

NOV 1 1966

Hon. E. (Kika) de la Garza
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. de la Garza:

In response to your October 21 request, we are returning three maps of Cameron County, Texas, on which the Wilderness Study Area at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge has been colored in red. In addition, we are sending three small letter-sized maps with the same information.

The Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577, provided the authority and indicated the procedure by which National Wildlife Refuges, meeting the necessary requirements, might be considered for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This law directed the study and review within 10 years after September 3, 1964, of every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more and every roadless island within the National Wildlife Refuges and Game Ranges.

Regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, published on February 22, 1966, require this Bureau to review every roadless area of 5,000 acres or more and every roadless island that is (a) reasonably compact, (b) undeveloped, (c) possesses the general characteristics of a wilderness and (d) has no improved roads suitable for public travel by conventional automobile. The selection of each area and island for study must satisfy each of these elements.

A determination of whether the proposed Arroyo Colorado Wilderness Area meets these stringent requirements must await the completion of a thorough study of the area. The study is not scheduled for completion until after 1967.

Your interest in this proposal and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge is appreciated very much.

Sincerely yours,
(SGD) ABRAM V. TUNISON

Deputy

Director

Enclosures

NOV 1 1966

cc: FW, FOC, Regional Director (Albuquerque)
Congressional Liaison, Legislative Counsel
Directorate reading file

HBCrandell:jap 10/31/66

File - Wilderness
Arroyo Colorado
Figure 2

RF
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

21 October 1966, 196...

Respectfully referred to

Director
Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife
Department of Interior
Washington, D C

Attn: Mr F C Gillette

Dear Sir

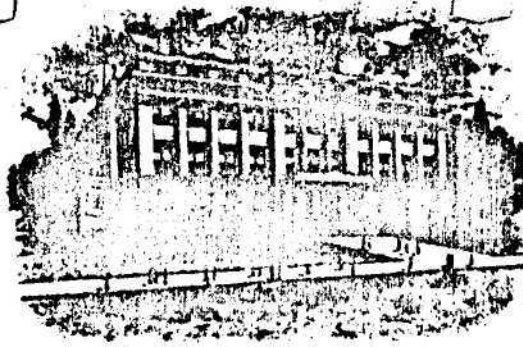
The attached comprise the matters my office discussed with you today. You can be confident I will appreciate your giving what consideration you can, commensurate with your policies, to the enclosed request. I appreciate your kindness and your understanding.

Very respectfully,

E. de la Garza
E. (Kika) de la Garza

M. C., 15th District.
T E X A S

JOHN L. H. FLEMING, Sheriff
MRS. L. L. H. FLEMING, Tax Assessor and Collector
F. T. JAMES, County Clerk
L. L. JAMES, District Attorney
MRS. W. W. JAMES, Treasurer
J. L. JAMES, County Surveyor
H. L. JAMES, District Judge
MRS. W. W. JAMES, District Judge
MRS. L. L. JAMES, District Judge



OSCAR C. DANCY, County Judge
J. L. JAMES, District Judge
J. L. JAMES, District Judge
J. L. JAMES, District Judge
J. L. JAMES, District Judge
J. L. JAMES, District Judge
J. L. JAMES, District Judge
J. L. JAMES, District Judge

CAMERON COUNTY

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
Oct. 17, 1966

H. n. Kika de la Garza
Member of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Kika:

I am enclosing you 3 County Maps under separate cover.

I wat you to hve marked off for me the boundaries of the so-called Wilderness that you are trying to get for Cameron County; and it looks to me like it will be a great thing for us in the attraction of tourists. At any rate, I want you to fully investigate it and do all you can.

Prusumably they will not want any roads in the area covered by the wilderness, but they will certainly want roads to it. These roads will be for recreation and it would be possible that under the Anti-Poverty Program, that you could get Federal monies up to 3/4 of the cost of this road. I will appreciate any information you can get.

It occurs to me that the Service might want to keep one Map, and you would want to keep one in your files, and return the other to me with the boundaries marked off.

Kika, I am asking a great deal of you, but don't hesitate to let me know the cost, and I will promptly remit the same.

Thanking you for your usual, prompt cooperation in this matter,
I am,

Yours very truly,

Oscar C. Dancy

Oscar C. Dancy, County Judge

OCD/ssm

OCT 19 1966

JAN 29 1968

FILE COPY
Barnome

Crandell 1/29

Turner 1/29

Adkins 1/29

Scott
Dell 1/29

Hon. E. (Kika) de la Garza
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. de la Garza:

Thank you for your January 19th letter requesting information on the status of the wilderness proposal within Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

As you know, the Wilderness Act (P.L. 88-577) directs the Secretary of the Interior to study all roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more within the National Wildlife Refuge System and report to the President whether the area is suitable or non-suitable as wilderness.

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge contains lands which meet the criteria for study as wilderness. The status of the wilderness study has not changed since we last wrote you on November 1, 1966, except the study now is scheduled for completion in 1971.

Your continuing interest in Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge is appreciated very much. If we may be of further assistance, please ask.

Sincerely yours,

((SGD)) ABRAM V. TUNISON
Acting Director

cc:

Regional Director, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Directorate reading file
Legis. Counsel, Cong. Liaison, FW, FOC

✓ HBCrandell:jap 1/26/68: 1/29/68

RF-P
Wilderness
Laguna Atascosa

RF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

19 January 1968

Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D C 20240

Subject: Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

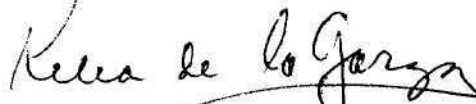
Dear Sir

This is with further reference to your latest
reply to me concerning the subject mentioned above, a
copy of which is attached for your ready reference.

Provided it is commensurate with your policies,
I would appreciate being further advised.

With my thanks and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely



E (Kika) de la Garza, M C

dmd
Attachment



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES
AND WILDLIFE

NOV 1 1966

Rep. E. (Eika) de la Garza
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. de la Garza:

In response to your October 21 request, we are returning three maps of Cameron County, Texas, on which the Wilderness Study Area at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge has been colored in red. In addition, we are sending three small letter-sized maps with the same information.

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Regulations of the Secretary of the Interior, published on February 22, 1966, require this Bureau to review every roadless area of 5,000 acres or more and every roadless island that is (a) reasonably compact, (b) undeveloped, (c) possesses the general characteristics of a wilderness and (d) has no improved roads suitable for public travel by conventional automobile. The selection of each area and island for study must satisfy each of these elements.

A determination of whether the proposed Arroyo Colorado Wilderness Area meets these stringent requirements must await the completion of a thorough study of the area. The study is not scheduled for completion until after 1967.

Your interest in this proposal and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge is appreciated very much.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) ABRAM V. TUNISON

Deputy Director

Enclosures

NOV 2 1966



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES
AND WILDLIFE

FILE COPY
Surname Date

Wagon	8-17
Condell	8-17
Stiles	9/8
Wagon	8/18
Laurie	8/19

AUG 25 1970

Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tower:

I am forwarding the enclosed notice of a public hearing regarding the results of a wilderness study on the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron and Willacy Counties, State of Texas. Your office will be furnished with copies of a brochure containing a map and information about the study from our regional office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as soon as they are available from the printers.

We will be pleased to answer questions and provide any additional materials you may need in regard to this study.

Sincerely yours,

((SGD)) JOHN S. GOTTSCHALK
Director

Enclosure

Identical letter to: Senator Ralph W. Yarborough
Representative Eligio de la Garza

cc:
DD
FOC
FW
CL
DL
Directorate Reading File
Regional Director, Albuquerque

RF:HDWoon:mw 8/17/70

T. W. Wagon
Parsat for 8/21
Hammitt 8/21

8/25

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

LAGUNA ATASCOSA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
WILDERNESS STUDY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, (P.L. 88-577; 78 Stat. 890-896; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), that a public hearing will be held at 9 a.m. on October 15, 1970, at the Hub Room in the Harlingen National Bank, 115 Van Buren, Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas, to consider the results of a study leading to a recommendation to be made to the President of the United States by the Secretary of the Interior, regarding the desirability of including a portion of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The refuge embraces 45,150 acres of shallow lakes, coastal prairie, and mud flats within the Rio Grande River valley in Cameron and Willacy Counties, State of Texas.

A brochure summarizing the study may be obtained from the Refuge Manager, Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 739, San Benito, Texas 78586, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Federal Building, 500 Gold Avenue SW, New Mexico 87103.

Individuals or organizations may express their oral or written views by appearing at the hearing, or they may submit written comment for inclusion in the official record of the hearing to the Regional Director at the above address by November 30, 1970.

Certified to be a true copy AUG 6 1970
of the original

Nathaniel L. Henderson
Certifying Officer

(SGD) JOHN S. GOTTSCHALK
Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries
and Wildlife

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE
AND RECORDS SERVICE
FILED AND INDEXED
FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

AUG 11 8 48 AM '70

IN THE DEPT. OF THE
FEDERAL REGISTER 24

Means	10/5
Bryant	10-6
Spoden	10/6

OCT 6 1970

Regional Director, Albuquerque (RF)

Acting Assistant
Director (RF)

Laguna Atascosa Wilderness Brochure

We have received the subject brochure. The following comments will assist you in preparing wilderness brochures in the future:

1. The map of the Study Area should not have been printed in color. Prior approval is required for color. If this document is reproduced in a congressional report, it will be in black and white and consequently much of the detail will be lost. The use of symbols is the preferred method for showing types of vegetation, roads, dikes, etc. Also, the expense of printing color must be taken into account and particularly when the area is being recommended as nonsuitable.
2. The brochure was received about 30 days ahead of the public hearing date. The public hearing package, which includes the brochure should be mailed out at least 60 days in advance of the public hearing. This time interval will permit sufficient time for interested individuals, groups and organizations to study the proposal and to make their plans for the hearing. This timing is extremely important when an area is controversial or there is high public interest.

The draft chapter on wilderness brochures and the Planning Handbook, WRH-1, have many helpful guides that will be of value to you in preparing brochures in the future.

(SGD) F. G. SPODEN, JR.

cc:
Directorate Reading File

RF:RLMeans:jee 10/5/70

RF



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES
AND WILDLIFE

FILE COPY

Surname Date

Woon	10-15
Hughlett	10-16

OCT 16 1970

Mr.
J. Sutton Myers
1169 S. State Street
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Mr. Myers:

We were pleased to receive your recent letter regarding the study of potential wilderness values on the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.

The reason we are not recommending wilderness designation for the North Island portion of the refuge is because of the conflict such action presents in carrying out plans to improve wildlife habitat. The results of our study indicate that by restricting development we would not be able to impound water of a sufficiently permanent nature to provide for migrating and wintering waterfowl. Due to the constantly shrinking habitat along the Texas coast, it is our primary purpose to supplement these losses by providing suitable habitat on the refuge. While, as you suggest, natural habitat is desirable; in this instance, we can substantially increase the quality of the habitat through low level diking to impound water.

Thank you for your interest in the Wildlife Refuge System and the wilderness program. We hope you will continue to closely scrutinize our proposals and ask questions whenever something isn't clearly explained in our brochures.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) C. A. Hughlett

Acting Chief, Division of Wildlife Refuges

cc:
Regional Director, Albuquerque (RF)

RF:HDWoon:jee 10/15/70

RF

J. Sutton Myers

30 Sept 70

302/734-4305

1169 S. State Street, Dover, Delaware 19901

US Dept Int.

Fish & Wildlife Service

Re

LAGUNA ATASCOSA

near Brownsville, Texas.

Dear Sirs: —

I am quite puzzled about the NWR in SE Texas: Why is the Bureau against making part of this area into a Wilderness Classification category? The booklet from this area does not clarify the real reasons, as I thought that a wilderness type of vegetation would be most desirable as being very close to the natural habitat that the wildlife should have. How natural is it for the Bureau to raise such a fence — should not the land be left nature would have it, so that the deer & quail would have a more natural and well balanced living area?

Yours very truly with the appreciation —
J. Sutton Myers

Regional Director, BSWF
Albuquerque, New Mexico (RF)

Oct. 21, 1970

Refuge Manager
Yuma, Arizona

Wilderness Hearings - Comments on Laguna Hearing

Attention: Jerry Wilson

Following are ideas and comments expressed by Pat O'Halloran and Dale Henry following the Laguna Atascosa Wilderness hearing:

1. Large Refuge Map. - Should be smaller. The 6'X8' size was difficult to handle and could not be viewed in its entirety by everyone present. This was of course due to layout of the hearing room, but is likely to occur again. We would suggest a slightly smaller size (4'x6') with much less detail - show only the major items to be brought out in the opening statement and put the detail on the map which goes in the back of the hearing room. The overlay was also unnecessary and could possibly be eliminated from future maps.

We would also suggest using poster board or cloth rather than paper. Four sheets of 22"X30" poster board will form a 44"X60" map. Paper takes a beating and may not last through 3-4 Cabeza hearings plus use elsewhere. We'll try to get some mock-ups to you in the near future.

2. Vicinity Map. - The vicinity map in the front of the hearing room was not visible past the first couple of rows. Again it should contain much less detail or be placed in the back of the room.

3. Other Displays. - We were pleased with the Laguna display but again would suggest they be made on poster board (railroad board in GSA catalog) for the sake of durability.

Claude F. Lard

Pierre - Howard -
Some good suggestions
we hope you are
able to use.
S.W.

Means	11/4
Hughlett	11-5
Scott	11/5

NOV 6 1970

Mr. Joe J. Garza
1314 E. Harrison
P. O. Drawer 2146
Harlingen, Texas 78550

Dear Mr. Garza:

Thank you for your recent letter to Secretary Hickel. Your interest in the wilderness study of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge is appreciated. We have searched high and low for your letter dated July 23 in which you referred to the Wildlife Reserve of Matagordo Refuge and we can find no trace of it.

We are enclosing a brochure of the Laguna Atascosa wilderness study area and the Regional Directors Notice of Public Hearing. Please note that the Wilderness Record remains open until November 30, 1970. This affords an opportunity for all interested parties to express their views concerning the wilderness study of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Your views concerning this study are welcome; however, we suggest that you send them directly to the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Federal Building, 500 Gold Avenue SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, so that they may be incorporated in the Laguna Atascosa Wilderness Record with a minimum of delay.

Again thank you for your interest in the refuge and the wilderness program.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) ABRAHAM V. TUNISON

(Acting Director

Enclosure

cc:
Directorate Reading File
Regional Director, Albuquerque, N.M.

RF:RLMeans:mw

11/4/70

JOE J. GARZA

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

HARLINGEN, TEXAS
78550

October 8, 1970

RF
RJ

Honorable Walter J. Hichell
Secretary of Interior
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hichell:

I noticed in the newspaper that a Wildlife Refuge hearing is to be held in Harlingen, Texas, concerning a Wilderness study of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

In my letter to you dated July 23, 1970, I referred to it as Wildlife Reserve of Matagorda Refuge in error. I meant the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

I have not heard from you but am expecting your reply.

Very truly yours,



Joe J. Garza, CPA

JJG/rf



FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEC 4 1970

Honorable Fred J. Russell
Acting Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Reference: RF

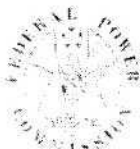
Dear Mr. Russell:

This is in response to the letter of September 14, 1970, from the Acting Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Albuquerque, New Mexico, inviting comments by the Commission on a wilderness study of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.

As reported in the brochure of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the cited study was made in response to provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Only the North Island unit of the refuge, comprising 9,440 acres, was found to qualify for consideration as wilderness under provisions of the Act. The report concluded, however, that designation of the North Island unit as wilderness would conflict with plans to enhance the wildlife values of the refuge.

Review of the wilderness study by the Commission staff shows that there are no existing hydroelectric projects or potential sites for hydroelectric development within the area under consideration. No applications for preliminary permits or licenses for power developments affecting the area are pending before the Commission. Also, there are no known studies, under way or proposed, of possible hydroelectric power developments in the wilderness study area.

According to the report of your Department, oil and natural gas constitute the mineral potentials of the entire Laguna Atascosa wildlife refuge and some explorations have been carried out. The report states further that there are five natural gas producing fields within ten miles of the refuge but that no producing wells have been established in the refuge. Mineral rights are stated to have been retained by the previous landowners and, on the land in the refuge



Honorable Fred J. Russell

- 2 -

qualifying as wilderness, the last of the mineral rights are said to expire within ten years. Until then the wilderness area is open to exploration and, should a discovery be made and development begun, production rights would remain in effect indefinitely.

Currently, there are no natural gas facilities or companies within the refuge area. However, should a large gas field be discovered in the area with the capacity to supply more than local requirements, the Commission would become involved. FPC certificates of public convenience and necessity would be required by the pipeline companies for extensions of their lines and by producers for sale of their gas to pipeline companies. Before such certificates were issued, there would be opportunity for public hearing and intervention by affected or interested parties. Environmental factors would be considered before issuing any certificates.

Based on its consideration of your Department's field report on a wilderness study of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the review by its own staff, the Commission concludes that there are no possibilities for hydroelectric power development in the area considered for wilderness designation. The Commission notes, however, that there appear to be possibilities for natural gas production in this area that could involve actions under the Natural Gas Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John N. Nassikas".

John N. Nassikas
Chairman