



BUILDING OUR NATION'S DAMS

This 1939 photo shows the construction of the Rio Grande Canalization Project. The project, which began in 1936 and was completed in 1943, provided flood protection and assured the release of waters from the upstream reservoirs to Mexico. The project extends along the Rio Grande from the Percha Diversion Dam in Caballo, NM to the American Dam in El Paso, TX, stretching 105.6 miles. Today, the United States section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) maintains the levees and bridges built as part of this New Deal project.

PHOTO from United States International Boundary and Water Commission, courtesy of Mark L. Howe, Cultural Resources Specialist, U.S. Section, International Boundary and Water Commission

DID YOU KNOW?

The mission of the International Boundary and Water Commission is to ensure that the American and Mexican governments adhere to the obligations outlined under numerous treaties and agreements between the countries while also considering the social and economic welfare of the people on both sides of the boundary. The obligations include protecting the land along the rivers during construction of levee or floodway projects and conserving the waters of the Rio Grande.

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