

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some Places Should Simply Be Left Alone

Some places should simply be left alone.

That shouldn't be a controversial thing to say.

I am writing from Louisiana because I am deeply disturbed by what is happening in and around Big Bend National Park. I don't live in Texas. I don't have to. This is our public land. It is part of our shared natural heritage, and I believe we all have a responsibility to protect it.

I keep thinking about the generations that come after us. What are we leaving them?

Are we leaving them wild

places to explore? Quiet places to breathe? Wildlife habitats, untouched landscapes and skies filled with stars?

Or are we leaving them another piece of nature that we decided was more convenient to alter than to protect?

Once a bulldozer goes into a wild landscape, something is lost. You cannot simply put the dirt back and call it untouched. You cannot recreate an ecosystem that took generations to become what it is.

We humans seem to have forgotten that we are not the owners of this Earth. We are caretakers.

Big Bend belongs to the animals

that live there. It belongs to the plants, the mountains, the desert, the river and the countless living things we may never even notice. And it belongs to our children and grandchildren, who have just as much right to experience its beauty as we do.

There are places where politics, convenience and human ambition should stop at the boundary.

Big Bend should be one of those places.

Leave it alone.

Leave it wild.

Leave something beautiful behind for the people who come after us.

*Alyson Walton
St. Rose, Louisiana*