



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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2013 BIRD HUNTING AREAS IDENTIFIED ALONG THE RIO GRANDE IN 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. During the 2013/2014 bird hunting season, which starts with dove season on September 1, the USIBWC has opened an additional 19 miles of lands along the Rio Grande that were closed to hunters last year due to construction on USIBWC flood control levees. Hunting regulations and the USIBWC prohibit hunting where people could be endangered, such as near homes, businesses, and international bridges/ports of entry.

Using the numbering system for the DHS Border Security Initiative (BSI) markers on the border fence and corresponding markers in Mexico, the USIBWC has prepared a map of areas where hunting is permitted and where it is prohibited. The markers are blue signs approximately two feet square with bright yellow numbers. During the 2013/2014 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 73 and 89: from 2.3 miles downstream from the Tornillo-Guadalupe (Fabens-Caseta) International Bridge to 1.7 miles upstream from the Ft. Hancock-Porvenir International Bridge.

- Between marker 93 and Esperanza Road (FM 192): downstream from the Ft. Hancock-Porvenir International Bridge for 23.5 miles to Esperanza Road (FM 192).

The map is attached and available at http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/Hunting_Map.pdf. The map also indicates access points for the hunting areas. The USIBWC does not control the access points 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.
- 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 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. The Texas game warden will enforce state hunting laws on USIBWC lands.

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. Hunting on USIBWC lands is not allowed in the City of El Paso.

The USIBWC is also considering allowing bird hunting on some of its lands along portions of the Rio Grande in Sierra and Doña Ana Counties, New Mexico. A decision on whether or not to permit bird hunting on USIBWC property in New Mexico is expected by November 2013. Additional information about bird hunting on USIBWC lands in New Mexico is available at:

http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/Press_Release_081213.pdf and

http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/DEA_Hunting_07232013.pdf

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