

COMPENDIUM

Listing of Special Regulations in Effect for Big Bend National Park

2014*
Revised November 6, 2014

Authorized by Title 16, United States Code, Section 3, and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1 through 7, the following regulations are established by the Park Superintendent for the proper management, protection and public use of Big Bend National Park and Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River.

These regulations apply in addition to the criminal laws of the United States and the regulations contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. A person convicted of violating a provision of these regulations shall be punished by a fine as provided by law, or by imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both, and shall be adjudged to pay all costs of the proceedings.

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11/06/2014
Date

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11/6/14
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SECTION 1.5: CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS.

(a)(1) Closures.

The following areas will be closed to public entry from February 1 through May 31. These closures are for protection of the Peregrine falcon, currently classified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Species of Special Concern.

- The Southeast Rim Trail and a portion of the Northeast Rim Trail from the Boot Canyon/South Rim junction to a point just north of Campsite NE-4.
- All Southeast Rim campsites as well as Northeast (NE) campsites 4 and 5 are closed during this period.
- Crown Mountain, Lost Mine Peak, and Toll Mountain.
- All areas within ½ mile of known Peregrine falcon nesting sites, including rock climbing faces, as posted.

Additional trail and/or area closures or use limitations may be implemented. The closures published in the Annual Peregrine Action Plan are hereby adopted. Violating these published restrictions is prohibited.

All caves within Big Bend National Park are closed to the public for recreational use. Researchers are allowed entry by obtaining a research permit, for administrative purposes, in advance through the Division of Science and Resource Management.

The Boquillas Port of Entry Crossing Road is closed to vehicles and pedestrian traffic beyond the intersection with Boquillas Canyon Road during non-operational hours (winter and summer operational hours are posted at the park visitor centers).

The area surrounding the Boquillas Port of Entry facility is closed to the public. This closed area is defined by the road to the Barker house to the east and a line drawn 1800 feet to the west (this line can be seen on the USGS Boquillas 7.5 min maps). The west side of the closed area is marked with posted closed signs. The north boundary of the closure is delineated by the paved Boquillas canyon road. The south boundary of the closure follows the Rio Grande River.

The San Vicente Crossing Road is closed to vehicles beyond the intersection with River Road.

The Santa Elena Crossing Road is closed to vehicles beyond the gate.

Government housing areas are closed to all but residents, their guests, and persons with official business.

The Rio Grande within the boundaries of Big Bend National Park and Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River is closed to motor vehicle traffic, whether self-powered or under tow.

Motorized watercraft used within the park is limited to conventional boats with up to 60 horsepower inboard or outboard motors. Jet skis are not allowed in the park (see Title 36 CFR 3.24).

Gas-powered motorized watercraft will be prohibited on the following sections of the Rio Grande:

- Boquillas Canyon, from the entrance of Boquillas Canyon to the eastern Park boundary.
- Mariscal Canyon, from Talley to Solis, except for the month of October.
- Santa Elena Canyon, from the western Park boundary to the Santa Elena takeout, except for electric motors, which are allowed.

The Langford Hot Springs area, including the parking area, the loop trail, and the area from the mouth of Tornillo Creek to 1/2 mile downstream from the historic Hot Springs bathhouse on the Rio Grande is closed to the possession of glass bottles or containers.

(a)(2) Use Limits.

Use of the overhead lights at the Panther Junction tennis court is limited to the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Activating the overhead lights at any other time without written permission from the Park Superintendent is prohibited.

The use of portable electric drills to set anchors for climbing is prohibited.

The use of hand operated drills is allowed only with written approval of the Superintendent.

The use of oil based or colored climbing chalk is prohibited.

The idling of buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded.

The use of public potable water sources within the park is limited to a total of five gallons per day, per visitor.

The use of two-wheeled, gyroscopically stabilized, battery-powered personal transportation devices (i.e. Segway or similar devices) within Big Bend National Park by mobility impaired visitors is limited to the Window View Trail and the Rio Grande Village nature trail to the end of the boardwalk section. The speed of such devices shall not exceed the pace of a brisk walk.

SECTION 1.6: PERMITS.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.6(f), the following is a list of activities and applicable 36 CFR statutes for which a permit is required. Permits are issued by the Superintendent and may be subject to special requirements. Engaging in these activities without a permit, or violating the terms and conditions of a permit is prohibited.

Exploration of Caverns	1.5 (a) (2)
Fishing within park boundaries	1.5 (d)
Day use for organized groups of 40 or more persons on all hiking trails	2.1 (b)
Fishing in the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern boundary of Big Bend National Park (state license required)	2.3 (b)
Research Specimen Collection	2.5 (a)
Campground Use(Developed campground fee receipt)	2.10 (a)
Backcountry Camping (Backcountry site fee receipt)	2.10 (a)
Livestock Use	2.16 (g)
Special Event	2.50 (a)

Public Assembly (Required for Groups greater than 25 persons)	2.51 (a)
Sale/distribution of Printed Material (Required for Groups greater than 25 persons)	2.52 (a)
Memorialization (scattering of human ashes)	2.62 (b)
River Use	3.3
Post or distribute commercial notices or advertisements	5.1
Commercial Use	5.3
Commercial Photography	5.5
Commercial Vehicle Use	5.6 (c)
Waiver of Fees	71.13 (d)

In all cases, the permit or letter of authorization must be in the permittee's possession at all times and must be exhibited to any authorized person upon request.

SECTION 2.1: PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

(a)(4).

Dead and down wood may be collected from the flood plain of the Rio Grande and used for campfires where permitted. Such campfires must be in accordance with Section 2.13(a) (1).

(b)(1).

Permits are required for all Day use groups of 40 or more persons on all Chisos Mountain Trails.

(c)(1).

Fruits, nuts, and berries may be collected by hand for personal consumption on site without a collection permit.

SECTION 2.2: WILDLIFE PROTECTION.

(d).

Wildlife lawfully killed outside the park may be transported through the park under the following conditions:

- Persons transporting animal carcasses will have in their possession a valid state hunting license.
- Animal carcasses shall display a valid state game tag when required.
- Animal carcasses must be covered and out of sight.
- Animal carcasses shall be subject to inspection at any time by authorized law enforcement personnel.
- Animal carcasses may be transported through the park only on Route 13 (Hwy 118), Route 11 (Hwy 385) and the North Rosillos road.
- Possession or transportation of live wildlife in the park is prohibited.

(e).

All areas of the park are closed to the viewing of wildlife with an artificial light.

Artificial light is defined as a flashlight, hand-held spotlight, headlights, exterior vehicle lights or other light, which is emitted from a non-natural source. This also includes any infrared or similar light used in connection with a scope or electronic viewing device.

SECTION 2.3: FISHING.

(a).

A State of Texas fishing license is required to fish the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern boundary of Big Bend National Park.

A free NPS fishing permit is required by each person fishing in the park.

Jug fishing or free floating line fishing is allowed within Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern boundary of Big Bend National Park. Jug lines must be marked daily with the fisherman's name and that day's date.

Trotlines and throw lines must be marked with a gear tag and marked and dated daily.

If flagging is utilized to mark trotlines or throw lines, it may not be attached to vegetation. Nails or spikes may not be driven into rock walls, for attaching lines.

(d)(1).

Trotline fishing is allowed within Big Bend National Park, provided each end of the fishing line is anchored to the same river bank in a fashion that does not interfere with water vessels or swimmers.

(d)(2).

Possessing and using live bait minnows obtained locally from the Rio Grande is allowed for fishing in the Rio Grande. (See Big Bend National Park Special Regulations in Title 36 CFR 7.41)

SECTION 2.4: WEAPONS, TRAPS, AND NETS.

(a)(2)(ii).

Park residents may use the law enforcement firearms range at Panther Junction for target practice. This use is subject to the rules and restrictions of Appendix A. Violating these rules and restrictions is prohibited. Only frangible or "green" ammunition will be permitted for use on the firearms range.

SECTION 2.10: CAMPING.

Front country Camping.

(a).

Camping is allowed only in designated campgrounds. Campgrounds are designated by appropriate signing and by brochures and maps available to the public at ranger stations and visitor centers.

Recreational Fee Permits are required for overnight stays in developed area campgrounds, and will be issued by a self-registration system. The permit application requirement shall be met by completing the fee collection envelope, inserting the required payment into the envelope, and depositing the envelope in the security container at the registration station within 30 minutes of arrival in the campground.

Forty-three (43) sites at Rio Grande Village campground and twenty-six (26) sites at the Chisos Basin campground are reservable from November 15th to April 15th each year. Reservations for these campsites may be made up to 180 days in advance. Visitors may contact Reserve America (recreation.gov) year round to make reservations for these sites.

Reservations are required for the use of designated front country campground Group Campsites. Occupying a Group Campsite without a reservation is prohibited. A letter of authorization will be issued for use of Group Campsites. This letter must be in the possession of the group leader and must be displayed upon request to any authorized employee. (Group Campsite permits may be issued to those visitors without reservations if sites are available – Check with the visitor center to determine whether a site is already reserved).

Camping in any combination of front or back country campsites for more than 28 nights in a 12 month time period is prohibited. The 12 month time period is measured from January 1st through December 31st. From January 1 through April 15th, only 14 nights in any combination of front or back country campsites is allowed.

Exceeding two motor vehicles, one vehicle with trailer, one motor home with tow vehicle, or four motorcycles per campsite is prohibited. Vehicle(s) must be parked on pavement or designated area. In no case shall the number of vehicles exceed the designated parking area capacity.

Exceeding one wheeled camping unit and one tent, or four tents per campsite is prohibited.

Exceeding eight persons per campsite, except for designated group sites, is prohibited.

Exceeding the limit of persons in a group site, as listed below, is prohibited.

Basin Campground: Group Site – tents only

- Site L - 20 persons/10 tents
- Site M - 10 persons/5 tents
- Site N - 14 persons/7 tents
- Site O - 14 persons/7 tents
- Site P - 20 persons/10 tents
- Site Q - 20 persons/10 tents
- Site R - 20 persons/10 tents

Cottonwood Campground: Group Site- tents only
25 person maximum capacity/13 tents

Rio Grande Village Campground: Group Site – tents only
Site A - 20 persons/10 tents
Site B - 20 persons/10 tents
Site C - 40 persons/20 tents
Site D - 40 persons/20 tents

A minimum of 9 persons is required to occupy a group campsite.

Checkout time for all designated campsites park wide is 12 noon.

Occupied campsites may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours.

Supporting hammocks, or similar devices, from natural features is prohibited. Associated weight and swinging of hammocks may damage the natural features.

Quiet hours for all designated camping areas are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The following areas are closed to generator use:

- Rio Grande Village Campground sites 21 through 50 and 94 through 100
- Basin Campground sites 21 through 60

Generator use and the use of idling vehicles to generate power are allowed in designated areas between the hours of 8 a.m. -11 a.m. and 5p.m. -8 p.m. in the Chisos Basin Campground and 8a.m.-8p.m. in the RGV Campground. All other use of generators is prohibited. Operating generators must be attended by a campsite occupant at all times.

The use of generators, or idling vehicles to generate power, is prohibited in Cottonwood Campground.

(d).

Within all campgrounds and the Chisos Developed Area, to include the Lost Mine Trail Parking Lot, any food, food product, cooking utensil, food garbage, used food containers, or other aromatic products (including soap, toothpaste, deodorants, etc.) must be stored inside a vehicle or container that will prevent bears or other wildlife from acquiring the items when not actually being transported, prepared, or consumed.

Backcountry Camping.

(a).

Backcountry camping Recreational Fee permits are required for overnight stays in the backcountry and primitive backcountry road campsites. Permits will be issued at Visitor Contact Stations park-wide. Recreational Fee Permits are required for overnight stays anywhere on the Rio Grande, both within the park and the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River. Permits may be obtained at any Visitor Center within the park.

In addition, permits for *specific* reaches of the river may be obtained by self-registration at the following locations:

For Santa Elena Canyon *only*: The Big Bend Ranch State Park headquarters (Barton Warnock Center - Lajitas).

For the Lower Canyons (Heath Canyon Put-in) of the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River *only*: The Persimmon Gap Visitor Center.

For **self-registration**, the permit and fee requirement shall be met by completing a blank permit and a fee collection envelope, inserting the required payment into the envelope, and depositing the carbon copy of the permit and the fee envelope in the drop safe provided at the registration station.

Solo hikers obtaining a backcountry backpacking permit are strongly advised to fill out and submit a Solo Hiker information sheet at the time they obtain their camping permit. Solo hikers who fill out the information sheet must return their permit at the end of their hike, or make notification to Big Bend NP within 12 hours of leaving the backcountry.

The permit must be in the camper's possession while in the backcountry and must be exhibited upon the request of any authorized employee.

Checkout time for all designated campsites park wide is 12 noon.

Within the designated backcountry camping areas, the following areas are closed to camping:

- Burro Mesa above 3400 feet elevation (Tule Mountain 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle).
- The North Chisos Backcountry Use Area: the area enclosed by a perimeter through Crown Mountain's highest points, to the south face of Casa Grande, to Ward Mountain summit; then north, making a 1/2 mile radius around Oak Spring and Cattail Falls; east along the north face of Pulliam Ridge at 5400 feet elevation, across Green Gulch to the west side of Smuggler's Gap; to the road terminus in Pine Canyon, to the eastern peak of Crown Mountain.
- Within 1/2 mile of any development areas and paved or unpaved roads, except in developed campgrounds or at designated backcountry road campsites.
- Within 100 yards of a historic structure, archeological site, trail, or non-river water source, unless camping in a designated site.
- From the upstream end of the Santa Elena Canyon Nature Trail to 3/4 mile downstream from Castolon.
- The river floodplain from 1/2 mile upstream from the mouth of Tornillo Creek to the Boquillas Canyon Trail terminus.
- A 1/2 mile radius around the refinery ruins of Mariscal Mine.
- A 1/2-mile radius around the San Vicente river crossing.

No single permit will be issued for more than 14 consecutive nights in the backcountry except for River Use Permits which will not exceed 28 consecutive nights.

Supporting hammocks, or similar devices, from natural features is prohibited. Associated weight and swinging of hammocks may damage the natural features.

(d).

Within all zone and designated backcountry campsites where food storage boxes are not provided, any food and beverages, food product, cooking utensils, food garbage, used food and beverage containers, or other aromatic products (including soap, toothpaste, deodorants, etc.,) must be stored inside a hard-sided vehicle or in a container that will prevent bears or other wildlife from acquiring the items, when the items are not actually being transported, prepared, consumed, or closely attended and within the immediate reach of the owner day or night.*

The caching of food and water by backcountry users is prohibited unless the food and water is stored in a bear-resistant container.*

*Only bear resistant containers that have been certified and approved by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) and or the Sierra Interagency Black Bear Group (SIBBG) may be used. Bear proof containers are defined as securable container constructed of solid non-pliable material capable of withstanding a minimum of 300 foot-pounds of energy. When secured under stress, the container will not have any cracks, openings, or hinges that would allow a bear, or other animal, to gain entry by biting or pulling with its claws. Wood containers are not considered bear (animal) resistant unless reinforced by metal.

*Note that (most) ice chests and coolers, tents, dry bags, stuff sacks, or plastic packing boxes (Totes, Action Packers, etc) are not bear resistant containers. "Bear Bagging" where items such as food or other perishables are suspended out of reach of a bear is not permitted.

*Zone and backcountry campsites include all hike-in and drive-in designated campsites as well as all open zone camping areas.

*In camping areas where food storage boxes are provided the boxes, or a hard-sided vehicle, must be utilized when the items are not actually being transported, prepared, consumed.

*Currently Big Bend NP is developing a list of approved IGBC or SIBBG containers that may be used in the park. Until that list is developed campers may use IGBC and SIBBG containers that have been approved for use at other national parks. That list can be found at:
www.sierrawild.gov.

The cached food and water must be labeled with the owner's name and expected date of removal. Water and/or food must be cached at least 100 yards from historic structures, archaeological sites, trails and non-river water sources.

SECTION 2.13: FIRES

(a)(1).

Ground fires and wood fires are prohibited in the park. The following are exceptions:

- Charcoal fires in grills or fire pans are allowed in developed campgrounds, picnic areas, backcountry road campsites and NPS residence areas.
- Wood and charcoal fires are allowed when within the river corridor, located near the river's edge on cobble or sand beaches in areas that are open to camping, and must be contained in fire pans with sides at least 2 inches high. Only dead and down wood may be used. Wood fires in fire pans are also allowed at NPS residence areas.
- All overnight river trips must have a fire pan.

Fire remains must be made cold and out, and must be disposed of in a trash receptacle or carried out of the park, except that non-floatable fire remains may be placed in the main current of the river.

SECTION 2.14: SANITATION AND REFUSE.

(a)(1).

In campgrounds with service sinks, disposing or dumping dish water and other gray water is prohibited except in the service sinks.

Food refuse at concessions and residences within the park must be secured so as to prevent wildlife from acquiring it.

(a)(6).

On the river, cooking liquids may be strained (including dishwater) and deposited in the river. Strained materials must be carried out and deposited in a solid waste refuse container.

(b).

In non-developed areas more than a quarter of a mile from restroom facilities, solid human body waste must be buried six inches deep and at least 100 feet from the river and one quarter mile from any spring or stream water source.

All overnight river trips will carry out their solid human waste with a dump station compatible waste system or NPS approved personal waste system. The approved personal waste systems are commercially produced dry chemical bag systems.

SECTION 2.15: PETS.

(a)(1).

Dogs, cats, and other pets, (except documented service animals used by persons with disabilities) are prohibited on any park land, river, or trail except in those locations identified below:

- On and within 30 feet of paved and unpaved park roads open for public vehicular use.
- Parking areas.
- Established picnic areas.
- Front country campgrounds.
- Established residential areas.
- Castolon Historic Compound.
- Within designated backcountry road campsites.

Pets may not be left unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal, or if the animal becomes a public nuisance.

(a) (5)

Pet owners are required to immediately remove and properly dispose of fecal matter deposited by pets in an appropriate refuse container.

(e).

Park residents and their guests shall control and maintain their pets consistent with the provisions of this section and in accordance with the provisions of the Management Directive no. 7: Big Bend National Park Pet Policy. That Management Directive is hereby adopted and made part of these orders. See Appendix C. Violation of the provisions of the Big Bend National Park Pet Policy is prohibited.

SECTION 2.16: HORSE AND PACK ANIMALS.

(a).

Only horses, mules, burros, and llamas are defined as riding and/or pack animals.

(b).

The park is open to riding and/or pack animals, with the exception of the following closed areas:

- The North Chisos Backcountry Use Area: the area enclosed by a perimeter through Crown Mountain's highest points, to the south face of Casa Grande, to Ward Mountain summit; then north, making a 1/2 mile radius around Oak Spring Trail and Cattail Falls; east along the north face of Pulliam Ridge at 5400 feet elevation, across Green Gulch to the west side of Smuggler's Gap, to the road terminus in Pine Canyon, to the eastern peak of Crown Mountain. The Lost Mine and Window Trails are within this area.
- The High Chisos Use Area: defined in the Backcountry Management Plan, except for the Laguna Meadow and Southwest Rim Trails (to the Southwest Rim hitch rack) and the Blue Creek Trail.

- The Boquillas Canyon Trail.
- All self-guided nature trails.(Rio Grande Village Nature Trail; Hot Springs Nature Trail; Pine Canyon Trail; Grapevine Hills Trail; Oak Springs and Cattail Falls Trail; Sam Nail Ranch Trail; Lower Burro Mesa Pour-off Trail; Tuff Canyon Trail and Santa Elena Canyon Trail.)
- All paved roadways and their shoulders, except for necessary crossings. Stock may be used on backcountry roads.
- Within 1/2 mile of any development zone, except when using the designated access route from the Basin Amphitheater to the Laguna Meadow trail for access to the South Rim or Blue Creek trails.
- Within any developed or designated backcountry road or trail campsite, except those designated for stock use. See Appendix B.
- Crossing the Rio Grande.
- The Boquillas port of entry crossing road and parking lot are both closed to all stock.

(g).

Allowing stock to graze or browse in the park or picketing stock to any plant subject to grazing is prohibited.

Picketing or hobbling stock within 100 yards of a non-river water source is prohibited.

In backcountry roadside campsites where horses are permitted, and in parking areas where stock is unloaded and loaded, all manure, bedding, and feed remnants shall be removed from the park by the user.

SECTION 2.20: SKATING, SKATEBOARDS AND SIMILAR DEVICES.

Only park residents and their guests may use these devices, and only in the areas hereby designated for use of these devices:

- The Rio Grande Village residential road.
- All paved areas in the Panther Junction residential area.
- The Chisos Basin residential area.
- The Castolon residential area.

SECTION 2.21: SMOKING.

(a).

All government buildings and government vehicles are closed to smoking except those areas designated open in accordance with the Big Bend Management Directive no. 14: Smoking Policy. That policy is hereby adopted and made part of these orders. See Appendix D. Violating the provisions of this policy is prohibited.

Smoking is prohibited in all concession dining and lobby areas, stores, offices, and shops. "No Smoking" signs will be posted in these areas.

Smoking is prohibited both on trail, and off trail areas outside of the developed area, within the Chisos Mountains complex. This complex includes the areas of Pine Canyon, Lost Mine, and Window trails. It also includes the areas of Blue Creek and Juniper Canyon trails, to both of their Dodson trail junctions. In addition, it includes the areas of all smaller trails in and around the developed areas of the Chisos Basin (including the Basin Loop) and the areas of all trails leading to the Chisos Mountain rims (including Pinnacles, Laguna Meadows, Colima Emory Peak, and Boulder Meadow trails).

SECTION 2.22: PROPERTY.

(a)(2).

Leaving property unattended for longer than 24 hours is prohibited except for motor vehicles with displayed BC permit numbers parked at trailheads, along road side for zone camping, and river access points.

SECTION 2.35: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

(a)(3).

The following areas are closed to the possession of any open alcoholic beverage container or the consumption of any alcoholic beverage:

- All park-operated visitor centers and ranger stations, to include the areas within the structures and any related developed areas adjacent to the structure which are frequented by the visiting public. This does not include the Community Room between the hours of 5 p.m. and 2 a.m.
- The areas within all concessions buildings open to the general public (with the exception of the Chisos Basin Lodge Dining Room and patio), the stores, and parking areas immediately adjacent to the stores at Rio Grande Village, Castolon, the Basin, and Panther Junction.
- The Langford Hot Springs area, including the parking area, the loop trail, and the area from the mouth of Tornillo Creek to 1/2 mile downstream from the historic hot springs along the Rio Grande.

SECTION 2.51: PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS.

(e).

The following are designated public meeting or assembly areas. Detailed maps of specific areas will be furnished upon request. See Appendix E.

- Rio Grande Village Group Campground and amphitheater.
- Castolon Group Campground and amphitheater.
- Basin Group Campground and amphitheater.
- Panther Junction Headquarters Community Room.
- The baseball diamond near the San Vicente School, except during school hours.
- The tennis court by the San Vicente School, except during school hours.
- Panther Junction Community Ramada located near San Vicente School.
- Other areas so designated by the Superintendent for special events.

SECTION 2.52: SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER.

(e).

The following areas are designated as acceptable for the sale or distribution of printed matter. Sale or distribution areas may not interfere with foot traffic or block any public entrance. Detailed maps of specific areas will be furnished upon request. See Appendix F.

- Beneath the Ramada at the Rio Grande Village Store, facing the parking lot, between the bulletin board and the south end of the store building.
- Beneath the Ramada at the Castolon Store, facing the parking lot, on the first six feet of the walkway on the western end.
- On the plaza in front of the Chisos Basin Ranger Station, in a six foot wide area between the flagpole and the southeast building roof corner, and within four feet of the rock retaining wall closest to the lodge.
- Beneath the Ramada at the Panther Junction Visitor Center on the six feet of the walkway to the west of the Visibility Display and no more than four feet in from the north edge of the walkway.

SECTION 3.3: BOAT PERMITS.

Permits are required for the use of any water vessel within the boundaries administered by Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, except for day use boaters on the Rio Grande

Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern park boundary, and day use floating on the river on inner tubes.

Recreational Fee Permits are required for overnight stays anywhere on the Rio Grande both within the park and within the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, and will be issued by a visitor center or a self-registration system for Santa Elena Canyon or the Lower Canyons. The permit application requirement shall be met by completing the fee collection envelope, inserting the required payment into the envelope, and depositing the envelope in the security container at the registration station located at the Barton Warnock Center for Santa Elena Canyon and Persimmon Gap for Boquillas and the Lower Canyons. Permits for the remainder of the Rio Grande may be obtained at Visitor Contact Stations within the park.

The following are special conditions of all river use permits:

- Each person shall have a type I, III or V, U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) which is properly fitted, in serviceable condition, and immediately accessible while on the river. PFDs must be worn in Class II or greater difficulty whitewater. PFDs are recommended but are not required for people floating the river on inner tubes.
- Each group shall carry one extra type I, III or V PFD.
- Each vessel shall carry an extra paddle or oar; kayaks shall have an extra paddle per party.
- Each group using inflatable vessels, except air mattresses or inner tubes traveling with a support vessel through the major canyons, will carry an operable pump and a patch kit capable of making major repairs.
- No vessels shall carry more than a safe load (in persons or total weight) considering type of craft, intended use area, and water and weather conditions.
- Inner tubes as primary watercraft are not allowed in Mariscal Canyon, Santa Elena Canyon, and Lower Canyons.
- A group, organization, or commercial operator may start no more than 20 persons per day, not including guides, on the Rio Grande within the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern boundary of Big Bend National Park.

On the following river sections, group size for private trips is limited to 30 persons. Commercial operators may start no more than 30 persons per day, not including guides, on any one of the following sections:

- Western park boundary to the Santa Elena take-out
- Santa Elena take-out to Cottonwood Campground
- Cottonwood Campground to Talley
- Solis to Boquillas Canyon entrance

On the following river sections, group size for private trips is limited to 20 persons. Commercial operators may start no more than 20 persons per day, not including guides, on any one of the following sections:

- Talley to Solis
- Boquillas Canyon entrance to the eastern park boundary
- Individual river trips must travel, camp, and eat lunch separate from other groups.

SECTION 3.8: PROHIBITED OPERATIONS.

(a)(2).

Commercial or private river trips are not allowed to utilize the Boquillas Crossing Port of Entry (POE) as a point of ingress or egress for river trips. Allowing the POE to be a river access point is contrary to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In addition, it could potentially overwhelm the POE staff due to the amount of gear and supplies from river parties that must be inspected by CBP.

Using trailers to launch or recover vessels is prohibited, except at the following designated sites:

- Santa Elena Canyon take-out
- Blue Creek boat ramp
- Solis
- Rio Grande Village put-in/take-out

SECTION 4.21: SPEED LIMITS.

(b).

The following areas are designated as 15 miles per hour speed limits:

- Approaches to Maverick and Persimmon Gap Entrance Stations.
- Throughout the Basin developed area beginning on Route 14 (Basin Road), near milepost 6.0, where posted (Approximately .3 miles east of the main Basin parking lot intersection).
- Throughout the Panther Junction Housing area, beginning at the intersection of Route 12 (RGV Road) and Alsate Ave.
- San Vicente School Zone.
- Route 14 (Basin Road) near mile post 4.3, where posted, and continuing south, toward the Basin, over Panther Pass to the bottom of the “S” curves below Lost Mine (West bound) to where the change is posted to 25 mph near milepost 5.5.

The following areas are designated as 25 miles per hour speed limits:

- Daniels Ranch Road.
- Boquillas Canyon Road.
- RGV Campground Road from the RGV store to the campground.
- Santa Elena Canyon Road from Maverick Road junction to Santa Elena Canyon parking area.
- All unpaved (gravel/dirt) roads.

The following areas are designated as 30 miles per hour speed limits:

- Route 12 (RGV Road) and Route 13 (Hwy 118) near the Panther Junction Headquarters.
- Route 12 (RGV Road) from the Tunnel to Rio Grande Village.
- Route 11 (Hwy 385) near Panther Junction.

The following areas are designated as 35 miles per hour speed limits:

- Route 15 from 1/2 mile north of Castolon Residential Area to Route 16 (Santa Elena Canyon Road).
- Route 16
- Route 14 (Basin Road) near mile post 2.5 to approximately mile post 4.3, where posted.

SECTION 4.30: BICYCLES.

In accordance with Section 4.2(a) adopting Texas Transportation Code Sections 541.201(8) and 551.003, all regulations applicable to bicycles apply to low speed electric vehicles.

(d)(3).

Operating a bicycle abreast of another bicycle is allowed only on unpaved roads and on paved parking areas.

- END -