



Foundation Document Overview

Amistad National Recreation Area

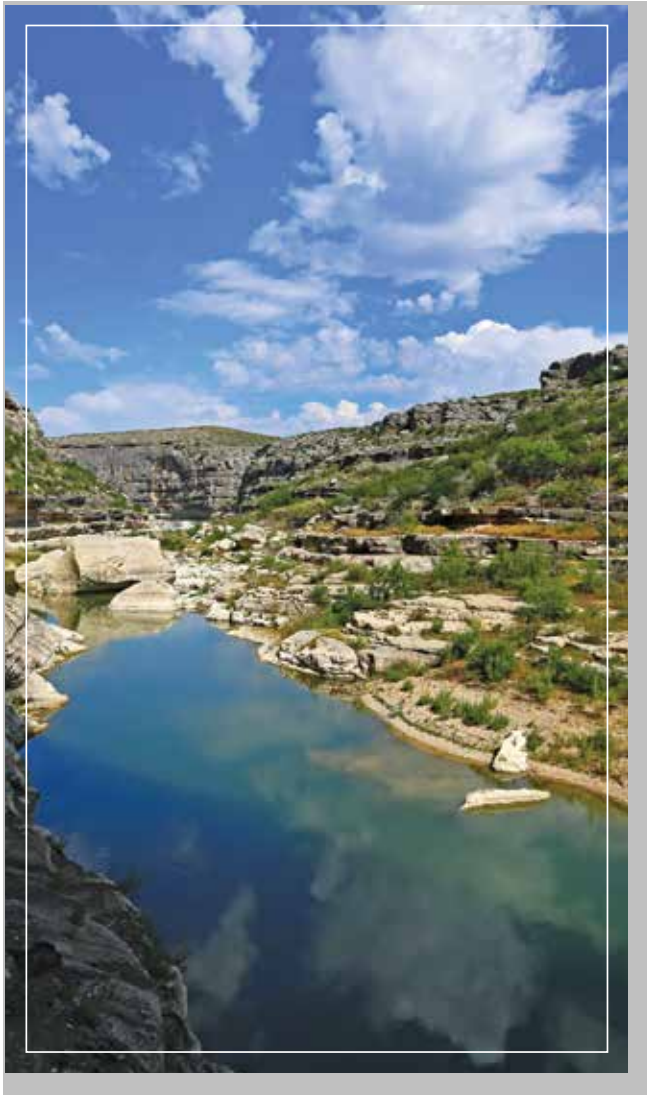
Texas



Contact Information

For more information about the *Amistad National Recreation Area Foundation Document*, contact: amis_superintendent@nps.gov or (830) 775-7491 or write to: Superintendent, Amistad National Recreation Area, 4121 Highway 90 West, Del Rio, TX 78840-9350

Purpose



The purpose of AMISTAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA is to provide for public outdoor recreational use and enjoyment of the lands and waters associated with the United States portion of the International Amistad Reservoir on the international boundary with Texas and Mexico, and to protect scenic, scientific, cultural, and other values contributing to the public enjoyment of such lands and waters.

Significance

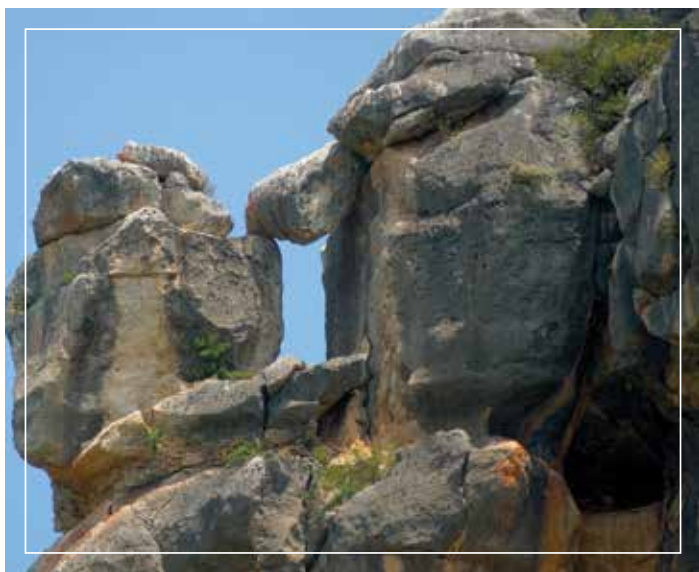
Significance statements express why Amistad National Recreation Area resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- As one of only two reservoirs managed jointly by the United States and Mexico, Lake Amistad commemorates a water conservation partnership between the two nations.
- The waters of Lake Amistad provide diverse water-based recreational opportunities including some of the finest black bass fishing in the southwestern United States.
- Amistad National Recreation Area protects and interprets exceptional examples of the area's distinct Lower Pecos River-style rock art, one of the most significant and densest concentrations of Archaic rock art in the world.
- Amistad National Recreation Area contains hundreds of archeological sites and a museum collection of more than 980,000 artifacts including many uncommon perishable artifacts from dry rock shelters. These resources provide important information from more than 10,000 years of American Indian hunter-gatherers, Spanish exploration, interactions with Mexico, the U.S. military, ranching, and railroad history.
- Amistad National Recreation Area has a rich biological diversity in part due to the reservoir and its location at the convergence of three ecoregions: the Chihuahuan Desert, the Tamaulipan Thornscrub, and the Edwards Plateau.
- Amistad National Recreation Area encompasses ruggedly scenic canyonlands associated with three distinct rivers: the Rio Grande, Pecos River, and the clear, spring-fed Devils River.
- Amistad National Recreation Area provides diverse land-based recreational opportunities and includes one of the largest tracts of public land available for hunting in southwest Texas.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Recreation**
- **Cultural Resources**
- **Water Resources**
- **Land Resources**



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- Featuring an extensive reservoir at the convergence of three rivers, three ecological zones, and migratory flyways within a semiarid, rugged landscape, Amistad National Recreation Area provides diverse opportunities for land-based and water-based outdoor recreational experiences to enhance the enjoyment, health, and well-being of park visitors.
- Amistad National Recreation Area protects and interprets exceptional examples of one of the most significant and dense concentrations of Archaic rock art in the world, hundreds of archeological sites, and a museum collection of almost 1 million artifacts, offering unique opportunities to appreciate how people (past and present) express cultural identity and the connection to their environments.
- The area's history of Spanish exploration, interactions with Mexico, military operations, ranching, and railroad development offers insights into the formation of the present-day United States and its legacy.
- Built and maintained in a spirit of friendship between the United States and Mexico, the Amistad Dam provides flood control, water storage, power generation, and recreational opportunities, highlighting the benefits of intercultural cooperation toward mutual goals, human resilience, and the evolving relationship with dynamic landscapes.



Description

Situated on the United States-Mexico border, Amistad National Recreation Area is known primarily for excellent year-round, water-based recreation including boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving, and waterskiing. Amistad National Recreation Area also provides opportunities for picnicking, camping, and hunting.

Amistad Dam created the reservoir at the confluence of the Rio Grande, Devils, and Pecos Rivers in 1969. In addition to excellent recreation, Amistad National Recreation Area is rich in archeology and rock art and contains a wide variety of plant and animal life. Amistad park headquarters is in Del Rio, Texas, population 35,000.

