



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 12, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON PROPOSED RIO GRANDE HUNTING POLICY IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is accepting public comment on a proposal that would allow bird hunting on some USIBWC lands along the Rio Grande in parts of New Mexico. The USIBWC is considering allowing hunting along 55 miles of the Rio Grande in Sierra and Doña Ana Counties. Previously, the USIBWC prohibited hunting on all of its property in New Mexico while allowing hunting on some USIBWC lands in Texas. The USIBWC developed its proposed hunting areas in New Mexico after being approached by stakeholders interesting in hunting game birds near the Rio Grande.

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA): Allowing Avian Hunting in Designated Areas along the Rio Grande Canalization Project, Sierra and Doña Ana Counties, New Mexico, which describes the proposed hunting areas and the environmental impacts of allowing hunting, is available at: http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/DEA_Hunting_07232013.pdf. Public comments on the document are being accepted through August 23, 2013. Comments should be addressed to:

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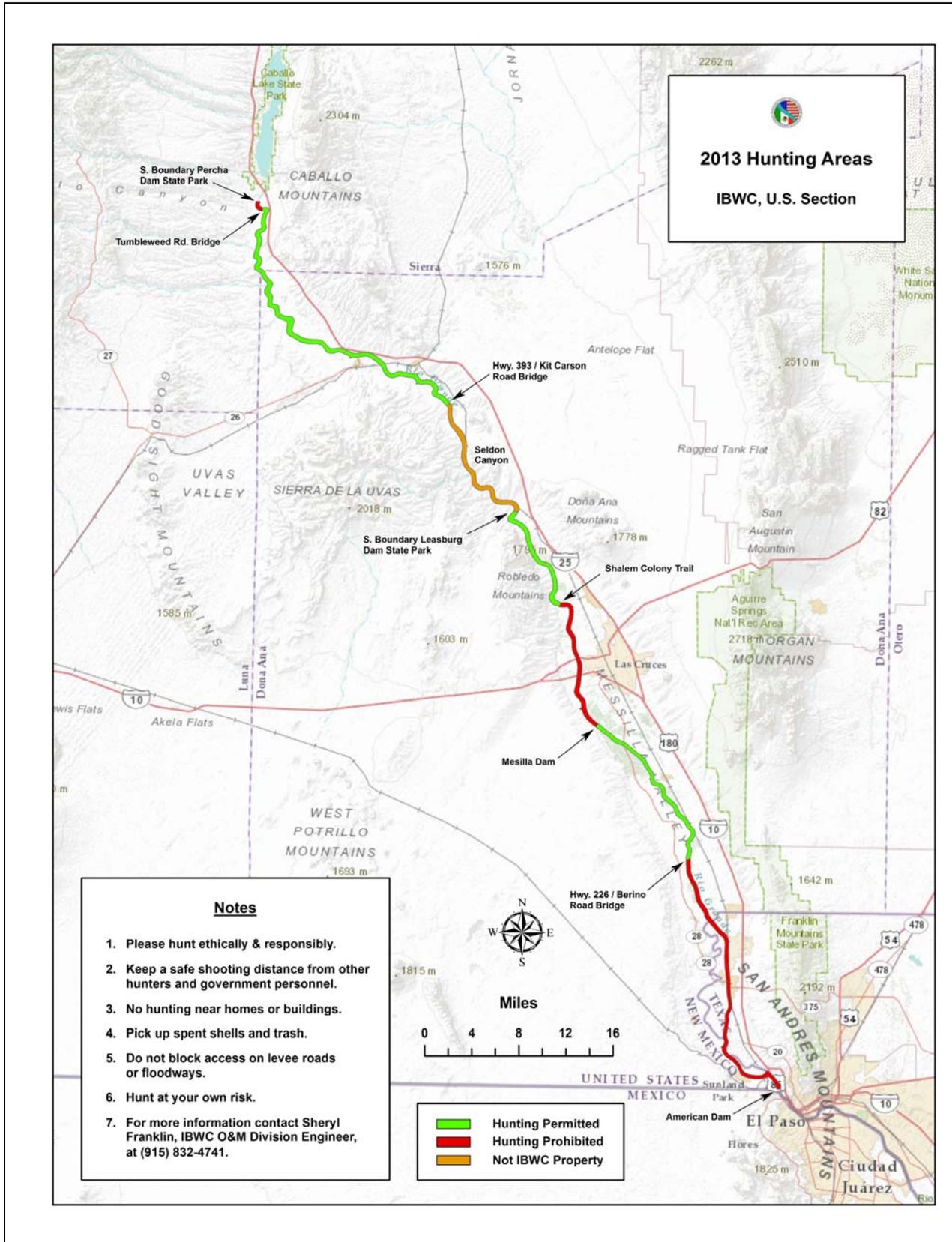
The USIBWC will consider public comments and expects to make a decision this fall so that hunting could begin during the month of November.

Under the proposal, bird hunting would be allowed on USIBWC lands in three areas along the Rio Grande – a 30-mile segment downstream from Percha Dam State Park, a 10-mile segment downstream from Leasburg Dam, and a 15-mile segment downstream from Mesilla Dam (see attached map). Hunting would be prohibited in developed areas along the Rio Grande. The Draft EA does not address hunting on private lands along the Rio Grande, such as those in Seldon Canyon, or on public lands owned by other agencies.

As discussed in the Draft EA, any hunting would be subject to all federal, state, and local laws so that even in areas that may be designated for bird hunting, hunters would be required to follow laws regarding licenses, bag limits, restrictions preventing hunting within a certain distance from residences, no trespassing on private property, etc. Hunters would also be subject to USIBWC regulations prohibiting driving on levee slopes and requiring all spent shells and trash to be removed.

For more information:

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DRAFT MAP OF PROPOSED HUNTING AREAS