

Rio Grande

A Backcountry Use Permit is required for day use and overnight use on all sections of the Wild and Scenic Rio Grande administered by the National Park Service. Backcountry Use Permits must be obtained in person at one of the Big Bend National Park visitor centers during normal operating hours, and may be obtained up to 24 hours in advance of the trip. These permits are issued on a first come, first-served basis. A backcountry use permit authorizes camping in specific river camping zones; zones must be specified when the permit is issued. Permits may be written for up to 14 consecutive nights.

Backcountry use permits for Santa Elena Canyon (only) may also be obtained at the Barton Warnock Environmental Center.

Self-permitting (for Lower Canyons only) may be done at the Persimmon Gap Visitor Center located at the northern end of Big Bend National Park.

Fees: A backcountry use fee of \$12.00 per permit is charged for all overnight use.

If you float the portions of the Wild & Scenic River inside Big Bend National Park, you will be charged for entry into the National Park.

Big Bend National Park Entrance Fee: \$25 per vehicle or use one of the [Federal Land Passes](#)

Permit changes may be made without an additional fee provided no new days are added. Permit changes must be made in person.

Additional Information:

All individuals, groups or group representatives must register a [river take out request](#) with Harrison Ranch & Stone to access John's Marina at Dryden Crossing.

Permission to take-out at Heath Canyon should be obtained by calling Heath Canyon Ranch at (432) 376-2235

If using river access at Black Gap Wildlife Management, there is a \$12 per person fee and the access pass is available at Barton Warnock Environmental Center, located in Lajitas, TX, online from [Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](#), or anywhere hunting/fishing licenses are sold.

Maximum group size downstream of Big Bend National Park: 20 people

Maximum group size within Big Bend National Park: 30 people, with the exception of these two segments; Talley to Solis and Boquillas Canyon Entrance to La Linda - limit is 20 people.

Contact: Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River

P.O. Box 129

Big Bend National Park, TX 79834

Telephone: (432) 477-2251

Website: <https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/riverregs.htm> and

<http://www.nps.gov/rigr/index.htm> and <http://www.nps.gov/bibe/index.htm>