



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Big Bend National Park News Release

Big Bend National Park Seeks Public Comment on New Construction in the Park

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to construct new housing, operations, and recreation facilities in the park. The public, organizations, and other agencies are invited to review and comment upon a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) describing and analyzing the proposal.

The new construction would occur at Panther Junction, Rio Grande Village, and Castolon. The proposal is to construct a total of 27 structures in the park, of which 15 would serve new purposes, and 12 would replace existing temporary or inadequate facilities.

The purpose of the proposed new construction is to provide a mix of residential, operational, and recreational facilities that support a safe, healthy, functional, and efficient work and living environment for NPS, U.S. Border Patrol, concessionaire, and Big Bend Natural History Association purposes and staff. The proposed construction would implement *Big Bend National Park General Management Plan* (GMP) objectives, and needs identified since the GMP was completed in 2004.

The Draft EA describes the proposal and the no-action alternative, and analyzes environmental and other impacts and effects associated with the proposal and alternative.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500 et seq), and NPS Director's Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making* (DO-12).

The 30-day review and comment period starts on August 14, 2008 and ends on September 12, 2008. To see the Environmental Assessment, visit the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/bibe> during the comment period. Written comments may be submitted on the PEPC website or may be sent to: Superintendent, P.O. Box 129, Big Bend National Park, Texas, 79834.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made public at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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