



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 16, 2017

USIBWC ANNOUNCES BIRD HUNTING AREAS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO AND WEST TEXAS

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has released information regarding 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 2017-2018 bird hunting season, starting with dove season on September 1, 2017. Hunting regulations and the USIBWC prohibit hunting where people could be endangered, such as near homes, businesses, and bridges.

In New Mexico, the USIBWC authorizes bird hunting in three different areas, totaling approximately 30 miles along the Rio Grande. The hunting areas are located near the Doña Ana County-Sierra County line (access via Highway 187), near Rincon (access from Highways 154 and 393), and in the vicinity of Mesquite and San Miguel (access from Highways 28 and 189). See attached map for specific locations in New Mexico. USIBWC levee gates in the authorized hunting areas will remain open during bird season.

In Texas, all of the authorized hunting areas are along the international border. 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 2017-2018 season, hunting will be permitted as follows:

- Between markers 61 and 70: near Herring Road downstream to the vicinity of the Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge
- Between markers 72 and 90: from 1.2 miles downstream from the Tornillo-

Guadalupe International Bridge to 0.8 miles upstream from the Ft. Hancock-Porvenir International Bridge.

- Between marker 92 and Esperanza Road (FM 192): from 1.4 miles downstream from the Ft. Hancock-Porvenir International Bridge for 26.7 miles to Esperanza Road (FM 192).

Hunting will not be allowed between markers 59 and 61 due to construction. USIBWC is replacing a drainage structure within the flood control levee and reconstructing part of the levee. The construction site is closed to hunting for the safety and protection of workers and hunters.

The USIBWC does not control the access points in Texas but is providing information about access as a courtesy to hunters. The access points are:

- Through the gate in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection fence next to the Ysleta-Zaragoza International Bridge, open 5:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. during dove season, except when law enforcement operations require temporary closures.
- 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

For public safety and to avoid damage to USIBWC lands and infrastructure, hunters must abide by the following rules:

- 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**. This includes 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.
- No alcoholic beverages.
- Do not discharge firearms within 600 feet of homes or businesses or toward other people.
- Hunters who drive on the levee or hunt 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 and New Mexico game wardens will enforce state hunting laws on USIBWC lands.
- Only bird hunting is allowed. No other hunting or target practice is permitted.

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.

For information about hunting on USIBWC lands, click here: [USIBWC Hunting Maps](#)
Information about bird hunting in Texas is available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Information about New Mexico hunting regulations is available from the
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

For more information:

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