



Contact:
Courtney Lyons-Garcia
512-529-1149
friendsdirector@yahoo.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friends of Big Bend to Celebrate National Public Lands Day

Friends of Big Bend National Park announces its first celebration of National Public Lands Day at Big Bend National Park on Sept. 26, 2009. This celebration of public lands for friends and family will bring visitors to the park to complete a volunteer project and get a behind-the-scenes tour of the park staff's facilities.

National Public Lands Day is an annual nationwide celebration of our country's public lands. It is held the last weekend of September every year, and last year's celebrations brought thousands of people out to national parks across the country. Friends of Big Bend National Park will be hosting a special weekend of volunteerism and fun at the park this year, bringing people out to the park to experience the beauty of West Texas.

"We are delighted to provide the public with this opportunity to make a "hands-on" contribution to Big Bend National Park," said Friends of Big Bend President Jack Lamkin. "Celebrating National Public Lands Day is an extension of our mission to promote the park, and we hope to have park fans of all ages join us for this fun opportunity."

The event will kick off on Friday, Sept. 25, with a root beer float party, include two different volunteer options on Saturday, Sept. 26, and end with a campfire marshmallow roast and dinosaur program. A schedule and registration forms are available on the Friends website. This event is sponsored in part by Bill Miller BBQ, Culligan Southwest, Saint Arnold Root Beer and TransPecos Banks.

Friends of Big Bend National Park is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support, promote and raise funds for Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River in partnership with the National Park Services and other supporters who value the unique qualities of this national resource along the Rio Grande.

For more details about the activities of Friends of Big Bend National Park, log onto www.bigbendfriends.org.

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Friends of Big Bend National Park * PO Box 200 * Big Bend National Park * Texas * 79834
512-529-1139 * www.bigbendfriends.org