
3.0 INDIVIDUAL WATERSHED DESCRIPTIONS

TMDLs were developed for assessment units (AUs) for which constituent (or pollutant) concentrations measured during the 2004 water quality survey, as combined with quality outside data, indicated impairment. Because characteristics of each watershed, such as geology, land use, and land ownership provide insight into probable sources of impairment, they are presented in this section for the individual watersheds within the Lower Rio Grande basin. In addition, the 2004-2006 Integrated §303(d)/§305(b) listings within the Lower Rio Grande basin are discussed (NMED/SWQB 2004a).

3.1 El Paso – Las Cruces Watershed (HUC 13030102)

According to available Geographic Information System (GIS) coverages, this portion of the Lower Rio Grande basin has an average elevation of 3900 feet above sea level and receives approximately 11.7 inches of precipitation a year. As presented in Figure 2.1, land uses include 82% rangeland, 12% forest, 2% agriculture, 2% barren, 1% riparian, and 1% urban. Land ownership is 35% Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 32% private, 18% US Forest Service (USFS), 12% State, 2% Bureau of Reclamation, and 1% Department of Defense (Figure 2.2). The geology of the El Paso-Las Cruces watershed is predominantly comprised of alluvium, basin, and valley fill with limited areas of mafic and felsic volcanic rocks as well as evaporites such as halites and anhydrites (Figure 2.3).

The Rio Grande (International Mexico Boundary to Leasburg Dam) is approximately 63 miles in length. SWQB established seven stations along this assessment unit and deployed one thermograph during the 2004 intensive survey. The Rio Grande (International Mexico Boundary to Leasburg Dam) was included on the 2004-2006 Integrated CWA §303(d)/§305(b) list for bacteria. No TMDLs have previously been established for this assessment unit. Therefore, TMDLs were developed for inclusion in this document for the following assessment unit in the Lower Rio Grande basin:

- **Bacteria:** Lower Rio Grande (International Mexico Boundary to Leasburg Dam)



Photo 3.1 Rio Grande at the Texas/New Mexico Border (June 10, 2003)

The Rio Grande (Leasburg Dam to Percha Dam) is approximately 44 miles in length. SWQB established four stations along this assessment unit and deployed one thermograph during the 2004 intensive survey. No TMDLs have previously been established for this assessment unit. Therefore, TMDLs were developed for inclusion in this document for the following assessment unit in the Lower Rio Grande basin:

- ***Bacteria:*** Lower Rio Grande (Leasburg Dam to Percha Dam)



Photo 3.2 Rio Grande at Leasburg Dam (June 10, 2003)