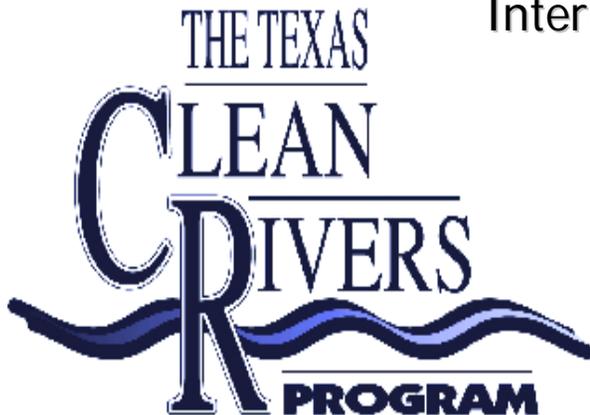


Annual Update on Water Quality for the Rio Grande and the Clean Rivers Program

USIBWC Citizens' Forum
and Upper Rio Grande Basin Advisory Meeting
September 29, 2009

Elizabeth Verdecchia and Leslie Grijalva
Texas Clean Rivers Program
U.S. Section,
International Boundary and Water Commission



Texas Clean Rivers Program History

- 1991 Texas Clean Rivers Act
- 1998 TCEQ-USIBWC partnership
- 2009 monitoring sites on Rio Grande:
 - CRP – 48 sites
 - TCEQ – 38 sites



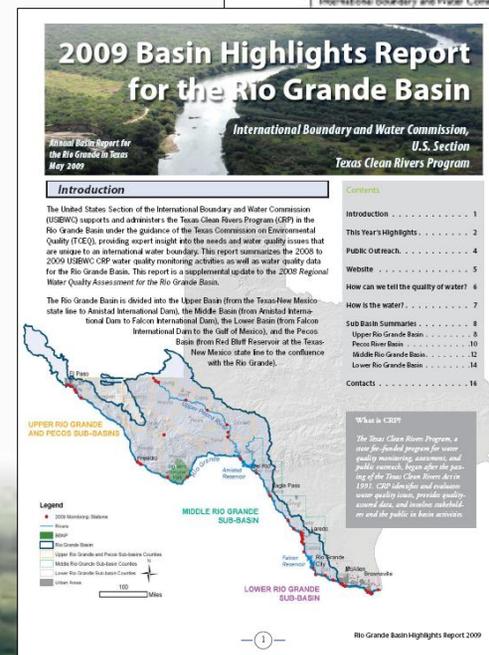
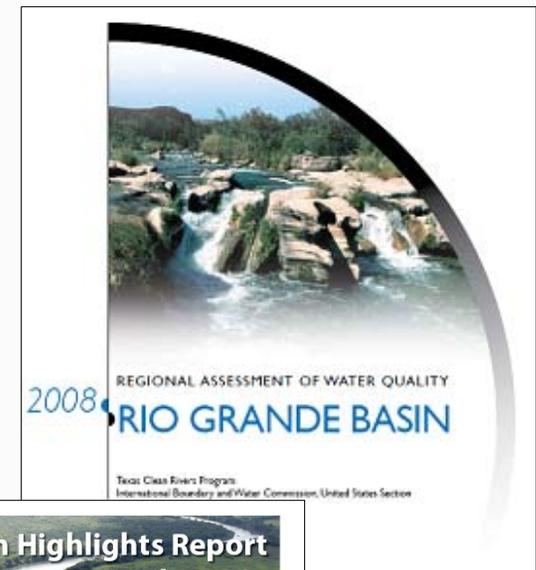
What is the Clean Rivers Program?

- A state fee-funded program
- A group of federal, state and local organizations that have an interest in the health of our states streams, rivers and lakes.
- The USIBWC Clean Rivers Program collects water quality data from the Rio Grande and Pecos Rivers.
- We then use that data to:
 - identify and evaluate water quality issues
 - establish priorities for corrective actions
 - work to implement those actions.



CRP Activities

- Water Quality Monitoring
 - Routine monitoring
 - Special studies
- Water Quality Assessment
- Publications
 - Annual Basin Highlight Report
 - 5-year Basin Summary Report
- Outreach and Education
- Public Participation



FY09 CRP Accomplishments

- Submitted all data through Nov 2008 for TCEQ 2010 Assessment
- Laboratory accredited for bacteria
- More outreach activities
- Participation in projects such as Big Bend workshops & saltcedar biological control meetings
- Funded 5 water quality/education projects
- CRP in charge of USIBWC Adopt-a-River Program
- Fully-staffed



Funded Projects in the Upper RG

- EPCC Early College Program - Supplies/equipment research in salinity in water and riparian plants
- RiGo – supplies for river cleanups with community groups
- UTEP - Equipment for continuous water quality station in Forgotten Stretch
- EPCC RISE Program – supplies for bacteria source-tracking on-going research



Other funded projects throughout the Basin

- Printed manuals and brochures for soil erosion training in Lower Rio Grande Valley

Storm Water Runoff Pollution Prevention
The Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force and Texas A&M University-Kingsville present:
"Developing and Implementing a Soil Erosion Management Plan at Construction Sites"
This course will designate you as a storm water competent person as defined by the TCEQ's TPDES program.

Publication of this brochure was financed through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Texas Clean Rivers Program.

This course will introduce current issues related to TPDES storm water regulations, the TCEQ MS4 TPDES Program, and soil erosion pollution prevention.

Registration Fees
LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force Representative (\$25.00)
City employee from a Task Force City (\$175)
City employee (\$250)
Other (\$300)

TAMUK Citrus Center
Just north of Expressway 83 and FM 1015
Weslaco, Texas



Interested in Monitoring?

- **Texas Stream Team** - Volunteer WQ Monitoring Program
- Great for teachers
- <http://txstreamteam.rivers.txstate.edu/>
- Contact Leslie Grijalva

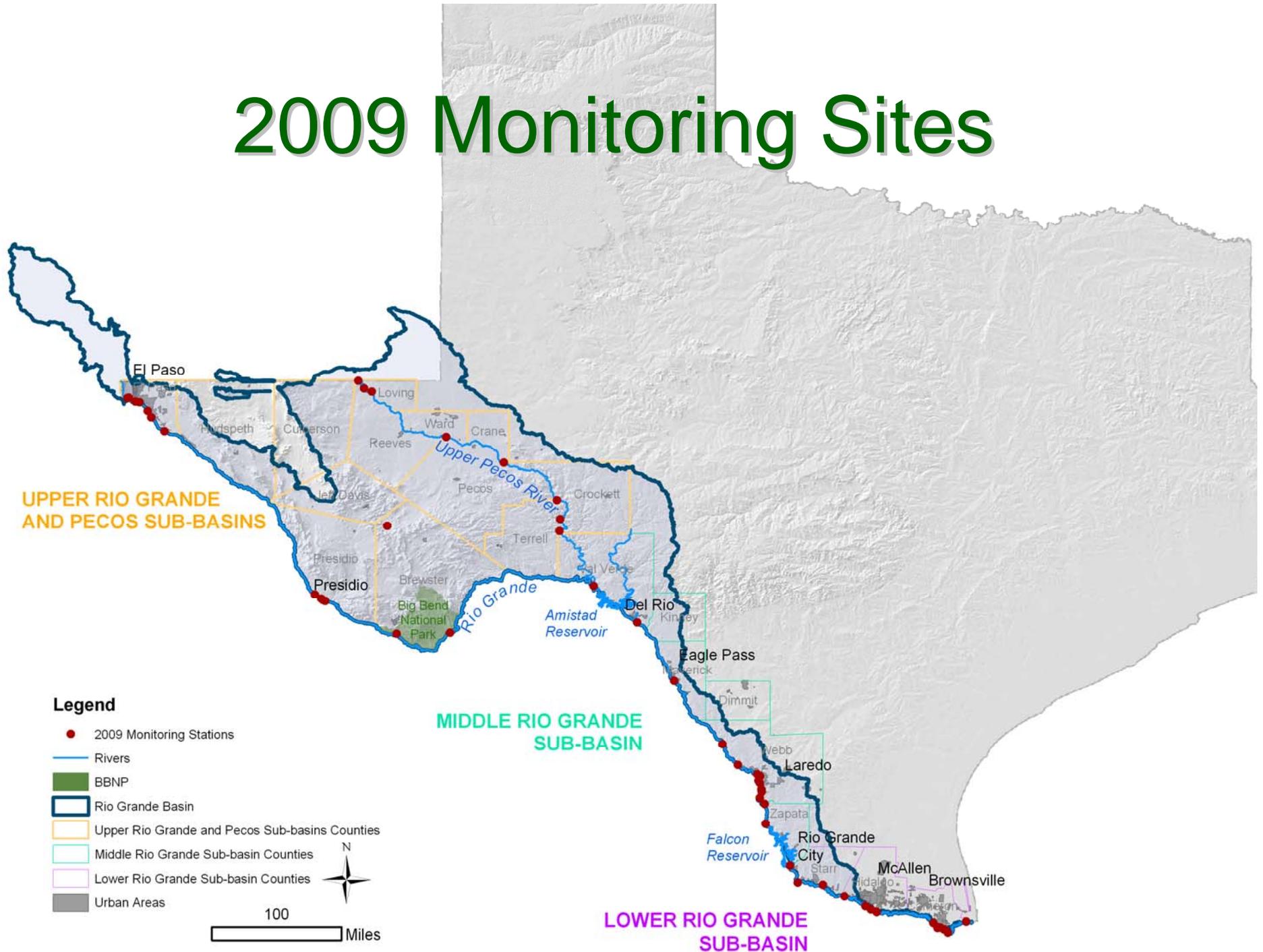


Local Partnerships

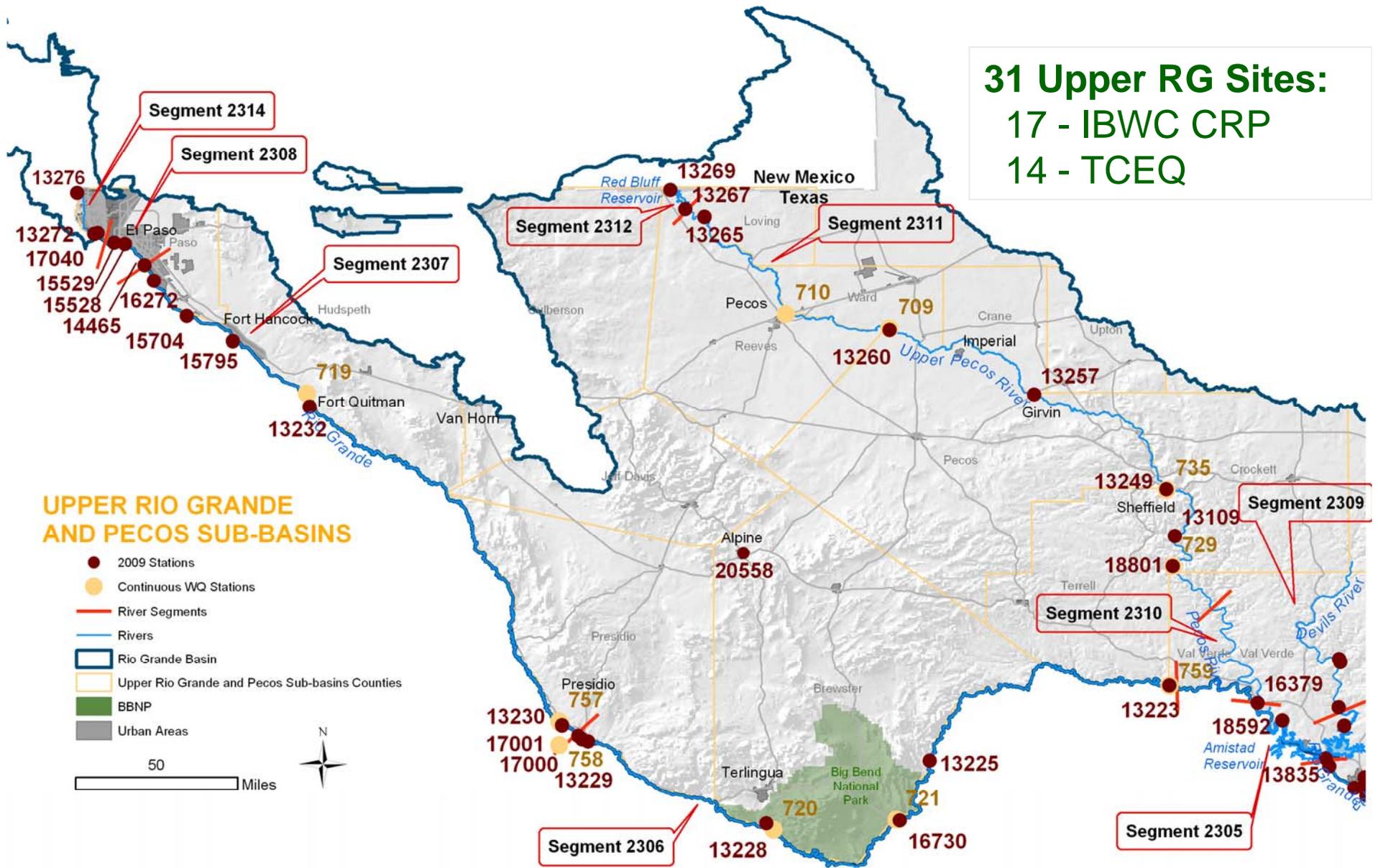
- 7 partners in the Upper Rio Grande help monitor, collect, & analyze samples:
 - USIBWC Field Offices at El Paso and Presidio
 - University of Texas at El Paso
 - El Paso Community College
 - University of Texas at Brownsville
 - TCEQ El Paso Field Office
 - Big Bend National Park
 - TCEQ Continuous Water Quality Monitoring
- Use TCEQ sampling procedures and an accredited laboratory for analysis



2009 Monitoring Sites



2009 Upper RG Monitoring Sites



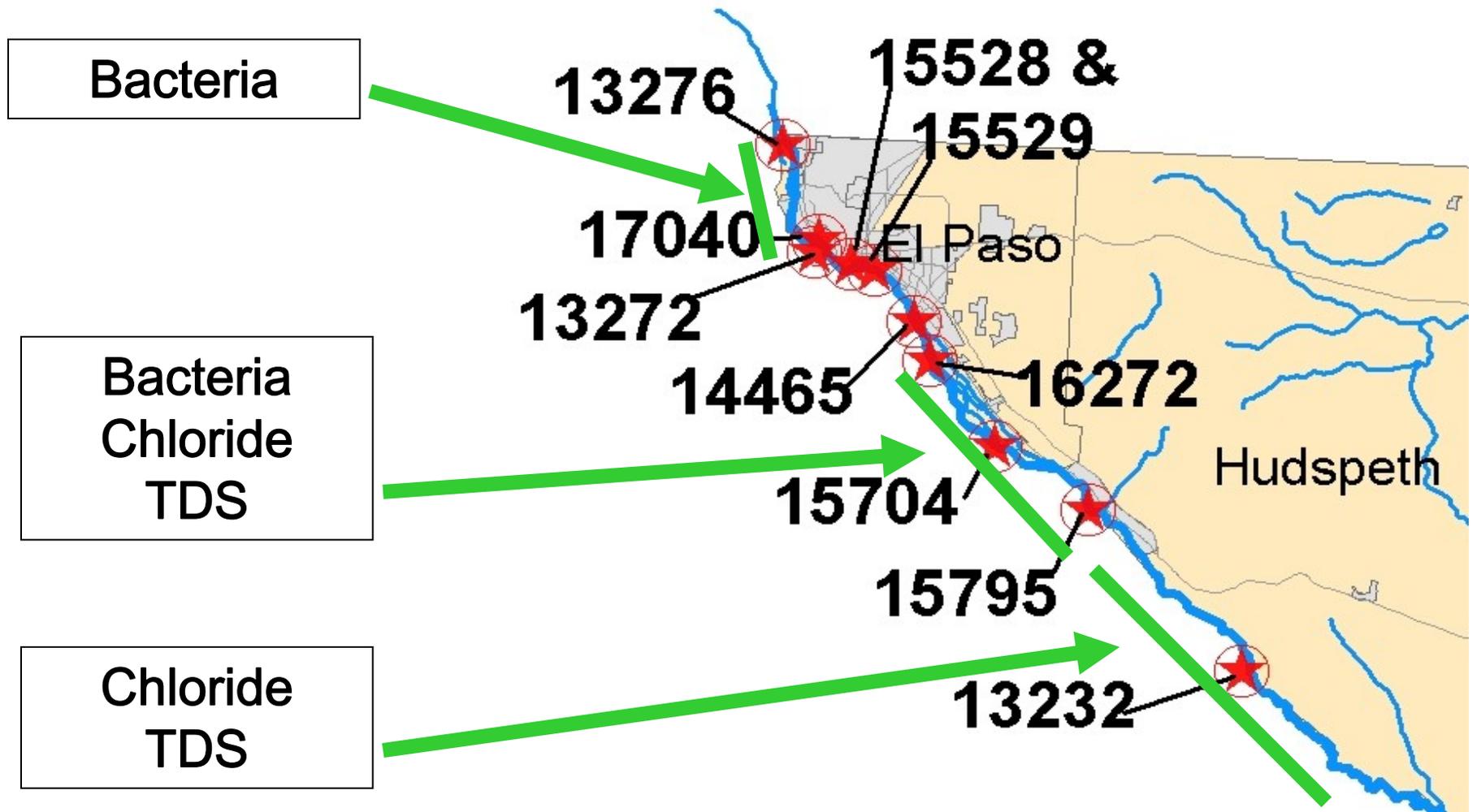
Water Quality Uses and Standards

RIO GRANDE BASIN		USES				CRITERIA						
		Recreation	Aquatic Life	Domestic Water Supply	Other	Cl ⁻¹ (mg/L)	SO ₄ ⁻² (mg/L)	TDS (mg/L)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	pH Range (SU)	Indicator Bacteria ¹ #/100ml	Temperature (°F)
Segment No.	SEGMENT NAME											
2305	International Amistad Reservoir	CR	H	PS		150	270	800	5.0	6.5-9.0	126/200	88
2306	Rio Grande Above Amistad Reservoir	CR	H	PS		300	570	1,550	5.0	6.5-9.0	126/200	93
2307	Rio Grande Below Riverside Diversion Dam	CR	H	PS		300	550	1,500	5.0 ²	6.5-9.0	126/200	93
2308	Rio Grande Below International Dam	NCR	L	PS		250	450	1,400	3.0	6.5-9.0	605/2,000	95
2309	Devils River	CR	E	PS		50	50	300	6.0	6.5-9.0	126/200	90
2314	Rio Grande Above International Dam	CR	H	PS		340	600	1,800	5.0	6.5-9.0	126/200	92

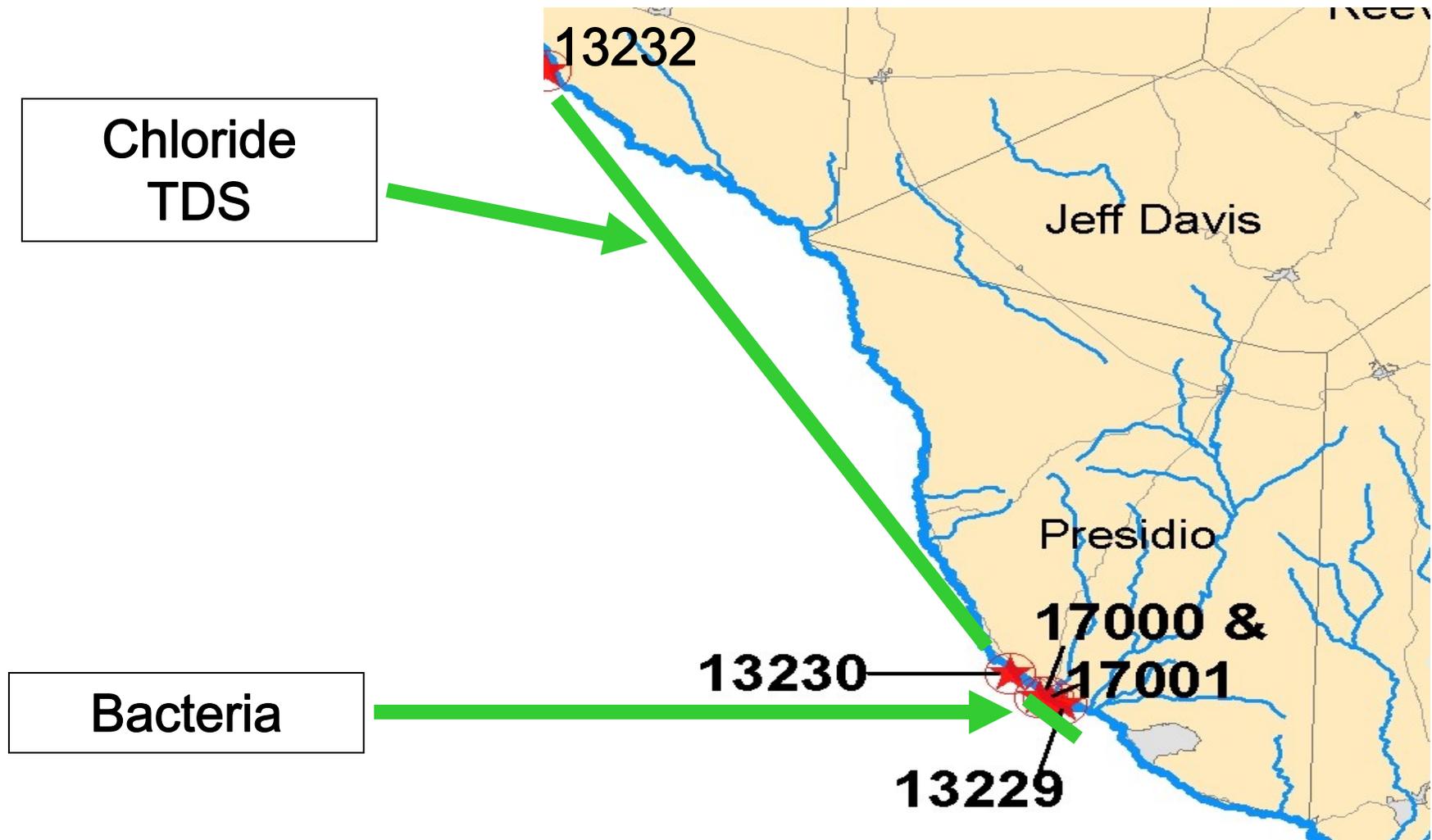
- TCEQ uses these standards to assess the river and determine if any segments are impaired (303d List)
- 2308 Non-contact use
- TDS 1400-1800 in river



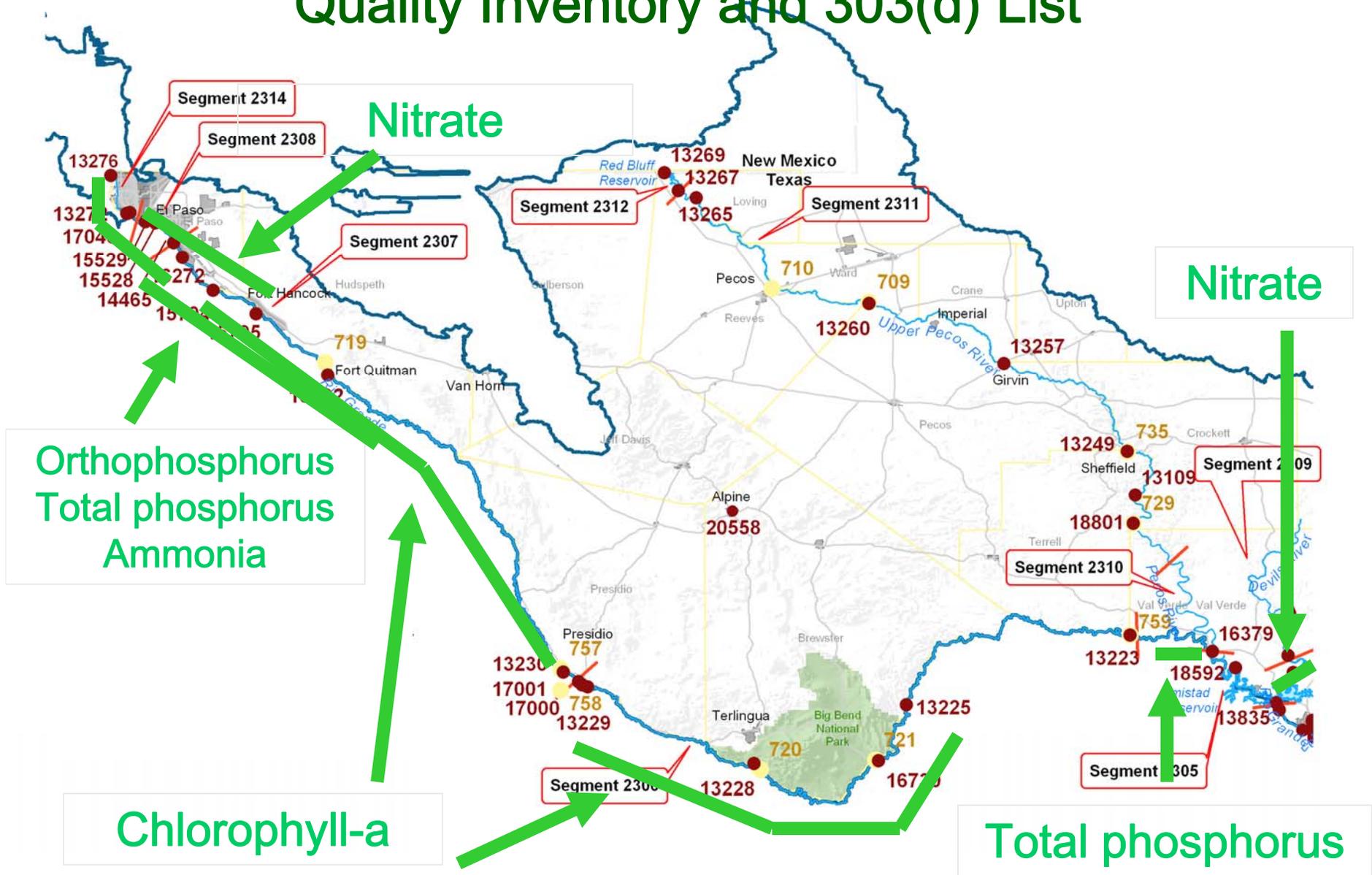
Impairments on the 2008-10 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List



Impairments on the 2008-10 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List



Concerns on the 2008-10 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List



Salinity Study

- Will begin planning phase for salinity special study this fall
- EPCC and UTEP
- Intensive monitoring in the Upper Rio Grande



Metals Study

- CRP will collect total and dissolved metals at 5 sites in El Paso
- Under TCEQ quality assurance plan
- Use TCEQ metals kits



Pesticides Study

- Pesticides/Organics in sediment analyzed for 3 years from 2007 to 2009 semiannually at all CRP stations
- 23 chemicals tested
- Most stations did not detect any organics
- Upper Rio Grande had 1 station that detected DDE/DDT (Alamo Grade upstream of Ft Hancock) in 2008
- EPWU collects monthly organics in water → no detects



Clean Water Restoration Act

S-787

- Currently in Congress, introduced April 09; June passed committee
- Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (the Clean Water Act) to replace the term "navigable waters" that are subject to such Act with the term "waters of the United States"



Request for Info: Vehicles

- Motorized vehicles prohibited on levee and in river
- Contact local Sherriff's office



CRP Website has changed

www.ibwc.gov/CRP/Index.htm



RECOVERY.GOV

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- Mission Operations
 - Flood Control Levee Systems
 - Diversion Dams & Related Structures
 - Storage Dams (Reservoirs) / Power Plants
 - Waste Water Treatment Plants
 - Field Offices
 - TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS**
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Enter Search Keywords

USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program for the Rio Grande Basin

The USIBWC's Texas Clean Rivers Program is responsible for collecting water quality data throughout the Texas portion of the Rio Grande Basin. The goal of the CRP is to maintain and improve the quality of water within each river basin in Texas through ongoing partnerships with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), river authorities, Program Partners, other agencies, regional entities, local and state governments, industry, and citizens. The program uses a watershed management approach to identify and evaluate water quality issues, establish priorities for corrective actions, and work to implement those actions.



[Study Area](#)

Locate IBWC stream gages, data and other useful map information using the USIBWC GIS Interactive Map page.

[Monitoring Station Data](#)

View a list by segment of monitoring stations in the Rio Grande basin. Click on the station ID number to download an Excel format file that contains all of the available water quality data for that station from 1995 to present.

[Publications](#)

View Clean Rivers Program Basin Summary Reports

[Participation](#)

Learn about the Clean River Program Basin Advisory Committee

[Calendar / Current Activities](#)

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[Partner Links](#)

Access links to the Clean Rivers Program partners and planning agencies and links for data and resources

Information on Website

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[Adopt-a-River](#)

Information about USIBWC's Adopt-a-River program to promote a clean Rio Grande Basin.

[Scientific Research Portal](#)

Find scientific research being conducted in the Rio Grande Basin.

[Photo Gallery](#)

See pictures of past CRP events.

[About CRP](#)

Introduction to the Texas Clean Rivers Program and contact information.

International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) [\(Return to start page\)](#) [Tutorial](#)

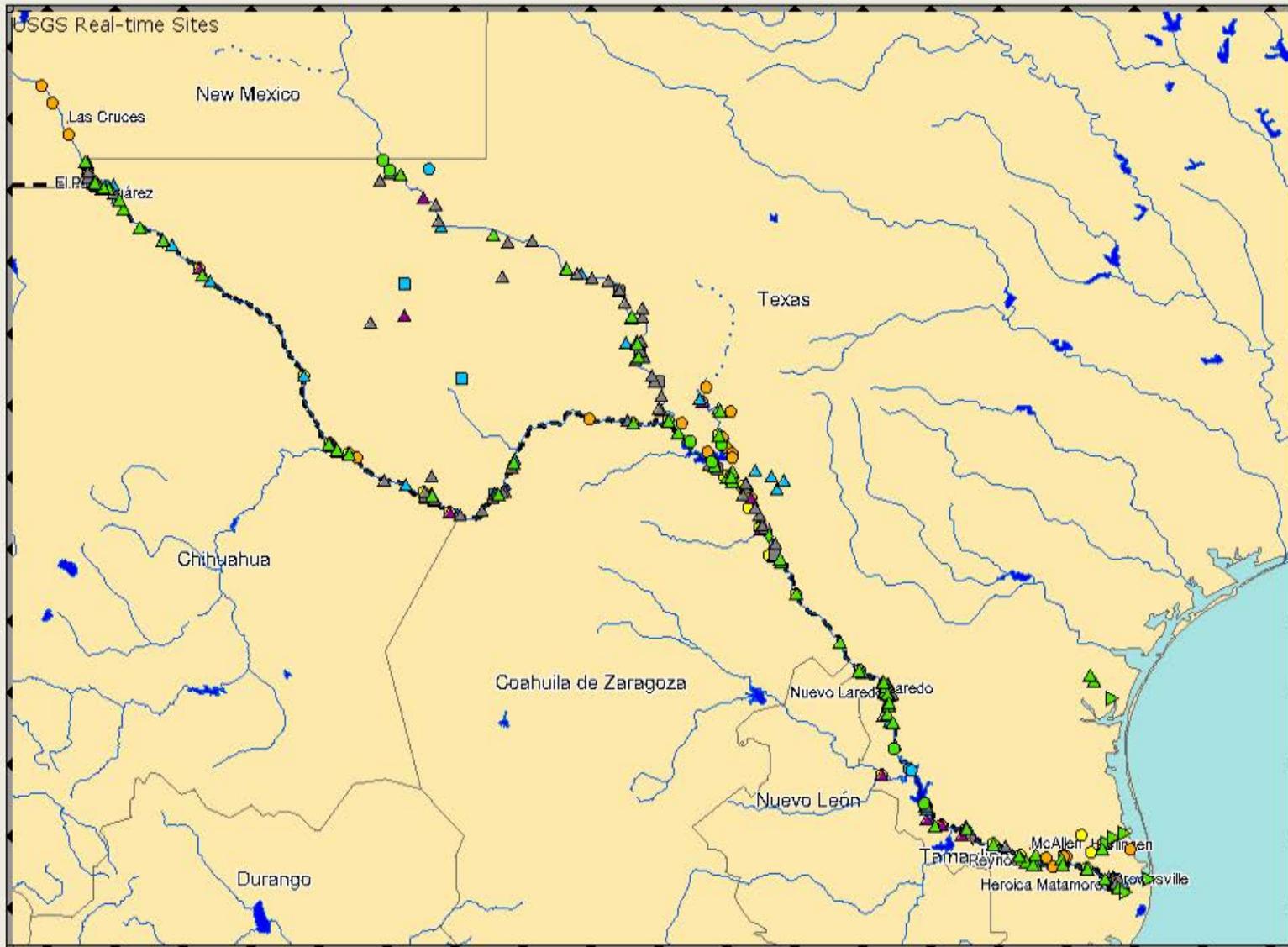
Zoom

Query

Tools

Downloads

Documents



Scale Information

Scale ~ 1:5,000,000

Display

- Water Quality
- Real-time ar
- Monitoring
- Hydrography
- Places (Nam
- Anthropoger
- Transportati
- Hydrogeolog
- Biology
- Geology
- Census
- Boundaries
- Orthoimager
- Land Cover
- Elevation

Site Description

Photos

Graphs

Complete Site List



Go to Site Data Page:

Also Identified As:

08-4750.00 (IBWC ID)

13177 (TCEQ ID)

08475000 (USGS ID)



print friendly version

08-4750.00 RIO GRANDE AT EL JARDIN PUMP Stream Site Description

Location

Latitude 25°52'35", longitude 97°72'15.01", Cameron County, Texas, United States.

Description

Drainage area: not available; Contributing drainage area: not available, Datum of gage: 0 feet above sea level.

Cableway, bubbler gage, water-stage recorders (graphic and digital), and DCP with GOES high data rate telemetry located on the left bank at river kilometer 78.3, 0.3 river kilometer downstream from El Jardin pumping plant, and 11.2 river kilometers downstream from the international highway bridge (Gateway) between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas. The zero of the gage is at mean sea level, U. S. C. & G. S. datum.

Available Data

Data Type	Begin Date	End Date	Count
Real-Time Data			
Historical Flow Data	1/1/1934	2/28/2007	
Field/Lab Water-Quality Samples	1/24/1995	2/21/2007	3014

Photos, Maps, and Graphs

» *Click on an image to view more*



View of Rio Grande at El Jardin Pump



Photo Gallery

The USBWC Clean Rivers Program PHOTO GALLERY

Welcome to the Clean Rivers Program Photo Gallery! This page has pictures from past CRP events. Click on the album below to see additional pictures.



River Cleanup
July 25, 2009



Laredo Sampling
July 2009



Mandados Creek
Sampling July '09



EPCC Early College
Field Trip June '09



UTEP Turtle Survey
Research June 2009



El Paso River
Cleanup June 2009



Outreach Activities
with Schools



Wildlife of the Rio
Grande Basin



CRP Public
Meetings



El Paso area water
quality monitoring



Benthics sampling
Lower Canyons '09



Lower Canyons of
Big Bend, Mar '09



The Upper
Rio Grande



The Middle
Rio Grande



The Lower
Rio Grande



The Pecos
sub-basin



Amistad
international Dam



Falcon
international Dam

CRP Photo Gallery - River Cleanup June 13, 2009

USBWC CRP hosted a river cleanup event on June 13, 2009 with other organizations, including Individual Owners of the Rio Grande (RiGo), Keep El Paso Beautiful, Boy Scouts, and others. The cleanup was located at Courchesne Bridge, at the intersection of Paisano and McNutt in El Paso, Texas. A total of 37 people participated, and we collected 43 bags of trash, 11 tires, some odd-and-end garbage, and a couch! We had two local television stations cover the event. Thank you to everyone who coordinated and participated in the cleanup.



IBWC families also participated. The trash grippers, which the children loved, were donated to the community toolsheds by Keep El Paso Beautiful



Powered by [Flash Gallery](#)

Previous Album Next Album

[Back to CRP Photo Gallery](#)



USIBWC's Adopt-a-River Program

- Community groups adopt a 2-mile section of river for 2 years
- Commit to 2-3 cleanups per year

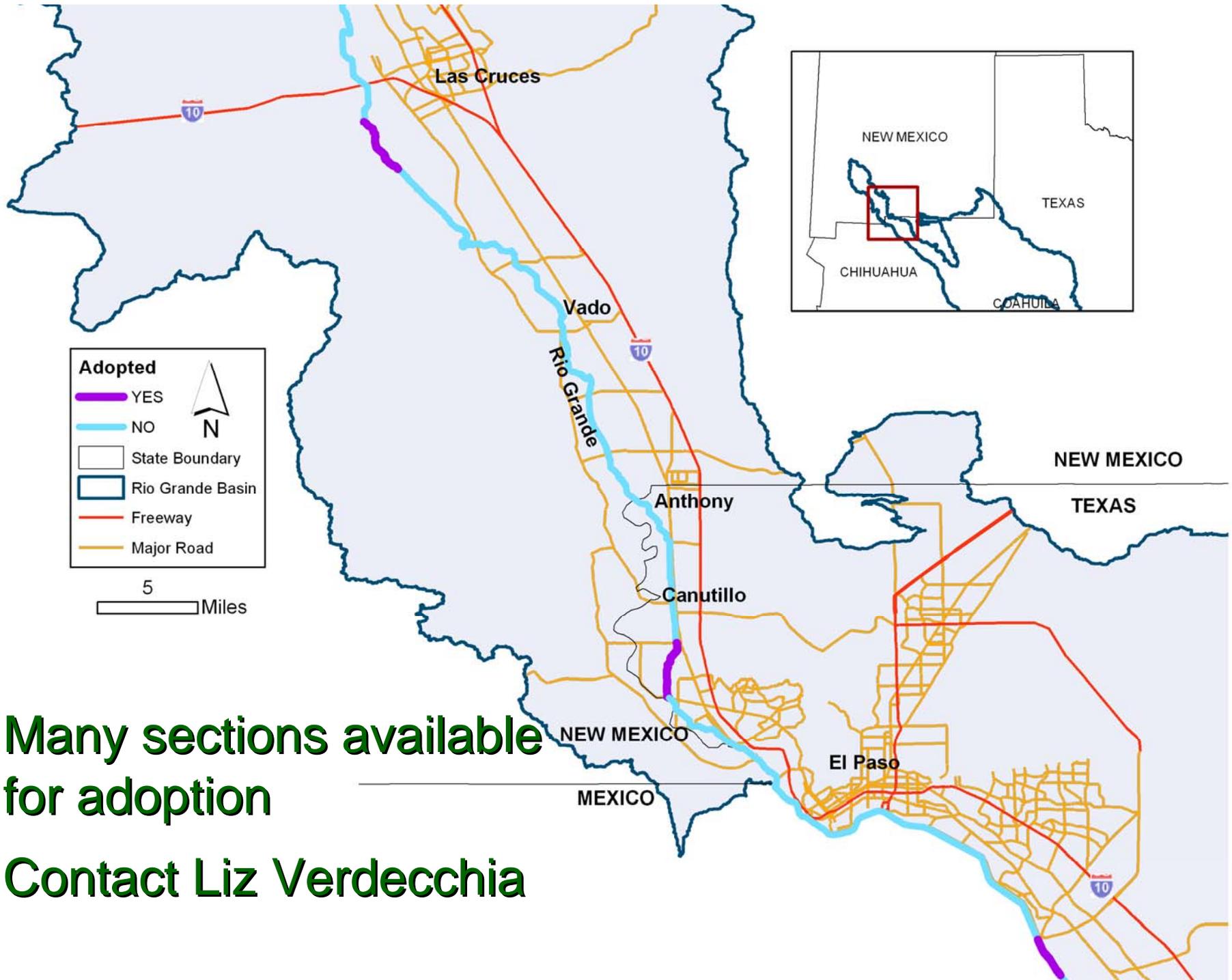


Adopt-a-River



- Community groups leave trashbags on levee
- IBWC picks up and disposes of trash
- Sign acknowledging group posted





- **Many sections available for adoption**
- **Contact Liz Verdecchia**

2010 Calendars

- Please sign sheet if you are interested in a calendar



March

Amistad Dam, upstream of Del Rio, Texas, is the largest of the storage dams and reservoirs built on the international reach of the Rio Grande River. The dam was dedicated in 1969 by United States President Richard M. Nixon and Mexico President Diaz Ordaz. This international dam creates a reservoir of over 3 million acre-feet that stretches up the Rio Grande about 75 miles.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Did You Know?

The construction of the Amistad Dam has resulted in the loss of the alluvial surge and the American eel in the waters of the Rio Grande in the Big Bend stretch. These are two of six species which are no longer found in the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River due to a variety of factors. [Texas National Park Service](#)

ICDIO staff conduct studies of aquatic life downstream of Big Bend.



Questions?

USIBWC - CRP

Elizabeth Verdecchia, 915-832-4701

elizabethverdecchia@ibwc.gov

Leslie Grijalva, 915-832-4770

legrijal@ibwc.gov

CRP Website

www.ibwc.gov/CRP/Index.htm

