



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

For Immediate Release
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PUBLIC REMINDER: ATVs, Other Motorized Vehicles Prohibited on USIBWC Levees

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) wants to remind the public that the hundreds of miles of agency levees along the Rio Grande are off limits to motorized vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

The USIBWC reiterates ATV and other motorized vehicle use on levees is unauthorized and violators can be charged with trespassing.

USIBWC field offices along the Rio Grande have partnered with local law enforcement to monitor levees and apprehend violators.

The river levees in these areas are federal structures and are controlled and managed by the USIBWC. The river levees and slopes are specially designed flood control structures that are subject to damage by motorized vehicles.

Any damage or degradation as a result of unauthorized motor vehicle traffic could compromise the levees, ultimately causing excess flooding in the surrounding inhabited areas.

The roads on top of the levees are intended for low-volume use for authorized users only, primarily for the purpose of maintaining the surrounding area and structures along the river.

Vehicular traffic traversing the banks of the main river channel, on the slopes of the levees, or on the levee roads can cause damage and erosion to those areas and is dangerous to vehicle operators, as well.

In addition, the USIBWC has invested funds in habitat restoration sites along the river.

To report violations along the Upper Rio Grande, please call the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority, 24 hours a day, at (575) 526-0795.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, call the USIBWC at (956) 357-2618.

The USIBWC is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that may arise in the application of the treaties.

More information about the USIBWC levee system can be found at: <https://ibwc-dr.azurewebsites.net/flood-control-levee-systems/>

For more information:

Frank Fisher
Public Affairs Chief
frank.fisher@ibwc.gov
(915) 494-6027

