

VISIBILITY REFERENCES IN THE LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

STATUTE: An Act to provide for the establishment of the Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, and for other purposes, approved June 20, 1935. (49 Stat. 393)

"The State of Texas, known as the "Big Bend" area, shall have been vested in the United States, such lands shall be, and are hereby, established, dedicated, and set apart as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people and shall be known as the "Big Bend National Park."

COMMITTEE REPORT: House Report No. 878, 74th Congress, 1st Session.
Big Bend National Park. (May 13, 1935)

Facts concerning the proposed legislation are set forth in the favorable report of the Secretary of The Interior under date of April 16, 1935, which report is hereinbelow set out in full and made a part of this report, as follows:

An excerpt from the Secretary's report follows:

"This proposed legislation would authorize the establishment of the Big Bend National Park, in the State of Texas, when the necessary lands shall have been secured by the United States by donation. The Big Bend area is a region of inspiring scenery, and contains many varieties of rare plant and animal life. It is a national importance and worthy of Federal protection and development as a national park. The scenic grandeur of the Big Bend country extends across the border into Mexico, and it is hoped that, if this proposed legislation is enacted, the Mexican Government will be invited to cooperate with the United States in the establishment of an international park."

COMMITTEE REPORT: Senate Report No. 547, 74th Congress, 1st Session.
Big Bend National Park. (April 15, 1935)

"To the south, however, the landscape is dominated by mountain ranges and is felt to be of high caliber to rank well as a national park. In the Chisos Mountains the visitor is agreeably surprised at the colorful rock expanses, rose-colored and tinged with faint greens and yellows.

One of the dramatic features in this area is the Rio Grande itself, which in its tortuous course, cuts through three steep-walled canyons, the Santa Helena, the Mariscal, and the Boquillas, and meanders over flat river plains between.

The romance of old frontier Mexico is in the atmosphere of the Big Bend region. In the Chisos Mountains the visitor is continually aware of its presence. The outstanding views in three directions carry the eye over into the mountains of Old Mexico. From the south rim, over 5,000 feet above the river the eye obtains the most dramatic panorama of the Chisos---a 200-mile sweep of American and Mexican terrain. Below the Rio Grande winds through walled canyons and river flood plains. As a unit of the national park system the region would be unique in this international flavor."