



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 20, 2010

FALCON DAM RELEASES DECREASE; DIVERSION OF WATER INTO THE U.S. INTERIOR FLOODWAY EXPECTED TO END

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, will decrease the release of floodwaters from Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas, on October 20 from 11,500 cubic feet per second (325 cubic meters per second) to 8,500 cubic feet per second (240 cubic meters per second). Rio Grande flow downstream from the dam is likely to decline this week to a level where it will no longer be necessary to divert river water into the U.S. interior floodway, barring unexpected increases in inflows from tributaries downstream from Falcon Dam. Even after the diversions end, it could still take a period of time for the water that is already in the floodway system to dissipate.

The U.S. interior floodway includes channels known as the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, and Arroyo Colorado through portions of Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. Diversion of flow into the North Floodway ceased on October 18 due to declining water levels. Little change is expected in Rio Grande levels downstream from Retamal Diversion Dam, located at Donna, Texas-Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, including levels at Brownsville, Texas-Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

Releases from Amistad Dam, located at Del Rio, Texas-Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, continue at the rate of 4200 cubic feet per second (120 cubic meters per second).

Information about Rio Grande flow as well as storage and release data from U.S. and Mexican reservoirs in the Rio Grande basin is available on the USIBWC web page at:

http://www.ibwc.gov/wad/WAD_quickpick.html

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