



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
August 30, 2023

### **USIBWC ANNOUNCES 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 bird hunting season, starting with dove season on September 1, 2023.

Due to an increase in illegal activities along the border and the river, hunters are being warned that the entire levee system is at high risk for illegal activities.

The access point at the Ysleta-Zaragoza International Bridge will be closed again during the 2023-2024 season.

#### **Hunting must be conducted in compliance with all hunting rules and regulations.**

Hunting regulations and the USIBWC prohibit hunting where people could be endangered, such as near homes, businesses, bridges, Ports of Entry, and areas where people are recreating.

In **Texas**, all authorized bird hunting areas are along the international border.

The attached map uses the numbering system of 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 2-foot-square with yellow neon numbers.

Access will be from Hudspeth County as shown on the Texas map.

During the 2023-2024 season, hunting will be permitted as follows:

1. Between markers 61 and 70: near Herring Road and downstream to the vicinity of the Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge (Marcelino Serna Point of Entry).

- Only migratory and bird hunting is allowed. No other hunting or target practice is permitted.

In **New Mexico**, the USIBWC authorizes bird hunting in three different areas, totaling approximately 18 miles along the Rio Grande. The hunting areas remain the same as last year.

The 2023-2024 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.

In **New Mexico**, the 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. Vehicles should not block levee gates. In Doña Ana County, the Sheriff's Department will enforce towing of any abandoned or unauthorized vehicles.

Government Property Rules in USIBWC Areas in New Mexico:

- Hunters are responsible for identifying legal access points to reach hunting areas and must respect private property as well as all municipal, state, and federal properties of agencies other than the USIBWC.
- Do not damage vegetation in the floodplain.
- 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 hunt on USIBWC lands do so at their own risk. In areas where no vehicles are allowed, hunters must access hunting areas in non-motorized transport.
- Hunters must have all applicable hunting licenses, follow all hunting laws, and use appropriate firearms. New Mexico Game Wardens will enforce state hunting laws on USIBWC lands.
- Only migratory and bird hunting is allowed. No other hunting or target practice is permitted.

In both **New Mexico** and **Texas**, for public safety and to avoid damage to USIBWC lands and infrastructure, hunters must abide by the following safety procedures and government property rules:

Best Practices While Hunting in USIBWC Areas:

USIBWC urges all hunters to abide by federal, state, and local health guidelines. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Do not enter USIBWC areas if you exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.
- Due to the lack of hand washing facilities, have hand sanitizer available.
- In case of an emergency, let others know the areas where you are hunting. Verify you have cell phone coverage.
- A first aid kit is recommended when hunting in USIBWC areas.

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:

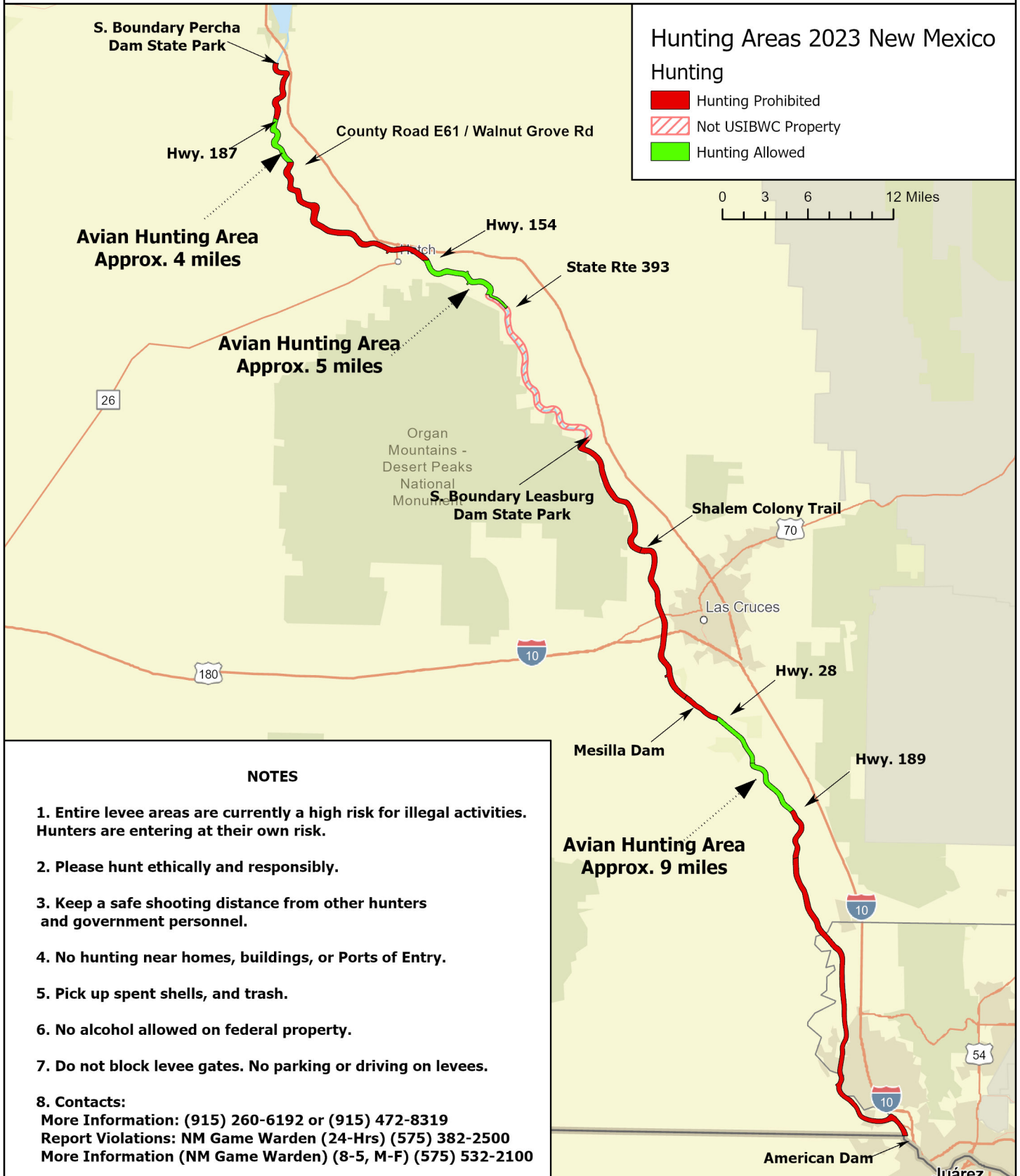
Leslie Grijalva, Public Affairs Officer  
(915) 832-4770 or (915) 443-3692  
[leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov](mailto:leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov)

David Duran, Upper Rio Grande Field Office Area Operations Manager  
(915) 832-4717 or (915) 433-9962  
[david.duran@ibwc.gov](mailto:david.duran@ibwc.gov)



## 2023 - 2024 Bird Hunting Areas in New Mexico

United States Section,  
International Boundary and Water Commission



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## 2023 - 2024 Bird Hunting Areas in Texas

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1. Entire levee areas are currently a high risk for illegal activities. Hunters are entering at their own risk.

2. Please hunt ethically and responsibly.

3. Keep a safe shooting distance from other hunters and government personnel.

4. No hunting near homes, buildings, or Ports of Entry.

5. Pick up spent shells, and trash.

6. No alcohol allowed on federal property.

7. Contacts:

More Information (USIBWC): (915) 260-6192 or (915) 472-8319

Report Violations: TX Game Warden (24-Hrs) (512) 389-4848

More Information (TX Game Warden) (8-5, M-F) (915) 834-7050

\* Access Point

● BSI Marker

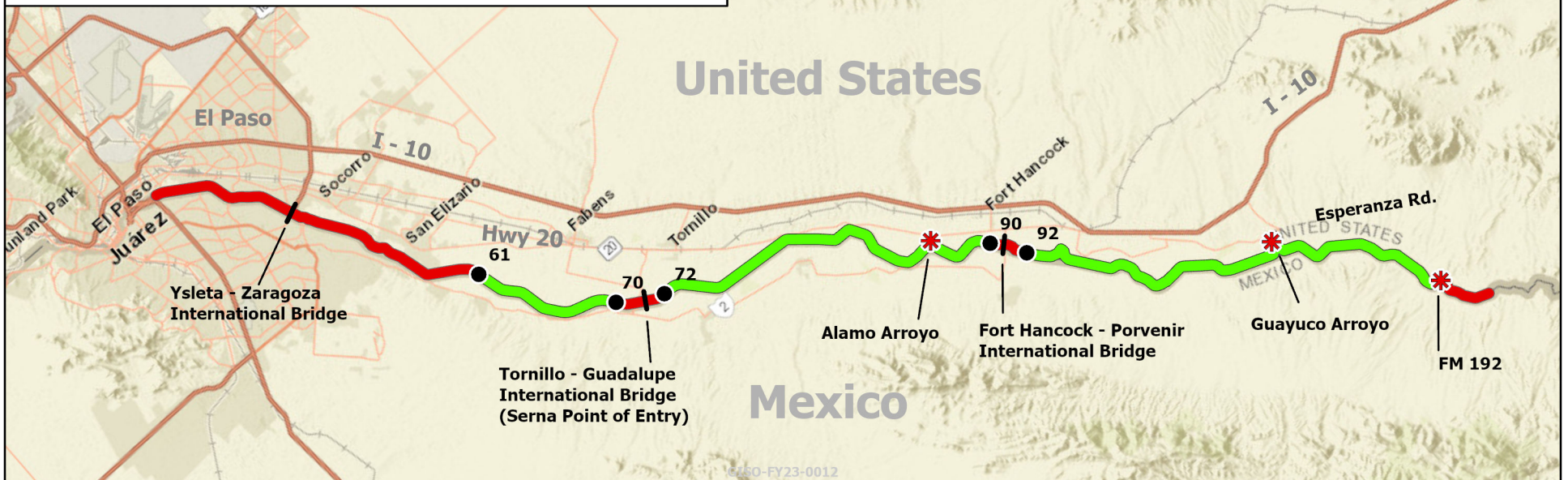
### Hunting Areas 2023 Texas

#### Hunting

■ Hunting Prohibited

■ Hunting Allowed

0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles



ELSO-FY23-0012

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