



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

For immediate release  
August 23, 2019

### **USIBWC ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 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 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 2019-2020 bird hunting season, starting with dove season on September 1, 2019. 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 18 miles along the Rio Grande. The hunting areas remain the same as last year. The 2019-2020 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, USIBWC levee gates in the authorized hunting areas will remain closed during bird hunting season to prevent vehicle access. Parked vehicles may not be on the levee, side slopes, or block levee gates.

In Texas, all of the authorized bird 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 2019-2020 season, hunting will be permitted as follows:

1. Between markers 61 and 70: near Herring Road downstream to the vicinity of the Tornillo - Guadalupe International Bridge (Marcelino Serna Port of Entry).
2. Between markers 72 and 90: from 1.2 miles downstream from the Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge (Marcelino Serna Port of Entry) to 0.8 miles upstream from the Ft. Hancock-Porvenir International Bridge.
3. 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).

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

- The gate in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection fence next to the Ysleta-Zaragoza International Bridge may be open 5:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. during dove season and is **subject to unannounced closures due to law enforcement operations.**
- 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 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 are responsible for identifying legal access points to reach hunting areas and must respect private property. This includes all municipal, state and federal properties.
- 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 and carcasses, to avoid future hunting restrictions.
- No alcoholic beverages.
- Do not discharge firearms within 600 feet of homes, businesses, toward other people, or across the road.
- 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 migratory 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 bird hunting in Texas, click here: [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#), and information about New Mexico hunting regulations, click here: [New Mexico Game and Fish](#).

For more information:

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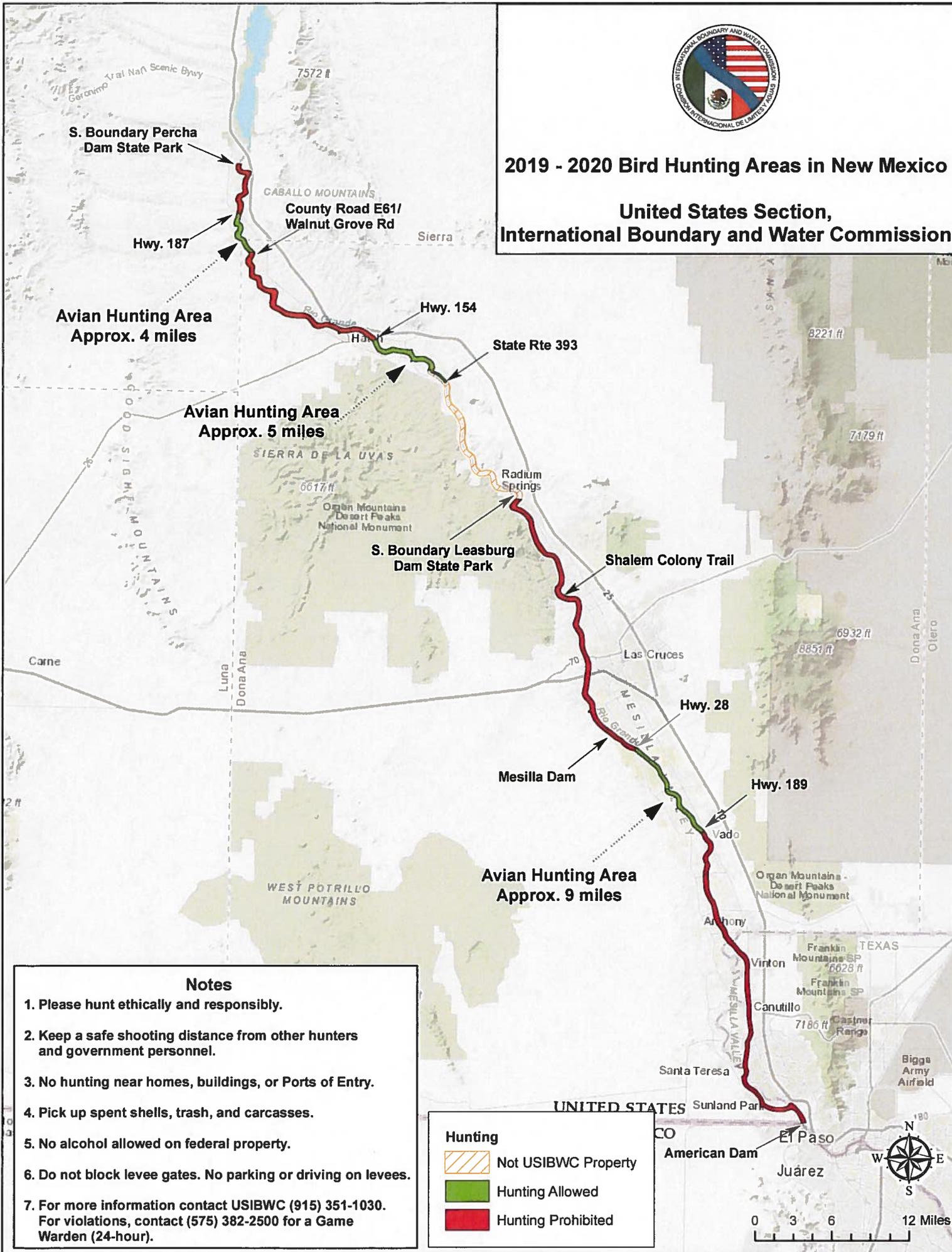
For violations:  
Texas DPS, El Paso 915-849-4080

New Mexico State Police Office 575-382-2500



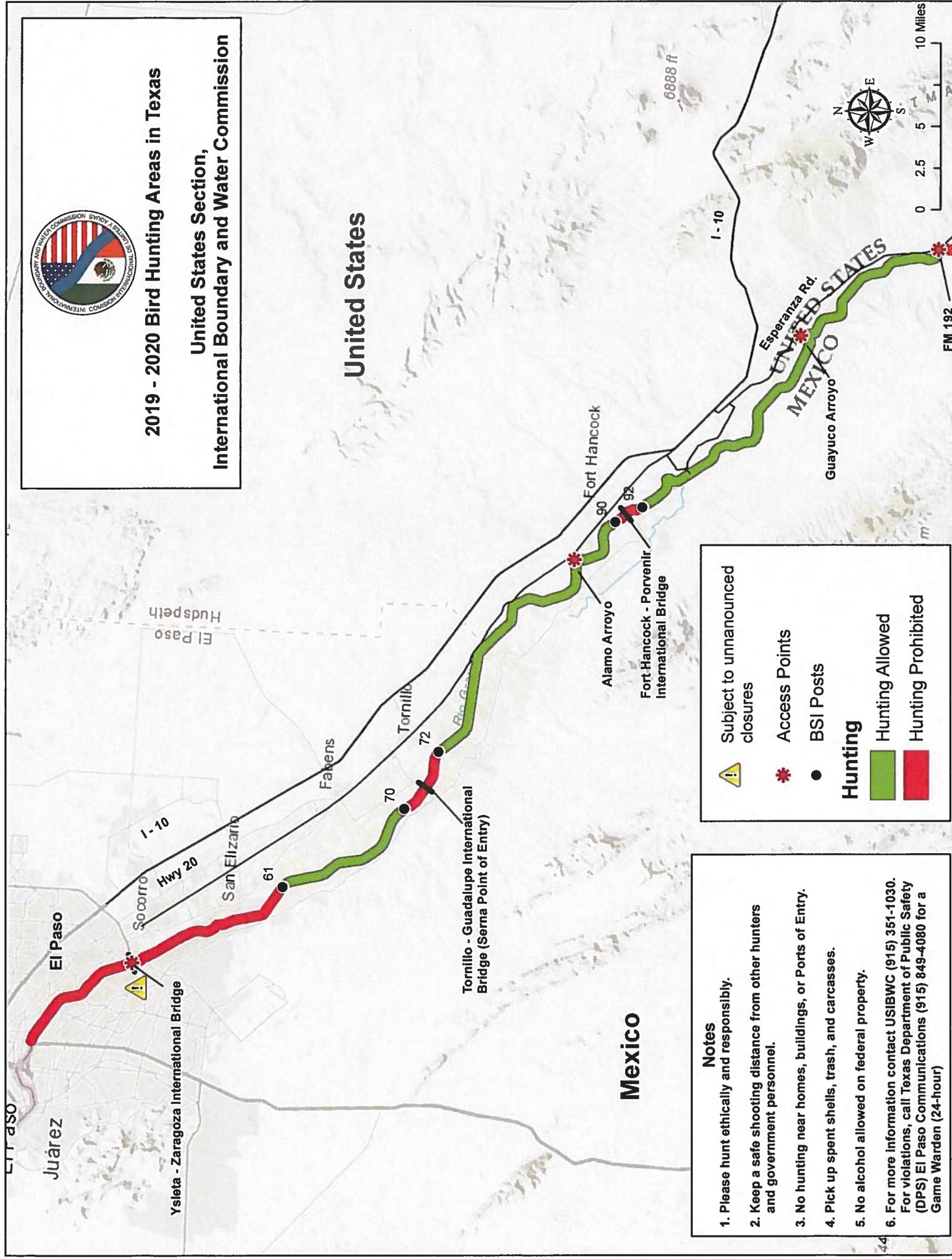
## 2019 - 2020 Bird Hunting Areas in New Mexico

United States Section,  
International Boundary and Water Commission





**2019 - 2020 Bird Hunting Areas in Texas**  
**United States Section,**  
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- 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, trash, and carcasses.
  5. No alcohol allowed on federal property.
  6. For more information contact USBWC (915) 351-1030. For violations, call Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) El Paso Communications (915) 849-4080 for a Game Warden (24-hour)

**Subject to unannounced closures**

**Access Points**

**BSI Posts**

**Hunting**

- Hunting Allowed
- Hunting Prohibited

