National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
P.O. Box 129
Big Bend National Park, TX 79834

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2010

David Elkowitz
432-477-1108

Big Bend National Park News Release

PANTHER JUNCTION POST OFFICE TO CELEBRATE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTHORIZATION OF BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Big Bend National Park was officially authorized on June 20, 1935, by the Congress of the United States of America. The park would be established on June 12, 1944, after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the park's establishing legislation. Over 1,000 visitors came to Big Bend National Park that first year. Today, over 350,000 visitors a year enjoy the natural beauty and cultural resources of Big Bend.

Big Bend National Park is located in southwest Texas. The park was named Big Bend for the dramatic change in course of the river from a southeastern to a northeastern flow. As the Rio Grande flows through the Chihuahuan Desert, it carves not only majestic canyons, but also preserves great natural diversity and a wealth of the Nation's past history.

Celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the park's authorization will take place at the Panther Junction Post Office and Panther Junction Visitor Center. The celebration will include the Panther Junction Post Office offering a special pictorial cancellation. The pictorial **cancellation** will be available starting June 22nd and will be offered for 90 days.

In addition, a special book will be available: *The Grandest Thing: Our National Parks in Words, Images and Stamps.* Both the post office and Panther Junction bookstore, operated by the Big Bend Natural History Association, will carry the new book for sale.

To commemorate the special event in history, the Panther Junction Post Office will be offering the pictorial cancellation via mail by writing to:

Big Bend National Park
Postmaster
P.O. Box 20
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834-9998

All requests for the cancellation must be received within 60 days of June 22nd, 2010. For more information, please call the Big Bend Postmaster, Christi Ramirez, at (432) 477-2238.

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