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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friends of Big Bend Awarded Two Grants for Wetlands Restoration

Friends of Big Bend National Park announces the receipt of two grants for Big Bend National Park's Rio Grande Village Wetlands Restoration project. The grants, \$10,000 from Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant Program and \$6,500 from the Trull Foundation, will go toward restoring habitat for birds and other wildlife in Big Bend National Park.

"We are extremely grateful to these two foundations for their support," said Friends of Big Bend President Jack Lamkin. "Combined with our previous gift from the Brown Foundation, the park will be able to take a big step toward restoring habitat in the park."

Friends of Big Bend National Park is one of only six organizations worldwide to receive a grant from the Tourism Cares program for Summer 2008. The mission of Tourism Cares is to preserve the travel experience for future generations. The Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant Program distributes charitable grants to worthy tourism-related non-profit organizations worldwide for capital improvements and educational programs. The Trull Foundation provides grants that improve the coastal Texas environment, including farming, ranching, aquaculture and birds.

This particular area of the park provides critical wetland habitat for birds, as well as a buffer zone for the adjacent habitat of the federally endangered Big Bend mosquitofish. Restoring this disturbed site would bring welcome habitat for many birds and animals, as well as spectacular wildlife viewing for park visitors.

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 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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