

National Park Service
2005 Environmental Achievement Awards

Honorable Mention

Forever Resorts, Concessioner
Big Bend National Park
“Recycling Partnership with the National Park Service”

Forever Resorts, a concessioner providing lodging, food and beverage, retail, gas station, and other associated visitor services within Big Bend National Park, implemented an aggressive recycling program in 2004 that, if maintained, was estimated to extend the life expectancy of the Park’s landfill by 30 years. Forever’s recycling program is noteworthy in particular because Big Bend is located in a remote area where recyclable materials have to be trucked over 250 miles to the nearest recycling center. In cooperation with Big Bend National Park, Forever has succeeded in creating a model recycling program for remote parks.

In 2004, the program accomplished the following:

- Incorporated recycling into all standard operating procedures including those for: housekeeping, retail, food and beverage, gas stations, and employee housing.
- Placed recycling containers that accept plastic, aluminum, magazines, newspapers, paper board, cardboard and glass have been placed in all guest rooms.
- Donated over 1,500 hours of labor to the park’s recycling center, in addition to the nearly 1,500 hours spent on concession recycling operations.
- Recycled approximately 43,000 pounds of materials including:
 - 1,000 pounds of aluminum,
 - 14,000 pounds of cardboard,
 - 13,500 pounds of glass,
 - 179 pounds of household batteries,
 - 1,300 pounds of magazines,
 - 1,200 pounds of metal cans,
 - 500 pounds of mixed colored paper,
 - 4,000 pounds of newspapers,
 - 2,300 pounds of paper board,
 - 2,500 pounds of plastic and 650 pounds of white paper,
 - 20 fluorescent light bulbs,
 - 20 ink and toner cartridges,
 - 240 gallons of motor oil,
 - 86 tires,
 - 28 car batteries, and
 - 560 gallons of vegetable oil.