



Above: Sr. Forecaster *Joseph Tomaselli*, Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith*, Meteorologist *Erin Billings*, and Forecaster *Maria M. Torres* before venturing out to clean Boca Chica Beach.

## Cleaning the Beach, One Bag at a Time NWS Brownsville/RGV Staff “Pitch In” on April 26, 2014

In what has become an annual spring tradition, several of the NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley staff headed to one of the Cameron County, TX beaches to remove assorted litter. The [28<sup>th</sup> Annual Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup](#), sponsored by the [Texas General Land Office](#) took in 121 *tons* of trash from all Texas beaches and included more than 7,000 volunteers logging more than 22,000 work hours!

This year, the group headed to Boca Chica Beach, just a 20 minute drive from the office. Among the thick sea weed and within the high dunes, ten bags worth of litter were collected with a total weight of approximately 100 lbs. Among the bags and wrappers, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans were some interesting items, including a 20 lb. vulcanized rubber motorbike wheel rim, and 40 lb. of heavy, frayed rope used for boats or trailers.

"The beaches of the Lower Texas coast are among the best in the state, and are regarded by many as some of the best in the nation," said Senior Forecaster Joseph Tomaselli, who spearheaded NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley's effort. "Our office

was proud to have participated in this year's beach cleanup, and we look forward to doing so again in the spring of 2015."

For more on Texas' Adopt-A-Beach program, click [here](#).