



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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DOVE HUNTING PERMITTED ON SOME USIBWC LANDS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has released information about dove hunting areas on USIBWC lands along the Rio Grande in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas. During the 2012/2013 season, which runs September 01, 2012 - October 24, 2012 and December 22, 2012 - January 06, 2013, the lands open to hunters have changed due to Rio Grande levee construction affecting areas where hunting was previously allowed.

Using the numbering system for the DHS Border Security Initiative 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. **Because of ongoing Rio Grande levee construction in the Fabens and Fort Hancock areas, hunting is prohibited this season between markers #68 and #93 in order to protect the safety of both hunters and construction workers.**

During the 2012/2013 season, hunting will be permitted between marker # 52, located approximately 5.5 miles downstream from the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry, and marker #54 just upstream from San Elizario; between marker # 59, located near Herring Road, and marker # 68 near Bill's Crossing; and between marker # 93, located near Diablo Arroyo, and FM 192. The map is available at <http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/HuntingMap2012.pdf>. Hunting regulations and the USIBWC also prohibit hunting where people could be endangered, such as near housing areas and where others may be working on or near the Rio Grande levees.

There is only one public access point through the border fence for hunters in El Paso County; it is located immediately upstream from the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry. During the dove hunting season, the

U.S. Border Patrol will allow access through the border fence at this location beginning at 4:00 a.m. and locking gates one hour past sunset.

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 or face 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 shells.
- Do not discharge firearms within 600 feet of homes or businesses or toward other people, especially those who must work on or near the levees.
- 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 in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas that are popular with dove 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 continues to prohibit hunting on its property along the Rio Grande upstream from the El Paso city limits. The USIBWC developed its dove hunting policy based on consultations with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Hudspeth County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Border Patrol.

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