



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 27, 2018

USIBWC ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 bird hunting season, starting with dove season on September 1, 2018. 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 northern-most areas have changed since the 2017-2018 season. The 2018-2019 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.

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. Parked vehicles should not 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 2018-2019 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).

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, 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 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 migratory and game 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.

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 Department of Game and Fish](#).

For more information:

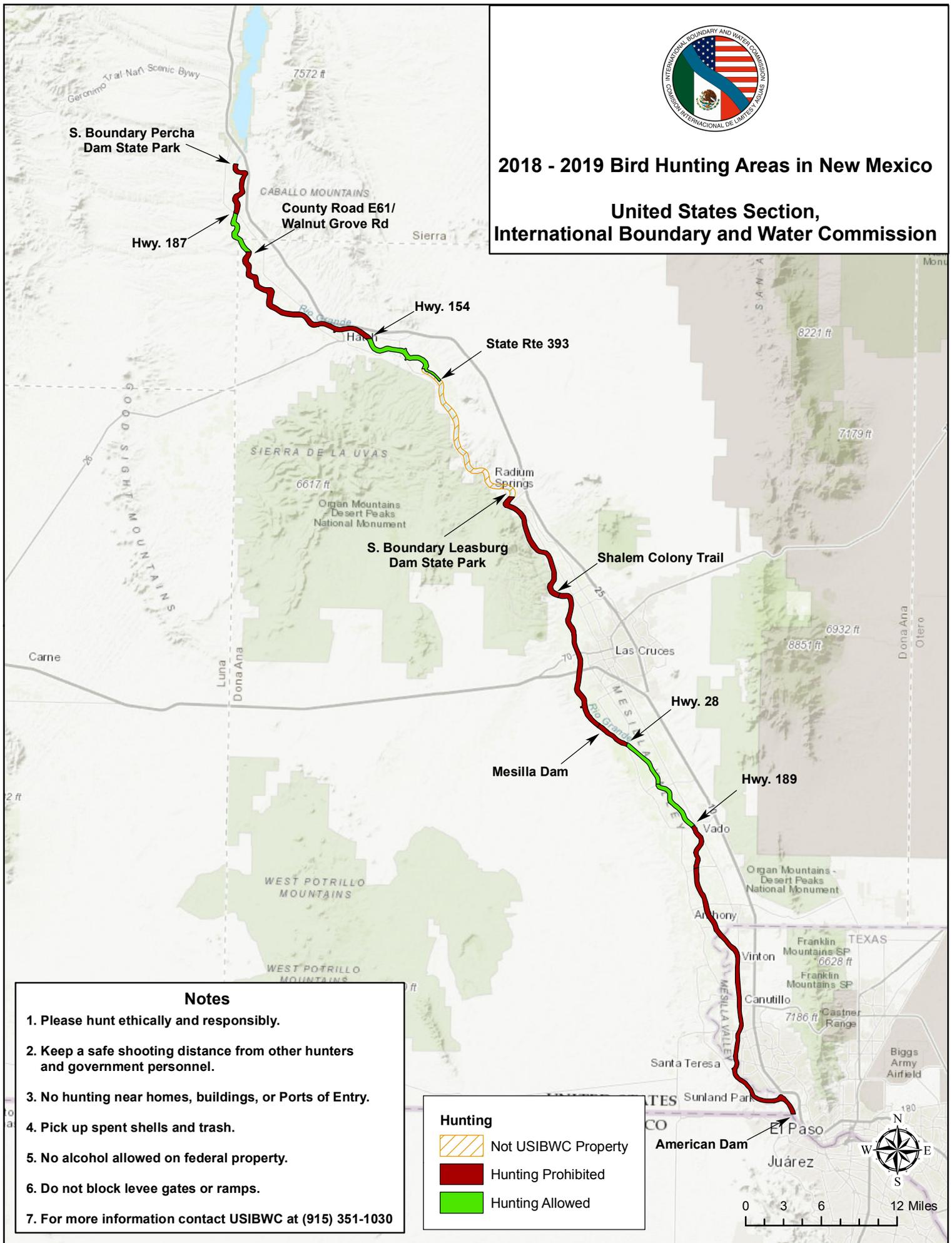
Lori Kuczanski, Public Affairs
915-832-4106
lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

Rosalba Montes, Upper Rio Grande Projects
915-351-1030
rosalba.montes@ibwc.gov



2018 - 2019 Bird Hunting Areas in New Mexico

United States Section,
International Boundary and Water Commission



Notes

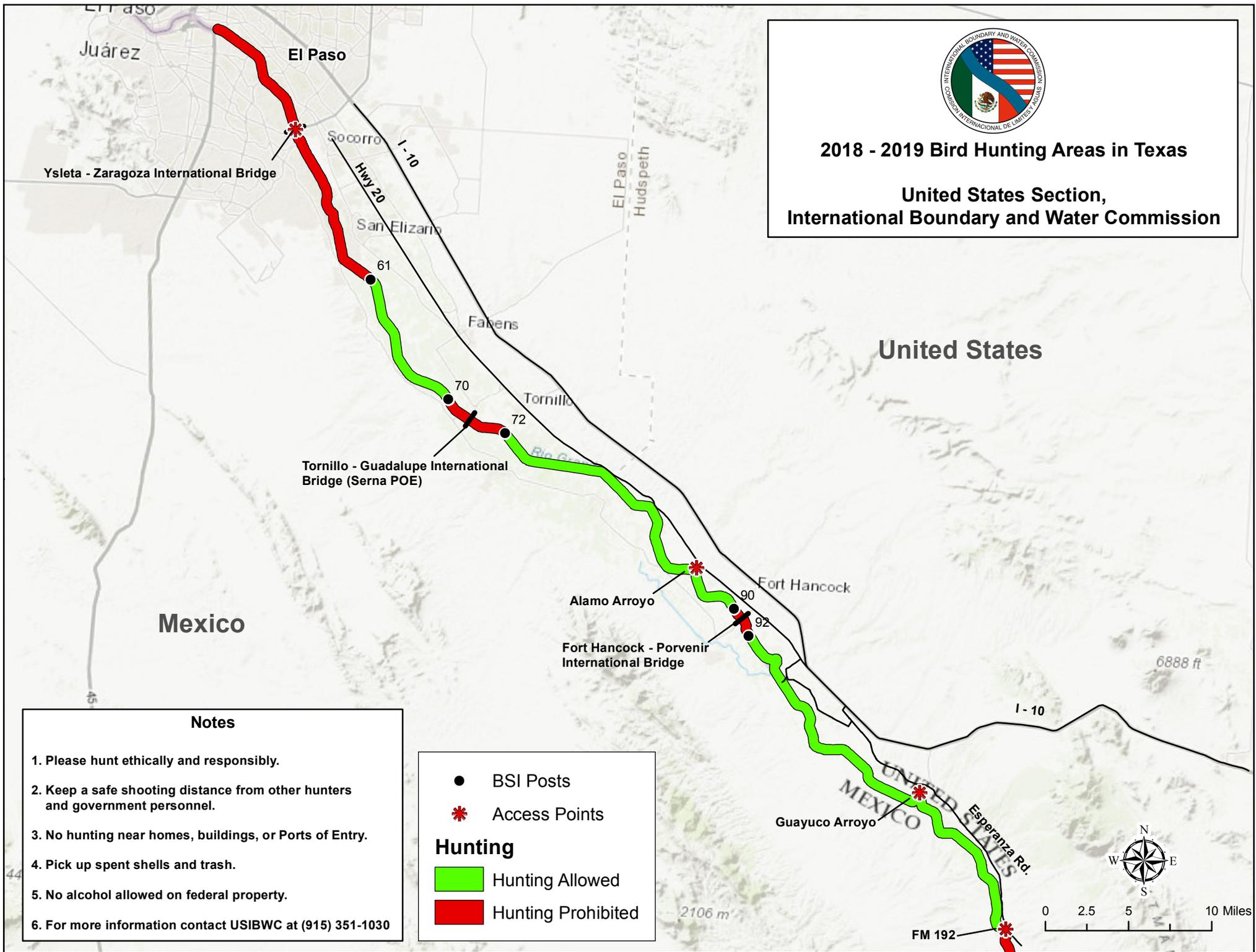
1. Please hunt ethically and responsibly.
2. Keep a safe shooting distance from other hunters and government personnel.
3. No hunting near homes, buildings, or Ports of Entry.
4. Pick up spent shells and trash.
5. No alcohol allowed on federal property.
6. Do not block levee gates or ramps.
7. For more information contact USIBWC at (915) 351-1030

Hunting	
	Not USIBWC Property
	Hunting Prohibited
	Hunting Allowed





2018 - 2019 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. For more information contact USIBWC at (915) 351-1030

● BSI Posts
* Access Points

Hunting

■ Hunting Allowed
■ Hunting Prohibited