



June 16, 2026

SUGGESTED POINTS FOR YOUR FORMAL COMMENTS ABOUT CBP'S PROPOSED BORDER PLANS IN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Please send in comments in response to CBP's proposed plans for border infrastructure in Big Bend National Park.

Project info and the call for comments can be found at [this link](#).

Comments are due July 13, 2026.

Reference the **"Brewster County Vehicle Barrier System Construction"**

Submit via email to : BigBendComments@cbp.dhs.gov

Please bcc your comments to : info@keepbigbendwild.org

Key Points to Make in Your Comments:

- Urgency: Data show that the border within the national park is not an area of high illegal entry. There is no border security emergency here. Urge CBP to slow down, analyze the comments they receive and transparently show how they are modifying plans in response before breaking any ground in the national park.
- Honor the Public Commitments Made by CBP Commissioner Scott: He committed that CBP would "balance operational needs with responsible stewardship of the land and minimize harm to the greatest extent practicable." Urge CBP to do exactly that and do everything possible to minimize unnecessary impacts to Big Bend National Park, deleting all plans that are in any way inconsistent with his commitments.
- Vehicle Barriers:
 - Eliminate the vehicle barriers on either side of Mariscal Canyon as there is no Mexican road across from these locations, therefore no risk of vehicles crossing the Rio Grande here.
 - Restrict proposed vehicle barriers near Lajitas and downstream of Boquillas Canyon to lands outside the national park, and they will accomplish the same purpose without impacting NPS lands and resources.
 - Commit that non-vehicular access to public lands in the national park will not be restricted by any vehicular barriers.

- Additional Patrol Roads:
 - Upgrade the existing unpaved River Road in the park, rather than build a new parallel road, to the standard agreed to by the NPS and USBP years ago.
 - Do not pave any existing or new roads in the park.
 - Delete the section of new road north of Mesa de Anguila.
 - Do not attempt to build a road across Mariscal Mountain or Ernst Ridge, or any other place in the park that would require blasting or construction of switchbacks.
 - Do not locate any new patrol roads within any existing NPS visitor or administrative facilities, including Santa Elena Canyon parking area and trail access; Castolon Historic District; Hot Springs Historic District; Rio Grande Village development (including Daniels Ranch, the RV park, the campground, or the NPS housing/administrative area); and the Boquillas Canyon parking lot or trail access.
 - If they determine that new roads are indeed the minimum necessary for their operational purposes, they should be gated so they are not available for public vehicular use.

- Sensors and Communication and Power Cables:
 - Urge them to reconsider the proposed hardwired sensor configuration that requires buried communications and power cables, and improve or enhance the existing sensor network with updated wireless communication technology and solar/battery power.
 - In lieu of fixed, hardwired sensors, deploy advanced aerial surveillance systems, including high altitude drones that cannot be detected by casual observers on the ground.

- Laydown and Staging Areas, Construction Camps, and Water Use:
 - We urge you to keep any laydown or staging areas to existing paved sites in the park or, preferably, to use areas outside park boundaries.
 - DO NOT build a construction camp or house workers anywhere inside Big Bend National Park.
 - Truck in all water needed for construction activities from water-abundant areas outside of Brewster County rather than overtax the park and county's existing wells and delivery systems.

- Lighting: Do not install lights on any new CBP infrastructure in the national park, as Commissioner Scott committed.

- Bottom Line: There does not need to be a conflict between a strong border, a thriving local economy, and conservation of the wildest, most intact landscapes of Texas and our nation.

Thank you!

Background information on all of these points can be found at <https://keepbigbendwild.org/border-issues/>

For More Information, or if You Have Questions, please write to info@keepbigbendwild.org