



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 2, 2011

USIBWC UPDATES INFORMATION ON DOVE HUNTING ACCESS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE

Due to a recent border security incident affecting dove hunters, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has decided to restrict access to the Rio Grande levee at the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry to daylight hours. The gate at that location will be open 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily. Hunters who do not exit by 8 p.m. will have to go downstream to the access point near the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry.

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) permits dove hunting on some USIBWC lands along the Rio Grande in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas. During the 2011/2012 season, which runs September 1, 2011-October 23, 2011 and December 23, 2011-January 8, 2012, the USIBWC has opened additional lands to hunters. Some areas that were closed last year due to construction on the USIBWC flood control levees and on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) border fence have been reopened. 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.

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. During the 2011/2012 season, hunting will be permitted from marker 52 approximately 5.5 miles downstream from the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry to marker 54 just upstream from San Elizario, from marker 59 near Herring Road downstream to marker 86 near the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry, and from marker 95 downstream from the Ft. Hancock Port of Entry to Esperanza Road (FM 192). The map is available at <http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/HuntingMap.pdf>. Although the Tornillo-Guadalupe "Fabens" Port of Entry is located within one of the permitted areas, firearms may not be discharged near the port, which is located

between markers 71 and 72. 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.

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. Do not discharge firearms near the Tornillo-Guadalupe "Fabens" Port of Entry, located between markers 71 and 72.
- 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.

For more information:

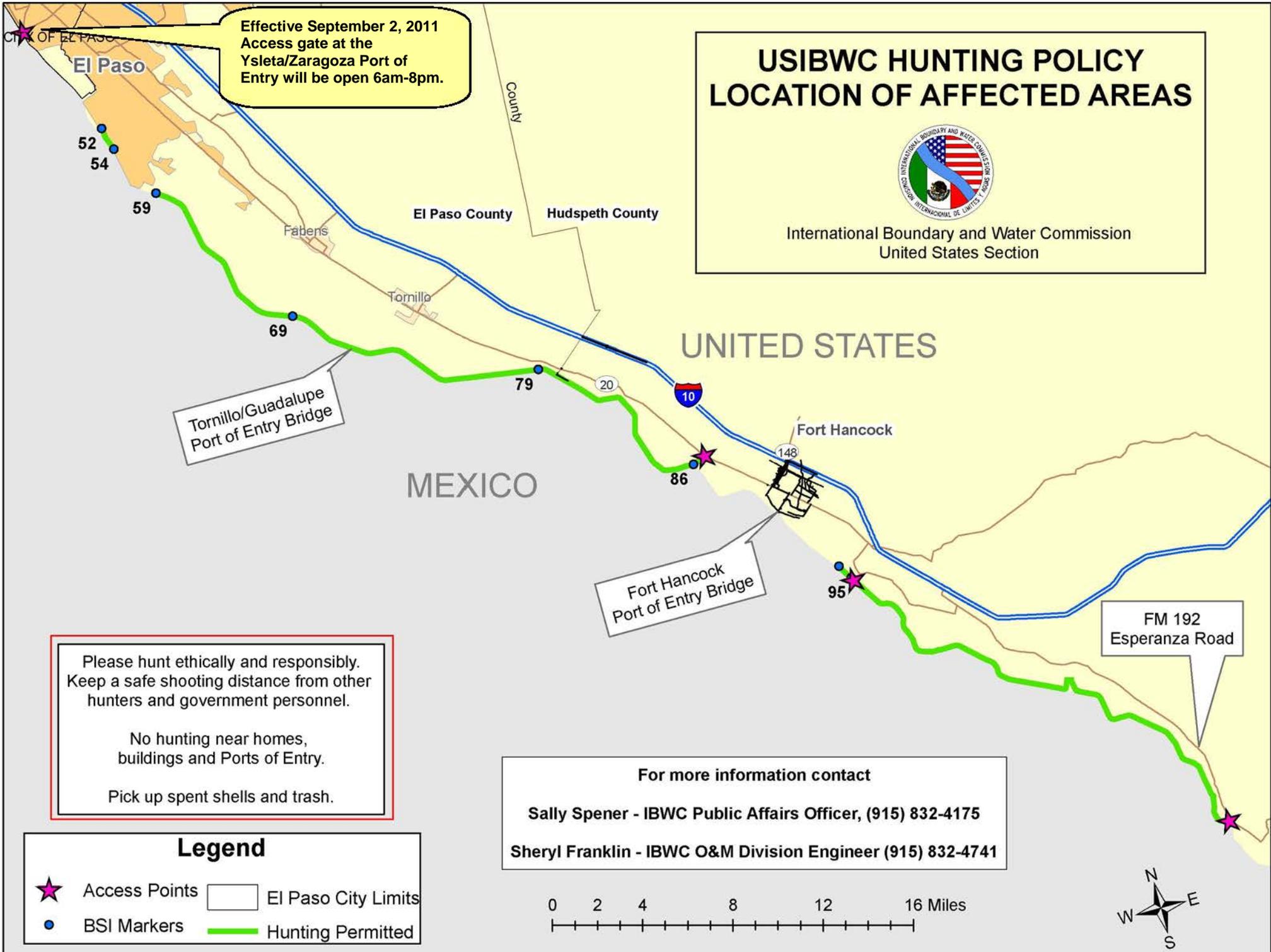
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Effective September 2, 2011
 Access gate at the
 Ysleta/Zaragoza Port of
 Entry will be open 6am-8pm.

USIBWC HUNTING POLICY LOCATION OF AFFECTED AREAS



International Boundary and Water Commission
 United States Section



Tornillo/Guadalupe
 Port of Entry Bridge

Fort Hancock
 Port of Entry Bridge

FM 192
 Esperanza Road

Please hunt ethically and responsibly.
 Keep a safe shooting distance from other
 hunters and government personnel.

No hunting near homes,
 buildings and Ports of Entry.

Pick up spent shells and trash.

For more information contact

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Sheryl Franklin - IBWC O&M Division Engineer (915) 832-4741

Legend

- ★ Access Points
- BSI Markers
- El Paso City Limits
- Hunting Permitted

