



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WATERWAY CLEANUP OFFERS CHANCE TO ENJOY & IMPROVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT**

Big Bend Ranch State Park and Big Bend National Park are sponsoring a River Cleanup Day on Saturday, November 13. We are seeking volunteers to remove litter while spending a day canoeing, rafting, or hiking along the Rio Grande. These efforts improve local water quality, restore natural beauty, and reduce potential threats to human health and wildlife. The River Cleanup is a great way for groups of people to get together, have fun and help their environment.

Big Bend Ranch State Park and Big Bend National Park will supply the river permits, tools, and trash bags for the volunteers who sign up to help us pick-up trash, abandoned fishing lines & old tires in our efforts to help preserve the beauty of one of our nation's most scenic and threatened rivers. The clean-up is a partnership of the two agencies but each area will be doing the trips slightly different.

For Big Bend National Park: The park will have 3 separate day trips with each trip limited to 12 people. The park will provide the canoes and arrange shuttles. Please contact Jane Brown at Panther Junction at (432) 477-1195 or e-mail [Jane\\_Brown@nps.gov](mailto:Jane_Brown@nps.gov) for more information and to sign-up for a trip.

For Big Bend Ranch State Park: Bring your own rafts, canoes, kayaks, or hiking shoes and the park will arrange the shuttles needed. Let us know if you have a boat and how many people you can carry. To volunteer and for more information call David Long at Barton Warnock Visitor Center at (432) 424-3327 or [david.long@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:david.long@tpwd.state.tx.us).

The River Cleanup Day is supported by the Texas Waterway Cleanup Program, a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The Program assists community organizations, scout and youth groups, schools, local governments, businesses, and concerned citizens across the state as they host inland freshwater area cleanups and environmental education activities. If you would like more information about organizing a cleanup in your area, visit [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org) or call Keep Texas Beautiful at 1-800-CLEAN-TX