

## RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



County Water Improvement District No. 1, Western Dewatering, El Paso Electric Company, and the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society for their roles in making this project possible.

## ON THE FENCE

In mid-August, construction began on the 56.7 miles of border fence planned along the Rio Grande between El Paso and Arroyo Diablo, near McNary in Hudspeth County, Texas. At this writing, the work is moving steadily towards Rio Bosque. Visit the border-fence page on our website to learn the current status. At the Park, the visual impact of the fence will be immediate and obvious. The ecological impact will be gradual and more subtle, but no less real. For many animals, the fence will be a barrier to movement between the Rio Grande and the Park and a barrier to genetic exchange. Over time, the fence will affect what species get established at Rio Bosque and, for some species, the long-term health and viability of the populations present. \*\*

## **ACCESS UPDATE**

Current access to Rio Bosque is via the levee road along the Riverside Canal, which forms the east boundary of the Park. In August, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 gated off a portion of this road due to continuing damage from vehicles driven at excessive speeds. Park visitors still have access via this road to the Tornillo Trailhead at the north end of the park, but not the Wetland and Bosque trailheads. Getting to the Park's visitor center at the Bosque Trailhead now requires a 1-mile walk from the Tornillo Trailhead.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION