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Welcome to a new **tomorrow**

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Big Bend National Park and Friends of Big Bend National Park have worked hard and long to prepare the projects listed here for your consideration and support. Please contact the National Park Service and urge it to include them in the "Signature Projects".

Big Bend needs your voice now!

Dear Friends,

We have a unique and truly exciting opportunity to make a significant difference for the future of Big Bend National Park, but we must act quickly.

The 2008 President's budget request includes a Centennial Challenge to provide 100 Million Dollars a year funding for the next year, to be matched with the same amount from philanthropic donors. This program is aimed at restoring and revitalizing America's national parks by the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service, in 2016.

Here is where you, the Friends of Big Bend National Park member, can really make a difference for the future. The Centennial Challenge funding and matching request discussed above will provide funding for "Signature Projects". The Secretary of the Interior, National Park Service Director and other park service employees are, as we write, holding "Listening Sessions" throughout the country to learn about these Signature Projects from citizens and Park partners. Five Friends board members and one former board member, as well as park managers attended the Listening Session last week in San Antonio. This session was attended by the National Park Service Director Mary Bomar. The board presented four projects for consideration as Signature Projects for Big Bend National Park. The four projects are listed below

The selection of projects for the 2016, 100th year Anniversary program is going to be decided with input from the American public. A new Centennial website has just been created and contains more information at www.nps.gov/2016. Within this site is a link for the public and Friends members to share their opinions and have their voice heard and registered. This is a case of the more voices heard the better so PLEASE let yours be heard in support of the projects that our organization and the park have jointly selected. This can be done at the following link:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?parkID=442&projectID=17892&documentId=18372>

or you may download a form to mail in at

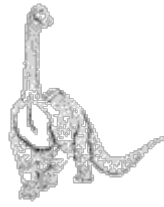
<http://www.nps.gov/2016/assets/files/listening-sessions-nps2016.pdf>.

The deadline for your response is April 2, 2016 and time is critical.

Opportunities are rare for us to make such a difference with so little effort. Please, go NOW to the link and join the chorus from Texas boosting the four projects described above.

Call or e-mail us if you have any questions.

Reb Gregg, President Friends of Big Bend National Park



Remember the Alamosaurus!

We are looking at a significant new series of paleontological kiosks and exhibits, including life sized replicas of some of Big Bend's most important dinosaur finds and fossils. Big Bend has world-class paleontological resources from micro fossils to the giants and a story that will energize young and old.



Vanishing Landscapes Restore the Rio Grande

The storied river is 1/6th its original volume partly due to exotic Salt Cedar trees which use water in great quantities and reduce quality by concentrating salt. Secondly, the banks of the river and its character are altered by huge stands of exotic Giant River Cane harming wildlife and recreation opportunities. This project proposes to remove these exotics and to restore the river within the park.



Park Auditorium and Feature Film

Big Bend is one the few large national park sites that does not have an auditorium or a park film for park visitors. Most visitors expect this service and ask for it when they arrive. Recent research also shows that a park film is one of the most effective ways to reach audiences and to connect.



Multi-park Trail

Big Bend National Park has a large and varied state park to its west, the Big Bend Ranch State Park. This project proposes to partner with the state park to create a trail that crosses both parks. The trail will link the parks together using a combination of existing trail with some new construction. The combined 100+ mile trail will offer a new and exciting opportunity for visitors to experience a multi night trail and backpacking adventure over varied and beautiful terrain in two park units.

Please act NOW! The deadline is April 2nd.

Please, [click here](#) and send in your response before it is too late.

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