



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 20, 2020

USIBWC ANNOUNCES 2020-2021 BIRD HUNTING AREAS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO AND WEST TEXAS; DUE TO CONSTRUCTION, SOME AREAS IN TEXAS ARE OFF LIMITS THIS SEASON

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has released information regarding migratory and game bird hunting areas on USIBWC lands along the Rio Grande in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas and in Doña Ana and Sierra Counties, New Mexico for the 2020-2021 bird hunting season, starting with dove season on September 1, 2020. Due to ongoing construction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security border wall, some popular hunting areas in El Paso County will be closed during the 2020-2021 season.

Hunting must be conducted in compliance with all local, county, and state hunting rules and regulations. Hunting regulations and the USIBWC prohibit hunting where people could be endangered, such as near homes, businesses, bridges, International Bridges, Ports of Entry, and areas where people are recreating.

In Texas, all of the authorized bird hunting areas are along the international border. This year there are a few changes. The attached map uses the numbering system for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Border Security Initiative (BSI) markers on the border fence and corresponding markers in Mexico to indicate hunting areas. The markers are blue signs approximately two feet square with neon yellow numbers. During the 2020-2021 season, hunting will be permitted as follows:

1. Between marker 79 and Esperanza Road (FM192) except for the area between markers 90 and 92 near the Ft. Hancock-Porvenir International Bridge.

The USIBWC does not control the access points in **Texas** but is providing information about access as a courtesy to hunters. Due to the Department of Homeland Security's heavy construction in progress on the border wall, during the 2020-2021 season there is no access through the Ysleta-Zaragoza International Bridge and no hunting is allowed along the levee in that part of El Paso County. The access points are:

- At the Alamo Arroyo near marker 86, accessed from Highway 20 approximately 3.5 miles west of Fort Hancock.
- At the Guayuco Arroyo on Esperanza Road (FM 192) approximately one-half mile west from the intersection with FM 34.
- At Esperanza Road (FM 192) in Hudspeth County approximately 28 miles downstream from the Fort Hancock-Porvenir International Bridge.

See attached map for specific locations in Texas.

Government Property Rules in USIBWC Areas in **Texas**:

- Use existing ramps to drive onto the levee or floodplain. Driving on the levee slope damages the levee and is prohibited.
- Hunters are responsible for identifying legal access points to reach hunting areas and must respect private property as well as all municipal, state and federal properties of agencies other than the USIBWC.
- Do not damage vegetation in the floodplain. Avoid driving on grass, brush, and trees or disturbing the ground.
- Remove your trash, including any shell casings, to avoid future hunting restrictions.
- No alcoholic beverages.
- Do not discharge firearms within 600 feet of homes or businesses or toward other people.
- Hunters who hunt and/or drive on the levee on USIBWC lands do so at their own risk.
- Hunters should be aware of security considerations along the border with Mexico.
- Hunters must have any applicable hunting license, follow state hunting laws, and use appropriate firearms. **Texas** game wardens will enforce state hunting laws on USIBWC lands.
- Only migratory and bird hunting is allowed. No other hunting or target practice is permitted.

In New Mexico, the USIBWC authorizes bird hunting in three different areas, totaling

approximately 18 miles along the Rio Grande. The hunting areas remain the same as last year. The 2020-2021 bird hunting areas are located at:

1. New Mexico Highway 187 Bridge (Garfield Bridge) near Derry to County Road E61/Walnut Grove Road, which is near the river's east bank (4 miles). The landmark for both sides of the river is the river's sharp turn with a wide west floodplain and narrow east floodplain.
2. New Mexico Highway 154 Bridge in Hatch (Rincon Bridge) to State Route 393, which is on the east floodplain near Rincon (5 miles).
3. New Mexico Highway 28 Bridge (Santo Tomas) south of Mesilla to Highway 189 Bridge in Vado (9 miles).

See attached map for specific locations in New Mexico.

In New Mexico, the USIBWC levee gates in the authorized hunting areas will remain closed during bird hunting season. Vehicle access is prohibited on the levee in areas where there are levee gates. Vehicles should not block levee gates. In Doña Ana County, the Sheriff's Department will enforce towing of any abandoned or unauthorized vehicles.

Government Property Rules in USIBWC Areas in New Mexico:

- Hunters are responsible for identifying legal access points to reach hunting areas and must respect private property as well as all municipal, state and federal properties of agencies other than the USIBWC.
- Do not damage vegetation in the floodplain.
- Remove your trash, including any shell casings, to avoid future hunting restrictions.
- No alcoholic beverages.
- Do not discharge firearms within 600 feet of homes or businesses or toward other people.
- Hunters who hunt on USIBWC lands do so at their own risk. In areas where no vehicles are allowed, hunters must access hunting areas in non-motorized transport.
- Hunters must have any applicable hunting license, follow state hunting laws, and use appropriate firearms. **New Mexico** game wardens will enforce state hunting laws on USIBWC lands.
- Only migratory and bird hunting is allowed. No other hunting or target practice is permitted.

In both New Mexico and Texas, for public safety and to avoid damage to USIBWC lands and infrastructure, hunters must abide by the following current COVID-19 safety procedures and government property rules:

COVID-19 Best Practices While Hunting in USIBWC Areas:

Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic the USIBWC urges all hunters to abide to federal, state, and local health guidelines. These includes but are not limited to the following:

- **NOTE: The levees and hunting areas are not open in the event there are state/local stay-at home orders or park closures.**
- Do not enter USIBWC areas if you exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.
- Observe social distancing (6 feet minimum) from others.
- Due to the lack of handwashing facilities, have hand sanitizer available.
- Have a facemask readily available to use when you encounter others, or while hunting with others and can't maintain social distancing guidelines.
- In case of an emergency, let others know the areas where you are hunting and verify you have cell phone coverage.
- A first aid kit is recommended when hunting in USIBWC areas.

To fulfill its flood control mission, the USIBWC manages lands along the Rio Grande that are popular with bird hunters. The USIBWC has jurisdiction over lands on the river side of the levee but not on the land side.

Information about bird hunting in **Texas** is available from the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#), and information about **New Mexico** hunting regulations is available from the [New Mexico Game and Fish](#).

For more information:

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2020 - 2021 Bird Hunting Areas in Texas

United States Section,
International Boundary and Water Commission

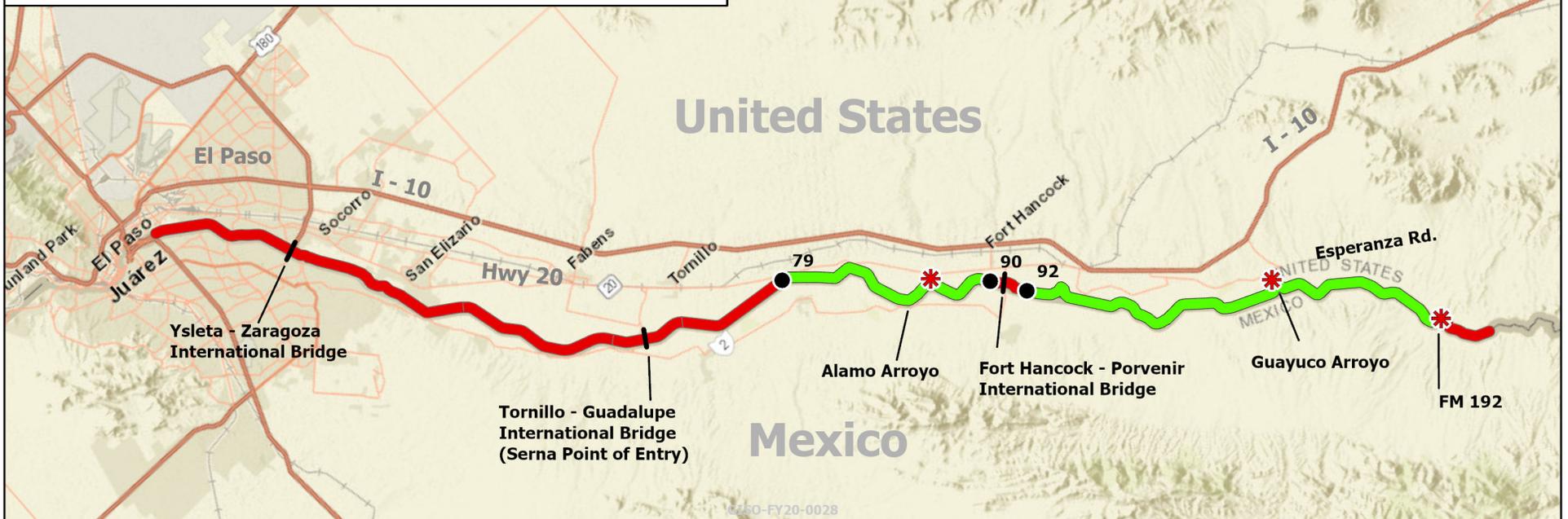


NOTES

1. Please hunt ethically and responsibly.
2. Keep a safe shooting distance from other hunters and government personnel.
3. No hunting near homes, buildings, or Ports of Entry.
4. Pick up spent shells, and trash.
5. No alcohol allowed on federal property.
6. Contacts:
More Information: USIBWC (915) 832-4795
Report Violations: Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
El Paso Communications (915) 849-4080 for a Game Warden (24-Hrs)

- * Access Point
 - BSI Marker
- Hunting
- Hunting Allowed
 - Hunting Prohibited

0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles



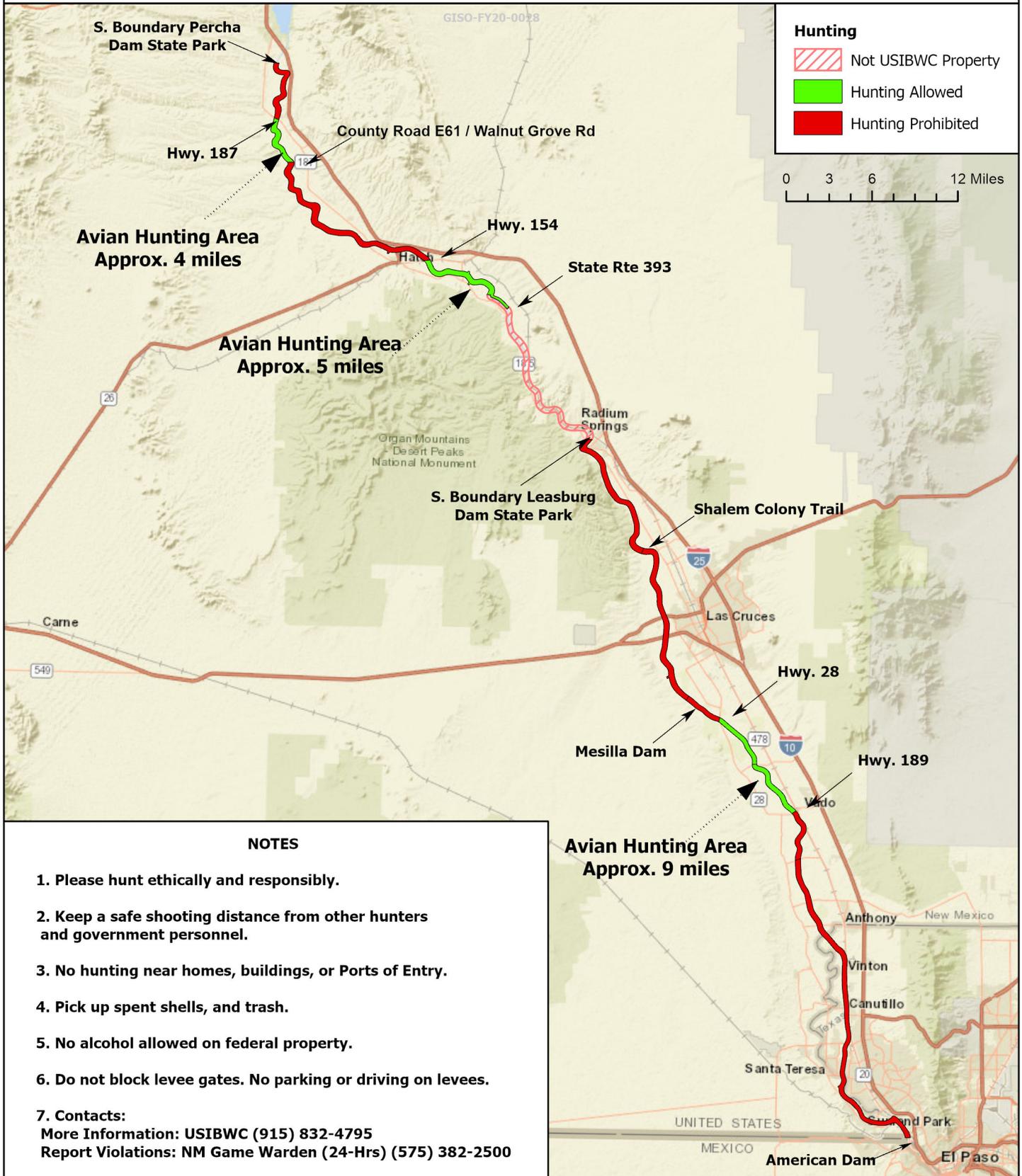
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2020 - 2021 Bird Hunting Areas in New Mexico

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