourist frontier of the Southwest; and, no one can put a true dollar and cents figure on the economic value of this tourist frontier, but if they could the figure would be astounding.

At this point let us stop and with a little projected forethought look at the picture from a different view point. The Wilderness Proposal for the Big Bend National Park, as proposed by the National Park Service, plans to completely curtail any further development in approximately 75% of the Park, and in doing so will virtually make 523,000 acres of land inaccessible to the average tourist. What would happen to our tourist frontier if all of the other attractions in the area were to make 75% of their available facilities off limits to the average tourist. As soon as the word got around I am afraid we would find ourselves in a proverbial ghost town or area.

To get down to the specifics of the Wilderness Proposal for the Big Bend National Park, the second paragraph in the booklet WILDERNESS STUDY starts by saying, and I quote, "The Big Bend country displays some of the finest desert and mountain scenery in the United States. It is a land of dramatic contrast---" (unquote). We concur with these statements completely and in doing so we cannot help but question how one can conceivably make such a statement and in the same writing propose to prevent the average sightseer from seeing a large part of this scenery except from a distance of from one to thirty miles away.

It is apparent that some of our forefathers had posterity in mind when Texas purchased this land and gave it to the United States Government for a National Park. Let us also keep posterity in mind and plan for an expanding program, not one stifled by such a Wilderness Proposal.

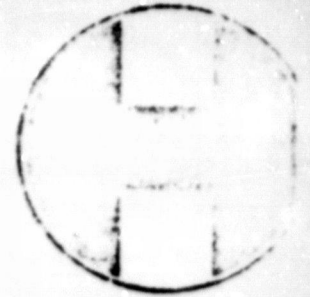


Page 2: Proposal for Big Bend National Park Wilderness Study

In our every day business of supplying electrical service to the public, we are very much aware of the ever constant advances in technology and research. Therefore, we agree that the ecologist and naturalist need a laboratory whereby their research can be carried on as well as does a chemist or any other scientist. These laboratories in nature can best be supplied in areas such as the one in question because they are not hindered by private ownership. With this in mind we feel that the Big Bend National Park should provide for some wilderness areas so that research pursuant to our local environment can be carried on. However, we feel that the present Wilderness Proposal should be completely revised and the approximate percentage of land made available to the tourist and that of the Wilderness areas completely reversed. Whereby, we would find approximately 75% of the land within the Big Bend National Park opened up to the general public and 25% set aside as Wilderness areas.

In conclusion, we would like to offer one alternate proposal; that being, if the National Park Service cannot see fit to make this some one half million acres available to the general public then let a large portion of it be turned back to private ownership because we feel that it could play just as important a role in supplying food for our ever growing population as it could for ecological study.

We would like to commend the National Park Service on its fine accomplishment in the past and we feel that with its knowledge and available information we can expect to see a Revised Wilderness Proposal for the Big Bend National Park that is much better tailored to the area. Thank you.



11 February 72

The Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, Texas 79830

Houston Chapter of the  
American Institute  
of Architects  
2737 Buffalo Speedway  
Houston, Texas 77006  
713 622-5860

SIR, the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has followed with interest the recent discussions concerning the development of Big Bend National Park. Those of us who have visited the Park are aware of the unique character of this particular part of the United States. The Executive Committee of the Houston Chapter AIA directly represents over six hundred architects and, indirectly, many more citizens in the construction industry and has unanimously voted to urge the National Park service to:

1. Prevent the development of any more commercial or tourist lodgings within the Park boundaries, and,
2. Remove the existing commercial and tourist accommodations from the Chisos Basin.

Would you please include this letter in the records of the hearings?

  
C. Herbert Passer AIA, President

**Officers**  
C. Herbert Passer  
President  
John M. McGinty  
First Vice President  
Raymond R. Rapp, Jr.  
Second Vice President  
J. Pless Doyle  
Secretary  
Michael N. Walker  
Treasurer  
Robert V. Flanagan  
Past President  
Harry A. Golemon  
TSA Director  
O. E. Peck Drennan  
Director  
Morton L. Levy, Jr.  
Director  
John S. Chase  
Director  
Ruth Fuller  
Executive Secretary



TEXAS  
SPELEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



OF THE  
NATIONAL  
SPELEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

Office of the Conservation Chairman  
Louise Power  
516 Sul Ross  
Houston, Texas 77006

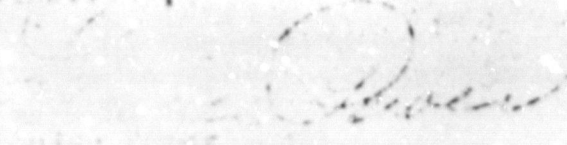
14 February 1972

Hearing Officer  
c/o Superintendent, Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79820

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of written statements on both the  
Master Plan and Wilderness Proposals for Big Bend National  
Park. I hope that they do not come too late for inclusion in  
the official record.

Sincerely,

  
Louise Power  
Conservation Chairman

Enclosures

TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
of  
The National Speleological Society

Statement on

SIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TEXAS  
WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

submitted by

Louise Power  
Conservation Chairman  
Texas Speleological Association



The Texas Speleological Association would like to thank the National Park Service for this opportunity to comment on the Wilderness Proposal for Big Bend National Park, Texas. As a region of the National Speleological Society, we have had a long and abiding interest in the preservation of caves and the land which surrounds them. We feel that it is to the credit of the Park Service that they have given so much thought and planning to the initiation of a proposal which will preserve a de facto wilderness area of such great beauty and scientific interest.

Section 2(a) of the Wilderness Act is especially applicable to Big Bend National Park:

In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.

The spirit of this historic act of Congress is the very soul of a National Park like Big Bend in that so much of its land is de facto wilderness and has only to be declared official "Wilderness" to preserve its content. Most of the Park land is harsh desert and mountain in which man may look at and appreciate nature, but in which nature has no appreciation of man. Several areas of the Park, however, are well suited to habitation and, unfortunately, have been somewhat overused. The Chisos Basin is the prime example of this overuse and it pleases us that steps are being taken to allow much of this ecologically delicate area to return to its natural state. We salute the Park Service for its foresight and planning in this area and hope that they will discontinue plans for further commercial development of the Basin area restricting it primarily to day use.



Area-wise we could hardly ask for more land to be proposed for wilderness use. However, in planning for the future years, we would ask the Park Service to keep a couple of things in mind in regard to caves and caving in the area. It is important to remember that a cave's formation and maintenance depends almost entirely on the condition of the land above. There are several caves in the park. One -- Mt. Emery Cave (NPS Unit 4) -- contains the only known colony of Mexican long-tongued bats [*Leptonycteris nivalis* (Sassure)] in the United States.<sup>1</sup> There are also caves in other parts of the Park in rather remote, inhospitable (to the general public) areas. There is also an area in Unit 11 (near Dagger Mountain) in which there is rumored to be several large caves. There are other limestone areas which hold a potential for a number of caves. These areas are, for the most part, dry, cactus-filled, inhospitable areas into which the general public would not go. There is no reason, in this light, not to include these areas in a general wilderness plan. We feel that the plan which the Park Service has put forth is a good one. We hope that the Park Service will now and in the future consider the "underground wilderness" aspect of the areas under its jurisdiction. Wild caves, perhaps more than the land itself, live up to the letter of the definition of "wilderness" as set forth by the "Wilderness Act" [Section 2(c)]:

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.



Wilderness Proposal Statement

It is because that except (in most cases) for provision (3) concerning size, caves more than meet wilderness specifications, the Texas Speleological Association supports these plans (in this case, that of the Park Service and the National Speleological Society) which would protect the areas surrounding caves and which would preserve their integrity and keep them for future generations to appreciate. It is in this light that the TSA endorses in spirit the Wilderness Study of the National Park Service for Big Bend National Park.

---

Barbour and Davis. 1969. Bats of America, p. 31.

5107/1072

748

February 12, 1972

re: Hearing on the Big Bend National Park

Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas 79830



Dear Sir:

The Weed 'N Wish Garden Club of Dickinson, Texas, having 101 members urges you to consider all the consequences of increasing "tourist facilities" and building an international bridges at Big Bend National Park.

The Big Bend area is a special kind of place to be enjoyed by certain special kinds of people, people who can appreciate and enjoy and protect this wild untamed wilderness. Perhaps a little more tinsel in the form of a bridge to Mexico and a few luxury motels would attract a few more "dollars" to the area. But would these dollars add to its priceless value? Rather would they cause a gross depreciation to its solitude, beauty, and magnificence found in too few places today. Is it necessary to sell out every inch of our land to those who can only find value in what comfort and trinkets money can buy? If so, what part of our land can be saved for those looking for the peace, beauty, simplicity and wonder found in the solitude and magnificence of nature.

We request that no further development of the Big Bend National Park be undertaken. Let this request be filed with the record of your hearing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marie C. Quirein  
Conservation Chairman  
Weed 'N Wish Garden Club  
3510 Elm Dr.  
Dickinson, Texas 77539





Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend, Texas 79830

Dear Sir:

We would like to commend and support the National Park Service preliminary proposal to designate parts of Big Bend National Park as wilderness. The proposal is a good one, and we would like to recommend these few but very important improvements:

1. Consolidate units 2 and 3 and units 4 and 5.
2. Eliminate exclusions along roads by making road rights-of-way the wilderness boundary.
3. Eliminate the unnecessary wilderness enclaves in unit 4.
4. Eliminate the unnecessary buffer zones along the park boundary.
5. Remove power lines which scar scenic and wilderness values.
6. Consider potential of Areas A and B as additional wilderness units.

We recognize the importance of wilderness protection to assure that the wilderness in the park back country is never diluted or destroyed. Please consider our recommendations seriously, as we feel they cover points in the proposal which need to be strengthened. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fenton Rood, Chairman  
Sierra Club, Norman Group

ME

NSR

## Magnolia Garden Club

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

MEMBER - GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA



1555 Thomas Road

Beaumont, Texas 77706

February 11, 1972

Dear Mr. Carithers,

As Conservation Chairman of the Magnolia Garden Club, an affiliate of The Garden Club of America, I would like to make a statement concerning the Big Bend National Park. I hope this can be a part of the official record. If the hearing had been more widely publicized I am sure many more concerned people would have been there.

We are opposed to any commercialism in the Chisos Basin. This should have only some parking facilities, and an interpretative center. Anything more will in time destroy it. Perhaps overnight facilities could be developed at Ceniza Flats near Nugget Mountain. Here the question of available water and sewage disposal would not be as great a problem.

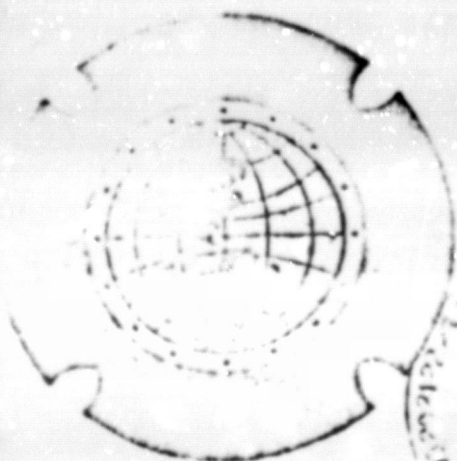
From the information I have, I would hope that plans for the Rio Grande bridge at Boquillas will be shelved until a much later date.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marv E. Sewald*  
(Mrs. F.H.) Marv E. Sewald

Conservation Chairman





*Consejo Internacional de Buena Vecindad, A.C.*  
*International Good Neighbor Council*

Calle Lomas y Avda. Monterrey, Cuapiza P.O. Box, Cuapiza, Tlaxcala, Mexico Telephone 42-76-33

Monterrey, N.L., Mexico

... ..  
... ..



Mr. Joseph J. Carrithers, Jr., Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79-34

Dear Mr. Carrithers:

The Board of Directors of the International Good Neighbor Council held a quarterly meeting in Laredo on January 21 and 22, 1972, and during the sessions received a highlight report on the hearing conducted by the National Park Service in Alpine on January 13, 1972, on Service proposals related to a Master Plan and Wilderness Plan for Big Bend National Park.

The International Good Neighbor Council, an unofficial, non-political, non-profit organization of men and women of good will in the United States and Mexico, has long supported efforts primarily in this country for the establishment of a National Park in Mexico immediately across the boundary from Big Bend. Further, the Council has continued efforts in the States of Chihuahua and Coahuila related to the construction of highways in those states which will provide access to the Big Bend National Park.

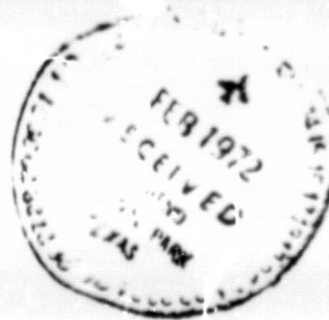
It is the belief of the Council's Directors that the National Park Service is the best judge of proper internal operations of the Big Bend National Park and commends it for having given an opportunity to every possible organization or group to present their views and recommendations.

It is the hope of the International Good Neighbor Council that whatever changes are made will be made with due regard for the continued efforts in support of a Park in Mexico and that no changes be instituted which will tend to limit the enjoyment of the Park by visitors from Mexico who will be able to see the new roads that are being constructed.

Sincerely yours,

Allan R. Skinner,  
President

TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDOBON SOCIETY  
2709 S. Fairfield  
Amarillo, Texas



February 8, 1972

Superintendent Joe T. Carithers  
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834

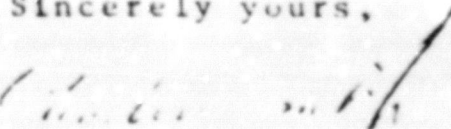
Dear Mr. Carithers:

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Texas Panhandle Audobon Society, there was an extended discussion of the deterioration of the Chisos Mountain Basin in the Big Bend National Park. I have been instructed by the Board to voice the following views concerning the welfare of this national resource. These views concern both the Big Bend National Park Master Plan and Wilderness Proposal:

- (1) We advocate removal of all overnight horse and camping facilities and sewage ponds from the Basin to a location outside the park.
- (2) We urge restriction of facilities inside the park to interpretative and day use types.
- (3) We suggest the relocation of all facilities, now existing or planned for the Basin, to the area known as Ceniza Flats, approximately four miles south of Panther Junction, near adequate water resources.
- (4) We believe there should be no bridge across the Rio Grande River within the park boundaries since better alternative locations exist outside the park.
- ✓ (5) We support the National Park Service's Wilderness Proposal for Big Bend National Park.

It is respectfully requested that this letter be entered in the Wilderness Hearing Record.

Sincerely yours,

  
Charles Smith, President  
Texas Panhandle Audobon Society

Copies sent to:  
Congressman Richard White  
Governor Preston Smith  
Senator John Tower  
Senator Lloyd Bentsen  
Congressman Bob Price

CS  
bh



Superintendent  
Page 2  
February 8, 1972

The members of this organization hope the committee will seriously consider the arguments and opinions presented here. Please include this letter in the official record of the hearing.

Respectfully,

James P. Crowley  
President  
James P. Crowley  
The National Legal  
Counsel

John A. ...  
Judge ...  
Richard ...  
Murray ...  
Allen ...  
John ...  
Dana ...  
and ...

KIWANIS CLUB OF ALPINE  
P. O. BOX 965  
ALPINE, TEXAS 79830

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Board of Directors of The Kiwanis Club of Alpine, Texas, meeting in regular session on January 3, 1972, with the general membership, voted unanimously to oppose the Wilderness Proposal of the Big Bend National Park as it is presently proposed for the reasons set out in the presentation of the Big Bend National Parks Development Committee and further to unanimously support the Big Bend National Parks Development Committee's stand on this matter.

Signed,

James R. Bell  
James R. Bell, President

Attest,

Larry Bryant  
Larry Bryant, Secretary

Presented by:

Lee Cowell  
Lee Cowell, Spokesman





PECOS, TEXAS

January 7, 1972

Mr. George Hartzog, Director  
National Park Service  
Interior Building  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

The Downtown Lions Club of Pecos, Texas with 53 members have reviewed the Master Plan and the Park Wilderness Proposals for Big Bend National Park and we are against the proposals.

We have studied the presentation made by the Big Bend National Park Committee, Inc. of Alpine, Texas and we endorse it.

Yours truly,

Jesse Stephens, President  
Downtown Lions Club of Pecos

JS/mv



February 4, 1972

L. F. STOLBNER  
Manager

Mr. Jim Carrithers  
Park Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park, Texas

Dear Mr. Carrithers:

Texas Electric Service Company and its employees are very interested in the future of Big Bend National Park.

We want to go on record supporting the position of West Texas Chamber of Commerce and Big Bend National Parks Development Committee of Alpine. We want the Basin Area left open to the public and to expand the camping facilities in the Basin and Rio Grande Village rather than make a Wilderness Area out of the park.

The National Park Service has done a commendable job of operating the park. It has helped the West Texas image tremendously.

Sincerely,

L. F. Stolbner

LFS:lp



# International Parks Highway

385 - 85



This concerns Big Bend National Park. I made my first trip through the Park in 1954. There was nothing there but caliche and rock roads. There were 3 or 4 cabins up in the Basin, but they were very small.

On November 15, 1955, I went to the dedication of Big Bend National Park, expecting not more than 300 guests to be there, but there were over 1500 people in the Basin that day. There were quite a few people from our neighbor people across the Rio Grande.

The Park has done nothing but grow since that time: the roads, buildings and also the volume of public visitors in the Park. It has progressed to the point that there are paved roads most any place you need to go and thousands and thousands of dollars invested in the roads, restaurants, campgrounds, the Ranger Station moved to Panther Junction with a very nice Headquarters for them.

The first time I went there, there was nothing but a caliche rocky road going to the campground across from Boquillas. Today there is pavement, with lots of money being spent cutting the tunnel to get there. Anytime you go to this campground now, you find retired people from all over the United States camped there, plus lots of local people, and it stays full throughout the winter, and is never vacant in the summer.

There is a claim that there is a water shortage in the Basin, but I am of the opinion that it would be cheaper to pipe more water to the Basin than it would be to destroy the beautiful facilities that have been built there, and have it so inaccessible to those who love the beautiful scenery of the basin. There is all the room in the world for any who like to hike in wilderness. There are already miles and miles of territory out of sight and reach of roads where the avid hikers can travel. But we feel that by converting 74% of the area of Big Bend Park to Wilderness is taking away the privilege from 90% of those who visit the park to enjoy the Basin section and other areas now accessible to all. There are not that many hikers in the country that so much of the Park should be set aside just for them. Most people want to travel in cars--even some would-be hikers.

The discussion has also been that the horses take lots of water, but I do know that the horses can be moved to the lower country where there is water, and then loaded in trucks to move to the Basin when they are needed. I know a few times the horses have saved lives when they had someone lost in the area.

Concerning tourism, the Big Bend National Park is the best drawing card that we have in this area to get people to travel our highways and stop along in our little towns along the way. We don't want them

EXICO TEXAS OKLAHOMA COLORADO NEBRASKA NORTH DAKOTA SOUTH DAKOTA  
CANADA



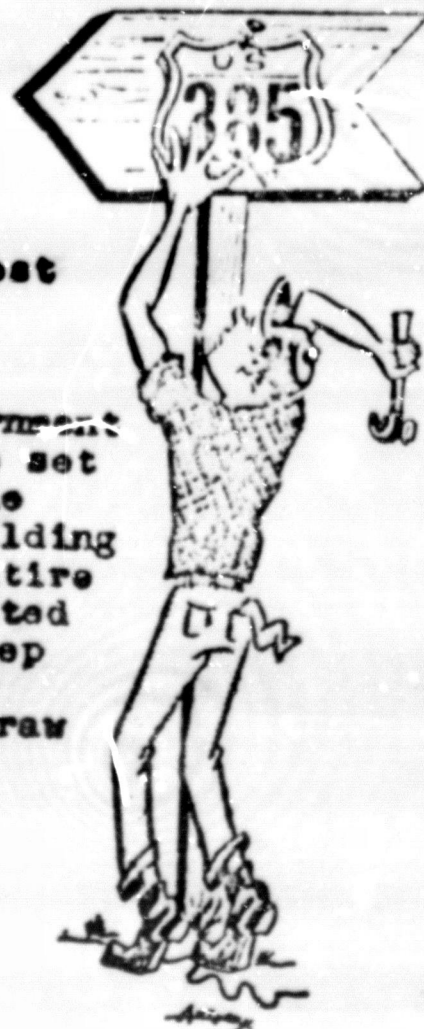
# *International Parks Highway*

385 - 85

to stop traveling down this way because their interest in Big Bend National Park has been lessened by the drastic charges proposed to be made.

We feel that the Park was given to the Federal Government by the State of Texas for people to enjoy, not to be set aside and not used for anything. We believe that the government has spent our tax money in good faith building the park for the enjoyment of the citizens of the entire United States, and that such money should not be wasted by unnecessary changes and closing of areas, and keep people out for lack of concessions in the Park area. We would like to see the Park continue to grow and draw people from all over the United States to see a very unique area of our country.

T. C. Tubb  
P. O. Box 196  
Crane, Texas





NR

# Oklahoma Ornithological Society

February 1, 1972



Superintendent  
Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend, Texas 79830

Dear sir:

Being president of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, I speak for over 500 concerned people who implore you to keep inviolate as much of Big Bend National Park as possible. We must remember that once upset, a desert vegetational climax will take many decades to restore. Increased population and political pressures have already ruined thousands of acres of land that should have been made sacrosanct by governmental action years ago. Conservationists are forced to fight rear-guard actions for natural areas previously thought to be preserved for all time. We are strongly opposed to construction of an entrance at Terrell.

Many of us have been privileged to enjoy the pristine beauty of the park. It should not be denied future generations.

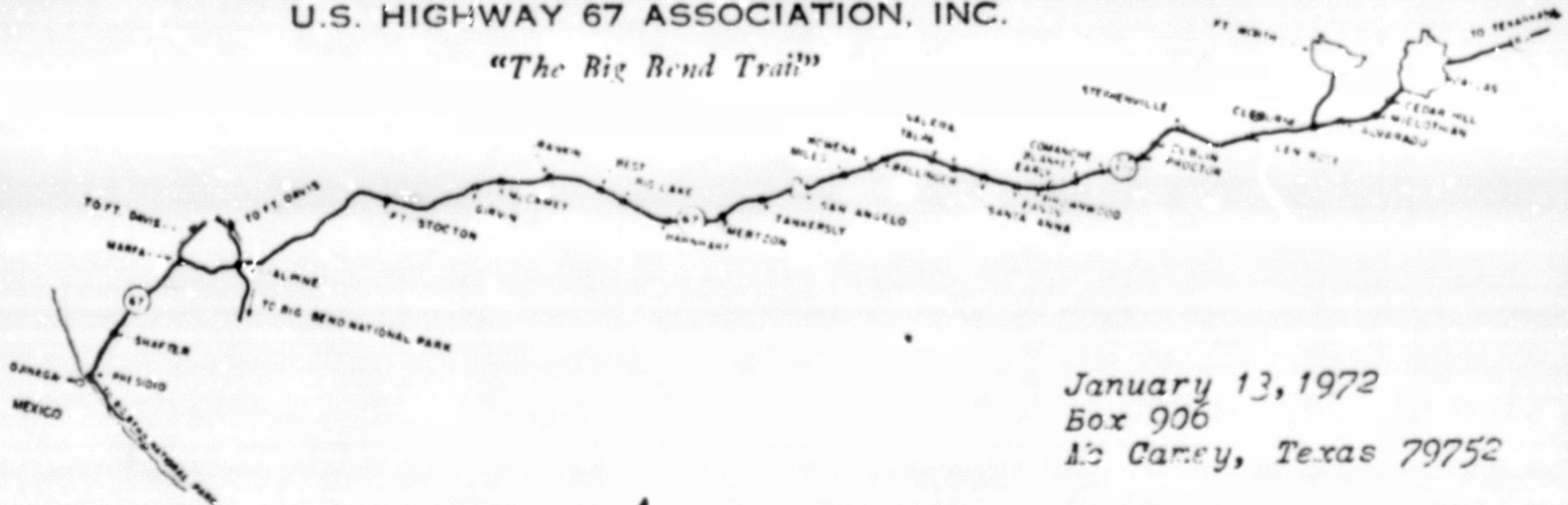
Sincerely,

Dr. Jack D. Tyler  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
Gordon College  
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501

JDT:jam

U.S. HIGHWAY 67 ASSOCIATION, INC.

"The Big Bend Trail"



January 13, 1972  
Box 906  
Abilene, Texas 79752

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79734

Dear Sir:

As President of Highway 67 Association, Inc., I am vitally interested in Big Bend National Park.

I feel that Big Bend is the greatest Tourist attraction that we have to offer the tourist in this area.

The Master Plan has many good sides to it, but the Wilderness Plan is not the best thing that could happen to the park. We feel it is already a Wilderness because of the type of area it is. Most of the Wilderness Parks are of different nature than this one. It would be almost impossible to hike very far in this area. We have too many older tourist who would not be able to enjoy this area.

The Highway 67 Association, Inc., supports the Big Bend Park Development Committee, Inc. 100 % in their efforts to do whatever is necessary to maintain a good park for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Gerry Maddell*

Mrs. Gerry Maddell, President  
Highway 67 Association, Inc.  
Box 906



Assemblage of Public Responses

1. School Children

4513 Delange  
February 11, 1972

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas 79834

Dear Mr. Carithers

I do not want to have  
all the motels and hotels  
moved in to the park.  
The whole point of the  
park is to preserve the  
animals and if you move  
more accommodation  
it will take more water  
from the animals. Please  
put my letter in the  
Wildlife Hearing record.  
I am nine years old  
and I care about the  
animals.

Sincerely yours,  
Ray Cantrell



5017 Verdome Lane  
February 11, 1972

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas 79834

Dear Mr. Carithers:

I am nine years old and I don't want you to put in the hotels and houses because the animals will die and become extinct. The water supply will go very quickly and man will move in and take away their hiding places and the animals will be driven away from the bend.

I want this letter to be entered in the Wilderness Hearing record.

Yours truly  
Kevin Champion

5313 De Lange  
February 11, 1970

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas, 79834

Mr. Carithers:

Please enter my letter  
in the Wilderness Hearing Record.  
I want the park and the rest  
of Big Bend to be preserved with-  
out highways or hotels. Letting  
people stay on an animal's land  
is one thing but endangering  
a animal's life is another. I  
wish all the things to be  
moved from the basin. I want  
all people to be able to  
see all the animals without  
seeing any dead ones. Please  
keep hotels away from the basin.

Sincerely yours,  
Jackie Westbrook



5027 Fallen Oaks  
February 11, 1972

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas 79834

Dear Mr. Carithers:

I would like to preserve Big Bend National Park and still let people be able to see it. I do not want other facilities being moved into the basin. If we do the animals will have to leave or they will die. I would not want this to happen.

I would like this letter entered in the Wilderness Hearing Record, and my age is nine years.

Sincerely,  
Blake Morris

4814 Caris  
February 11, 1972

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas, 79834

Dear Mr. Carithers:

I am nine years old and love animals. I would hate to think that a person would want to kill them. Please don't let them build in the forests of Big Bend National Park. I would be very sad if they did. It would destroy the animals and their food and water supply.

I want my letter to be entered in the Wilderness Hearing Record.

Sincerely  
Candy Davis



5918 Autumn forest  
February 11, 1972

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas, 79834

Dear Mr. Carithers:

I would not like to see a lot of hotels, restaurants and other things moved into the Big Bend National Park. I think that all the animals must be kept. The animals are sort of like human beings today. I sure would hate to see the animals die. I would like to have this letter on the Wildlife hearing record.

Sincerely yours,  
Danise Baugh

2431 Blue Wales  
February 11, 1972

Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas, 79834

Dear Mr. Carithers:

I am ten years old and  
in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I am  
very interested in animals.  
The hotels you want to build  
will not work out. The  
animals would not be able  
to live. Please do not  
build the hotels and please  
enter my letter in the  
Wildlife Hearing Record.

Sincerely yours,  
Pam Wilson



4802 Christell  
Houston, Texas  
Feb. 19, 1971

Joe T. Carithers, Supt.  
Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park

Dear Mr. Carithers:

If you build a bridge  
or even a hotel it will destroy  
and kill wildlife. I want  
to keep the wildlife. If you  
do build highways and hotels  
people will need more water.  
And you know that there is not  
much water in Big Bend.  
And the more people that come  
the less animals you will have.  
So please don't build hotels + bridges!

Your friend,  
Kathleen Kingma  
9 years old

4802 Chrysdell  
Houston Texas  
Feb. 10, 1912

Joe T. Carithers. Supt.  
Hearing Officer  
Big Bend National Park  
Texas

Dear Mr. Carithers: I think  
you are a good man. These  
poor defiles animals and  
the ~~confusion~~ animals. I like  
animals I know you  
do.

your friend  
Jeffrey Wood



4802, Chappell  
Newman, Texas  
Feb 10, 1972

Mr. J. Wilbur Supintan  
Neoring Office  
Big Bend National Park

Dear Mr. Corliss:

I have heard a lot about  
Big Bend National Park. I have  
not been there though. I hope you  
should not build a bridge or anything  
like that. I like the park just the way  
it is. Thank you.

Yours Truly  
Carla Smith  
10 years old

4802 Chrysalis  
Houston Texas  
Feb 10, 1972

Joe T. Carithers Superintendent  
Hearing Office  
Big Bend National Park Texas

Dear Mr. Carithers

I hear that they were going to  
build new hotels and log cabins there.  
I hope they don't do anything to the  
park. I hope they won't do anything  
to the animals. and I hope  
they will not do anything to  
the mind.

your friend  
Jeffrey Whones  
10 years old