



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

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### **USIBWC FINALIZES MANAGEMENT DECISIONS FOR THE RIO GRANDE IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO AND WEST TEXAS**

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States Section (USIBWC) has finalized management decisions for a 105-mile reach of the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico and West Texas, known as the Rio Grande Canalization Project. Through the year 2030, the USIBWC will:

- continue implementation of the River Management Plan, which includes levee maintenance, floodplain vegetation management, implementation of habitat restoration areas, endangered species management, channel maintenance of the river, and channel maintenance alternatives (CMAs);
- designate up to 65 miles through the USIBWC right-of-way for the New Mexico Rio Grande Trail and Texas city and county trails, through USIBWC's license and lease program;
- perform additional sediment removal in the channel, including removing vegetated islands;
- implement additional CMAs, such as sediment control structures, arroyo sediment traps, arroyo re-alignments, and island destabilization, including potential construction outside of the USIBWC right-of-way.
- increase efforts to engage stakeholders through the Sediment Control Initiative Federal Workgroup and stakeholder groups, and
- establish partnerships to create up to 500 acres of habitat areas outside of USIBWC jurisdiction, replacing areas where habitat restoration was not successful, such as managed grasslands that became infested with non-native shrubs.

The management decisions are documented in the [\*Final Environmental Assessment \(EA\) and Finding of No Significant Impact \(FONSI\) for the Continued Implementation of the River Management Plan for the Rio Grande Canalization Project\*](#). The document reflects public comment received in summer 2019. More information can be found in the January 9, 2020 [Federal Register Notice](#).

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