

NORTHWEST EL PASO FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY, EL PASO COUNTY, TX



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District

FACT SHEET

PROBLEM

The purpose of this Federal project is to reduce the risk of flood consequences to life, property and infrastructure within the NW El Paso study area. Several arroyos draining the west slope of the Franklin Mountains convey flood waters into the study area. Inundation of damageable property occurs largely in the flat, valley bottomland of the study area; however, flooding also occurs along arroyos, and at transportation crossings, when flows exceed channel capacity. Once floods leave arroyo channels, they will generally flow down slope without returning to the arroyo channel.

Based upon preliminary estimates, the NW El Paso study area contains nearly 4,000 structures within the 1% annual chance exceedance (ACE) floodplain. The study area has experienced large flash floods as recently as 2013 and 2006. In addition to damages to structures and infrastructure, residents and commuters throughout the study area experience significant life safety risk. The nature of the flooding in the study area includes both inundation of large areas, with depths exceeding 3 feet, as well as high velocity flash flooding with little or no advanced warning. Travel time of flood peaks from the upper watershed to the occupied floodplain is a matter of minutes.

LOCATION

The study area is located in the northwest section of El Paso County, Texas. It is bordered by the Rio Grande on the west, the New Mexico - Texas state line on the north, and the Franklin Mountains on the east (Figure 1). Effected communities include unincorporated parts of El Paso County and several small communities located near the valley bottom between Interstate 10 (I-10) and the Rio Grande. These communities include Anthony, Westway, Vinton and Canutillo, TX. Major transportation corridors consist of I-10, Texas State Highway 20 (Doniphan Drive), and the Burlington Northern – Santa Fe railroad (B.N. & S.F) run parallel through the study area and are all negatively affected by flooding. The transportation corridor, created by Highway 20 and the B.N. & S.F, supports several industrial and commercial facilities. Construction of I-10 has further supported commercial and industrial development and created a second transportation corridor in the lower third of the arroyo watersheds. Growth in the City of El Paso has pushed the city limits up the Rio Grande Valley to the southern edge of the study area.

The arroyo watersheds encompass the west slopes of the Franklin Mountains to the Rio Grande. Runoff is conveyed along seven ephemeral arroyo channels and smaller tributaries running roughly parallel to each other. Runoff is then discharged onto the flat Rio Grande Valley bottom. Transportation facilities, and commercial and residential structures, are located primarily on the lower third of the alluvial slopes. Flood flows from the arroyos inundate the valley bottomland before slowly draining through existing irrigation drains, or storm water outlets, to the Rio Grande.

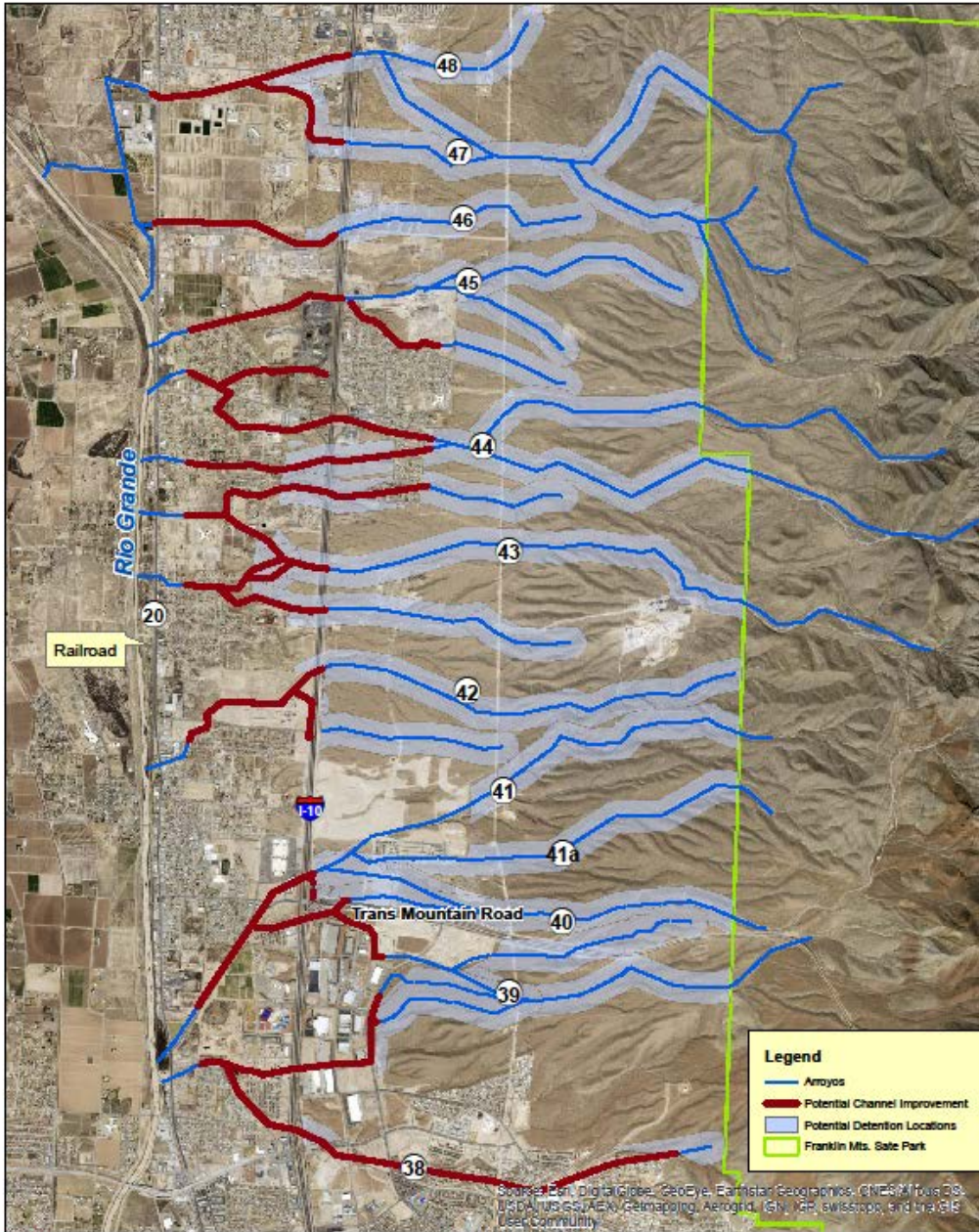
SCOPING MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2016

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STAKEHOLDERS

Communities of:
Anthony Westway
Vinton Canutillo
The City of El Paso
The County of El Paso

Agencies:
U.S. Interstate Boundary
Commission

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service**

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Please be sure to discuss the issues with project study presenters. **There are comment forms for your convenience and for the record.** The form can be left here tonight or take it with you and mail it to the address on the form.

SCOPING MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2016