-----Original Message-----
From: Chris_Turk@nps.gov
[mailto:Chris_Turk@nps.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Jeff Ruch
Subject: What is going on at Big Bend?

Your message was forwarded to me for reply. We're
grateful to all of you who pointed out that we
neglected to make the project FONSI available to
the public. A more thorough explanation follows.

On Feb. 13, 2012, the Intermountain Region director
of the National Park Service (NPS) signed a Finding
of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the
Environmental Assessment (EA) to build a new multi-
use trail at Panther Junction in Big Bend National
Park.

Because of mistakes and miscommunication on our
part, the FONSI was not activated for online public
view in the NPS Environment and Public Comment
system (PEPC) until April 11. We apologize to you
for this oversight and for the two-month delay in
making the document available and notifying you.
The FONSI and two related documents – the "Errata"
and "Responses to Comments" – now can be viewed
with other project documents at:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?proje
ctID=14611

The park's preferred alternative in the EA – to
build a new multi-use trail for hiking and mountain
biking in an area north of the Big Bend's Panther
Junction visitor center and headquarters – has been
selected. It is important to note, however, that
according to the FONSI and the EA, mountain biking
cannot be permitted on this trail, once built,

until special Park Service regulations are
completed to permit bicycle use on a national park
trail. As stated in the EA, the NPS must follow a
formal federal rulemaking process, which will apply
only to this new multi-use trail at Big Bend. That
process has numerous stages, including advance
notice and publishing of initial analysis, early
public involvement, Office of Management and Budget
review, Federal Register publication of the
proposed rule, a formal public comment period and
congressional review, among other steps.

If you are not able to view the above-linked
website, you may obtain a paper copy of the FONSI
and associated documents by sending your request
to:

        Superintendent
        Attn: Multi-Use Trail FONSI
        P.O. Box 129
        Big Bend National Park, TX 79834

Again, thank you for your understanding about this
delay in notifying you.
If you have any questions about the FONSI, please
contact Patrick O'Driscoll in the NPS's
Intermountain Region Office in Denver by phone at
303-969-2839, or email at
patrick_o'driscoll@nps.gov.

Chris Turk, NPS-IMDE-REQ
Regional Environmental Quality Coordinator
Phone: 303-969-2832
Cell: 720-201-1559
Fax: 303-969-2717
EQ Intranet: http://imr.nps.gov/environmental-
quality/index.html

EQ Tools and Examples:
http://inside.nps.gov/regions/orglist.cfm?lv=2&rgn=
274

              "Jeff Ruch"
              <jruch@peer.org>

To
              04/11/2012 01:28
<ray_todd@nps.gov>,
              PM AST
<rick_frost@nps.gov>

Subject What is going on at Big Bend?

Apparently the outgoing Superintendent has started
construction on a controversial single-track
mountain biking trail (see below) without
publishing the EA and without promulgated the
needed special regulation.

Please advise.

Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
(PEER)
2000 P Street, NW Suite 240
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 265-7337; Fax: (202) 265-4192
Website: www.peer.org

This is from a local news website published Monday
the 9th.

http://alpinedailyplanet.typepad.com/alpine-daily-planet/

Construction begins on new trail at Big Bend National Park
(Embedded image moved to file: pic22762.jpg)Lone%20Mountain%20050
Construction has begun on the new Lone Mountain Loop trail at Big Bend National Park. AmeriCorps members, under the direction of volunteer Jeff
Renfrow, began clearing the corridor in anticipation of American Youth Works crews that will arrive next week. Years of work by local
volunteers and International Mountain Biking Association staff,including Trail Solutions' Joey Klein, are finally being translated to
on-the-ground singletrack, with a projected opening date of later this year.