

Comparison of Big Bend Compendiums

2016 / 2017 Big Bend Compendium	2018 Big Bend Compendium
<p>SECTION 1.5: CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS.</p> <p>(a)(1) Closures</p> <p>The Rio Grande within the boundaries of Big Bend National Park and Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River is closed to motor vehicle traffic, whether self-powered or under tow.</p> <p>Gas-powered motorized watercraft will be prohibited on the following sections of the Rio Grande:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariscal Canyon, from Talley to Solis, except for the month of October. • Santa Elena Canyon, from the western Park boundary to the Santa Elena takeout, except for electric motors, which are allowed. <p>(a)(2) Use Limits.</p> <p>The use of public potable water sources within the park is limited to a total of five gallons per day, per visitor.</p> <p>The use of two-wheeled, gyroscopically stabilized, battery-powered personal transportation devices (i.e. Segway or similar devices) within Big Bend National Park by mobility impaired visitors is limited to the Window View Trail and the Rio Grande Village nature trail to the end of the boardwalk section. The speed of such devices shall not exceed the pace of a brisk walk.</p>	<p>This section is unchanged from prior years. However, the closure language is perplexing. What exactly does this mean? Are they referring separately to cars/trucks (since motorized watercraft are explicitly listed)? Where could a land vehicle possibly be operated “on” the Rio Grande? The only thing that seems remotely logical would be prohibiting a vehicle from driving across the river at fords or low water. If that’s what they mean, that’s what they should say.</p> <p>Unchanged from prior years. What exactly is the issue with Mariscal Canyon? Why is October special and exempt?</p> <p>Likewise, why are electric motors allowable in Santa Elena Canyon, but not elsewhere? A little explanation would go a long way here (refer to comments about the Grand Canyon Compendium).</p> <p>Again, this is unchanged from prior years. A completely unenforceable rule. This cannot be monitored in any manner, lacking an enormous and unproductive waste of labor-intensive effort? By what method would individual use remotely be determined?</p> <p>This does not appear in 2018. Did they actually remove a restriction (shock!) or just forget to include it as a result of clumsy editing? The former seems unlikely, while the latter is very plausible.</p>
<p>SECTION 2.10: CAMPING</p> <p>Front country camping</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>No comparable statement exists.</p> <p>No comparable statement exists.</p>	<p>SECTION 2.10: CAMPING</p> <p>Front country camping</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>Backcountry permits may not be issued for more than 14 consecutive nights. Note, that this “backcountry” rule is found under the “front country” section. Sloppy editing.</p> <p>Camping in any developed campground (Rio Grande Village, Chisos Basin, and Cottonwood) for more than 14 consecutive nights is prohibited.</p>

(d)
Park wide, any food, food product, cooking utensil, food garbage, used food containers, or other aromatic products (including soap, toothpaste, deodorants, etc.) must be stored inside a **vehicle** or provided **bear resistant** container that will wildlife from acquiring the items when not actually being transported, prepared, or consumed.

Backcountry Camping

(a)
The North Chisos Backcountry Use Area: the area enclosed by a perimeter through Crown Mountain's highest points, to the south face of Casa Grande, to Ward Mountain summit; then north, making a 1/2 mile radius around Oak Spring and Cattail Falls; east along the north face of Pulliam Ridge at 5400 feet elevation, across Green Gulch to the west side of Smuggler's Gap; to the road terminus in Pine Canyon, to the eastern peak of Crown Mountain.

No comparable statement exists.

A 1/2 mile radius around the refinery ruins of Mariscal Mine.

No comparable statement exists.

(d)
No comparable statement exists.

Only water may be cached in the Homer Wilson Ranch and Juniper Canyon Trailhead storage containers. Food stored in these boxes are subject to removal by park personnel.

(d)
Park wide, any food, food product, cooking utensil, food garbage, used food containers, or other aromatic products (including soap, toothpaste, deodorants, etc.) must be stored inside a **hard-sided vehicle** or container that will **prevent bears** or other wildlife from acquiring the items when not actually being transported, prepared, or consumed. **“Vehicle is expanded to “hard-sided” and “bear resistant” essentially becomes bear “proof.” “Prevent” is more stringent than “resist.” In this iteration, anything you use that got defeated by wildlife automatically would fail the “prevent” requirement and thus subject you to a ticket, irrespective of your diligence.**

Backcountry Camping

(a)
The North Chisos Backcountry Use Area: (as defined in the Backcountry Management Plan). **In 2017 you helpfully were told what the boundaries were. In 2018 you now have to go find another obscure document rather than having the description here.**

The High Chisos backcountry use area, as defined in the Backcountry Management Plan, is restricted to designated sites and closed to zone camping. **Again, go find the obscure document. Also, what is the difference between “North Chisos Backcountry” and “High Chisos Backcountry?” Is there a difference or is this just sloppy editing and a redundant entry?**

A 2 mile radius around the refinery ruins of Mariscal Mine. **The difference between a half mile radius and two miles is HUGE. Is this a typo/sloppy editing or a real change? If real, what is the justification?**

Stays in developed Campgrounds at Rio Grande Village, Chisos Basin, and Cottonwood are limited to 14 consecutive nights. **Repeated from the front country section; “stays” replaces “camping.” Also, a front country regulation placed in the backcountry section. As with the reverse situation noted above, very sloppy editing.**

(d)
The permittee must show the permit writer that they have canister(s) in their possession before a permit is issued.

This section is unchanged from prior years. Prohibiting food in two specific storage boxes, while required elsewhere, is inconsistent and insults logic. Rationale?

SECTION 2.13: FIRES

(a)(1)

No comparable statement exists.

SECTION 2.14: SANITATION AND REFUSE.

(b)

No comparable statement exists.

SECTION 2.16: HORSE AND PACK ANIMALS.

The North Chisos Backcountry Use Area: the area enclosed by a perimeter through Crown Mountain's highest points, to the south face of Casa Grande, to Ward Mountain summit; then north, making a 1/2 mile radius around Oak Spring Trail and Cattail Falls; east along the north face of Pulliam Ridge at 5400 feet elevation, across Green Gulch to the west side of Smuggler's Gap, to the road terminus in Pine Canyon, to the eastern peak of Crown Mountain.

SECTION 3.3: BOAT PERMITS.

Each vessel shall carry an extra paddle or oar; kayaks shall have an extra paddle per party.

Each group using inflatable vessels, except air mattresses or inner tubes traveling with a support vessel through the major canyons...

No vessels shall carry more than a safe load (in persons or total weight) considering type of craft, intended use area, and water and weather conditions.

COMPENDIUM APPENDIX C
BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING USE LIMITS
CHISOS MOUNTAINS BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES

Emory Peak 1
Southwest Rim 1

SECTION 2.13: FIRES

(a)(1)

Wood fires are allowed in the residential housing areas provided they are contained within a fire pan with sides at least two inches high. Wood may not be gathered in the park but brush deposited in the Panther Junction boneyard can be utilized. Apparently, employees have been behaving badly and finally need to be regulated. A rare rule directed at the royalty.

SECTION 2.14: SANITATION AND REFUSE.

(b)

Toilet paper and all feminine hygiene products must be carried out as trash.

SECTION 2.16: HORSE AND PACK ANIMALS.

The North Chisos Backcountry Use Area (as defined in the Backcountry Management Plan). Again, you have to go find a second obscure document rather than repeating the earlier easily understood description.

SECTION 3.3: BOAT PERMITS.

Each vessel shall carry an extra paddle or oar; kayaks shall have an extra paddle per party. Permittee is required to show the permit writer that these are in their possession before a permit is issued. Second sentence is added.

Each group using inflatable vessels...
Exceptions eliminated.

No watercraft shall exceed the manufacturers recommended occupancy limits in weight or number of persons. Finally! a rule revised to be concise and removing the subjectivity of "intended use" and "water/ weather conditions." Provided this was not a fluke occurrence, whomever wrote this one should have written the entire document.

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