



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 26, 2014

USIBWC AUTHORIZES BIRD HUNTING 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 about 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. The 2014/2015 bird hunting season, which starts with dove season on September 1, marks the first time the USIBWC has authorized hunting along the Rio Grande in New Mexico. Hunting regulations and the USIBWC prohibit hunting where people could be endangered, such as near homes, businesses, and bridges.

In New Mexico, the USIBWC has opened bird hunting in three different areas, totaling 30 miles along the Rio Grande. The hunting areas are located from the Highway 187 bridge near Derry to the Highway 187 bridge north of Hatch, from Highway 154 south of Hatch to the end of the levees north of Seldon Canyon (State Road 393 on the east river bank), and from Highway 28 south of Mesilla to Highway 189 in Vado. See attached map for specific locations in New Mexico.

In Texas, where bird hunting has been permitted for several years, 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 bright yellow numbers. During the 2014/2015 season, hunting will be permitted as follows:

- Between markers 52 and 54: from approximately 5.7 miles downstream from the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry to just upstream from San Elizario.

- Between markers 59 and 69: near Herring Road downstream to the vicinity of the Tornillo-Guadalupe (Fabens-Caseta) International Bridge.
- Between markers 72 and 90: from 1.2 miles downstream from the Tornillo-Guadalupe (Fabens-Caseta) 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).

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**.
- 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 in the vicinity of homes, businesses or 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.

The USIBWC manages certain lands along the Rio Grande in Texas and New Mexico. The USIBWC has jurisdiction over U.S. lands on the river side of the levee but not on the land side.

Information about hunting on USIBWC lands, including maps, is available online at:

www.ibwc.gov/Files/Press_Release_082614.pdf

Information about bird hunting in Texas is available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us. Information about New Mexico hunting regulations is available from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

For more information:

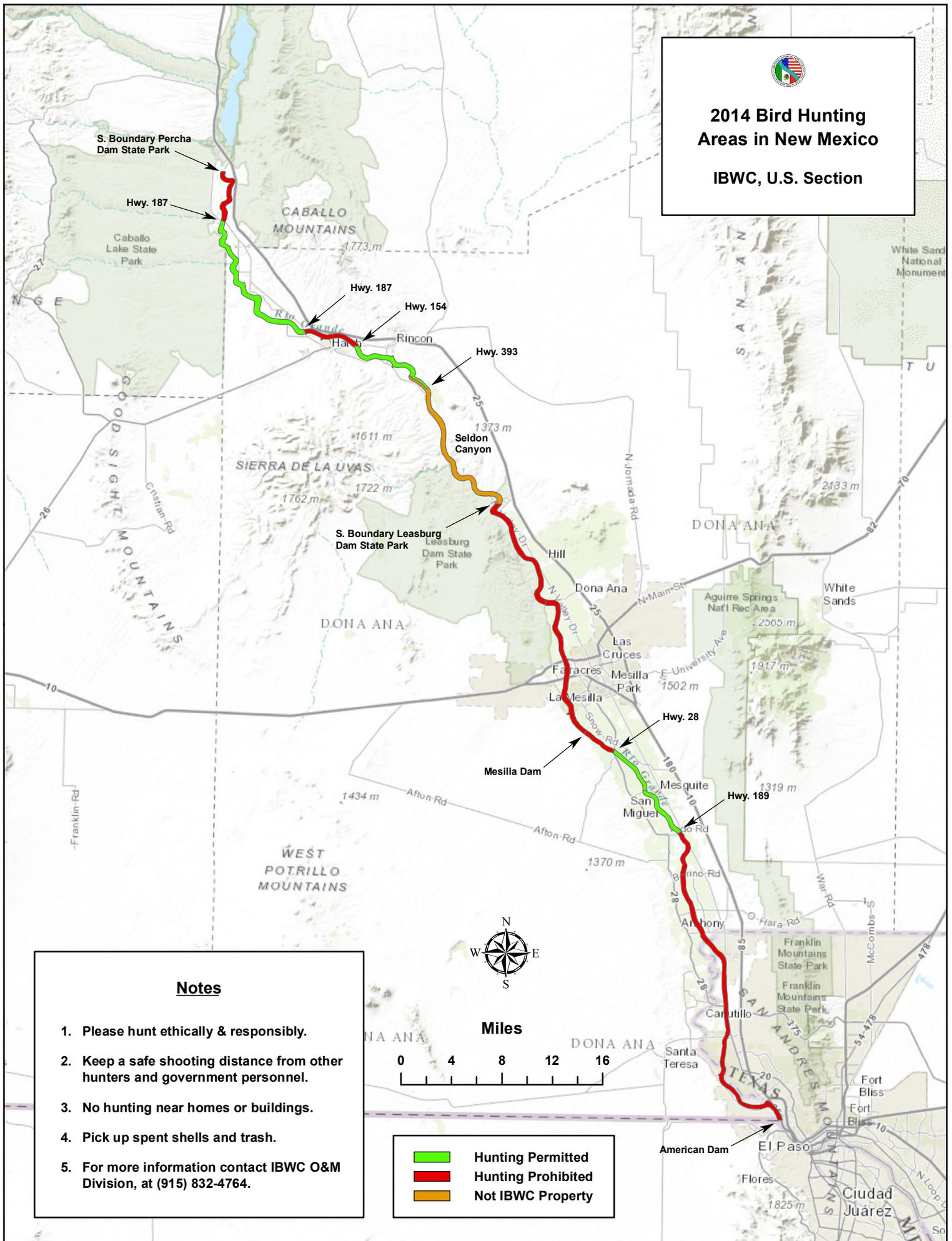
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2014 Bird Hunting Areas in New Mexico

IBWC, U.S. Section

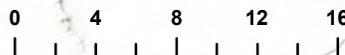


Notes

1. Please hunt ethically & responsibly.
2. Keep a safe shooting distance from other hunters and government personnel.
3. No hunting near homes or buildings.
4. Pick up spent shells and trash.
5. For more information contact IBWC O&M Division, at (915) 832-4764.



Miles



	Hunting Permitted
	Hunting Prohibited
	Not IBWC Property



2014 Bird Hunting Areas in Texas

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