

## WHY ADOPT?

The Rio Grande provides drinking water and irrigation to residents of Las Cruces, NM and El Paso, TX. For a variety of birds, wildlife, insects, and plants, the river provides habitat unlike any other in this arid region.



*Children learn the value of community service through cleanups*

In addition, the river flows more than 1,200 miles down Texas before it reaches the Gulf of Mexico, all the while providing drinking water and farm water for millions of people in both the U.S. and Mexico.

*Tires provide breeding grounds for mosquitos*

bottles, cigarette butts, tires, used oil containers, grocery bags, and more can pollute the water and the environment. Stormwater

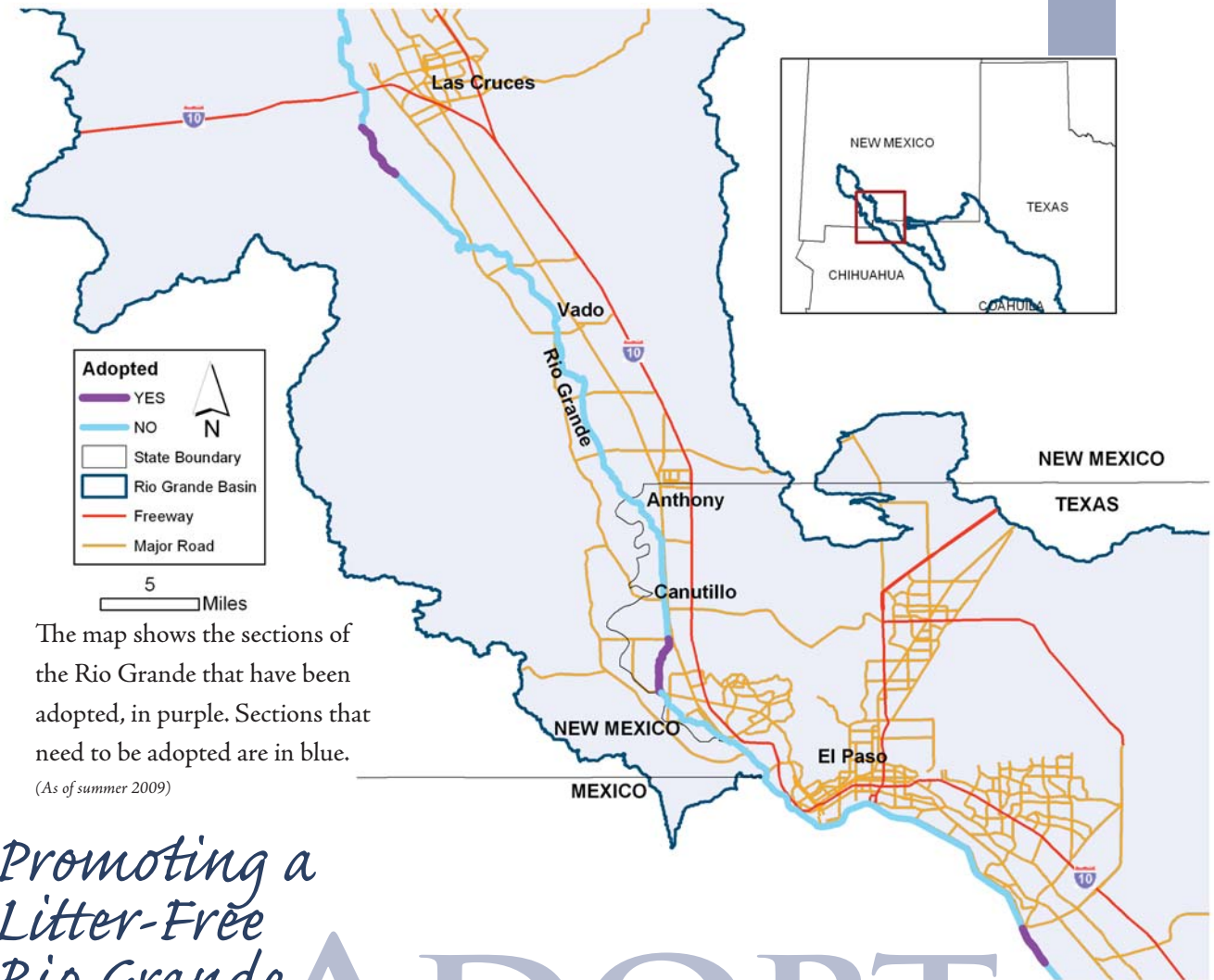


also carries trash and pollutants into the river. Volunteer groups can work towards cleaning up the tons of trash that contaminate the rivers and its floodplain by adopting a section of the river.



*When many individuals collaborate, the results are easy to see. Here 46 bags of trash were collected in El Paso*

## ADOPTED RIVER SECTIONS



*Promoting a Litter-Free Rio Grande*

# ADOPT-A-RIVER

## PROGRAM DETAILS

Volunteer groups are needed to adopt certain sections of the Rio Grande in the Las Cruces/El Paso stretch of the river.

- The minimum commitment requires conducting 2-3 cleanups each year.
- The adopted sections are 2 miles long.
- Volunteer groups sign an agreement with USIBWC for two years.
- Volunteer groups provide their own gloves and trash bags.
- Volunteers leave filled trash bags on the USIBWC levees, and USIBWC will pick up and dispose of the trash.
- Signs recognizing volunteer groups will be posted along adopted areas.



*Help us keep our river clean!*

For more details or to sign up your volunteer group, contact the USIBWC Adopt-a-River Coordinator.



*Adopt-a-River participants near Mesilla, NM June 2009*



## INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, U.S. SECTION ADOPT-A-RIVER PROGRAM

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For more information on the International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section (USIBWC), please visit our website at  
<http://www.ibwc.gov>

## Adopt-a-River Program



## PROMOTING A LITTER-FREE RIO GRANDE

*International Boundary and Water Commission,  
U.S. Section*