I forgot to include in 2000 annual report to FWS.

Should upgrade + include Plant Rpt. in 2001 Rpt.

RF

MAJOR BCCP PROGRAM EXPENDITURES*
1995-99

DATE	ITEM	CITY OF AUSTIN	TRAVIS COUNTY	NOTES
Fall 1995	Environmental Impact Statement		~$52,000	Travis County contribution
March 96	Final Environmental Impact Statement	$176,000		
March 96	EIS Printing Costs	$20,000		
Spring 96	Legal Fees for Evaluating PC Program		$3,353	
Spring 96	Aerial Acquisition for Map Production		$4,233	
June 97	BCCP Caves Reference Manual		$9,149	
August 99	BCCP Hydrogeological Studies	$15,000		
FY96-FY99	Public Participation Administration		$200,326	TNR staff time: maps and customers
FY00	BCCP Hydrogeological Studies	$25,000		
FY00	Public Participation Administration		$24,150	TNR staff time: maps and customers
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$236,000**	**$293,211**	

* Travis County is still investigating the actual expenditures made on behalf of the BCCP. The staff figures reflect time spent on the BCCP public participation program, developing and producing the BCCP habitat fee zone maps, providing customer service, processing applications for habitat determinations, and issuing Participation Certificates. Staff time by County attorney and commissioners' offices is not included, though this time has been significant, particularly during the planning, and initial set-up and implementation of the program.

BCCP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REVENUE
1996 – PRESENT

PERIOD	ITEM	CITY OF AUSTIN	TRAVIS COUNTY	NOTES
5/96-6/7/99	PC and 10(a) revenue	$796,907.00	$796,907.00	50% revenue + interest to each partner
Current	PC and 10(a) revenue	$69,734.00	$69,734.00	50% revenue to each partner (pending)
	TOTAL REVENUE *	**$866,641.00**	**$866,641.00**	

***Notes:** The first line of revenue (5/96-6/7/99) includes revenue received by the City of Austin (before Travis County began managing the public participation program for the BCCP), and interest from the joint account.

Approximately 35% of the total revenue is from Participation Certificates and 65% is from 10(a) mitigation directed to the BCCP by the USFWS.

This does not include:

- 90 acres received by the City of Austin through an issued PC (valued at $475,000).
- 10(a) mitigation applied to the City of Austin's acquisition of the Ivanhoe tract ($2,493,333 received by sellers to date, with the 3rd and final payment of $1,178,667 due to the sellers by 8/31/00).
- the value of the 124 acres transferred to Travis County for 10(a) mitigation (Lake Perspectives).
- two 10(a) mitigation checks Travis County is holding ($315,000 and $143,100 totaling $458,100) until use of funds is determined: either applied to BCP acquisition by Travis County, or split between the County and the City.

BCCP LAND ACQUISITION SUMMARY
1996-1999

DATE	ITEM	CITY OF AUSTIN	TRAVIS COUNTY	NOTES
1996	Land Dedications	2542 acres	507 acres	Existing Parkland dedications to BCCP (includes W&WW land)
1993-1997	Land Purchases	9177 acres	None	Acquisitions using $42M COA bond proceeds; other transfers
1996	Long Canyon tract	90 acres		Acquired through BCCP Participation process
Aug. 1997	Ivanhoe tract *	942 acres		Acquired with $1M Section 6 grant, plus $3,672,000 in 10(a) mitigation fees (USFWS) paid directly to the seller in 3 annual installments, plus COA $100K CIP match
1999	Lake Perspectives tract		124 acres	Direct transfer of the land to TC for 10(a) mitigation (USFWS)
Total Current Acreage		**12,751 acres**	**631 acres**	

* Mayor Watson and Commissioner Bristol (Coordinating Committee members) fully involved in discussions of this transaction.

PENDING BCCP LAND ACQUISITIONS

DATE	ITEM	CITY OF AUSTIN	TRAVIS COUNTY	NOTES
1999-2000	Vista Point tract		490 acres	Pending purchase using $3.5M in Section 6 grant money and $1,950,567 in TC matching money
1999-2000	Grandview Hills tract		315 acres	Pending 10(a) mitigation land transferred to TC through USFWS (part conservation easement and part fee simple ownership)
1999-2000 ?	Steiner Ranch tract		? acres	Potential conservation easement through the BCCP Participation process dedication to TC (in negotiation)
Total Pending Acreage			**805+ acres**	

BCCP – Travis County
file: coa tc split finances
9/7/99

BCCP Grant Activity
1996-1999

DATE	ITEM	CITY OF AUSTIN	TRAVIS COUNTY	ACQUISITION TARGET	NOTES
March 1996	Secion 6 Grant from USFWS	$1,000,000		Ivanhoe tract (942 acres)	purchase w/ grant & 10 (a) mitigation money
1998	Secion 6 Grant from USFWS		$2,000,000	Pending Vista Point tract Phase I (265 acres)	pending purchase with grant & 25% TC match
1999	Secion 6 Grant from USFWS		$1,500,000	Pending Vista Point tract Phase II (225 acres)	pending purchase with grant & 25% TC match
TOTAL Grant $		**$1,000,000**	**$3,500,000 pending**		

10(a) Mitigation Fees and Land Paid/Transferred to the BCCP 1996-1999

ITEM	CITY OF AUSTIN	TRAVIS COUNTY	ACQUISITION TARGET	NOTES
10(a) Cash Fees to BCCP	$477,205*	$477,205*		Money put in joint account and to be split
10(a) Land transferred directly	Value: $2,493,333 (with additional $1,178,667 pending)		Ivanhoe (942 acres)	Purchase includes grant $ and 10(a) $ paid directly to seller
10(a) Land transferred directly		Approx. value $1,178,000	Lake Perspectives (124 acres)	Land not appraised. approx. value at $9,500/ac.
TOTAL Land/ $	**$477,205 cash $3,672,000 land**	**$477,205 cash $1,178,000 land**		
Additional Money: *** TC is currently holding checks for $315,000 and $143,100 for 10(a) mitigation fees, received in the last 3 weeks, until it is determined where to deposit them.**				

Participation Certificate Fees and Land Paid/Transferred to the BCCP 1996-1999

ITEM	CITY OF AUSTIN	TRAVIS COUNTY	ACQUISITION TARGET	NOTES
Fees paid to BCCP for Participation Certificates	$346,010*	$346,010*		
1996 P.C. land transfer	$475,000		Long Canyon tract (90 acres)	
TOTAL Land/ $	**$346,010 cash $475,000 land**	**$346,010 cash**		

* These funds have been deposited into the joint BCCP account. This does not include interest.

BCCP – Travis County
file: coa tc split finances
9/7/99

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

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May 28, 1997

Mr. Mel Hinson
City of Austin - PECSD
Two Commodore Plaza
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

RE: Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

Dear Mr. Hinson,

We are submitting this letter to you, along with attachments, as the Travis County portion of the Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP). We ask that you incorporate this information in the Annual Report you are preparing to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by Coordinating Committee Secretary Joe Lessard. Following are the items as listed in the BCCP permit for the reporting period May 1996 through April 1997, unless otherwise noted.

1. **A list of all development activities west of the MOPAC Railroad.** Accompanying this letter is the list of Travis County issued permits in digital form (Excel spreadsheet) as well as hard copy.

2. **A list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased.** Following is a list of all Participation Certificates purchased under the BCCP; any listings indicating FWS under the "Category" column were not issued a certificate, but were permitted by USFWS and directed to mitigate through the BCCP.

Date	BCCP #	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
7/15/96	0001	P. & B. Sanger	01-2528-0110	Single Family	$1500
9/9/96	0018	R. C. Thompson	01-2940-0104	Single Family	$1500
10/25/96	0041	E. & M. Schanfarber	01-4227-0242	Single Family	$1500
12/4/96	0013	Penta Development	various	Subdivision	90 acres
12/10/96	0047	P. Callahan /D. Roush	01-7577-0314	Single Family	$1500
1/17/97	0044	M. & V. Klepper	01-1919-0316	Single Family	$1500
1/28/97	0053	L. Gallup	04-1430-0107	Single Family	$1500
2/24/97	0061	S. & B. Ritter	01-2940-0202	Single Family	$1500
2/28/97	0002	J. M. Hurst	n/a	FWS	$1500
2/28/97	0003	E. McIntyre	n/a	FWS	$1500
2/28/97	0057	Lowder & Assoc.	n/a	FWS	$44,330
3/6/97	0063	R. Ross	01-6244-0107	Single Family	$1500
3/20/97	0068	M. J. Hall	04-0480-0405	Single Family	$1500
4/4/97	0062	R. & C. Raley	01-1837-0708	Single Family	$1500
4/8/97	0072	R. McElroy	01-7478-0104	Single Family	$1500

3. **Amount of funds collected for land acquisition through the issuance of Participation Certificates.** All the funds collected through issuance of Participation Certificates are listed under #2 on the preceding page. Also shown are mitigation fees paid to the BCCP under USFWS' direction based on their determinations for permits they issued.

4. **Amount of funds expended for land acquisition.** *All activity for reporting period has been the City of Austin's.*

5. **Amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.** Travis County expended $199,626.83 for operations and maintenance for Travis County properties included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. This figure represents the period of May 1996 through February 1997, lacking the months of March and April 1997.

6. **An updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management.** We are working to update the preserve parcel map with the City of Austin and USFWS staff. Accompanying this letter is a map indicating the areas in which revisions are needed, pending further discussion with USFWS.

7. **A list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units.** Travis County owns three tracts that are dedicated preserveland for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Following are descriptions of activities for each tract:

   Hamilton Pool Preserve - Pre-existing (to the BCCP) public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve staff maintain approximately 1.5 miles of nature trails for daily public access. Hours are restricted to day use only; fees are charged; public access is restricted to trails and pool area. Pets, fires, cooking, fishing, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included routine trail maintenance and the planting of native trees in the parking lot area and public road right-of-way, as well as endangered species and botanical surveys.

   Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve - Pre-existing public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve is managed by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness with financial and staff support from the County. Approximately 2.5 miles of nature trails are maintained for daily public and educational tour use. Hours are restricted to day use only; visitor access is restricted to trails. Picnicking, pets, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included endangered species surveys, routine trail maintenance.

   Romberg Tract - This portion of Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point is separated by Comanche Trail from the rest of the park. The Romberg Tract is not used by the public and is not actively managed other than occasional boundary checks and endangered species surveys.

8. **A copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared.** Accompanying this letter is the Annual Report for Wild Basin Wilderness (prepared by the Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness) for the period January 1996 through December 1996. Three other reports were prepared during the reporting period:

   Rare Plant Survey and General Plant Inventory of Travis County Parks West of the Balcones Escartment by W. R. Carr, Summer 1996. This report covers 16 parks owned and/or managed by Travis County. Excerpts are available upon request.

   A Draft Report on The Caves of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, Travis County, Texas by William R. Elliott, Ph.D., February 1997. A copy of this draft report was presented to USFWS Ecological Services staff in April 1997.

An internal report on informal endangered species observations on Travis County managed parks/preserves during the spring of 1996 while our federal permit was pending. Available upon request.

We are interested in having the regional permit amended to change the reporting period to match the City and County fiscal calendars (October through September), which would also avoid splitting the nesting season between two different reporting years. In addition, we need more time to compile end-of-year data, and recommend that the Annual Report would come due to USFWS January 15th following each reporting period. We urge the City to join us in considering such an amendment proposal to the Coordinating Committee and USFWS.

If you have any questions or need additional information for the Annual Report, please contact Ms. Terri Siegenthaler or me at 473-9383.

Sincerely,

Terri Siegenthaler for CL

Clifton Ladd
Travis County BCCP Program Manager

TMS:CL
0905 BCCP Annual Report for Travis County

xc: Joe Lessard, BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary
Valarie Bristol, County Commissioner Precinct 3
Joseph P. Gieselman, Executive Manager
Charles Bergh, Division Director, Parks & Natural Resources
Terri Siegenthaler, Resource Management Specialist
Rose Farmer, Environmental Specialist

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

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May 5, 1997

Mr. Mel Hinson
City of Austin - PECSD
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mr. Hinson,

We are preparing County information to be included in the first annual report for BCCP Secretary Joe Lessard to submit to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The report is due June 1, 1997, for reporting period May 1996 through April 1997. Following is the information we will provide to you by Tuesday, May 27, 1997, in the order listed in the BCCP permit:

1. a list of all development activities west of the MOPAC Railroad that were permitted by Travis County,

2. a list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased,

3. amount of funds collected (by Travis County) for land acquisition (through the issuance of Participation Certificates),

4. (amount of funds expended for land acquisition: all activity has been the City's),

5. amount of funds expended by the County for operations and maintenance,

6. an updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management (we will need Jackie Davis' and Junie Plummer's assistance on revisions),

7. a list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units owned by Travis County, and

8. a copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me or Terri Siegenthaler at 473-9383.

Sincerely,

Clifton Ladd
Travis County BCCP Program Manager

0905 BCCP Correspondence

xc: Joe Lessard, BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary
Charles Bergh, Div. Dir., Parks and Natural Resources
Terri Siegenthaler, Resource Management Specialist
James Dulac, Engineering Associate
Kurt Nielsen, District Ranger, Southwest District

must have TCAD# or legal descrip for each permit

EXAMPLE of what was submitted w/Annual Report May 1997 date run

BASIC DEVELOPMENT PERMITS ISSUED FOR WESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY--BCCP ANNUAL REPORT

12-Jun-97 starting + ending dates

PERMIT	ISSUED	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	TYPE OF CONST	SUBDIVISION	BLK	LOT	TAX ID
96-0006	5/21/96	MARIE WRIGHT	16605 JACKSON STREET	SFR				01725504
96-0029	5/ 1/96	AUSTIN THREE POINTS LTD	FM 1825 WELLS BRANCH PKWY IH 35	DRAINAGE W&WW	RESUB OF THREE POINTS COMMON		1-7	
96-0090	6/21/96	ROCKLEDGE INC	11203 ANDERSON MILL ROAD	S&D UTLIITY	ESTATES OF BRENTWOOD			
96-0331	10/14/96	HORSESHOE BROTHERS INC	4411 MOPAC	OFFICE BLDG	GAINES RANCH SUBDIVISION	A	1	
96-0390	4/24/97	FM PROPERTIES OPERATING	BARTON CREEK BOULEVARD	S&D W&WW	BARTON CREEK ABC MIDSECTION			
96-0499	9/13/96	JOHN SCOTT	TRAVIS OAKS DRIVE	S&D	CHIMNEY OAKS AT LAKE TRAVIS			
96-0529	7/22/96	RON PRITCHARD	CENTENNIAL TRAIL & SIERRA BLANCA	S&D W&WW	LAUREL CANYON			
96-0623	6/12/96	AB SURVEYING & ENGINEER	HANGING VALLEY DRIVE	S&D	PAINTED BUNTING PH 2			
96-0649	7/26/96	PARK WEST AT CIRCLE C	ESCARPMENT/LA CROSSE	S&D W&WW	PARK WEST AT CIRCLE C			
96-0792	5/ 1/96	AUSTIN MOTOR MILE INC	11740 FM 2304/MANCHACA ROAD	AUTOBODY REPAIR	AUSTIN MOTOR MILE SUBD.	A	1	04392705
96-0794	8/19/96	STEVEN AERY	15110 METTLE DRIVE	SFR	TRAVIS OAK TRAILS PH 1	D	11	
96-0818	5/ 3/96	LEONARD A BOLTON	15601 HEBBE LANE	DUPLEX/STORAGE B	SPRING HILL VILLAGE	E	12	
96-0881	5/ 1/96	THE PORTER CO.	2105 FM 1626	WAREHOUSE				04483702
96-0983	5/13/96	COVENTRY HOMES	45 COTTONDALE ROAD	SFR	HILLS OF LAKEWAY PH 9		838	
96-0998	5/ 6/96	KELLY PETERSON	1404 CUERNAVACA DRIVE NORTH	WATER QUALITY PO	AUSTIN LAKE HILLS SEC 1	52	1,2	I3136111
96-1135	5/ 6/96	MILBURN INVESTMENTS	821 PICADILLY DRIVE	SFR	WINDERMERE PH F SEC 3	Q	10	
96-1136	5/ 6/96	MILBURN INVESTMENTS	1565 PICADILLY DRIVE	SFR	WINDERMERE PH F SEC 3	Q	8	
96-1141	5/ 6/96	MILBURN INVESTMENTS	825 PICADILLY DRIVE	SFR	WINDERMERE PH F SEC 3	Q	9	
96-1163	5/10/96	BEVERLY DARILEK	15 ROWE LOOP	FILL / CLEAR				02905208
96-1172	5/13/96	HARVEY F DYER	4039 BEE CREEK ROAD	SFR	TRAVIS SETTLEMENT SEC 7		414,	
96-1203	5/ 3/96	JOE BLAYLOCK	1608 PANTHER LOOP	SFR	PFLUGERVILLE ACRES PH 1 SEC 2		21	
96-1215	5/ 3/96	CENTEX HOMES	7614 AMANDA ELLIS WAY	SFR	VILLAGE AT WESTERN OAKS SEC 17 A	D	12	
96-1216	5/ 3/96	CENTEX HOMES	5409 MEG BRAUER WAY	SFR	VILLAGE AT WESTERN OAKS SEC 17 A	E	5	
96-1223	6/13/96	RUST LICHLITER	OSCAR ROAD	S&D	PALEFACE RANCH SEC 3			
96-1224	12/19/96	CROCKER CONSULTING	6301 PARMER LANE WEST	APARTMENTS	MILLWOOD SECTION 24	F	1-4	
96-1230	9/11/96	MILBURN INVESTMENTS INC	SLAUGHTER LANE 1500 EAST OF MOPA	FILL				04233701
96-1232	5/ 3/96	JIM WALTER HOMES INC	10113 LITTLE CREEK CIRCLE	SFR	VALLEY LAKE HILLS	AA	5,6	
96-1236	6/ 3/96	KURT M PROSSNER	9217 US 290 WEST	OFFICE/HOUSE/PARK	GLEN LEDGE PARK		2	
96-1237	6/ 6/96	KURT M PROSSNER	9219 US 290 WEST	ADDITIONAL BUILDI	GLEN LEDGE PARK		3	
96-1238	6/ 3/96	KURT M PROSSNER	9301 US 290 WEST	OFFICE/HOUSE/PARK	GLEN LEDGE PARK		4	
96-1240	5/ 3/96	DOYLE WILSON HOMES	11316 SAVIN HILL LANE	SFR	CIRCLE C RANCH PH B SEC 13	CC	37	
96-1241	5/ 3/96	DOYLE WILSON HOMES	20818 DERBY DAY AVENUE	SFR	STEEDS CROSSING	A	42	

EXAMPLE

PERMIT	ISSUED	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	TYPE OF CONST	SUBDIVISION	BLK	LOT	TAX ID
96-1242	5/22/96	JOE A BIRDWELL	2201 RIVER HILLS ROAD	RES GUEST HOUSE				01263701
96-1250	7/10/96	SCOTT FELDER HOMES	9903 SPICEWOOD MESA	SFR	CANYON MESA PH 1	D	6	
96-1260	5/ 3/96	DOYLE WILSON	1801 PARRELENA LANE	SFR	WELLS BRANCH PH R SEC 3	C	7	
96-1279	5/ 1/96	CLARK WILSON HOMES	3021 NORCO DRIVE	SFR	LAKE POINTE PH 1 B	Q	2	
96-1296	5/ 1/96	DOYLE WILSON HOMES	1917 FAST FILLY AVENUE	SFR	STEEDS CROSSING	K	4	
96-1298	5/ 3/96	HAMMONDS HOMES	2405 EMMETT PARKWAY	SFR	WELLS BRANCH PH W 2 A	B	2	
96-1300	5/ 2/96	CARLSON ENGINEERING	JACK'S POND DRIVE & BRATTON LANE	S&D	JACK'S POND SEC 1			
96-1301	5/ 1/96	JOHN DAVIS CUSTOM DAVIS	1802 FONTAINE COURT	SFR	VINEYARD BAY	C	8	
96-1305	5/ 2/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	1406 IDAHO FALLS COVE	SFR	NORTH PARK SEC 1	31		
96-1306	5/ 3/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	13704 LAMPTING DRIVE	SFR	NORTHTOWN WEST SEC 1	J	12	
96-1307	5/ 3/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	13720 GREINERT DRIVE	SFR	NORTHTOWN WEST SEC 1	J	31	
96-1308	5/ 3/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	13920 GREINERT DRIVE	SFR	NORTHTOWN WEST SEC 1	F	2	
96-1309	5/ 2/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	10400 GRAND OAK DRIVE	SFR	SPICEWOOD ESTATES SEC 3	J	3	
96-1310	5/ 2/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	1119 DISRAELI CIRCLE	SFR	WINDERMERE PH F SEC 1	D	23	
96-1311	5/20/96	DAVID WEEKLEY HOMES	5312 ANKARA COURT	SFR	RIVER PLACE SEC 7 B	B	31	
96-1312	5/ 6/96	DAVID WEEKLEY HOMES	10620 PLUCHEA COVE	SFR	SENNA HILLS SEC 2	F	6	
96-1313	5/ 6/96	DAVID WEEKLEY HOMES	10604 PLUCHEA COVE	SFR	SENNA HILLS SEC 2	F	2	
96-1315	5/ 1/96	TREY HUDDLESTON HOMES	15602 CEDAR LEDGE	SFR	TRAVIS LANDING	E	12	
96-1316	5/ 3/96	CLARK WILSON HOMES	3130 LOMITA DRIVE	SFR	LAKE POINTE PH 1 B	L	21	
96-1317	5/ 3/96	CLARK WILSON HOMES	6921 GABION DRIVE	SFR	CIRCLE C RANCH SEC 5 A	M	40	
96-1318	5/ 3/96	CLARK WILSON HOMES	9217 COLBERG DRIVE	SFR	CIRCLE C RANCH PH A SEC 5	M	9	
96-1319	5/ 3/96	CLARK WILSON HOMES	17012 COPPERHEAD DRIVE	SFR	SPRINGBROOK CENTRE PH 1 SEC B	JJ	14	
96-1320	5/ 3/96	CLARK WILSON HOMES	11925 LOOMIS DRIVE	SFR	LAKE POINTE PH 1 B	M	20	
96-1321	5/ 3/96	PULTE HOME CORP	5340 AUSTRAL LOOP	SFR	CIRCLE C RANCH PH C SEC 5 A	J	127	
96-1322	5/ 3/96	PULTE HOME CORP	5512 ESQUEL COVE	SFR	CIRCLE C RANCH PH C SEC 5 A	J	110	
96-1323	5/ 3/96	PULTE HOME CORP	5348 AUSTRAL LOOP	SFR	CIRCLE C RANCH PH C SEC 5 A	J	125	
96-1324	5/ 3/96	LEGEND HOMES	1102 BLACK LOCUST DRIVE	SFR	WINDERMERE PH F SEC 1	D	9	
96-1325	5/ 3/96	PULTE HOME CORP	8728 WAFER ASH WAY	SFR	BLUFFS AT SPICEWOOD SPRINGS SEC 1, T	E	7	
96-1327	5/ 3/96	DOYLE WILSON HOMES	5828 BACK BAY LANE	SFR	CIRCLE C RANCH PH B SEC 13	RR	8	
96-1328	5/ 3/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	13905 RANDALSTONE DRIVE	SFR	NORTHTOWN WEST SEC 1	F	29	
96-1329	9/23/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	16300 ASCENT COVE	SFR	NORTH PARK SEC 1 REPLAT BLKS K, L, M	I	7	
96-1330	5/ 3/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	13801 GREINERT DRIVE	SFR	NORTHTOWN WEST SEC 1	K	19	
96-1331	5/ 3/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	13805 GREINERT DRIVE	SFR	NORTHTOWN WEST SEC 1	K	17	
96-1332	5/ 3/96	BUFFINGTON HOMES INC	8510 BARASINGA TRAIL	SFR	DEER PARK AT MAPLE RUN SEC 10	K	22	
96-1335	5/ 3/96	STREETMAN HOMES INC	7001 AUCKLAND DRIVE	SFR	CIRCLE C RANCH PH A SEC 5	I	32	

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

411 W. 13th Street
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July 9, 1997

Mr. Mel Hinson
City of Austin - PECSD
Two Commodore Plaza
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Mel

Dear ~~Mr. Hinson,~~

As Terri Siegenthaler mentioned to you, we were surprised to hear that the Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan was turned in to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before we had a chance to get our comments to you on your draft. I was handed your draft on Tuesday, June 17th. We were reviewing the content and had all the attached comments ready to return on Thursday, June 19th, except for some detail we were waiting to get from Jackie Davis. Instead of getting a call back from Jackie on that detail, we learned on Thursday that the report was signed by Joe Lessard and submitted to FWS. Needless to say, we were disappointed that you did not wait for our comments.

Today you called Terri asking for our comments so you can submit the report. I'm confused; did you not submit the report June 19th? Enclosed is the draft report I had received on the 17th with our comments. Please be sure to send me a final copy.

In the future, I expect that, as a co-Permit Holder in the BCCP, Travis County will be afforded ample opportunity to review and comment on the Annual Report and any other reports that represent the Permit Holders, before they are considered in final form for submittal.

If you have any questions about these comments, please call me or Terri at 473-9383.

Sincerely,

Clifton Ladd
Travis County BCCP Program Manager

0905 BCCP Correspondence

xc: Joe Lessard, BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary
Toby Futrell, Assistant City Manager
Terri Siegenthaler, Resource Management Specialist

C. LADD
DRAFT

FIRST ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

BALCONES CANYONLANDS CONSERVATION PLAN

REGIONAL SECTION 10(a) PERMIT NO. PRT-788841

TRAVIS COUNTY • CITY OF AUSTIN

SUBMITTED BY

COORDINATING COMMITTEE SECRETARY

OF THE

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

JUNE 1997

add page numbers

1. A list of all development activities west of MOPAC Railroad.

The development activity in Western Travis County has been substantial during the first year under the Balcones Canyonlands regional permit. Detailed listings of County development permit applications for the period May 1996 through April 30, 1997 has been prepared by Travis County's Transportation and Natural Resources Department. This report contains 2516 entries, primarily single family residence building activity (see Attachment A).

A separate City of Austin development activity report (Attachment B) has also been prepared for the May 1996-April 30, 1997 period. This report focused on subdivisions and site plans that were approved over the past year within the City limits and its five-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). These projects are most likely to initiate land clearing activity in the near term, while actual building of homes and other structures may take place in future years. The development activity is geographically grouped based on the local MAPSCO system of map grids for the Austin area. Under the City development review process, no street addresses have been assigned yet for the 10 subdivisions and 934 site plans that received approval. While the City's database does handle building permits, they were not included in this report.

2. A list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased.

Travis County has developed and operated the BCCP Participation Certificate process. According to their records, 13 (11 (eleven)) Single Family residence, and 1 subdivision, ~~and 2 infrastructure~~ (and 1 infrastructure) projects were issued Participation Certificates or paid mitigation fees under the regional permit during the first year. Copies of all applications ~~and certificates~~ (response letters) have been provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Austin Ecological Services office as they are processed. Two ~~of the~~ (additionally) Single Family applications and one ~~of the~~ infrastructure projects originated with the Fish and Wildlife Service, were ~~actually~~ permitted by the USFWS, and directed to mitigate through the BCCP. Travis County ~~concluded the processing~~ (received fees paid) based on the USFWS mitigation recommendation without ~~the actual issuance of~~ a certificate.

(In these three cases,)

We don't copy FWS on application or certificates as they are issued. We do copy FWS on all PCs on a quarterly basis with the qtly reports. We also copy FWS on all responses to applications & correspondence related to applications

The first year BCCP participants were as follows:

Date	Applic. No.	Name	TCAD No.	Category	Fee Paid
07/15/96	0001	P and B Sanger	01-2528-0110	Single Family	$1500
09/09/96	0018	R.C. Thompson	01-2940-0104	Single Family	$1500
10/25/96	0041	E and M Schanfarber	01-4227-0242	Single Family	$1500
12/04/96	0013	Penta Development	various	Subdivision	90 acres

12/10/97	0047	P Callahan/D Rousch	01-7577-0314	Single Family	$1500
01/17/97	0044	M and V Klepper	01-1919-0316	Single Family	$1500
01/28/97	0053	L Gallup	04-1430-0107	Single Family	$1500
02/24/97	0061	S and B Ritter	01-2940-0202	Single Family	$1500
02/28/97	0002	J.M. Hurst	USFWS-unknown	Single Family	$1500
02/28/97	0003	E McIntyre	USFWS-unknown	Single Family	$1500
02/28/97	0057	Lowder & Assoc	USFWS-unknown	Infrastructure	$44,330
03/06/97	0063	R Ross	01-6244-0107	Single Family	$1500
03/20/97	0068	M.J. Hall	04-0480-0405	Single Family	$1500
04/04/97	0062	R and C Raley	01-1837-0708	Single Family	$1500
04/08/97	0072	R McElroy	01-7478-0104	Single Family	$1500

3. Amount of funds collected for land acquisition through the issuance of Participation Certificates.

Travis County collected $63,830 through the ~~Participation Certificate~~ Public participation process. In addition, the City of Cedar Park paid $3564 for 0.648 acres of mitigation for a construction easement involving their water plant expansion. These funds are split 50:50 between the City and County every six months and are placed in CIP accounts earmarked for land acquisition.

The Penta Development subdivision was mitigated through the permit as a land-in-lieu-of-fee and 90 acres of the Long Canyon purchase ~~was~~ were provided to the Preserve. A $1200 per acre operations and maintenance endowment was transferred along with the land to the City of Austin. The estimated value of this transaction was approximately $459,000.

Infrastructure Project Mitigation Credit Usage

Infrastructure projects for co-permittees and managing partners that have infrastructure development needs are covered under the regional permit. Their mitigation requirements are subtracted from accumulated mitigation credits based on their land dedications to the BCP. During the first year, the following projects used mitigation credits:

o Lower Colorado River Authority	
Starting LCRA Balance	2717.0 ~~2565.0~~ acres
PEC Parke Electric Substation	(3.0) acres
LCRA Digital Telecommunications Network Project	(0.2) acres
Primeco Cellular Telephone Antenna Project	0.0 acres
LCRA Right-of-way Maintenance	0.0 acres
Remaining mitigation credits	2561.8 acres

o Travis County	523.0 ~~625.0~~
Starting TC Balance	~~607~~.0 acres
Bee Caves Roadway Improvements - West of 360	(5.0) acres
Bullick Hollow Roadway Improvements	(2.2) acres
Sandy Creek Park Improvements	(1.5) acres
Hippie Hollow Park Wastewater System Upgrade	(0.7) acres
Remaining mitigation credits	497.6 acres
o City of Austin	
Starting COA Balance	11,476.0 acres
Spicewood Springs Road Improvements - E of 360	(1.25) acres
Remaining mitigation credits	11,474.75 acres

4, Amount of funds expended for land acquisition.

The City of Austin was the only active land purchaser during the first year of the permit, based on available funds remaining from the 1993 bond election. Tracts acquired (i.e based on real estate closings) include:

(1) Hilltop	11/07/96	Bull Creek Macrosite	50.4 acres	$295,000
(2) Long Canyon	7/23/96	North Lake Austin	292 acres	$1,065,800
(3) Bar Ck Vent	12/18/96	Barton Creek Macrosite	44 acres	$1,780,000

Negotiations on the 942-acre Ivanhoe tract were authorized by the City Concil; however, the closing on that $4.5 M property will not actually occur until August, 1997. In December, 1996, the City spent $42,600 on the property survey.

5. Amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.

Travis County expended $199,626.83 for operations and maintenance for Travis County properties included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve over a 10-month period beginning May 1996. Full year expenditures through April are not yet available.

The City of Austin budgeted $287,640 for FY 1995-96 and $281,785 for FY 1996-97 to fund preserve management expenses by the Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Resources Division. Approximately $284,225 was spent during the one year period beginning May, 1996. Additional expenditures for tracts operated and managed by PARD's Operations Division or the City's Water and Wastewater Utility cannot be readily determined from their program budgets.

6. An updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management.

Travis County has produced a new preserve acquisitions map based on GIS and a copy is attached. Meetings have been held between Travis County and the City of Austin to update the map to the extent practical; however, additional meetings with USFWS may be necessary to clarify private

Please insert where indicated on p. 5:

Cowbird Trapping –

The cowbird trapping program ~~was~~ ~~in~~ for the BCCP continued in 1997 with responsibility for program operation shifting from Texas Animal Damage Control to Travis County TNR. Access permission was obtained to operate traps at the COA Vireo Preserve, Steiner Ranch & Riverplace developments. With the addition of 1.5 FTE staff for the BCCP, Travis County began operation of cowbird traps ~~on~~ 7 April, 1997. Additional trap locations will be sought to expand the trapping effort.

mitigation site locations or developments. The draft map provided (Attachment C) has questionable notations where revisions may be necessary, pending further discussions with USFWS.

7. A list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units.

Travis County (3 tracts)

Hamilton Pool Preserve - Pre-existing levels of public use continued during the first year of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. The onsite ~~Hamilton Pool Preserve~~ staff maintain approximately 1.5 miles of nature trails for daily public access. Hours are restricted to day use only; entrance fees are charged; and public access is restricted to the trails and pool area. Pets, fires, ccoking, fishing, and ~~cooking~~ collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities ~~have~~ included routine trail maintenance and the planting of native trees in the parking lot area and public road right-of-way, as well as endangered species and botanical surveys ~~of the H.P. Preserve.~~

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve - Pre-existing levels of public use continued during the first year of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. This preserve tract is managed by the Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness with financial and staff support from Travis County. Approximately 2.5 miles of nature trails are maintained for daily public and educational tour use. Hours are restricted to day use only and visitor access is restricted to the trail system. Picnicking, pets, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities have included endangered species surveys and routine maintenance of trails.

Romberg Tract - This portion of Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point is physically separated from the rest of the park by Comanche Trail. The Romberg Tract is not used by the public and is not actively managed other than occasional boundary checks and onsite endangered species surveys.

Lower Colorado River Authority (3 tracts)

Wheless Preserve - Management activities over the past year include the installation of boundary fencing along the southern portion of the tract to encompass the Schultz mitigation tract and gate and fence repairs at various locations to correct damage from vandalism and mountain bike riders.

Limited endangered species surveys were conducted on the Wheless Preserve in 1996. LCRA surveys had two objectives: (1) to determine the extent to which golden-cheeked warblers use areas considered to be marginal or non-habitat and (2) to determine how golden-cheeked warblers use the habitat near the City of Cedar Park water pipeline installed in 1995. Eight GCWs were observed in marginal habitat areas during the surveys. One interesting finding was the use of small, relatively isolated "side canyons" that were typical of GCW habitat, but surrounded by non-habitat areas. Habitat in the vicinity of the pipeline right-of-way was found to be less heavily used than in previous seasons. LCRA proposes more rigorous quantitative studies to confirm these conclusions.

An additional study of land cover and other biological assets was prepared in 1996 (see attached research reports). This report describes the general vegetative communities and other environmental features on the preserve, such as karst, springs, eroded areas, etc.

For the 1997 GCW breeding season, two permanent plots (100 acres apiece) have been established on the Wheless Preserve. One plot represents good golden-cheeked warbler nesting habitat and one represents emerging GCW habitat. Research results will be presented in next year's annual report.

McGregor Preserve - The primary management activity during the first year as a preserve unit was to insure security through entrance gate repairs. A brown-headed cowbird trap was set up on the southeast side of the McGregor Preserve in late May 1997. Results from this trapping effort will be included in next year's annual report.

Very limited endangered species research (i.e. presence/absence surveys) was conducted on the McGregor Preserve in 1996. With only limited survey time, five GCW males and one female were observed. These numbers of GCWs in 1996 were much reduced from numbers found in earlier 1992-94 surveys. The very dry springtime conditions and the limited survey effort may have contributed to the observed results. Surveys have not been conducted to the level necessary for an accurate mapping of territory boundaries, but an average number of 20-22 GCW territories are thought to be occupied on this tract.

No black-capped vireos were found on the McGregor Preserve in 1996, also thought to be due to the extremely dry spring conditions and a limited survey effort. The largest number of BCV territories recorded on the McGregor tract in the past five years was 6 territories occupied in 1992.

An additional study of land cover and other biological assets was prepared in 1996 and the research report is provided. This report describes the tract's vegetative communities and other key environmental features, such as karst, springs, eroded areas, etc.

Westcave Preserve - Pre-existing levels of public visitation to this preserve have continued. Onsite management activities over the past year have included a prescribed burn of approximately three acres and installation of new signage at the entrance.

No research activities were conducted on this tract in the past year.

Travis Audubon Society

TAS Sanctuary - Public access includes a once a year open house and guided tours of the Sanctuary. Each March, member volunteers conduct guided tours along established Santuary paths to observe golden-cheeked warblers.

Operations and maintenance activities during the past year have included: (1) minor repairs to the caretaker residence, (2) repair of two damaged fence sections due to vehicle collision, (3) erection of trail markers, and (4) removal of downed limbs and damaged trees due to the severe ice storm during the winter 1997.

The Travis Audubon Society has given permission to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to establish an air monitoring station at the Sanctuary. This equipment monitors air pollutants continuously, particularly ozone formation downwind from the Austin metropolitan area.

The Travis Audubon Society has not conducted any formal surveys of golden-cheeked warblers, although informal sighting information is frequently exchanged among members. John Kelly and Bill Carr have continued survey work on a plant list for the Sanctuary; however, no published report has been prepared.

The Nature Conservancy

Barton Creek Habitat Preserve - The Nature Conservancy will be reporting operations and maintenance activities directly to the USFWS in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Section 10 Habitat Management ~~Mgt~~ Maintenance Agreements governing this property. (There are 2)

Lehman Tract - No reported activities

City of Austin (29 tracts)

The City of Austin's management activities on its various preserve units have been summarized on Table 1.

Preserve Security Activities:

Patrols for Rules and Regulation Compliance - Lower Bull Creek, Upper Bull Creek, and South Lake Austin units receive the greatest priority for officer patrols. Other units are visited for only brief periods of time to check perimeters, roads, and key entrance gates and locks. A large variety of compliance problems are encountered, including illegal off-roading in vehicles, vandalism, dumping, and illegal fires. Officers patrol the Lower Bull Creek unit extensively to enforce access via authorized trails only.

Fencing - Segments of perimeter fencing have been installed at the Lower Bull Creek unit and along the road frontage at the Lime Creek tract in Cypress Creek macrosite. Sections of existing fencing in poor condition have been reinforced as needed at many locations. Plans for additional fencing needs have been developed.

Site Restoration Activities:

Erosion/Revegetation/Trail Closures - Considerable progress has been made to close off and stabilize the most severely eroded trails and abandoned roadways throughout the Lower Bull Creek unit. In addition to the installation of water bars on steep, exposed slopes, tons of shredded tree mulch were spread on poorly vegetated areas to aid in soil ~~retention~~ and vegetation recovery. Vegetation ground cover has been restablished at sites where mulch applications were made during 1995 and early 1996. Restoration work continues at Lower Bull Creek to stabilize and revegetate other eroded roadway damage.

TABLE 1
CITY OF AUSTIN PRESERVE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
MAY 1996 - MAY 1997

ACTIVITY	Lower Bull	Upper Bull	Eastern Bull	Cypress	North Lake Austin	South Lake Austin	West Austin	Barton Creek
Management Plans	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fencing/Gates	X		Cotterell Cave	X		Maple Run		
Signs	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Patrols for Rules Compliance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oak Wilt Survey/Suppression	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vegetation Plot Survey	X	X	X				X	
Plant Community Mapping	X	X		X				
Unauthorized Trail Closures	X	X				X		X
Erosion Controls	X							X
Revegetation	X	X	X					X
Cave Monitoring	X	n/a	X	X	X	n/a	n/a	X
Cave Cleanup			Cotterell Cave			Midnight Cave		Airman's Cave
Deer Survey		X						
Deer Removal		X						
Vireo Habitat Restoration							X	
GCW Territory Census	X	X						X
GCW Sample Survey for Reproductive Success	X							
BCV Census							X	
Streptanthus Monitoring							X	X
Exotic vegetation removal	X	X	X	X			X	
Salamander Monitoring		X	X					
Cleanups	X	X		X				

Prepared by Lee Stone, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, BCP Program

Several unauthorized trails along the eastern half of the Lower Bull Creek unit have been blocked with fencing, signs, rocks, and brush barriers. More precise location information for most authorized trails and portions of unauthorized trails in the Lower Bull Creek Unit have been determined using global positioning equipment.

Much of the site restoration work has been accomplished using staff/ public sector partnering. For example, Recreational Equipment Inc. organized a large volunteer workday in October, 1996 to undertake trail maintenance and erosion control projects throughout the Lower Bull Creek unit. Additionally, a team of Americorps members has been receiving job training and providing labor assistance at various COA BCP units on projects involving closure of unauthorized trail closures, erosion control, fencing, and revegetation.

Approximately 10 acres at the Vireo Research Area were vegetatively manipulated (i.e. cleared) to reduce tree cover and increase openness favored by black-capped vireos.

In the Upper Bull Creek unit, a five acre area was successfully planted with Quercus buckleyi acorns to enhance juniper/oak woodland habitat.

Cave Management Activities:

Most caves currently under City of Austin jurisdiction received attention during the past year. Only Maple Run Cave was gated; however, PARD has determined that no other caves under their jurisdiction require gating at this time.

Broken Arrow Cave, Rolling Rock Cave and other karst features at the Lime Creek Preserve were monitored at the surface and visited internally. Precise locations for these cave entrances were determined and mapped. Presence of imported red fire ants near these caves was determined through the use of bait stations and tratments applied as needed. Brief karst invertebrate surveys were conducted while inside the caves. Staff reported no signs of illegal entry by the caving public.

At Park West, Wooden Derrick Cave, Canyonhead Cave, Rock Top Cave, and three sinkholes (Wedge, Headhole, and nameless) were entered and similar procedures for investigation of illegal entry, fire ants, and karst fauna presence were followed. Spider Cave was surveyed from the surface only.

On the Lower Bull Creek unit, Jester Pit was surveyed inside and at the surface entrace. Some interior trash was removed during the visit and the surface entrance camouflaged to discourage visitation. Jest John Cave was surveyed from the surface only and the entrance appears to be adequately camouflaged.

Two caves received trash and graffitti removal. As part of a multi-year cleanup effort at Midnight Cave, an additional 60 yards of old trash was removed in the last twelve months, almost completing the cave cleanup. At Airman's Cave, cleanup of all discarded batteries from prior visitations was completed. Also, graffiti painted on the walls over many years to guide cavers has been removed from the first quarter of Airman's Cave.

Monitoring Activities:

Endangered Species - Complete 1996 Golden-cheeked warbler territory surveys were completed for Upper Bull Creek, Lower Bull Creek, Barton Creek Greenbelt, and Barton Creek Widerness units. A sample survey of GCW reproductive success within the Lower Bull Creek unit was also prepared. These survey results were reported directly to the USFWS in August, 1996.

very wordy

Field surveys have continued at the Vireo Research Area. During the 1996 nesting season, one black-capped vireo territory was noted. The same male vireo returned during the 1997 season, mated, and is nesting at this time. Staff has attempted to reduce the likelihood of nest predation through the installation of predator deterrent fencing.

Endangered species research continues on City-owned tracts by other entities. The Texas Department of Transportation has been given permission to continue collecting GCW behavioral observations on the Lower Bull Creek unit. Staff from the City's Drainage Utility have monitored Jollyville Plateau salamanders at Spicewood Springs Park and the Upper Bull Creek unit.

Vegetation Surveys - Plant community mapping has been completed for the Lower Bull Creek unit, Upper Bull Creek unit, and the Lime Creek Preserve. These data have been appended to the management plans for these sites.

Vegetation research continues on City property in all preserve units. A total of thirty permanent vegetation plots have been identified and research is planned using the "Land Condition - Trend Analysis" methodology. This method is also being used by the U.S. Army (who developed it) and The Nature Conservancy of Texas. Study locations were chosen based on general plant community characteristics and accessibility. All site boundaries have been recorded with global positioning equipment and marked in the field with rebar stakes. First year vegetation surveys have been completed for the eight plots within the Upper and Lower Bull Creek units.

An oak wilt survey was completed on all City-owned BCP properties. Suppression activities (tree removal, trenching, etc.) have been undertaken at all major sites where infected trees were noted.

Deer Surveys - The city's BCP conservation officers, after receiving training from Texas Parks and Wildlife wildlife personnel, conducted deer surveys within the Upper Bull Creek unit prior to the trapping and relocation of a small number of deer through a cooperative agreement with the Washington County Wildlife Association.

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STATUS OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve land managers have requested a 60-day extension for land management plan completion. The three tiered approach to land management plans (system summary, macrosite, and individual tract plans) requires a much greater level of effort to have consistency and alignment among the reports. The need for internal technical reviews by the various managing entities also adds to the time necessary to finalize each

the County requested a 90 day extension and will be completed by August 2.

land management plan. Requests from numerous public interests to review and comment on the documents will start after the Secretary receives the final staff drafts. This is also the point where the USFWS plans its review of the various plans.

The following 36 BCP tracts will have land management plans prepared in accordance with the revised schedule. Drafts have already been completed.

LCRA:	Wheless
	McGregor
	West Cave Preserve
Travis County:	Romberg tract
	Wild Basin Wilderness
	Hamilton Pool Preserve
Travis Audubon:	TAS Sanctuary
City of Austin:	Forest Ridge
	Jester/Burris
	3M
	St. Ed's Park
	Hanks
	Lanier
	Franklin
	Canyon Creek
	WTP #4
	Bull Creek District Park
	Bull Creek Greenbelt
	Barrow Preserve
	Spicewood Springs Park
	Beard Tract
	Lime Creek
	Cortana
	Park West
	Coldwater Canyon
	Emma Long Park
	Double J&T
	Reicher Ranch
	Bohls Ranch
	Commons Ford Park
	Barton Ck Wilderness
	Barton Ck Greenbelt
	Senna Hills
	Mt. Bonnell
	Vireo Preserve
	Ullrich WTP

The Nature Conservancy has elected to prepare its land management plans for the Barton Creek Habitat Preserve and the Lehman tract at a later time. These properties are governed by private mitigation agreements involving individual permits other than the Balcones Canyonlands regional permit.

8. A copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared.

Travis County

1996 Annual Report for the Wild Basin Wilderness (Jan-December, 1996). Copy attached

Rare Plant Survey and General Plant Inventory of Travis County Parks West of the Balcones Escarpment. W.R. Carr, Summer 1996. This report covers 16 parks owned and/or managed by Travis County. Excerpts are available upon request.

The Caves of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, Travis County, Texas.Draft report by William R. Elliott, PhD, February, 1997. A copy of this draft report was presented to USFWS Ecological Services staff in April 1997.

Internal Travis County report on informal endangered species observations within Travis County managed parks/preserves during spring, 1996. ~~This~~ This internal report ~~was compiled prior to the regional permit award~~; however, it is available upon request. is based on field surveys conducted while federal scientific permits were pending.

Lower Colorado River Authority

Endangered Species Survey on the LCRA's McGregor Natural Resource Preserve

Land Cover and Other Biological Assets of the LCRA's McGregor Natural Resource Preserve

Endangered Species Surveys on LCRA's Wheless Natural Resource Preserve

Land Cover and Other Biological Assets of the LCRA's Wheless Natural Resource Preserve

1995 Golden-cheeked Warbler Census Report Keith Arnold, Cade Coldren, and Mark Fink, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843

O&M for BCP for Annual Report 5-98

HP	WB	
12,151.38	639.41	March 97
10,713.20	7,087.13	
13,974.88	1,220.07	
15,513.07	867.57	
17,909.62	6,822.02	
12,622.09	862.09	
15,291.02	1,302.73	
35,023.92	2,129.34	
13,962.89	6,455.97	Jan 98
147,162.07	27,386.33	
	15,000	3/4 of mgt fee
	42,386.33	

* #216,934.73 total

* not including end spp surveys, plant surveys, etc. by NR staff
not including Romberg Preserve

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
MARCH, 1997
FY 97

	HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:		
Park Entrance Fees	6,306.65	0.00
Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
Concession Fees/Rental	0.00	0.00
Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
NET PARK REVENUES:	**$6,306.65**	$0.00
O&M EXPENDITURES:		
Labor/Administration	1,843.99	35.80
Labor/Maintenance/Resource Mgmt.	6,981.75	206.36
Materials/Supplies/Misc.	760.74	18.30
Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	442.58	147.53
* Utilities/Telephone	182.60	0.00
Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
Other Purchased Svcs/Repairs	354.76	148.02
Indirect Costs (15%)	1,584.96	83.40
NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$12,151.38**	$639.41
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	**($5,844.73)**	($639.41)
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)	-48.10%	-100.00%
VISITATION: + Visitors	4,313	N/A
Vehicles	1,223	N/A
(Percentage of total) Visitors	100.0%	#VALUE!
(Percentage of total) Vehicles	100.0%	#VALUE!

+ Based on Permit Revenues
* Cost not available at all parks

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
APRIL, 1997
FY 97

	HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:		
Park Entrance Fees	4,029.00	0.00
Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
Concession Fees/Rental	0.00	0.00
Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
NET PARK REVENUES:	**$4,029.00**	**$0.00**
O&M EXPENDITURES:		
Labor/Administration	1,153.46	33.40
Labor/Maintenance/Resource Mgmt.	5,027.65	260.78
Materials/Supplies/Misc.	1,134.31	108.58
Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	1,439.23	479.74
* Utilities/Telephone	169.83	0.00
Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
Other Purchases/Services	391.35	5,280.22
Indirect Costs (15%)	1,397.37	924.41
NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$10,713.20**	**$7,087.13**
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	**($6,684.20)**	**($7,087.13)**
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)	**-62.39%**	**-100.00%**
VISITATION: + **Visitors**	2,715	N/A
Vehicles	765	N/A
(Percentage of total) Visitors	99.9%	#VALUE!
(Percentage of total) Vehicles	99.9%	#VALUE!

+ Based on Permit Revenues
* Cost not available at all parks

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
MAY, 1997
FY 97

	HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:		
Park Entrance Fees	7,528.00	0.00
Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
Concession Fees/Rental	0.00	0.00
Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
NET PARK REVENUES:	**$7,528.00**	**$0.00**
O&M EXPENDITURES:		
Labor/Administration	1,424.83	46.71
Labor/Maintenance/Resource Mgmt.	7,094.32	395.59
Materials/Supplies/Misc.	1,713.07	47.21
Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	1,708.20	569.40
* Utilities/Telephone	153.50	0.00
Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
Other Purchases/Services	58.15	2.02
Indirect Costs (15%)	1,822.81	159.14
NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$13,974.88**	**$1,220.07**
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	**($6,446.88)**	**($1,220.07)**
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)	**-46.13%**	**-100.00%**
VISITATION: + **Visitors**	4,972	N/A
Vehicles	1,399	N/A
(Percentage of total) Visitors	99.8%	0.0%
(Percentage of total) Vehicles	99.8%	0.0%

+ Based on Permit Revenues
* Cost not available at all parks

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
JUNE, 1997
FY 97

	HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:		
Park Entrance Fees	4,545.00	0.00
Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
Concession Fees/Rental Income	0.00	0.00
Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
NET PARK REVENUES:	**$4,545.00**	**$0.00**
O&M EXPENDITURES:		
Labor/Administration	1,568.74	28.35
Labor/Maintenance/Resource Mgmt.	8,382.27	143.39
Materials/Supplies/Misc.	1,010.00	17.98
Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	1,344.26	448.09
* Utilities/Telephone	145.98	0.00
Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
Other Purchases/Services	1,038.38	116.60
Indirect Costs (15%)	2,023.44	113.16
NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$15,513.07**	**$867.57**
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	**($10,968.07)**	**($867.57)**
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)	**-70.70%**	**-100.00%**
VISITATION: + **Visitors**	3,054	N/A
Vehicles	862	N/A
(Percentage of total) Visitors	100.0%	0.0%
(Percentage of total) Vehicles	100.0%	0.0%

+ Based on Permit Revenues
* Cost not available at all parks

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
JULY, 1997
FY 97

		HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:			
	Park Entrance Fees	13,780.00	0.00
	Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
	Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
	Concession Fees/Rental Income	0.00	0.00
	Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
	NET PARK REVENUES:	**$13,780.00**	**$0.00**
O&M EXPENDITURES:			
	Labor/Administration	1,957.56	23.06
	Labor/Maintenance/Resource Mgmt.	9,916.58	171.07
	Materials/Supplies/Misc.	790.06	20.35
	Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	1,792.83	597.61
*	Utilities/Telephone	151.17	0.00
	Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
	Other Purchases/Services	965.38	5,120.10
	Indirect Costs (15%)	2,336.04	889.83
	NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$17,909.62**	**$6,822.02**
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS		**($4,129.62)**	**($6,822.02)**
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)		**-23.06%**	**-100.00%**
VISITATION: +	**Visitors**	9,535	N/A
	Vehicles	2,709	N/A

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
AUGUST, 1997
FY 97

	HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:		
Park Entrance Fees	12,287.00	0.00
Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
Concession Fees/Rental Income	0.00	0.00
Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
NET PARK REVENUES:	**$12,287.00**	**$0.00**
O&M EXPENDITURES:		
Labor/Administration	1,243.93	17.70
Labor/Maintenance/Resource Mgmt.	7,540.43	157.22
Materials/Supplies/Misc.	1,979.16	11.15
Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	1,349.12	449.71
* Utilities/Telephone	153.60	0.00
Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
Other Purchases/Services	(1,290.51)	113.86
Indirect Costs (15%)	1,646.36	112.45
NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$12,622.09**	**$862.09**
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	**($335.09)**	**($862.09)**
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)	**-2.65%**	**-100.00%**
VISITATION: + Visitors	8,470	N/A
Vehicles	2,406	N/A

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER, 1997
FY 97

	HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:		
Park Entrance Fees	6,995.00	0.00
Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
Concession Fees/Rental Income	0.00	0.00
Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
NET PARK REVENUES:	**$6,995.00**	**$0.00**
O&M EXPENDITURES:		
Labor/Administration	1,590.04	45.23
Labor/Maintenance/Resource Mgmt.	8,558.65	325.87
Materials/Supplies/Misc.	665.17	7.69
Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	1,909.91	636.64
* Utilities/Telephone	180.10	0.00
Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
Other Purchases/Services	392.67	117.38
Indirect Costs (15%)	1,994.48	169.92
NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$15,291.02**	**$1,302.73**
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	**($8,296.02)**	**($1,302.73)**
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)	**-54.25%**	**-100.00%**
VISITATION: + **Visitors**	4,728	N/A
Vehicles	0	N/A

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
1ST QUARTER
FY 98

October-December, 1997

	HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:		
Entrance Fees Collected	8,836.00	0.00
Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
Concession Fees/Rental	0.00	0.00
Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
NET PARK REVENUES:	**$8,836.00**	**$0.00**
O&M EXPENDITURES:		
Labor/Administration	2,927.52	47.67
Labor/Maint./Resource Mgmt.	20,624.01	423.52
Materials/Supplies/Misc.	2,730.36	153.56
Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	2,628.79	876.27
* Utilities/Telephone	530.96	0.00
Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
Other Purchases	1,013.94	350.58
Indirect Costs (15%)	4,568.34	277.74
NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$35,023.92**	**$2,129.34**
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	**($26,187.92)**	**($2,129.34)**
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)	**-74.77%**	**-100.00%**
VISITATION: + **Visitors**	6,112	N/A
Vehicles	1,739	N/A
(Percentage of total) Visitors	100.0%	0.0%
(Percentage of total) Vehicles	100.0%	0.0%

+ Based on Permit Revenues
* Cost not available at all parks

TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS - SUMMARY
JANUARY, 1998
FY 98

	HAMILTON POOL	WILD BASIN PRESERVE
PARK REVENUES:		
Park Entrance Fees	3,259.00	0.00
Softball Fields	0.00	0.00
Shelter Rental Fees	0.00	0.00
Concession Fees/Rental	0.00	0.00
Park Refunds	0.00	0.00
NET PARK REVENUES:	**$3,259.00**	**$0.00**
O&M EXPENDITURES:		
Labor/Administration	1,050.44	12.59
Labor/Maintenance/Resource Mgmt.	8,725.92	131.63
Materials/Supplies/Misc.	977.21	39.28
Equipment/Transportation/Mileage	949.54	316.51
* Utilities/Telephone	191.67	0.00
Legal/Professional Services	0.00	0.00
Other Purchases/Services	246.86	5,113.88
Indirect Costs (15%)	1,821.25	842.08
NET O&M EXPENDITURES:	**$13,962.89**	**$6,455.97**
$ TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	**($10,703.89)**	**($6,455.97)**
% TOTAL PROFIT/(LOSS)	**-76.66%**	**-100.00%**
VISITATION: + Visitors	2,211	N/A
Vehicles	628	N/A
(Percentage of total) Visitors	100.0%	0.0%
(Percentage of total) Vehicles	100.0%	0.0%

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

411 W. 13th Street
Executive Office Building, 11th Floor
P.O. Box 1748
Austin TX 78767-1748
(512) 473-9383
(512) 473-9436 Fax

May 27, 1998

Mr. Mel Hinson
City of Austin - PARD
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

RE: Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

Dear Mr. Hinson,

We are submitting this letter to you, along with attachments, as the Travis County portion of the 1998 Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP). We ask that you incorporate this information in the Annual Report you are preparing to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by Coordinating Committee Secretary Jesus Olivares. Following are the items as listed in the BCCP permit for the reporting period May 1997 through April 1998, unless otherwise noted.

1. **A list of all development activities west of the MOPAC Railroad.** Accompanying this letter is the list of Travis County issued permits in digital form (Excel spreadsheet) as well as hard copy.

2. **A list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased.** Following is a list of all Participation Certificates purchased under the BCCP; any listings indicating FWS under the "Category" column were not issued a certificate, but were permitted by USFWS and directed to mitigate through the BCCP.

Date	BCCP	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
5/15/97	0025	Jester Ltd.	n/a	FWS	$22,000
5/20/97	0079	R. & V. Pounds	01-5405-0324	Single Family	$1500
6/16/97	0060	B. & G. Wilchar	01-2677-0527 01-2677-0528	Single Family	$1500
7/2/97	0056	B. Estes	01-6244-0303	Single Family	$1500
7/24/97	0101	J. & M. Doughty	01-4713-0367	Single Family	$1500
7/29/97	0102	Lakeshore Partners	01-6767-0124	Single Family	$3000
7/29/97	0103	Lakeshore Partners	01-6767-0121	Single Family	$1500
7/29/97	0106	Lakeshore Partners	01-6767-0106	Single Family	$7500
8/1/97	0104	Lakeshore Partners	01-6767-0123	Single Family	$1500
8/1/97	0105	Lakeshore Partners	01-6767-0122	Single Family	$1500
9/16/97	0111	W. Chesson	01-6244-0111	Single Family	$1500
9/25/97	0082	Reytex Homes	01-7478-0105	Single Family	$1500
10/10/97	0051	K. Mountain	01-5118-0201	Single Family	$1500
12/1/97	0033	Montandon Trust	various	Commercial	$58,140.50

Date	BCCP	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
1/9/98	0089	W. & B. Nowlin	01-3437-0634	Single Family	$1500
1/9/98	0099	W. & B. Nowlin	01-3437-0633	Single Family	$1500
2/6/98	0141	C. Clinton	n/a	FWS	$1500
2/13/98	0126	B. & G. Edelmon	04-2367-0106	Single Family	$1500
2/24/98	0024	Jester Ltd.	various	Subdivision	$76,450
2/24/98	0138	Maury Hood	01-4218-0310	Subdivision	$26,928
3/13/98	0087	Reytex Homes	01-7878-0702	Single Family	$1500
3/13/98	0149	D. & M. Michel	n/a	FWS	$1500
3/13/98	0150	Tomen-Parke, Inc.	n/a	FWS	$6,380
3/17/98	0139	M. Deak	pending	Single Family	$1500
3/27/98	0014	MaBe, Inc.	n/a	FWS	$33,000
4/10/98	0136	R. & I. Van Steenberg	01-9247-0105	Single Family	$1500

3. **Amount of funds collected for land acquisition through the issuance of Participation Certificates.** All the funds collected through issuance of Participation Certificates are listed under #2 above (total: $196,018.50). Also shown are mitigation fees paid to the BCCP under USFWS' direction based on their determinations for permits they issued (total: $64,380).

4. **Amount of funds expended for land acquisition.** All activity for the reporting period has been the City of Austin's. Last year's acquisition program included a one million dollar HCP acquisition grant administered by the City on behalf of the City and County. The County submitted an HCP acquisition grant application last fall; notice of grant awards is still pending.

5. **Amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.** Travis County expended $216,934.73 for operations and maintenance for two of the three Travis County properties included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Preserve). This figure represents the period of March 1997 through January 1998, lacking the months of February through April 1998. This figure does not include expenditures by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc., which has a contract with Travis County to conduct educational programming and management activities on the County-owned Wild Basin Preserve; nor does it include staff time (from the Natural Resources/BCCP Programs) spent on endangered species surveys, plant surveys, and prescribed burns.

6. **An updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management.** We have completed revisions to the BCCP parcel map and submitted copies to the USFWS office earlier this year. There have been no changes to land status since.

7. **A list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units.** Travis County owns three tracts that are dedicated preserveland for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Following are descriptions of activities for each tract:

   Hamilton Pool Preserve - Pre-existing (to the BCCP) public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve staff maintain approximately 1.5 miles of nature trails for daily public access. Hours are restricted to day use only; fees are charged; public access is restricted to trails and pool area. Pets, fires, cooking, fishing, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included routine trail maintenance and the planting of native trees in the parking lot area and public road right-of-way, as well as endangered species and botanical surveys. This past winter, we conducted a 15-20 acre prescribed burn including 3 separate units in the uplands adjacent to the public road. The burned areas did not encompass any of the known nesting habitat within the preserve, and were restricted to areas burned within the past nine years.

   Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve - Pre-existing public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve is managed by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc., with financial and staff

support from the County. Approximately 2.5 miles of nature trails are maintained for daily public and educational tour use. Hours are restricted to day use only; visitor access is restricted to trails. Picnicking, pets, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included endangered species surveys, routine trail maintenance.

Romberg Tract - This portion of Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point is separated by Comanche Trail from the rest of the park. The Romberg Tract is not used by the public and is not actively managed other than occasional boundary checks and endangered species surveys.

In addition to land management activities on County-owned BCP lands, Travis County Natural Resource staff conducted or assisted (other BCP partners) in conducting 19 educational events, including guided tours of the Preserve, presentations about the Preserve, presentations about the public participation process with the regional permit, and exhibits at community events. The audiences for these educational programs varied from real estate agencies to homeowner groups, from environmental groups to individuals or groups visiting various Preserve "units" (owned by Travis County, City of Austin, Lower Colorado River Authority, and Travis Audubon Society). The participants were people of all ages - residents, students, and visitors of Austin and Travis County. The community events were: Wildlife Expo (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Cave Day (Westcave Preserve), Safari (City of Austin PARD), and Wild Basin's Music and Art Festival.

8. A copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared. Accompanying this letter is the Annual Report for Wild Basin Wilderness (prepared by the Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness) for the period January 1997 through December 1997. Two other reports were prepared by Travis County Natural Resources staff during the reporting period:

Gass, Leila. *1996 and 1997 Endangered Bird Surveys, Travis County Parks and BCP Preserves.* Summer 1996.

Terpening, Kristin. *Brown-headed Cowbird Trapping Program, Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, 1989-1997.* March 1998.

As we indicated with our submittal of last year's Annual Report, we are still interested in having the regional permit amended to change the reporting period to match the City and County fiscal calendars (October through September), which would also avoid splitting the nesting season between two different reporting years. In addition, we need more time to compile end-of-year data, and recommend that the Annual Report would come due to USFWS January 15th following each reporting period. We urge the City to join us in considering such an amendment proposal to the Coordinating Committee and USFWS.

If you have any questions or need additional information for the Annual Report, please contact Ms. Terri Siegenthaler or me at 473-9383.

Sincerely,

Charles Bergh
Travis County BCCP Program Manager

0905 BCCP Annual Report for Travis County
xc: Bill Aleshire, County Judge
Margaret Moore, County Commissioner Precinct 3, BCP Coordinating Committee Chair
Joseph P. Gieselman, Executive Manager
John Kuhl, Program Manager Natural Resources
Terri Siegenthaler, Resource Management Specialist
Rose Farmer, Environmental Specialist

SECOND ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

BALCONES CANYONLANDS CONSERVATION PLAN

REGIONAL SECTION 10(a) PERMIT NO. PRT-788841

TRAVIS COUNTY - CITY OF AUSTIN

SUBMITTED BY

COORDINATING COMMITTEE SECRETARY

OF THE

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

JUNE 1998

1. A list of all development activities west of the MOPAC railroad.

The intense development activity in Western Travis County observed during the first year under the regional permit has continued during the second year. A detailed listing of County development permit applications for the period May 1997 through April 30, 1998 is included herein as Attachment A. This report, prepared by Travis County's Transportation and Natural Resources Department, contains 2856 entries, primarily single family residence building activity. Overall, Travis County permit activity increased 7.4 % over the previous annual reporting period.

A separate City of Austin development activity report (Attachment B) has also been compiled for the May 1997-April 30, 1998 time period. While the City development database does include building permits like Travis County's report, such information was not included in the report since it does not describe the development approval that most likely results in land clearing threats to habitat. For lands within the City limits and its five-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction, this report has focused on subdivisions and site plans that were approved over the past year in areas west of MOPAC railroad. Over 1000 entries from the development database are provided in the current report. Due to the proliferation of water quality protection zones within the subject area do not proceed through the City's development process for approvals, the City's database may under-represent actual development activity.

2. A list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased.

Travis County has developed and operated the BCCP Public Participation process which issues Participation certificates for eligible properties within the permit area. According to their records, 18 Single Family residences, 2 subdivisions, one commercial tract, and one infrastructure project were issued Participation certificates or paid mitigation fees under the regional permit during the program's second year. In addition, five development projects permitted by the USFWS and directed to mitigate through fee payment to the BCCP. In such cases, Travis County concluded the processing based on the USFWS mitigation recommendation without the actual issuance of a certificate.

The second year BCCP participants were as follows:

Date	App #	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
Participation Certificates:					
5/20/97	**0079**	**R. & V. Pounds**	**01-5405-0324**	**Single Family**	**$22,000**
6/16/97	**0060**	**B. & G. Wilchar**	**01-2677-0527**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
			01-2677-0528		
7/02/97	**0056**	**B. Estes**	**01-6244-0303**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
7/24/97	**0101**	**J. & M. Doughty**	**01-4713-0367**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
7/29/97	**0102**	**Lakeshore Partners**	**01-6767-0124**	**Single Family**	**$3,000**
7/29/97	**0103**	**Lakeshore Partners**	**01-6767-0121**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
7/29/97	**0106**	**Lakeshore Partners**	**01-6767-0106**	**Single Family**	**$7,500**
8/01/97	**0104**	**Lakeshore Partners**	**01-6767-0123**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
8/01/97	**0105**	**Lakeshore Partners**	**01-6767-0122**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
9/16/97	**0111**	**W. Chesson**	**01-6244-0111**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
9/25/97	**0082**	**Reytex Homes**	**01-7478-0105**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
10/10/97	**0051**	**K. Mountain**	**01-5118-0201**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
12/01/97	**0033**	**Montandon Trust**	**various**	**Commercial**	**$58, 140**
1/09/98	**0089**	**W. & B. Nowlin**	**01-3437-0634**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
1/09/98	**0099**	**W. & B. Nowlin**	**01-3437-0633**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
2/13/98	**0126**	**B. & G. Edelmon**	**04-2367-0106**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
2/24/97	**0024**	**Jester Ltd.**	**various**	**Subdivision**	**$76,450**
2/24/98	**0138**	**Maury Hood**	**01-4218-0310**	**Subdivision**	**$26,928**

3/13/98	**0087**	**Reytex Homes**	**01-7878-0702**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
3/17/98	**0139**	**M. Deak**	**pending**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
4/10/98	**0136**	**R. & I. Van Steenberg**	**01-9247-0105**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**

USFWS Referrals:

5/15/97	**0025**	**Jester Ltd.**	**n.a.**	**USFWS**	**$22,000**
2/06/98	**0141**	**C. Clinton**	**n.a.**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
3/13/98	**0149**	**D. & M. Michel**	**n.a.**	**Single Family**	**$1,500**
3/13/98	**0150**	**Tomen-Parke, Inc.**	**n.a.**	**USFWS**	**$6,380**
3/27/98	**0014**	**MaBe, Inc.**	**n.a.**	**USFWS**	**$33,000**

Infrastructure:

~~**6/12/98**~~ 6/11/97	**n.a.**	**Steiner Ranch**	**Electric easement**	**Infrastrcture**	**$1,650**

Infrastructure Project Mitigation Credit Usage

Infrastructure projects for co-permittees and managing partners that have infrastructure development needs are covered for their mitigation needs under the regional permit. Their mitigation requirements are subtracted from accumulated mitigation credits based on their land dedications to the BCP. During the second year of permit implementation, the following projects used mitigation credits:

- **Lower Colorado River Authority**

Starting LCRA Balance	**2561.8 acres**
Hurst Creek MUD waterline (USFWS approval)	**0.0 acres**
Remaining Mitigation Credits	**2561.8 acres**

- **Travis County**

Starting TC Balance	**523.0 acres**
No project debits	**0.0 acres**
Remaining Mitigation Credits	**523.0 acres**

- **City of Austin**

Starting City of Austin Balance	**11,474.75 acres***
Electric Transmission Line upgrade – Bee Creek Preserve	**(0.5) acres**
Clearing for Electric Line - 3M Mitigation Tract	**(1.8) acres**
Red Bud Trail Roadway Improvements at Ullrich WTP	**(0.7) acres**
Bike Lane Addition to Red Bud Trail at Stratford	**(0.1) acres**
Remaining Mitigation Credits	**11, 471.65 acres**

*** Mitigation credits from Ivanhoe property were transferred to private mitigation buyers and do not contribute to the City's mitigation credit balance.**

3. Amount of funds collected for land acquisition through the issuance of Participation Certificates.

A total of $262,048.50 was collected over the past year from all sources. Participation certificates yielded $196,018.50, USFWS project referrals amounted to $64,380, and an infrastructure project paid $1650. Specific information on projects that paid BCCP participation was provided under item #2.

4. Amount of funds expended for land acquisition.

Over the past year, the City of Austin closed on the 942-acre Ivanhoe tract in August, 1997 for $4.5 M. The City used the remaining funds from the 1993 bond sale and $1.0 M from the 1997 HCP land acquisition grant awarded by the USFWS, while the landowner holds a $3.0 M three-year note from the

City secured by three annual payments of $1.0M due from Lakeway Partners as mitigation buyers for other developing tracts. Proposed sales of portions of Cortana and Park West were not concluded by the winning bidders and this property remains within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and no new funds for land acquisition were generated.

Travis County submitted a grant application for 1998 HCP land acquisition funding to USFWS; however, the notice of grant award is still pending.

5. Amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.

Travis County expended $216,934.73 for operations and maintenance for two of the three Travis County properties included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Preserve). This expenditures occurred during the period from March 1997 through January 1998. More recent 1998 data is not yet available. The reported O&M figure does not include additional expenditures by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc. which has a contract with Travis County to conduct educational programming and management activities on the County-owned Wild Basin. In addition, it does not include staff time from Natural Resources/BCCP Program personnel spent on endangered species surveys, plant surveys, and prescribed burns.

The City of Austin budgeted $ 281,785 for FY 1996-97 and $305,702 for FY 1997-98 to fund preserve management expenses by the Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Resources Division. Approximately $ 285,735 was spent during the one year period beginning May, 1997. This figure does not include work by (1) NRD program administration staff on preparation of land management plans; (2) o&m expenditures by PARD's Park Operations on BCP-designated parkland; or (3) land management expenditures by the Water and Wastewater Utility on the two tracts that it owns and manages. Such information cannot be readily determined from their program budgets.

6. An updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management.

Travis County completed revisions to the BCCP parcel map and submitted copies to the USFWS Austin Ecological Field Services office earlier this year. There have been no changes to land status since this submittal.

7. A list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units.

Travis County (3 tracts)

Hamilton Pool Preserve - Pre-existing levels of public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve staff maintain approximately 1.5 miles of nature trails for daily public access. Hours are restricted to day use only and fees are charged. Public access is restricted to trails and the immediate pool area. Pets, fires, fishing, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included routine trail maintenance and planting of native trees in the parking lot area and public road right-of-way, as well as onsite endangered species and botanical surveys. During the winter months, Travis County staff conducted a 15-20 acre prescribed burn, which included three separate units in the uplands area adjacent to the public road. The burned areas did not encompass any of the known nesting habitat within the preserve, and were restricted to areas burned previously within the past nine years.

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve – Pre-existing public use activity continued during the reporting period. The Preserve is managed by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc., with financial and staff support from the County. Approximately 2.5 miles of nature trails are maintained for daily public and educational tour use. Hours are restricted to day use only; visitor access is restricted to trails. Picnicking, pets, and collected are prohibited. Habitat management activities included endangered species surveys and routine trail maintenance.

Romberg Tract – This portion of Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point is separated by Comanche Trail from the rest of the park. The Romberg Tract is not used by the public and is not actively managed, other than occasional boundary checks and endangered species surveys.
In addition to land management activities on County-owned BCP lands, Travis County Natural Resources staff conducted or assisted (in cooperation with other BCP partners) in conducting 19 educational events, included guided tours of the Preserve, presentations about the Preserve, presentations about the public participation process with the regional permit, and exhibits at community events. The audiences for these educational programs varied from real estate agencies to homeowner groups and from environmental groups to individuals and groups visiting various BCP units. The participants represented people of all age groups, and included residents, students, and visitors to Austin and Travis County. Participation at community events included: Wildlife Expo (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Cave Day (Westcave Preserve), Safari (City of Austin PARD), and the Wild Basin Music and Art Festival.

Lower Colorado River Authority (3 tracts)

Wheless Preserve – Management activities over the past year at the Wheless Preserve include the following:

- Performed a deer census during the fall, 1997. Estimated deer density as determined by spotlight survey is 12.3 acres/deer, although vegetation analysis indicates higher browsing pressure than the census produced.
- Installed a new perimeter gate on the easement road where an old gate had been destroyed.
- Repaired gate and fence damage caused by vandalism and unauthorized mountain bike riders on a routine basis.

During the 1997 golden-cheeked warbler (GCW) breeding season, two permanent survey plots of approximately 100 acres in size were established within the Wheless preserve. One plot represents prime GCW nesting habitat and the other represents emerging GCW habitat. At the transitional habitat plot, one male GCW used a portion of the study area for less than 50% of his territory. On the prime habitat plot, 10 GCW males had their territories either entirely or partially within the study area. Details are available in the attached research report.

McGregor Preserve - Management activities over the past year at the McGregor Preserve include the following:

- Cooperative trapping program (with Travis County) for brown-headed cowbirds on the southeast side of the McGregor Preserve for the period May 20-July 3, 1997. Due to poor capture rate, this trapping site will be discontinued for 1998.
- Deer population analysis conducting using combined data from spotlight surveys and track count survey due to lack of site accessibility. The combined estimate for the McGregor tract is 13.4 acres/deer.
- Repaired gate and fence damage from vandalism and unauthorized mountain bike riders on a routine basis.

Travis County Natural Resources staff conducted two visits onto the McGregor Preserve in conjunction with black-capped vireo surveys at Hippie Hollow. Data from these efforts will be included in research reports prepared by Travis County.

Westcave Preserve – Management activities over the past year at the Westcave Preserve include the following:

- Repaired perimeter fence on nine occasions along the Pedernales River frontage due to flood events.
- Reintroduced selected native plants on portions of the property, including Sycamore leaf snowbell, Blanco crabapple, Albaflora honeysuckle, and Basswood.

No species research activities were conducted on this tract in the past year. The Westcave staff was active in providing environmental education opportunities. From June, 1997 through March, 1998, Westcave staff provided 79 nature-interpretation programs (1603 attendees), 243 tours of the property (2176 visitors), and an overnight educational program (25 attendees).

Travis Audubon Society

TAS Sanctuary - Public access includes a once a year open house and guided tours of the Sanctuary. Each March member volunteers conduct guided tours along established Sanctuary paths to observe golden-cheeked warblers.

Operations and maintenance activities have been dominated by cleanup activities from May, 1997 tornado damage. Large trees were uprooted along the tornado's path and significant damage to the caretaker's residence occurred. Volunteer help restored some trail markers and cleaned up downed limbs along Sanctuary trails. Much of the serious vegetation damage has been allowed to remain.

The Nature Conservancy

Barton Creek Habitat Preserve - The Nature Conservancy will be reporting operations and maintenance activities directly to the USFWS in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Section 10(a) Habitat Maintenance Agreements governing this property.

Lehman Tract - No reported activities.

City of Austin (29 tracts)

The City of Austin's management activities on its various preserve units have been summarized on Table 1. This matrix table illustrates the variety of land management and monitoring activities that are being undertaken by City staff at its major preserve units.

In October of 1997, the two divisions of Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (PARD & PECSD) consolidated, and there are now three field biologists actively managing approximately 6363 acres of preserves. The remainder of the preserve tracts are either being managed by other COA departments (PARD Operations, W&WW) or else are not being actively managed at this time, due to budgetary constraints and insufficient management funds. The following table illustrates the management status of the BCP tracts, at present:

Actively Managed by PARD/BCP:

Tract	Acres
Bull Creek Macrosite	
Upper Bull Creek (Franklin, Hanks, Lanier, COA Canyon Creek)	608
Middle Bull Creek (Ivanhoe and Beard Trust)	1001
Lower Bull Creek (St. Edward's Park, Jester, Forest Ridge, 3M, Hilltop, Spicewood Springs Park)	1019
Cypress Creek Macrosite	
Lime Creek	494
North Lake Austin Macrosite	
Park West, Coldwater I & II, Long Canyon	1277
Cortana	1752
West Austin	
COA Vireo Preserve	212
SUBTOTALS	**6363**

City of Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve
Summary Report on June 1997-May 1998 Management Activities
prepared by Lee Stone, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, BCP Program

ACTIVITY	lower Bull	upper Bull	eastern Bull	Cypress	North Lake Austin	South Lake Austin	West Austin	Barton Creek
Management Plans	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fencing/Gates				X	X	X		
Signs	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Patrols for Rules Compliance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oak Wilt Survey/Suppression	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vegetation Plot Survey			X		X		X	
Plant Community Mapping					X			
Unauthorized Trail Closures	X	X	X			X		X
Erosion Controls	X				X	X		X
Revegetation	X	X	X	X		X		X
Cave Monitoring	X	n/a	X	X	X	n/a	n/a	X
Cave Cleanup/restoration						Maple Run (res)		
Deer Survey								
Deer Removal								
Vireo Habitat Restoration							X	
GCW Surveys	X	X		X	X	X		X
BCV Census							X	
Streptanthus Monitoring/Augmentation							X	X (both)
Philadelphus Monitoring/Augmentation	X (aug)	X (aug)	X (aug)			X		
Exotic vegetation removal	X	X	X	X			X	
Salamander Monitoring		X	X					
Educational Activities	X	X	X	X	X	X		X

Status of Other BCP Tracts:

Tract		Status	Acres
Bull Creek Macrosite			
	Bull Ck District Park, BC Gnblt:	* PARD Operations	233
	Water Treatment Pl #4:	W&WW	138
	Barrow	PARD Operations	8
North Lake Austin Macrosite;			
	Emma Long Metro Park:	PARD Operations	950
South Lake Austin Macrosite:			
	Commons Ford Park:	PARD Operations	115
	Double J&T:	Not Actively Managed	1729
	Reicher Ranch:	Not Actively Managed	820
	Bohls Ranch:	Not Actively Managed	462
Barton Creek Macrosite:			
	Barton Creek Wilderness:	PARD Operations	999
	Barton Creek Greenbelt:	PARD Operations	813
	Senna Hills:	Not Actively Managed	35
West Austin Macrosite:			
	Mt. Bonnell:	PARD Operations	3
	Ullrich Water Treatment Plant:	W&WW	40
11	**SUBTOTALS**		**6391**
TOTAL ACREAGE		**12,700**	

* PARD Operations does not manage for Endangered Species; they perform regular maintenance, i.e. mowing, trash pickup, and some trail management activities.

OBJECTIVE ONE: PROTECTION This objective covers protection of endangered species and species of concern and protection of their habitats via the following measures:

1. PUBLIC & PRIVATE LANDOWNERS: City BCP staff strive to work in partnership with public and private landowners towards the goal of protecting GCW, BCV, and karst habitats. The following are some of the examples of staff interaction with public and private landowners towards the goal of protection of species;

a. Met with a previous owner of the Ivanhoe tract and who still lives adjacent to the tract, to discuss the tract's history and management options.

b. Met with the management of Sierra Development Corp (River Place), who currently still allow a private owner to graze his cattle on River Place's undeveloped acreage. These cattle sometimes wander onto the Cortana property. Staff discussed the benefits of the TPWD's Wildlife exemption and provided a packet of information on the Wildlife Exemption. Staff also met with Sierra Development to discuss their plans for installation of fencing at our property boundary, to block access to illegal path into Cortana.

c. Met with a Canyon Creek developer re. bulldozing and off-road vehicle damage which impacted our preserves.

d. Contacted the management of Lake Pointe IV to discuss an event whereby a holding pond with a 3-foot berm was not able to contain flood waters during a rainstorm, and the ensuing overflow caused severe siltation into the eastern tributary of Bohl's Hollow. The berm was reconstructed (within 48 hours) to a height of 5 feet.

2. SECURITY PROCEDURES: These measures include boundary definition, fencing, signs, preserve rules, patrolling, trespassing, vandalism, trash pickup, and law enforcement:

A. Fences, gates, and trails: During the previous reporting period (1996-97), new fencing was installed at several locations and plans for additional fencing were begun for several other critical tracts. These original fencing plans were expanded with information from the staff for each of the preserves they are managing, bids have been accepted, and new fencing will be installed during the 1998-99 period. This past 12 months, staff have spent considerable time and effort in repairing existing fencing and gates on

almost all of the preserve tracts being actively managed. In the lower Bull Creek Preserve, fencing has been erected along certain trails in order to close them. Also, work has been initiated to install fencing around Goat Cave and to place a cave gate at the "new" cave on the Barton Creek Wilderness Preserve.

B. Signs: Fifty new signs (24" x 36") , printed on metal and laminated), have been designed and ordered for use on the preserves. The signs have the following wording; "Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Endangered Species Habitat, Authorized Personnel Only, No Trespassing", plus the logos of both City of Austin and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. These signs are currently being installed at entrances to preserves and along illegal access points at all preserves.

C. Patrolling, trespassing, vandalism & trash pickup:
Lower and Upper Bull Creek and South Lake Austin Macrosites continued to receive the highest priority for officer patrols.

In addition, patrolling is an integral part of the daily tasks of staff biologists. Among other things, staff visually scan for damaged gates and cut fences, exotic plants and feral animals, stray livestock, squatters and trespassers, erosion into streams, illegally-cut trails, dumping of trash, signs of illegal horse and bike tracks, and damage to trees and other vegetation by people, deer, and bulldozers. Fence and gate repair is an on-going activity. Cattle, transients & squatters, and trespassers (the latter on foot, horse-back, and motorcycle) have been encountered on several preserves and the appropriate measures to remove them have been initiated. BCP has sustained vandalism to Spicewood Springs Preserve and Maple Run Cave. Maple Run vandalism occurred two years ago, but we are still are doing restoration work. Contractors were contacted after an area on the preserves was inadvertently bulldozed and cleared by contractors working on adjoining tracts of land. With the help of volunteers, trash and litter have been picked up at many sites, including caves. Many of these trash piles consist of metal and other large trash items and bottles and cans, generally from refuse left by the original landowners or by illegal dumping occurring over the years.

3. PLANS FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT: Development of procedures for fire management is being undertaken by the staff for each of the preserves that they are managing.

OBJECTIVE TWO: MANAGEMENT Management of endangered species and species of concern and their habitats is addressed by the following procedures:

1. PLAN DEVELOPMENT: This includes development of management and access plans and development of implementation schedules for those preserves which are currently being actively managed. Active management has been expanded this last year an additional 2246 acres and now includes the following tracts: Lower, Middle, and Upper Bull Creek; Park West, Long Canyon, Coldwater, Cortana, and Lime Creek. The implementation schedules include such activities as surveys for flora and fauna, fencing plans, access plans, fire control plans, deer censusing, cowbird survey and control, fire ant survey and control, erosion controls, habitat restoration and enhancement, prescription burns, and presentations to neighborhoods and the public.

2. ACCESS ISSUES: The following is a sample of the type of access issues which have arisen in the last reporting period:

a. Cortana: An access road (Leonard East) on the west side of Cortana was to be cut off as a result of development plans by Steiner Ranch. Various COA staff (BCP, Legal, Public Works) met with representatives of Steiner Ranch and negotiated two new access easements to replace the closure of the Leonard East access.

b. Double J&T: The Kollmeyer Road access will be gated and locked at all times, to curtail illegal entry, dumping, and vandalism on the Double J&T tract. Appropriate information has been given to Travis County for this closure. Arrangements have been made for the owners/heirs of Darter Cemetery, which is an in-holding tract located on Double J&T and accessed via Kollmeyer Road, to have their own combination lock, for unlimited access to the cemetery at all times.

c. Long Canyon: Established a gated and locked access point for staff use only.

3. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, EROSION CONTROL, WATER QUALITY: The protection of preserve habitat by vegetation management, erosion control, and water quality includes: prescribed fire; exotics control by mechanical & chemical methods; oak wilt monitoring and treatments; control of grazing; revegetation with native plants and mulching; placement of erosion bars on eroded soils and creek crossings; and clean-up in caves.

During this reporting period, many staff-hours have been spent collecting seeds from various native plants (flameleaf sumac, Lindheimer silktassel, little bluestem, silver bluestem, Lindheimer senna, live oak, Texas oak, and mountain laurel). These seeds have then been stored, or dispersed and/or planted at various sites (in Bull Creek, North Lake Austin, and South Lake Austin, West Austin, and Barton Creek Macrosites) which have been eroded or in areas scheduled for restoration and/or creation of GCW and BCV habitats. Also, many hours have been spent cleaning up a newly-discovered cave, which has species of concern, in the Barton Creek Macrosite. Other activities have included placing cedar logs for control of erosion on slopes, placing rocks as "fill-in" in trails, and repairing erosion at creek crossings.

4. PROBLEM ANIMALS: Cowbirds, Deer, Fire Ants, etc.: The preserves also must be actively managed for problem animals, some of which can have extremely deleterious effects on our endangered species. Two ongoing activities this reporting period have been concerned with fire ants and the deer population.

a. Fire Ants: Steam boiler was purchased by the Watershed Protection Department (formerly Drainage Utility Dept.) for BCP to use in controlling Red Imported Fire Ants in sensitive areas, i.e., Barton Creek and caves.

b. Deer Populations: Staff met to determine appropriate locations for potential deer blinds on each of the lands being actively managed. We hope to conduct a pilot deer hunt this coming fall season at some of the locations.

5. CAVES: Preserve staff collect information about caves and work with private cave owners in order to ensure maximum protection of caves. During this reporting period, the following activities have occurred: a. Discussion of creation and management of new karst preserve; b. Agreement with AFD regarding cave access; c. restoration of Maple Run Cave; and, d. Survey, conducted by TPWD, of ground location coordinates for Rolling Rock Cave (Lime Creek Preserve) to verify location of cave is actually on Lime Creek tract. Discussions followed concerning transfer of Austin Simon tract to COA.

OBJECTIVE THREE: ENHANCEMENT OF HABITATS

1. RESTORATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITATS: This includes restoration of endangered GCW habitat, as well as regeneration of plants species which are on the "species of concern" listing:

a. Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat: At the Long Canyon tract 400 Texas oak acorns were planted in an open field; at Forest Ridge 1000 Texas oak acorns were planted; and at 3M approximately 3000 Texas oak acorns were planted in an open field near Spicewood Springs Road (this last area will have an enclosure fence installed by City Electric to discourage deer from grazing on the seedlings).

b. Canyon Mock-orange: Seeds were broadcast at Forest Ridge, Hanks, Franklin, WTP#4, Stillhouse Hollow, and Bohls tracts, in an attempt to establish new populations.

c. Bracted Twistflower: 3000 bracted twistflower seeds were planted along Barton Creek (6.5 mile marker). Approximately 250 BT seeds were planted throughout acreage of Mt. Bonnell. A deer fence to protect approximately 500 bracted twistflower plants was installed at the Barton Creek Greenbelt. Approximately 50 BT seeds were planted at Mayfield preserve in hopes of establishing a new population there.

2. CREATION OF BCV HABITAT:

a. At the Black-capped Vireo Preserve, 500 Shin Oak acorns were planted.

OBJECTIVE FOUR: MONITORING A systematic monitoring program has been set up for endangered bird species, endangered karst invertebrate species, and salamanders. Vegetation surveys and monitoring for plant "species of concern" are also conducted by BCP staff:

1. BIRDS:

A. Golden-cheeked Warber:

In 1997, GCWs were enumerated during routine visits to the following properties; Long Canyon, Coldwater, and Emma Long Park. See attached maps.

For the spring and summer of 1998, the COA is conducting 10 GCW breeding territory surveys (six hours each) on 6 primary plots and 3-4 surveys (six hours each) on 2 transitional plots. Each plot contains approximately 100 acres. The surveys are conducted by three BCP staff biologists, plus two temporary survey personnel who are being funded through a grant from the Texas Audubon Council and the Moran Foundation. A report of these surveys will be included in the 1998-99 yearly report. The primary and transitional plots are listed below:

Primary Plots:
a. 3M and St. Edwards
b. Forest Ridge
c. Ivanhoe
d. Bohl's Ranch
e. Emma Long Park
f. Barton Creek Greenbelt

Transitional Plots:
a. Canyon Creek
b. Double J&T

In addition, enumeration (presence/absence) of GCW will be conducted on various tracts, as time allows:

a. Coldwater
b. Forest Ridge & Jester
c. Cortana
d. Lime Creek

B. Black-capped Vireo:

During the spring and summer of 1997, BCV were monitored and mapped at the BCV Preserve. See map within Attachment C.

For the spring and summer of 1998, Black-capped Vireo habitats at COA-owned tracts will be monitored for presence/absence of BCV:

a. BCV Preserve: Territory mapping
b. River Place: Monitor BCV presence/absence under powerlines near cowbird trap

2. CAVES:

a. Biannual monitoring of caves with "species of concern"
    1. Airman's Cave 12/1/97, 3/26/98
    2. Maple Run Cave 11/20/97, 3/20/98
    3. District Park Cave 11/24/97, 3/20/98
    4. Goat Cave 11/20/97, 3/20/98
b. Maple Run Cave - Sanders met w/ J. Reddell to ID new species of Pseudoscorpion

c. Other monitoring tasks
    1. Fossil Cave: general assessment monitoring of cave

3. PLANTS:

a. Vegetation Surveys
    1. Coldwater - conducted line-transect survey portion of LCTA vegetation plot
    2. Spicewood Springs Preserve- conducted line-transect survey portion of LCTA vegetation plot
b. Vegetation Community Mapping of Coldwater tract
c. Bracted Twistflower: Monitoring of BT at Barton Creek Greenbelt;
   Also, BCP staff met with TPWD staff to discuss BT surveys by high school students
d. Canyon Mock Orange: Monitoring at Ivanhoe
e. Photo monitoring stations: Set up at 3M for before-and-after pictures, where COA Electric Dept cleared GCW habitat

4. SALAMANDERS - Monthly Monitoring: PARD is providing access and assistance to the Watershed Protection Dept. and TPWD in monitoring Jollyville Salamanders, and in monitoring and testing water quality.
Salamander sampling occurred at four separate locations within the BCP on the following dates:

1)Spicewood Springs Preserve and Environs: 10/2/97, 11/14/97, 1/28/98, 2/18/97, 2/27/98, 3/30/98

2)Hanks Tract (Developed Branch of Bull Crk): 10/28/97, 12/30/97, 2/23/98, 3/31/98

3)Hanks Tract (Undeveloped Branch of Bull Crk): 10/28/97, 12/31/97, 2/18/98, 3/19/98, 4/29/98

4)Franklin Tract: 11/21/97, 12/17/97, 2/20/98, 4/22/98

OBJECTIVE FIVE: PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

1. NEIGHBORHOODS:

   a. Presentation to Bull Creek Foundation.
   c. Presentation to Long Canyon Neighborhood Association
   d. Contacted River Place Residential Community Association and Steiner Ranch Home Owner's Association re. future presentations to their groups.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC:
   a. Answered general questions from public re. BCP
   b. Conducted nature walk for Cub Scout Group (from Long Canyon neighborhood)
   c. Public tour of Coldwater tract, conducted by CA and Travis County staff
   d. Worked with E-Corps and Boy Scout Groups
   e Contacted Science Dept Chair at Leander High School re. potential projects on both Lime Creek and Cortana Preserves
   f. Preparations for Society for Ecological Restoration 1998 conference on cave management techniques tour (Sanders)

3. EDUCATION:
   a. Met with Boy Scout for Eagle Project (trail repair) at Forest Ridge
   b. Met with student researcher to discuss macro-invertebrate monitoring program at springs
   c. Met with Butch Smith (PARD) to discuss preparation of trail ethics tour at Barton Creek
   d. Canyon Mock-orange and Bracted twistflower: TPWD staff were escorted to Ivanhoe and Mt. Bonnell and assisted in setting up high-school monitoring program for these two rare plants
   e. Contacted Science Dept Chair at Leander High School re. potential projects on both Lime Creek and Cortana Preserves

Status of Land Management Plans

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve land managers have continued to work together with the USFWS to finalize the three-tiered land management plan. Tier I, the Preserve Overview, has been reviewed Extensively and awaits only final edit adjustments. Tier II has three components: macrosite level plans, Land Manager's Handbook, and a Plan Administration document. All Tier II documents, except for a Public Access management guidance document, have been written, reviewed and edited internally, and are currently receiving technical (informal) review by the USFWS. Tier III reports for all pre-1997individual tracts have been prepared , reviewed, and await only USFWS informal review.

Finalization of the Public Access Management technical guidance document and public access plans for certain Tier III documents await a public review process to be conducted by the BCP's Citizen Advisory Committee with assistance from a newly-created Scientific Advisory Committee. This process may take several months to complete.

Work on the individual land management plan for the Ivanhoe/Beard Tract has began by the City. The plan on this recent acquisition will be available in next year's annual report.

8. A copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared.

Travis County

1997 Annual Report for the Wild Basin Wilderness (Jan-December, 1997). Copy attached

Gass, Leila. *1996 and 1997 Endangered Bird Surveys, Travis County Parks and BCP Preserves.* Summer 1997. Provided to USFWS previously.

Terpening, Kristin. *Brown-headed Cowbird Trapping Program, Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, 1989-97.* March ,1998. Provided to USFWS previously.

Lower Colorado River Authority

Melton, D. and T, Schumann. *Golden-cheeked Warbler Study: Wheless Natural Resource Preserve.* June, 1997.

City of Austin

The species-related research conducted by the PARD Natural Resource Division on endangered bird surveys, rare plant revegetation, and cave investigations is provided in Attachment C.

ATTACHMENT A

TRAVIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
BUILDING PERMIT DATA

ATTACHMENT B

CITY OF AUSTIN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
SITE PLAN/SUBDIVISION APPROVAL DATA

ATTACHMENT C

Listing of Research Reports

City of Austin
Balcones Canyonlands Preserves

1997-98

City of Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserves
Research Reports for June 1997 through May 1998

I. BIRD SURVEYS

A. 1997 Enumeration of Golden-cheeked Warbler Territories
    1. Emma Long Park
    2. Long Canyon and Coldwater Tracts
B. 1997 Black-capped Vireo Survey at BCV Preserve

II. PLANT REVEGETATION

A. Dispersal of seeds of Streptanthus bracteatus (Bracted twistflower) at Mt. Bonnell and Barton Creek

III. CAVE REPORTS

A. Airman's Cave 12/1/97
B. District Park Cave 3/20/98
C. Maple Run Cave 3/20/98
D. Goat Cave 3/20/98
E. Airman's Cave 3/26/98

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

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January 12, 1999

Mr. Mel Hinson
City of Austin - PARD
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

RE: FY98 Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

Dear Mr. Hinson,

We are submitting this letter to you, along with attachments, as the Travis County portion of the fiscal year 1998 Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP). We ask that you incorporate this information in the Annual Report you are preparing to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by Coordinating Committee Secretary Jesus Olivares. Following are the items as listed in the BCCP permit for the reporting period October 1997 through September 1998.

1. **A list of all development activities west of the MOPAC Railroad**. Accompanying this letter is the list of Travis County issued permits in an Excel spreadsheet.

2. **A list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased.** Following is a list of all Participation Certificates purchased under the BCCP; any listings indicating FWS under the "Category" column were not issued a certificate, but were permitted by USFWS and directed to pay mitigation fees to the BCCP.

Date	BCCP	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
9/25/97	0082	Reytex Homes	01-7478-0105	Single Family	$1500
10/10/97	0051	K. Mountain	01-5118-0201	Single Family	$1500
12/1/97	0033	Montandon Trust	various	Commercial	$58,140.50
1/9/98	0089	W. & B. Nowlin	01-3437-0634	Single Family	$1500
1/9/98	0099	W. & B. Nowlin	01-3437-0633	Single Family	$1500
2/6/98	0141	C. Clinton	n/a	FWS	$1500
2/13/98	0126	B. & G. Edelmon	04-2367-0106	Single Family	$1500
2/24/98	0024	Jester Ltd.	various	Subdivision	$76,450
2/24/98	0138	Maury Hood	01-4218-0310	Subdivision	$26,928
3/13/98	0087	Reytex Homes	01-7878-0702	Single Family	$1500
3/13/98	0149	D. & M. Michel	n/a	FWS	$1500
3/13/98	0150	Tomen-Parke, Inc.	n/a	FWS	$6,380
3/17/98	0139	M. Deak	pending	Single Family	$1500
3/27/98	0014	MaBe, Inc.	n/a	FWS	$33,000
4/10/98	0136	R. & I. Van Steenberg	01-9247-0105	Single Family	$1500
5/19/98	0097	D. Hansen / Magellan	various	Commercial	$100,375
6/10/98	0129	Tomen-Parke, Inc.	various	Commercial	$1,644.50

Date	BCCP	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
8/11/98	0171	Von Kreisler & Swanson	n/a	FWS	$180,000
8/28/98	0175	Fidelity Nat'l Title	n/a	FWS	$240,900
9/3/98	0172	J. & M. Zimmerman	01-8280-0123	Single Family	$1,500
9/9/98	0167	G. Ceshker	01-1837-0712	Single Family	$1,500
9/16/98	0178-83*	Lowder & Assoc.	n/a	FWS	$70,500
					$812,318.00

* This includes six lots to be issued Participation Certificates. The PCs will be issued when we have a unique description for each lot.

3. **Amount of funds collected for land acquisition through the issuance of Participation Certificates.** All the funds collected through issuance of Participation Certificates are listed under #2 above (total: $278,538). Also shown are mitigation fees paid to the BCCP under USFWS' direction based on their determinations for permits they issued (total: $533,780).

4. **Amount of funds expended for land acquisition.** The County did not expend any funds on land acquisition during this reporting period. The County submitted an HCP acquisition grant application in Fall 1997. Travis County received notice of a $2 million award last summer. The grant money was not spent in this reporting period.

5. **Amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.** Travis County expended $218,659 for operations and maintenance for two of the three Travis County properties included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Preserve). This figure does not include expenditures by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc., which has a contract with Travis County to conduct educational programming and management activities on the County-owned Wild Basin Preserve; nor does it include staff time (from the Natural Resources/BCCP Programs) spent on endangered species surveys, plant surveys, and prescribed burns.

6. **An updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management.** There have been no changes to land status since we submitted an updated BCCP parcel map to the USFWS office in July 1998. Several tracts are pending.

7. **A list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units.** Travis County owns three tracts that are dedicated preserveland for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Following are descriptions of activities for each tract:

   Hamilton Pool Preserve - Pre-existing (to the BCCP) public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve staff maintain approximately 1.5 miles of nature trails for daily public access. Hours are restricted to day use only; fees are charged; public access is restricted to trails and pool area. Pets, fires, cooking, fishing, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included routine trail maintenance, endangered species and botanical surveys (including initiation of *Philadelphus ernestii* survey). Last winter, we conducted a 15-20 acre prescribed burn including 3 separate units in the uplands adjacent to the public road. The burned areas did not encompass any of the known nesting habitat within the preserve, and were restricted to areas burned within the past nine years.

   Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve - Pre-existing public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve is managed by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc., with financial and staff

support from the County. Approximately 2.5 miles of nature trails are maintained for daily public and educational tour use. Hours are restricted to day use only; visitor access is restricted to designated trails. Picnicking, pets, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included endangered species surveys, routine trail maintenance, and creation of defensible space around the building (up to 30') for fire fighters to protect the structure against possible wild fire.

Romberg Preserve - This portion of Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point is separated by Comanche Trail from the rest of the park. The Romberg Tract is not used by the public and is not actively managed other than occasional boundary checks and endangered species surveys.

In addition to land management activities on County-owned BCP lands, Travis County staff conducted or assisted (other BCP partners) with various **educational events**, including guided tours of the BCP, presentations about the public participation process, and exhibits at community events. The audiences for these educational programs varied from real estate agencies to homeowner groups, environmental groups and individuals. The participants were people of all ages - residents, students, and visitors of Austin and Travis County. The community events were: Wildlife Expo (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Cave Day (Westcave Preserve), Safari (City of Austin PARD), and Wild Basin's Music and Art Festival.

Travis County staff continue efforts to determine and track cave status of 62 **karst features** covered by the BCCP 10(a) permit: 17 owned by the City of Austin and 45 privately owned, including 22 protected and 23 unprotected caves. Threats to private caves continue: accidental damage to Hole-in-the-Road Cave, Pennie's Cave may have been filled in (cannot be located), and development impacts to Cave X and the caves in the McNeil Cluster. Austin caving organizations and volunteers continue to play key and vital roles in researching and protecting the caves.

8. **A copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared.** Two reports were prepared by Travis County staff during the reporting period and have already been submitted to USFWS:

Gass, Leila. *1998 Endangered Bird Survey Report,* October 1998.

Terpening, Kristin. *Brown-headed Cowbird Trapping Program, Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, 1989-1997.* March 1998.

If you have any questions or need additional information for the Annual Report, please contact Ms. Terri Siegenthaler or me at 473-9383.

Sincerely,

Charles Bergh
Travis County BCCP Program Manager

0905 BCCP Annual Report for Travis County
xc: Samuel Biscoe, County Judge
Karen Sonleitner, County Commissioner Precinct 2, BCP Coordinating Committee Member
Joseph P. Gieselman, Executive Manager
John Kuhl, Program Manager Natural Resources
Terri Siegenthaler, Resource Management Specialist
Rose Farmer, Environmental Specialist

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

411 West 13th Street
Executive Office Building
PO Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 473-9383
FAX (512) 708-4648

January 12, 1999

Mr. Mel Hinson
City of Austin - PARD
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

RE: FY98 Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

Dear Mr. Hinson,

We are submitting this letter to you, along with attachments, as the Travis County portion of the fiscal year 1998 Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP). We ask that you incorporate this information in the Annual Report you are preparing to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by Coordinating Committee Secretary Jesus Olivares. Following are the items as listed in the BCCP permit for the reporting period October 1997 through September 1998.

1. **A list of all development activities west of the MOPAC Railroad.** Accompanying this letter is the list of Travis County issued permits in an Excel spreadsheet.

2. **A list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased.** Following is a list of all Participation Certificates purchased under the BCCP; any listings indicating FWS under the "Category" column were not issued a certificate, but were permitted by USFWS and directed to pay mitigation fees to the BCCP.

Date	BCCP	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
9/25/97	0082	Reytex Homes	01-7478-0105	Single Family	$1500
10/10/97	0051	K. Mountain	01-5118-0201	Single Family	$1500
12/1/97	0033	Montandon Trust	various	Commercial	$58,140.50
1/9/98	0089	W. & B. Nowlin	01-3437-0634	Single Family	$1500
1/9/98	0099	W. & B. Nowlin	01-3437-0633	Single Family	$1500
2/6/98	0141	C. Clinton	n/a	FWS	$1500
2/13/98	0126	B. & G. Edelmon	04-2367-0106	Single Family	$1500
2/24/98	0024	Jester Ltd.	various	Subdivision	$76,450
2/24/98	0138	Maury Hood	01-4218-0310	Subdivision	$26,928
3/13/98	0087	Reytex Homes	01-7878-0702	Single Family	$1500
3/13/98	0149	D. & M. Michel	n/a	FWS	$1500
3/13/98	0150	Tomen-Parke, Inc.	n/a	FWS	$6,380
3/17/98	0139	M. Deak	pending	Single Family	$1500
3/27/98	0014	MaBe, Inc.	n/a	FWS	$33,000
4/10/98	0136	R. & I. Van Steenberg	01-9247-0105	Single Family	$1500
5/19/98	0097	D. Hansen / Magellan	various	Commercial	$100,375
6/10/98	0129	Tomen-Parke, Inc.	various	Commercial	$1,644.50

Date	BCCP	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
8/11/98	0171	Von Kreisler & Swanson	n/a	FWS	$180,000
8/28/98	0175	Fidelity Nat'l Title	n/a	FWS	$240,900
9/3/98	0172	J. & M. Zimmerman	01-8280-0123	Single Family	$1,500
9/9/98	0167	G. Ceshker	01-1837-0712	Single Family	$1,500
9/16/98	0178-83*	Lowder & Assoc.	n/a	FWS	$70,500
					$812,318.00

* This includes six lots to be issued Participation Certificates. The PCs will be issued when we have a unique description for each lot.

3. **Amount of funds collected for land acquisition through the issuance of Participation Certificates.** All the funds collected through issuance of Participation Certificates are listed under #2 above (total: $278,538). Also shown are mitigation fees paid to the BCCP under USFWS' direction based on their determinations for permits they issued (total: $533,780).

4. **Amount of funds expended for land acquisition.** The County did not expend any funds on land acquisition during this reporting period. The County submitted an HCP acquisition grant application in Fall 1997. Travis County received notice of a $2 million award last summer. The grant money was not spent in this reporting period.

5. **Amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.** Travis County expended $218,659 for operations and maintenance for two of the three Travis County properties included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Preserve). This figure does not include expenditures by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc., which has a contract with Travis County to conduct educational programming and management activities on the County-owned Wild Basin Preserve; nor does it include staff time (from the Natural Resources/BCCP Programs) spent on endangered species surveys, plant surveys, and prescribed burns.

6. **An updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management.** There have been no changes to land status since we submitted an updated BCCP parcel map to the USFWS office in July 1998. Several tracts are pending.

7. **A list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units.** Travis County owns three tracts that are dedicated preserveland for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Following are descriptions of activities for each tract:

   Hamilton Pool Preserve - Pre-existing (to the BCCP) public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve staff maintain approximately 1.5 miles of nature trails for daily public access. Hours are restricted to day use only; fees are charged; public access is restricted to trails and pool area. Pets, fires, cooking, fishing, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included routine trail maintenance, endangered species and botanical surveys (including initiation of *Philadelphus ernestii* survey). Last winter, we conducted a 15-20 acre prescribed burn including 3 separate units in the uplands adjacent to the public road. The burned areas did not encompass any of the known nesting habitat within the preserve, and were restricted to areas burned within the past nine years.

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support from the County. Approximately 2.5 miles of nature trails are maintained for daily public and educational tour use. Hours are restricted to day use only; visitor access is restricted to designated trails. Picnicking, pets, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included endangered species surveys, routine trail maintenance, and creation of defensible space around the building (up to 30') for fire fighters to protect the structure against possible wild fire.

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8. **A copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared.** Two reports were prepared by Travis County staff during the reporting period and have already been submitted to USFWS:

Gass, Leila. *1998 Endangered Bird Survey Report,* October 1998.

Terpening, Kristin. *Brown-headed Cowbird Trapping Program, Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, 1989-1997.* March 1998.

If you have any questions or need additional information for the Annual Report, please contact Ms. Terri Siegenthaler or me at 473-9383.

Sincerely,

Charles Bergh
Travis County BCCP Program Manager

0905 BCCP Annual Report for Travis County
xc: Samuel Biscoe, County Judge
Karen Sonleitner, County Commissioner Precinct 2, BCP Coordinating Committee Member
Joseph P. Gieselman, Executive Manager
John Kuhl, Program Manager Natural Resources
Terri Siegenthaler, Resource Management Specialist
Rose Farmer, Environmental Specialist

BASIC DEVELOPMENT PERMITS ISSUED FOR WESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY--BCCP ANNUAL REPORT--FY 98

11-Jan-99

PERMIT	ISSUED	APPLICANT	ADDRESS	TYPE OF CONST	LOT	BLK	SUBDIVISION	TAX ID
97-2714	10/ 2/97	PARMER RIDGE LIMITED						
98-0251	5/27/98	THL RANCH		S&D W&WW			STEINER RANCH PH 1 SEC 5 B	
98-0252	5/27/98	THL RANCH		S&D W&WW			STEINER RANCH PH 1 SEC 5 C	
98-0281	2/ 5/98	KAMRAN CLASSIC HOMES			24	A	LAKECLIFF ON LAKE TRAVIS SEC 1	
98-1433	6/ 2/98	RIVERCREST GROUP, INC		6' CMU FENCE & SAL	1,21	B,A	OVERLOOK AT LEWIS MOUNTAIN SEC 1	
97-2721	1/20/98	RIVER CITY ENGINEERING		WATERLINE			APACHE SHORES SEC 1-7 AND CARDINAL HILLS 11-12	
98-0463	2/27/98	WELLS BRANCH MUD		DRIVEWAY				
98-1709	9/23/98	FLORES ENGINEERING		WASTEWATER LINE	3,4	D	WEST RIM RESUB. OF LOT 24 BLOCK D	
97-0723	7/ 9/98	SOUTHWEST TRAVIS COUNT		S&D W&WW			LAKE POINTE PH 3 SEC 3	
97-2488	1/ 5/98	LONGARO & CLARKE		S&D, W&WW			PICADILLY RIDGE PH 2 SEC 2	02753106
98-1280	8/ 3/98	SWTC, LTD		S&D, W&WW			LAKE POINTE SEC 9	
97-0722	3/ 3/98	SOUTHWEST TRAVIS COUNT		S&D W&WW			LAKE POINTE PH 2 SEC 3	
98-2292	9/ 2/98	TERRY BOOTHE		FILL EXISTING PIT				01186705
97-3264	12/12/97	DAVID WEEKLEY HOMES	6509 ABILENE TRAIL	SFR	2	4	VILLAGE @ WESTERN OAKS SEC 14	
97-3413	12/30/97	DAVID WEEKLEY HOMES	6507 ABILENE TRAIL	SFR	3	4	VILLAGE @ WESTERN OAKS SEC 14	
98-1095	4/27/98	KEPHART PHIL	16005 AGUA VISTA	SFR				01456809
98-1267	5/11/98	KATZ BUILDERS	11107 ALDENBURGH COURT	SFR	5	B	OVER LOOK AT LEWIS MOUNTAIN SEC 1	
98-2559	9/21/98	CAPITAL HOMES	1717 ALLIUM DRIVE	SFR	41	A	SENNA HILLS SEC 1 B	

example

99 MAY 11 AM 7:57

May 6, 1999

Mr. David Frederick
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78758

Subject: Transmittal of BCCP Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1997-98

Dear Mr. Frederick,

The City of Austin and Travis County hereby submit the annual report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) as required by the BCCP regional 10(a) permit (PRT-788841). As you may recall following our submittal of the second annual report, the permit holders petitioned the USFWS in a letter dated June 19, 1998 to allow two administrative changes to our reporting requirements: (1) adjust the reporting period to October through September to coincide with the fiscal years of both Permit Holders and (2) adjust the due date for the annual report submittal to January 15 each year.

The attached report is a transitional document that reflects the activities based on the new reporting period (October 1, 1997-September 30, 1998). While it contains some redundant information from the second annual report, it also contains new information for the June-September, 1998 time period. The next BCCP annual report will be submitted to your office on January 15, 2000 for the reporting period of October 1998 through September 1999.

Thank you for allowing us to better align the BCCP reporting requirements with our internal fiscal and management systems. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 499-6717 or Juan Valera (327-8181, ext. 15).

Sincerely,

Jesus M. Olivares
Balcones Canyonlands Coordinating Committee Secretary

Xc: Jackie Goodman, Mayor ProTem, City of Austin; BCCP Coordinating Committee Chair
Karen Sonleitner, Travis County Commissioner; BCCP Coordinating Committee Member
John Gosdin, Lower Colorado River Authority
Bryan Hale, Travis Audubon Society
Jeff Francell, The Nature Conservancy
Juan Valera, City of Austin PARD
Lee Stone, City of Austin PARD
Charles Bergh, Travis County TNR
John Kuhl, Travis County TNR

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

411 West 13th Street
Executive Office Building
PO Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 473-9383
FAX (512) 708-4648

January 19, 2000

Lee Stone, Senior Biologist
City of Austin - PARD
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

RE: FY99 Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

Dear Ms. Stone:

We are submitting this letter to you as the Travis County portion of the fiscal year 1999 Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP). We ask that you incorporate this information in the Annual Report you are preparing to be to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary Jesus Olivares. Following are the items as listed in the BCCP permit for the reporting period October 1998 through September 1999.

1. **A list of all development activities west of the MOPAC Railroad.** Beginning with October 1998, we now provide this information directly to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office every month, in order to provide development activity information on a more timely basis than at the end of the year.

2. **A list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased.** Following is a list of all Participation Certificates purchased under the BCCP during FY 1999.

Date Issued	BCCP #	Name	Category	Amount Paid
10/15/98	0125	Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber	Commercial	$8,453
12/10/98	0168	E. & T. Uecker	Single Family	$1,500
12/21/98	0124	C. & L. Cullen	Single Family	$1,500
12/22/98	0190	K. & L. East	Single Family	$1,500
1/26/99	0191	E. Johnson	Single Family	$1,500
1/28/99	0195	C. & J Kagy	Single Family	$1,500
2/10/99	0198	J. & A. Brockell	Single Family	$1,500
2/10/99	0193	J. Baum	Single Family	$1,500
2/22/99	0203	R. Harden	Single Family	$1,500
2/23/99	0205	Jonestown Water Supply Corp.	Infrastructure	$4,350
2/25/99	0204	American Retirement Corp.	Commercial	$46,111
3/22/99	0164	J. Kern	Single Family	$1,500
4/9/99	0213	West Austin Athletic Club	Commercial	$28,800
4/20/99	0036	Kaufman & Broad Lone Star, LP	Commercial	$52,050
5/10/99	0216	Werkinthin Enterprises	Commercial	$39,300
5/10/99	0214	R. Garriott	Subdivision	$54,900
5/14/99	0119	J.C. Jordan	Commercial	$12,000

John,
Here's our annual report for last year - FY1999 (submitted to FWS Jan. 2000).

- Our TC letter to COA on top.
- What mgt submitted to FWS on bottom.

Please return to RF

Date Issued	BCCP #	Name	Category	Amount Paid
5/14/99	0119	J.C. Jordan & R.J. Baker	Commercial	$11,400
5/18/99	0201	B. & V. Kendrick	Single Family	$1,500
6/7/99	0211	M. Peak	Single Family	$1,500
6/24/99	0209	D. & C.M. Fowler	Subdivision	$32,000
6/30/99	0223	Lago Vista Ventures, LLC	Commercial	$18,900
7/1/99	0219	Staybridge Suites Hotel	Commercial	$165
7/14/99	0215	Sterling Acres	Comm./Subd.	$36,450
7/27/99	0225	Investors Life Insurance Company of North America	Commercial	$2,453
9/14/99	0237	R. & K. Hope	Subdivision	$900
9/23/99	0220	T. Diegel	Single Family	$1,500
9/27/99	0222	W. & K. Cutshall	Single Family	$1,500
			TOTAL	**$367,732**

3. **Amount of funds collected for land acquisition through the issuance of Participation Certificates.** All the funds collected through issuance of Participation Certificates are listed under #2 above (total: $367,732). In addition, mitigation fees were paid to the BCCP under USFWS' direction based on determinations by the USFWS for permits they issued (total: $818,400) as follows:

Date Paid	BCCP #	Name	USFWS#	Amount Paid
11/19/98	0157	C. & V. Sullivan	PRT-798532	$1,500
3/24/99	0175b	Great Hills Reserve	PRT-782832	$307,800
4/27/99	0218	P. Davis	PRT-800131	$1,500
7/7/99	0175	Great Hills Reserve Ph. G	PRT-782832	$48,000
8/2/99	0230	F. & J. Stein	TE-007891	$1,500
8/13/99	0236	Westminster Glen I-C, I-D, I-E	PRT-793122	$315,000
8/23/99	0175	Great Hills Reserve Ph. C	PRT-782832	$143,100
			TOTAL	**$818,400**

4. **Amount of funds expended for land acquisition.** The County did not purchase any tracts during this reporting period; however, $61,737 was expended on various related items in preparation to acquire portions of Vista Point and Grandview Hills (for appraisals, land planning, boundary surveys, and environmental site assessment). The County submitted its second HCP acquisition grant application in January 1999 and received notice of a $1.5 million award in May 1999. The grant contracts with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Vista Point were approved in October 1998 (Phase I) and November 1999 (Phase II).

5. **Amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.** Travis County expended $258,435 for operations and maintenance for two of the four Travis County properties included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Preserve). This figure does not include expenditures by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc., which has a contract with Travis County to conduct educational programming and management activities on the County-owned Wild Basin Preserve; nor does it include Natural Resources Program staff time spent on endangered species surveys, plant surveys, land management planning, and other biology related activities. The two other BCP properties owned by the County are Romberg and Lake Perspectives.

6. **An updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management.** The properties included in the current map of the BCP have not changed since last summer, when we distributed maps to the City of Austin, the Lower Colorado River Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A portion of Schram Ranch needs to be included in the BCP, however we have not yet been informed by the USFWS of the actual preserve boundaries.

7. **A list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units.** Travis County owns four tracts that are dedicated preserveland for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Following are descriptions of activities for each tract:

   Hamilton Pool Preserve – Pre-existing (to the BCCP) public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve staff maintain approximately 1.5 miles of nature trails for daily public access. Hours are restricted to day use only; fees are charged; public access is restricted to trails and pool area. Pets, fires, cooking, fishing, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included routine trail maintenance, endangered species surveys, and deer survey protocol preparation.

   Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve – Pre-existing public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve is managed by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc., with financial and staff support from the County. Approximately 2.5 miles of nature trails are maintained for daily public and educational tour use. Hours are restricted to day use only; visitor access is restricted to designated trails. Picnicking, pets, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included endangered species surveys, trail improvements to the 1/3 mile easy access trail involving short sections of rerouting, and routine trail maintenance.

   Romberg Preserve – This portion of Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point is separated by Comanche Trail from the rest of the park. Romberg Preserve is not used by the public. Land management activities included boundary checks and endangered species surveys.

   Lake Perspectives – This is a new acquisition for the County, received by transfer of title (off-site mitigation for commercial and residential development on the Balfour tract) in April 1999. The preserve is not open to the public. Land management activities included endangered species surveys, deer survey protocol preparation, and other biological surveys.

   In addition to land management activities on County-owned BCP lands, Travis County's BCP activities included the following:

   - Management of the **cowbird program** for various properties, both public and private, in the vicinity of known black-capped vireo habitat;

   - Preparation and staffing of the BCP exhibit for Wildlife Expo (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's annual event); and,

   - Continued efforts to determine and track cave status of 62 **karst features** covered by the BCCP 10(a) permit: 18 owned by the City of Austin and 44 privately owned, including 21 protected and 23 unprotected caves. One in this latter group is on the Shellberg tract, acquisition pending by Travis County. Threats to private caves continue: Cave X and Get Down Cave are being protected under draft cave management agreements with the City of Austin, due to development pressures; Pennie's Cave may have been filled (cannot be located); and caves in the McNeil

Cluster are under threat of development. A hydrogeological study is being prepared for Flint Ridge Cave due to possible impacts from the proposed SH 45. Austin caving organizations and volunteers continue to play key and vital roles in researching and protecting caves in the BCP area.

8. **A copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared.** One report was prepared by Travis County staff during the reporting period and has already been submitted to the USFWS, as well as the City of Austin and the Lower Colorado River Authority:

   Gass, Leila. *1999 Endangered Bird Survey Report,* August 1999.

If you have any questions or need additional information for the Annual Report, please contact Ms. Terri Siegenthaler or me at 473-9383.

Sincerely,

John Kuhl
Travis County BCCP Program Manager

0905 BCCP Annual Report for Travis County

xc: Samuel Biscoe, Travis County Judge
Karen Sonleitner, Travis County Commissioner Pct 2, BCP Coordinating Committee Member
Jesus Olivares, City of Austin PARD Director
Joseph P. Gieselman, Travis County TNR Executive Manager
Charles Bergh, TNR Division Director, Parks & Natural Resources
Terri Siegenthaler, TNR Natural Resources
Rose Farmer, TNR Natural Resources

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Vireo atricapillus	Black-capped vireo
Dendroica chrysoparia	Golden-cheeked warbler
Tartarocreagris texana	Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion
Neoleptoneta myopica	Tooth Cave spider
Texella reddelli	Bee Creek Cave harvestman
Texella reyesi	Bone Cave harvestman
Rhadine persephone	Tooth Cave ground beetle
Texamaurops reddelli	Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle

Additionally, the permittees would be covered for incidental take of the following species of concern if these species become listed during the life of the permit and the mitigation measures identified in this permit are being performed.

Philadelphus ernestii	Canyon Mock-orange
Croton alabamensis	Texabama croton
Sphalloplana mohri	Flatworm
Candona sp. nr. *stagnalis*	Ostracod
Caecidotea reddelli	Isopod
Trichoniscinae N. S.	Isopod
Miktoniscus N. S.	Isopod
Cicurina wartoni	Spider
C. ellioti	Spider
C. bandida	Spider
C. reddelli	Spider
C. reyesi	Spider
C. cueva	Spider
C. travisae	Spider
Neoleptoneta cocinna	Spider
Neoleptoneta devia	Spider
Eidmannella reclusa	Spider
Aphrastochthonius N. S.	Pseudoscorpion
Tartarocreagris reddelli	Pseudoscorpion
T. intermedia	Pseudoscorpion
T. N. S. 3	Pseudoscorpion
Texella spinoperca	Harvestman
T. comanche	New Comanche Trail Cave harvestman
Speodesmus N. S.	Millepede
Rhadine s. subterranea	Ground beetle
R. s. mitchelli	Ground beetle
R. austinica	Ground beetle

G. An annual report, due June 1 of each year beginning in 1997, is to be provided to the Austin Ecological Services Field Office. This report is to include:

1. a list of all development activities west of the MOPAC Railroad that were permitted by the Permit Holders in the previous 12 months,

2. a list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased,

3. amount of funds collected for land acquisition,

4. amount of funds expended for land acquisition,

5. amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.

6. an updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management,

7. a list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units, including the status of land management plans undertaken by the permit holders and managing partners, and

8. a copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared within the previous 12 months.

In addition to the above annual requirements, the Permit Holders must provide quarterly updates for the tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased that include the following information:

1. a general map of each tract location and

2. a tract boundary map that identifies the areas for which the Participation Certificate applies. If a location and/or tract map is not provided to the Permit Holder during the normal permitting process, a street address will meet this requirement.

H. A copy of a recorded Participation Certificate provided by the Permit Holders must be posted at the property site from the time vegetation clearing begins until the construction is completed. For residential development, completed construction is when all roads and utilities are completed to the extent that they meet the applicable acceptance criteria of the City of Austin or Travis County. For commercial, industrial and multi-family developments completed construction is when buildings are suitable for occupancy.

O & M 2000 for FWS annual report.
(How I came up w/ the #'s)

WB + HP → $258,435 same as last year.

Romberg → 1 day (8 hr.) / mon × 4 mon × $20/hr. = $640

Lake Perspectives →
(Surveys) 1 day (8 hr.) / week × 12 weeks × $20/hr. = $1920
(patrols) 1 day / mon. × 12 mon. × $20/hr. = $1920
$3,840

Grand View Hills → bought in Aug.
4 days (8 hr/day) / mon. × 4 mon. × $20 × 2 people =
$5,120

Road work (moore Rd.). $11,000

$16,120

Total $20,600 (all except HP + WB)
× 2 (for office O+M - maps, meeting, reports, planning).

$41,200

+ 258,435

$299,635

RF

From: Donna Williams
To: Farmer, Rose; Mallia, Melinda
Date: 12/21/00 4:25PM
Subject: Re: BCP Annual Report for FWS

Hi Rose - here's the answers to your questions.

Purchase price for Grandview Hills
Phase I - $2,502,120.00
Phase II- $3,019,214.00
Total - $5,521,334.00

Related item expenses for Grandview Hills
Phase I - $14,525.00
Phase II - $44,124.08

Bunten Tract expenses
Appraisals only - $5,060.25

January 2000 Application award amount
$4,140,000.00

Notice of award date for January 2000 application.
I don't have a copy of the notice of award letter, however the contract was signed by Parks and Wildlife on 8/24/00 and by Commissioners Court on 9/12/00.

Let me know if you need any additional information.

>>> Rose Farmer 12/19/00 12:07PM >>>
Hello Donna and Melinda,
I am working on our Annual Report for FWS and would like your help on the following information concerning the acquisition amounts and grant amounts. Can you please fill in the blanks or make any suggestions on how to word this better? I need this information by Friday 12/22 if possible. Thanks for your help!!
RF

4. Amount of funds expended for land acquisition. The County purchased the Grandview Hills tract during this reporting period for a total purchase price of $_____, plus an additional $_____ expended on related items to acquire Grandview Hills (for appraisals, land planning, boundary surveys, and environmental site assessment). The acquisition of the 581 acre Grandview Hills Tract was completed in August 2000 (Phase 2) and October 2000 (Phase 1). In preparation to acquire the Bunten Tract, $_____ was expended on various related items (for appraisals, land planning, boundary surveys, and environmental site assessment). The County submitted its second Section 6 HCP acquisition grant application in January 1999 and received notice of a $1.5 million award in May 1999. The County submitted its third Section 6 HCP acquisition grant application in January 2000 and received notice of a $____ million award in ____ 2000.

Monitoring of the Golden-cheeked Warbler - 2000 Field Season

Travis County Parks and Preserves
Project Number 0810-00001

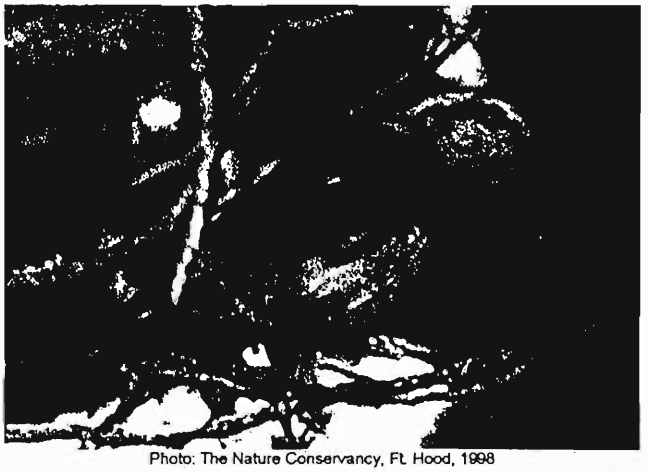


Photo: The Nature Conservancy, Ft. Hood, 1998

James W. Bailey & Paul R. Fushille
Travis County Natural Resources

November 2000

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INTRODUCTION

The golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*, hereafter warbler) is a small, neotropical migrant passerine whose entire breeding range is restricted to central Texas. There is great concern because this species' populations has declined due to large scale reduction and fragmentation of its breeding habitat (Pulich 1976, United States Fish and Wildlife Service 1992). Established to protect the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*, hereafter vireo) and other species of concern, an assemblage of preserve properties called the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) are managed to facilitate the local recovery of these species. Travis County owns and manages 4 preserves and 4 parklands in western Travis County specifically for the warbler and vireo. Travis County Natural Resources staff conducted surveys for warblers and vireos on 5 Travis County parks and preserves during the 2000 breeding season. This work was a continuation of the endangered bird monitoring project ongoing since 1996. In addition to properties managed by Travis County, we surveyed and mapped territories for warblers in the north end of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), McGregor Tract. We surveyed the same number of parks in 2000 as in 1999. However, fewer visits were made to parks that had a very low probability of having either of the target species (based on past surveys and on available habitat).

We surveyed Hamilton Pool Preserve, Lake Perspectives Tract, and McGregor Tract more intensively than the other sites. Hamilton Pool is now part of a detailed golden-cheeked warbler monitoring study conducted by Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) partners and the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. This monitoring plan is based on a set of 100-acre (40-ha) sampling plots in prime and transitional habitat, with varying levels of recreational use and adjacent urbanization (Gass, 1999). The number of territories and reproductive success for each plot will be tracked over 30 years. Each 100-acre plot will be visited 8 to 10 times each breeding season, for 5.5 to 6 hours per visit. Visits are to be spaced equally throughout the survey period (March 20th to mid-June). Survey time is distributed equally throughout the plot at the beginning of the season. Areas found to contain warblers may be focused on later in the season to ascertain nesting success, however all areas are checked on a regular basis. Surveys are conducted between approximately 6:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., depending on temperature and time of sunrise.

Because Lake Perspectives Tract was not purchased until the end of April 1999, a complete set of surveys in 1999 was not conducted. When surveying began on May 13, 1999, several pairs of warblers had fledglings, and territorial boundaries may have been breaking down (Travis County Natural Resources 1999, unpublished report). With new staff and time allotted for thorough site visits, we were able to collect baseline data from the beginning to the end of the warbler's 2000 breeding season.

Surveys for golden-cheeked warblers were initiated on McGregor Tract through a cooperative in-kind service agreement with the LCRA Community Services division. Once warbler occupation was determined, territory and breeding information was collected. Recently limited public access was granted to neighbors surrounding the McGregor Tract. LCRA officials needed to know more detail on warbler use to minimize potential public use impacts. Travis County biologists assisted with the necessary field investigations.

STUDY SITES & METHODS

Surveying was conducted primarily within the Cypress Creek macrosite within the BCP boundary. Hamilton Pool Preserve is located within the Pedernales River macrosite (Fig. 1). General site descriptions, including topography, vegetation, and geology are presented below. See *Botanical Inventory of Travis County Parks, Summer 1996*, by W.R. Carr, for a more detailed description of the vegetation in Travis County parks and preserves. Surveys were limited to baseline data collection of territory locations and productivity.

Bob Wentz Park/Romberg Tract (BCP), consisting of 19.5 ha (48.4 acres) is immediately north of Bob Wentz Park, and across from Comanche Trail (Figs. 1, 2). It is undeveloped except for a septic field near the southeastern corner. The topography includes gentle and steep slopes, which are west-, north-, and south facing. Two small canyons contain intermittent streams. Ashe juniper-Spanish oak (*Quercus buckleyi*) woodland occupies the extreme northern part of the tract, while the rest of the tract includes shrubby junipers, open areas of midgrass, and a few live oak mottes.

Hamilton Pool Preserve (BCP), consisting of 93.8 ha (232 acres), is located east of the Pedernales River, and includes the Hamilton Creek drainage from 300 meters upstream of the collapsed grotto (which forms the pool) and downstream to the confluence with the river (Figs. 1, 3). The terrain is steep on the banks of the river and creek, and relatively flat east of the river and south of the creek. The flat bench is underlain by Hensell Sand, and by the Glen Rose formation in the northeast corner of the property. Cow Creek Limestone, Hammett Shale, and Sycamore Sand are exposed in the Pedernales River and Hamilton Creek canyons. The upland plateau east of the river and south of the creek supports midgrass grassland and plateau live oak-Ashe juniper woodlands. The steep slopes along the river and creek support a mixed evergreen/deciduous woodland with various species of trees, including Ashe juniper, Spanish oak, shin oak (*Quercus sinuata*), Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*), Texas ash (*Fraxinus texensis*), escarpment black cherry (*Prunus serotina* subsp. *eximia*), and cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*). The vegetation along the creek is a gallery woodland dominated by bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*).

Hipple Hollow Park, consisting of 43.6 ha (109 acres), is located on the shore of Lake Travis, and is underlain by Glen Rose limestone (Figs. 1, 4). The eastern half of the park and the areas along the shoreline are on steep south-facing slopes, while the western, inland area (covered

mostly by a parking lot) is on a gentle slope. Ashe juniper-dominated evergreen woodland covers the steep slopes, while the undeveloped areas in the western part of the park support a mixed evergreen/deciduous shrubland.

Lake Perspectives Tract (BCP), consisting of 51.3 hectares (127 acres), is located on Bullick Hollow Road, south of Cypress Creek and north of Oasis Bluff Road (Figs. 1, 5). The preserve is underlain by the Glen Rose formation. The western part of the preserve contains four hollows that drain to the northeast, as well as some upland/plateau topography. A unnamed tributary to Cypress Creek runs roughly northward and parallel to Bullick Hollow Road, through the relatively flat eastern section of the preserve. Most of the preserve (including the canyons, upland areas, and most of the area surrounding the creek) supports open- and closed-canopy juniper-oak woodlands. An area of about 7.6 hectares (19 acres) in the middle of the preserve supports open grassland interspersed with oak mottes. This preserve was acquired as mitigation at the end of April 1999, and is adjacent to the LCRA's McGregor Tract.

Sandy Creek Park, consisting of 10.1 ha (25 acres), is located on the Sandy Creek arm of Lake Travis, and is underlain by the Glen Rose Formation (Fig. 1). The terrain includes both gentle and moderate slopes, as well as two significant ravines. Ashe juniper-oak woodland covers most of the undeveloped areas of the park. Plateau live oak, Spanish oak, Texas ash, and Ashe juniper are all important tree species in this woodland. The tree canopy is nearly closed, and the understory very open, on the north-facing slopes of the northern end of the park. The vegetation in the rest of the inland areas of the park consists of clusters of trees and shrubs with grassland openings. The shoreline supports a riparian thicket of roughleaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and winterberry (*Ilex deciduda*).

McGregor Tract (LCRA) (BCP), consisting of 146.9 ha (363 acres), is located on a peninsula in Lake Travis west of Bullick Hollow Road (Fig. 1). It is adjacent to Hippie Hollow Park, Lake Perspectives Tract, and Romberg Preserve. The property contains several plateaus, ridges, and deep canyons. It is underlain by the Glen Rose formation, with outcrops of the Fredericksburg Group (undivided) on the highest points on the east side of the tract (Proctor *et al.* 1974). There are no perennial streams, but a small stock tank retains some runoff water. Oak-Ashe juniper woodland covers most of the preserve, with occasional grassland openings. The woodland is dominated by plateau live oak, Spanish oak, and Ashe juniper, with shrubs such as evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*), Texas persimmon (*Diospyros texana*), agarita (*Berberis trifoliolata*), and prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum* sp.) in the understory. An exchange of service agreement between the LCRA and Travis County was established in 2000 which outlined a 49.3 ha (121.87 acres) study area in the northeastern portion of the McGregor Tract, north of Lake Perspectives, in which Travis County Natural Resources staff surveyed and mapped territories of warblers.

Distribution

We followed survey methods for golden-cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos described in the "Minimum Procedures for Determining the Presence/Absence of Golden-cheeked Warblers and Black-capped Vireos", as required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) endangered species permit. This method was only used at properties where either species had not been detected within the past few years (e.g. Hippie Hollow). Though we surveyed for both species, efforts were focused primarily on warblers during 2000.

We determined densities of birds by locating territorial males and delineating their territories using a method similar to the "consecutive flush" technique described by Bibby et al. (1993). Staff monitoring warblers at Ft. Hood, as described by Holiman et al. (2000), also used this method. Warblers were viewed through binoculars to determine banding status. If banded, an attempt was made to determine the bird's color combination. Attempts were made to verify band status of all warblers encountered. We recorded up to 5 locations per territory visit in order to eliminate or reduce any human induced behavior and to maximize independence of locations. Additionally, we recorded temperatures for the start and end of each visit from either hourly weather radio broadcasts, or a thermometer permanently mounted in a shady area (at Hamilton Pool). Wind speeds were estimated or recorded from NOAA weather radio broadcasts. Cloud cover was estimated to the nearest five percent. We did not use playback tapes of screech owl or warbler vocalizations this year. Warbler locations were plotted on 1-meter resolution digital orthophoto maps at a scale of 1:4000 generated in ArcView 3.1 Geographic Information System software (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., Redlands, California). Symbology marked on field maps, such as counter-singing, followed International Bird Census Committee (1970) standards. We used two way radios to determine conspecific singing within the study sites. This proved useful in determining the number of males detected by having one observer follow a male while the other listened for counter singing. Confirmed results were then transmitted to the other observer facilitating accurate detection results and territorial boundaries. Other data recorded in field notebooks included study site, date, time, number of males singing, song type, number of females present, territory number, cowbirds present, nest and productivity data if applicable. All males were assigned territory numbers regardless of band status. Territory numbers were assigned once it was determined that a male had a territory by either counter-singing, continued use of a physical area of habitat, or if a female was observed with a male (Koloszar and Bailey, 2000).

During the 2000 field season, avian locations were marked on 1:4000 scale digital 1-meter resolution ortho-photo based field maps. An ArcView project was created for each study area with the same photos used as the base layer. Avian locations were then plotted directly on screen in ArcView thus matching the locations marked on field maps. These locations were then entered into a database via an ArcView GIS script written by Jon Horne (2000), GIS Analyst with The Nature

Conservancy at Fort Hood, Texas. Once an individual location was determined on screen, ArcView prompted for specific data, which was then tabulated and became the database for avian location records. Specific data entered into the database included the following: species, band number (if known), color combination, colors certain, age (if known), sex, mate present, territory number, number of fledglings, date collected, time, date recorded, x-y coordinates, accuracy, scale, observer, macrosite, tract name and comments.

Distribution

The number of warbler locations collected during the 2000 field season determined distribution within study sites. However, warbler location data collected may not represent actual occupation of available habitat in the entire area because our survey efforts were limited to county owned or managed properties. When warblers were detected on properties adjacent to our study sites, their locations were recorded. Males outside the study site boundaries were assigned a territory number to signify them as unique but were not monitored. Methods and analysis used for this section follow those of The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Fort Hood office (Koloszar and Bailey, 2000).

Productivity

Productivity within the study sites was determined by the recorded number of hatch year (hereafter HY) (fledgling) warblers observed with territorial males at each study site. Productivity values are represented for those territories where HYs were observed. Nest searching was initiated when behavioral cues suggested potential nest activity. If a female was observed carrying nesting material or if either adult was carrying food, a search was conducted in and around the area of activity. Once discovered, the nest location was marked on field maps and the nest tree was flagged. Nests were then monitored every 3-5 days until an outcome could be determined. In the event of parasitism, all brown-headed cowbird eggs and/or fledglings were removed. Our methods of measuring productivity and analysis follow those of The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Fort Hood office (Koloszar and Bailey 2000, Holiman and Craft 2000).

RESULTS

Distribution-Study Sites

One thousand two hundred and sixteen observations were recorded for golden-cheeked warblers during the 2000 breeding season (1,034 male, 102 female, 83 hatch year, and 2 unknown observations). Multiple sightings were recorded for individual birds, (e.g. males for territory delineation). Thirty-eight unique males were recorded on 5 study sites (Table 1). Of these 38 males, only one male was banded with a single silver USFWS band (See Below ***Hamilton Pool***

Preserve). No banded female warblers were observed on any Travis County study site. Despite small sample sizes, monitoring unbanded birds challenged us and raised many questions that led to speculations regarding territorial data. For example, 151 recorded observations of males do not have an assigned territory number. This occurred late in the season once territory boundaries began to break down and counter-singing ceased. Regardless, warblers at Hamilton Pool, Lake Perspectives, and McGregor Tract were intensively surveyed and monitored. Variations in the number of territories per study site were minimal. Hamilton Pool had 15 territories, 9 of which were located inside the study area (Fig. 3). Lake Perspectives had 9 territorial males throughout the season and a possible tenth male was discovered late (Fig. 5). McGregor Tract had 7 territories inside the study site boundary and at least 3 outside (Fig. 7). Compared to 1999, Hamilton Pool had 11 territories and Lake Perspectives had approximately 7. McGregor Tract was not surveyed by Travis County biologists in 1999.

Approximately 416 staff hours were spent surveying for golden-cheeked warblers (Appendix 1). Time spent surveying any one area ranged from 2 hours at Hippie Hollow to 202 hours at Hamilton Pool Preserve. Staff hours are calculated by the number of hours each biologist accumulated while at each study area then combined and totalled.

Systematic and repeated monitoring of Hamilton Pool, Lake Perspectives and McGregor Tract allowed for recording multiple locations for some warblers and the calculation of home ranges. A minimum of 10 locations per male was required for home range calculations (Koloszar and Bailey, 1999). Twenty-five males met this measure in 2000. Minimum convex polygons with 95% confidence intervals were used to calculate home ranges (Hooge and Eichenlaub, 1997) (Figs. 3, 5, 7, 8). The mean number of locations was 34.56. Mean home range size was 2.93 ha (7.24 acres) (Table 2). There was no significant difference in home range sizes between Hamilton Pool, Lake Perspectives and McGregor Tract.

Bob Wentz Park/Romberg Preserve (BCP). Limited staff time coupled with higher priority study areas led to fewer surveys on Romberg in 2000 than in 1999. In 2000, 2 visits yielded no warbler activity on Romberg Preserve proper compared to 1999 in which 5 visits and several males were detected (off property) and a female was observed feeding hatch years on site (Travis County Natural Resources 1999, unpublished report). Two males were heard singing off property to the east of Romberg in 2000 (Fig. 2). Compared to other sites within the area (e.g. McGregor Tract to the east), only a small patch of suitable golden-cheeked warbler habitat is found on Romberg Tract, which is contiguous with habitat on the adjacent private property to the east. Historical data suggests that warblers have used Romberg for foraging and juvenile dispersal but no nest activity has been documented.

Hamilton Pool Preserve (BCP). Survey results indicate that 9 male warblers held territories at Hamilton Pool in 2000 (Fig. 3). Eleven males were reported to have held territories in 1998 and in

1999 (Appendix 2). In addition, 5 to 7 males held territories outside the preserve boundaries during 2000 compared to 3 to 4 males in 1999. These areas include the west side of the Pedernales River, at the bend in Hamilton Pool road between the preserve and Hamilton Pool Road bridge, and the confluence of Hamilton Creek. We found 8 females and 20 fledglings in the preserve. In 1999, 9 females and at least 17 HYs were documented. A male that was banded as a second year bird in 1997 returned to the same area he was banded in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Three nests were found along the Pedernales River side of the preserve. Of these nests, 2 failed for unknown reasons and 1, despite being parasitized (See Below ***Productivity)***, successfully fledged 2 warblers. Unlike the black-capped vireo, the golden-cheeked warbler can successfully fledge young from a nest parasitized by cowbirds (Pulich 1976, Dunn and Garrett 1997).

Males held territories along the canyons along Hamilton Creek and the Pedernales River, but we also saw and heard warblers in the upland areas south of the creek, east of the river, and north of the entry station. There were more sightings of adults with fledglings in the uplands this year than in 1999. These sightings were in the eastern half of the uplands, in an area north and northwest of the entry station. Additional locations were observed south of the entry station along the oak-juniper mottes north of the prairie restoration area, and further east near the maintenance buildings (Fig. 3).

Hippie Hollow Park. Only one visit was made to Hippie Hollow at the end of March 2000 (Fig. 4) (Appendix 1). We spent 2 hours walking the upper and lower trails throughout the park surveying for both warblers and vireos. No black-capped vireos or golden-cheeked warblers were detected on the property. However, one male golden-cheeked warbler was detected on the McGregor Tract, across Comanche Trail from the northeastern boundary of Hippie Hollow Park.

To date, little or no suitable vireo habitat exists within the park. With no known viable vireo populations nearby, combined with poor habitat conditions and heavy visitor use, recolonization at Hippie Hollow is unlikely. However, potential habitat manipulation areas exist on McGregor Tract north of Hippie Hollow. No black-capped vireos have been present at Hippie Hollow since spring 1995 (DLS 1995, Travis County Natural Resources 1996, unpublished reports). Warbler habitat quality varies from marginal to poor. Drainages and small canyons in the western half of the park have potential for foraging and possible hatch year dispersion. No golden-cheeked warblers have been found within the park boundaries since 1991 (DLS 1992, Travis County Natural Resources 1999, unpublished reports) (Appendix 2).

Lake Perspectives Tract (BCP). A total of 9 warbler territories were monitored in 2000. Of these, at least 3 males used both McGregor Tract and Lake Perspectives Tract while 2 other territories in the southeastern corner used both private property and preserve habitat (Figs. 5, 8). No females or hatch-years were observed in either of the 2 southeast corner territories. Seven females and 10 hatch-years were observed for 7 territories. A possible tenth male was heard singing along

the eastern boundary near Bullick Hollow Road. We did not confirm if this bird used both sides of Bullick Hollow nor did we determine if this male established a territory on Lake Perspectives Tract.

As stated earlier, surveys in 1999 were not conducted at Lake Perspectives until mid-May. Results from 1999 indicate that 7 males held territories on Lake Perspectives (Appendix 2). In 1999, 1 male was heard singing to the north on McGregor Tract and 3 females and 7 fledglings were observed for 4 territories. Without a complete data set for 1999, the 2000 field season cannot be compared to 1999. However, the 1999 data was used as a preliminary baseline for 2000.

Sandy Creek Park. We surveyed Sandy Creek Park 3 times during the breeding season (Appendix 1). Only 1 male warbler was detected in the north canyon of the park (Fig. 6). This bird sang two phrases and was not heard again. The last record for a warbler in this canyon was in 1997 (Travis County Natural Resources 1997, unpublished report). A single female warbler was also located within Sandy Creek Park just west of the canyon where the male was heard on a separate visit (Fig. 6). She was foraging along the south rim of the canyon then flew west-southwest and was not observed again. No hatch-years were detected on any surveys during 2000. No surveys were conducted in 1999. However, in 1998, 2 males were recorded outside the park boundary to the south (Appendix 2).

McGregor Tract (LCRA) (BCP). Eleven visits (35 hours) were spent surveying at McGregor (Appendix 1). Twelve unique male warblers were mapped in and around the McGregor-Travis County study area (Fig. 7). Four males were located outside the study area boundary and were not monitored. In the study area, 7 females and 12 fledglings were observed during the season. A total of 7 territories were monitored in 2000. Of these, at least 3 males used both sides of McGregor and Lake Perspectives (Fig. 8). Most warbler activity, 4 territories, occurred on the east facing canyons, especially those directly north of the Lake Perspectives Tract boundary line.

Productivity

The total number of territories in 2000 for all survey sites was 38 (Table 1). Of these territories, 25 (65.7%) were considered monitored as pairs were observed or young were detected. Eighteen (72.0%) of these 25 were observed with HYs during the season.

Hamilton Pool Preserve. In 2000, six of 9 (66.6%) territorial male warblers monitored at Hamilton Pool were mated (observed with hatch years or with a female). Twenty HYs were associated with these 6 territorial males (3.33 young per territorial male [n = 20, SE = 0.07]).

Three nests were located then monitored until a fate could be determined. Of these, 2 (66.6%) failed for unknown reasons, however depredation is suspected for at least one nest. The third nest found was parasitized. Consistent with animal management policy for BCP lands, (Terpening et. al. 1999), the cowbird fledgling was removed.

A fifth year male (banded in 1997 as a second year adult) was observed feeding 2 separate broods during the season. No nests were found for this territory and it is unknown whether the same female remained in the territory after the first clutch fledged.

Lake Perspectives Tract. In 2000, seven of 9 (77.7%) territorial males monitored at Lake Perspectives were mated (observed with hatch years or with a female). Of these 9 territories, only 3 (33.3%) were observed with at least one young. Nine HYs were associated with 3 territorial males (3 young per territorial male [n = 3, SE = 0.03]). One nest was located during the nestling stage and was monitored until a fate could be determined. Three young successfully fledged from the nest.

McGregor Tract. In 2000, five of seven (71.4%) territorial males monitored at McGregor Tract were mated (observed with hatch-years or with a female). Of these seven territories, 3 (42.8%) were observed with at least one young. Twelve HYs were associated with these 3 territorial males (4 young per territorial male [n = 3, SE = 0.04]). In 2000, 1 nest was located and monitored where 3 young successfully fledged.

DISCUSSION

Study Sites

In 2000, we found breeding golden-cheeked warblers at Hamilton Pool Preserve, Lake Perspectives Tract, and McGregor Tract. A total of 38 male golden-cheeked warblers were recorded for 5 of 6 survey sites in 2000. There is little variation in the number of males observed each season (1994-2000) (Appendix 2) within the study areas. For example, warbler densities at Hamilton Pool numbered 15 males in 1999 (including males detected outside the preserve boundaries) compared to 15 males detected in 2000. The differences being 9 territories were found within the preserve boundaries in 2000, while 11 territories were found in 1999. The results are similar for Lake Perspectives Tract. The 1999 survey resulted in approximately 7 males holding territories while in 2000 we found 9 territorial males. Though these variations are evident they may not necessarily reflect actual changes within the population. Variations may be attributed to the following: surveying/monitoring efforts between years, within season territorial shifts that in essence go undetected due to the decreased song activity of males later in the season, or by migrating warblers detected early then, as they move on, not heard again.

Surveying and monitoring efforts have increased each year for areas deemed as intensive study sites, e.g. Hamilton Pool Preserve. Our efforts were greatly increased in 2000 by having the same two observers work the intensive study areas concurrently. This effort, if maintained each survey season, will minimize within season conflicts regarding survey results, thus facilitating comparative data for each breeding season.

Productivity

Warbler productivity estimates were calculated during 2000 for Travis County parks and preserves. Data collected during past surveys summarized the number of young observed for the total study area without calculations for the average number of young per territorial male. By establishing a monitoring scheme, similar to The Nature Conservancy at Fort Hood in which specific HY data can be collected and analyzed, methods for estimating warbler productivity would be consistent for each additional survey season. Female warbler sample sizes were low due to their elusive nature, which led to some females not being observed with male warblers. Therefore, indirect estimates of productivity will continue to be calculated by the number of males observed with young.

Nest sample size (5 total) was too small to calculate nest success. Although one nest was parasitized, a parasitism rate could not be calculated for the same reason. Nest searching may continue but extended efforts will not be initiated unless additional staff become available and the need for such data warrants such actions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Study Sites

Though thorough surveys and territory mapping efforts were completed for several preserves, one complication occurred throughout the season that hindered data collection. All birds, except one male at Hamilton Pool, in our study areas were unbanded. In order for an intensified monitoring scheme at Hamilton Pool, Lake Perspectives and McGregor Tract to continue, banding of golden-cheeked warblers is imperative. Color banding would allow for data such as survival, demography, dispersal, recruitment, and space utilization to be collected and analyzed. Data on productivity, survivorship and recruitment are essential for understanding dynamics of these populations (Butcher et. al. 1993). In addition, color banding would reduce observer speculation and assumptions regarding the identities of individual birds and their territory status. Travis County should coordinate with The Nature Conservancy's Fort Hood office for banding and territory monitoring protocols.

It is also recommended that in the future Travis County continue the same monitoring efforts as in 2000. Utilization of 2 observers during survey periods at the same study area increases the probability of detecting warblers while covering greater area. This practice along with color-banding will facilitate a more effective monitoring program.

Productivity

It is recommended that Travis County continue productivity estimates by determining the number of young per territorial male. A shift in priority from territories with HY data to those territories where productivity had not been observed should continue so that productivity estimates

can be calculated for the entire study area. Protocols that facilitate productivity estimates (Koloszar and Bailey 2000, Holiman and Craft 2000) should be implemented.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Information regarding the disposition of data sets collected during the 2000 field season is provided below. Data will be archived to facilitate retrieval for further analysis. All data are currently stored in the Travis County Natural Resources office, 9th and Lavaca, Austin, Texas.

Avian Location Data
Data File Name: 00_avian_locn_records.xls
Documentation Update: 06 September 2000
Description: avian location data from 2000 field season
Software: Microsoft Windows NT, Excel 1997
Data File Archive Location:
Main Copy: D:\Users\Wes\Research\gcwa
Storage Location: GCWA computer

Data File Name: 2000avianlocs
Documentation Update: 06 September 2000
Description: shapefile containing avian location data from 2000 field season
Software: Microsoft Windows NT, ArcView 3.1
Data File Archive Location:
Main Copy: D:\GIS projects\bccp\Avian Location Projects\2000 Survey Data
Storage Location: GCWA computer

Data File Name: hp_trtry3
Documentation Update: 06 September 2000
Description: shapefile containing territory polygons for Hamilton Pool
Software: Microsoft Windows NT, ArcView 3.1
Data File Archive Location:
Main Copy: D:\GIS projects\bccp\Avian Location Projects\2000 Survey Data
Storage Location: GCWA computer

Data File Name: lp_territories
Documentation Update: 06 September 2000
Description: shapefile containing territory polygons for Lake Perspectives
Software: Microsoft Windows NT, ArcView 3.1
Data File Archive Location:
Main Copy: D:\GIS projects\bccp\Avian Location Projects\2000 Survey Data
Storage Location: GCWA computer

Data File Name: mcgregor_trtry1
Documentation Update: 06 September 2000
Description: shapefile containing territory polygons for McGregor Tract-Travis County Study Area
Software: Microsoft Windows NT, ArcView 3.1
Data File Archive Location:
Main Copy: D:\GIS projects\bccp\Avian Location Projects\2000 Survey Data
Storage Location: GCWA computer

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TABLES

Table 1. Summary of the number of unique male[a] golden-cheeked warblers in each study site on Travis County Parks and Preserves, Texas in 2000. Abundance is the measure of the total number of unique males reported in 2000.

Macrosite	Study Site	Abundance
Cypress Creek	Hippie Hollow	1[b]
	Lake Perspectives	10
	McGregor	10
	Romberg	2[b]
	Sandy Creek	1
Pedernales River	Hamilton Pool	15
Total		38

[a] All males assigned a territory number were considered unique, regardless of their band status. Each banded male not assigned a territory was also considered unique.

[b] Males that were detected outside study site boundary.

Table 2. Home ranges[a] (ha) for golden-cheeked warblers on Travis County Parks and Preserves, Texas, 2000.

Study Area	No. Territories	Mean Number of Locations	Mean Range Size (Ha)	Standard Deviation of Range (Ha)	Median Range Size (Ha)
Hamilton Pool	11	40.00	2.57	2.73	1.87
Lake Perspectives	9	30.88	3.10	1.41	3.07
McGregor	5	32.80	3.41	0.57	3.37
Total	25	34.56	2.93	1.99	2.57

[a]Home ranges determined by 95% minimum convex polygons for warblers with □10 observations.

Table.3. Productivity (no. fledglings/territory) and pair success (percent successful) for golden-cheeked warbler territories by study area on Travis County Parks and Preserves, Texas, March-July 2000.

Study Site	No. Territories[a]	No. Monitored[b]	Percent Monitored[c]	No. Successful[d]	Percent Successful[e]	No. Fledglings[f]	Observed Productivity[g]
HP	9	6	66.6	6	100	20	3.33
LP	9	7	77.7	3	42.8	9	1.28
McGregor	7	5	71.4	3	60.0	12	2.40
Total	25	20	80.0	12	60.0	41	2.05

[a] No. territories values represent the total number of territories reported from 2000 avian location database.
[b] No. monitored represents the number of territories where productivity data was recorded.
[c] Percent monitored represents the percent of all territories that were monitored.
[d] No. successful represents the number of Monitored that fledged at least one young.
[e] Percent successful represents the percent of all Monitored that were successful.
[f] No. fledglings represents the number of fledglings produced by Monitored territories.
[g] Observed productivity represents the index of fledgling production for each monitored territory (No. Fledglings / No. Monitored).

FIGURES

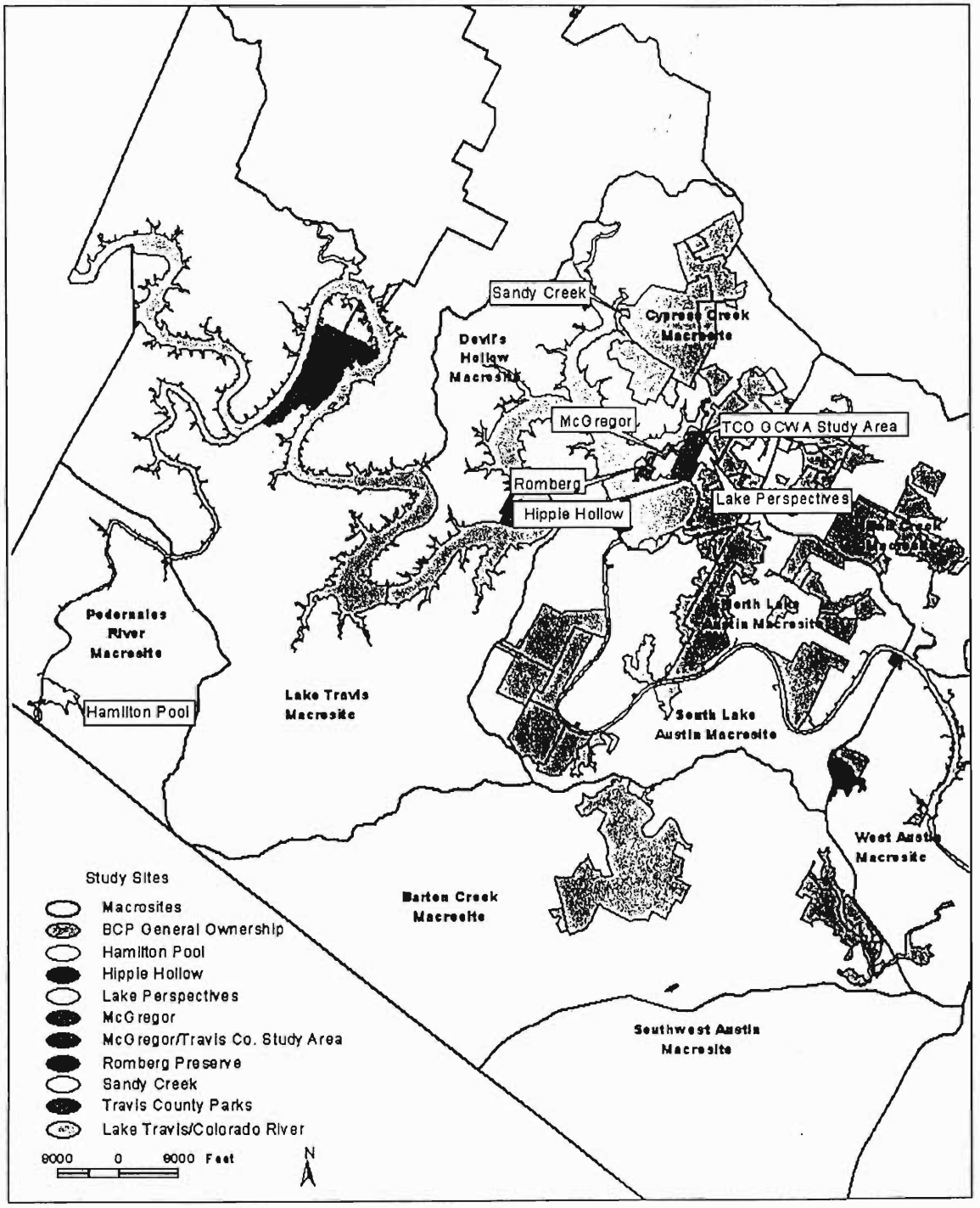


Figure 1. Study area locations for golden-cheeked warbler surveys in Travis County, Texas, 2000.

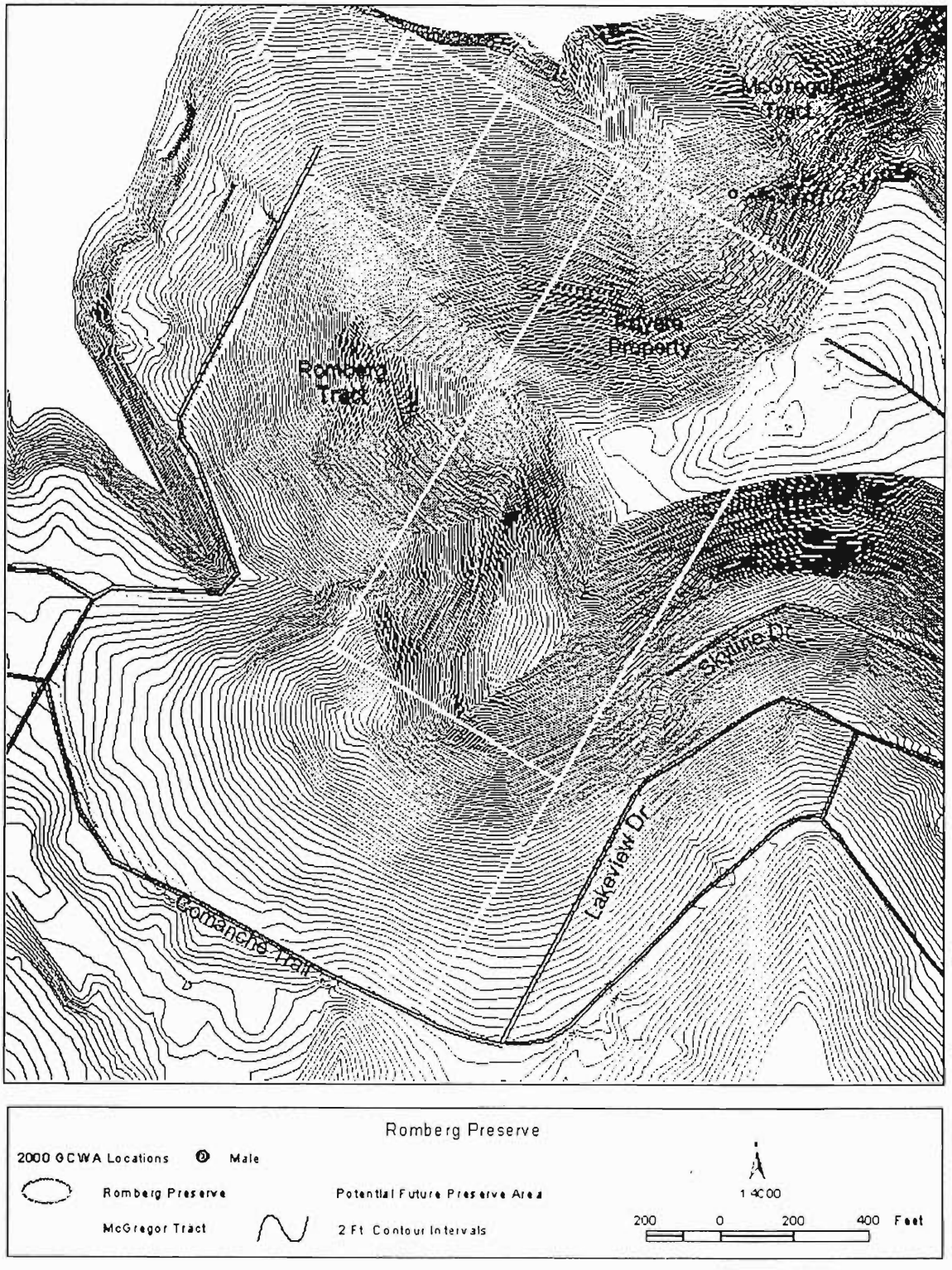


Figure 2. Recorded locations for golden-cheeked warblers on Romberg tract, Travis County, Texas, 2000.

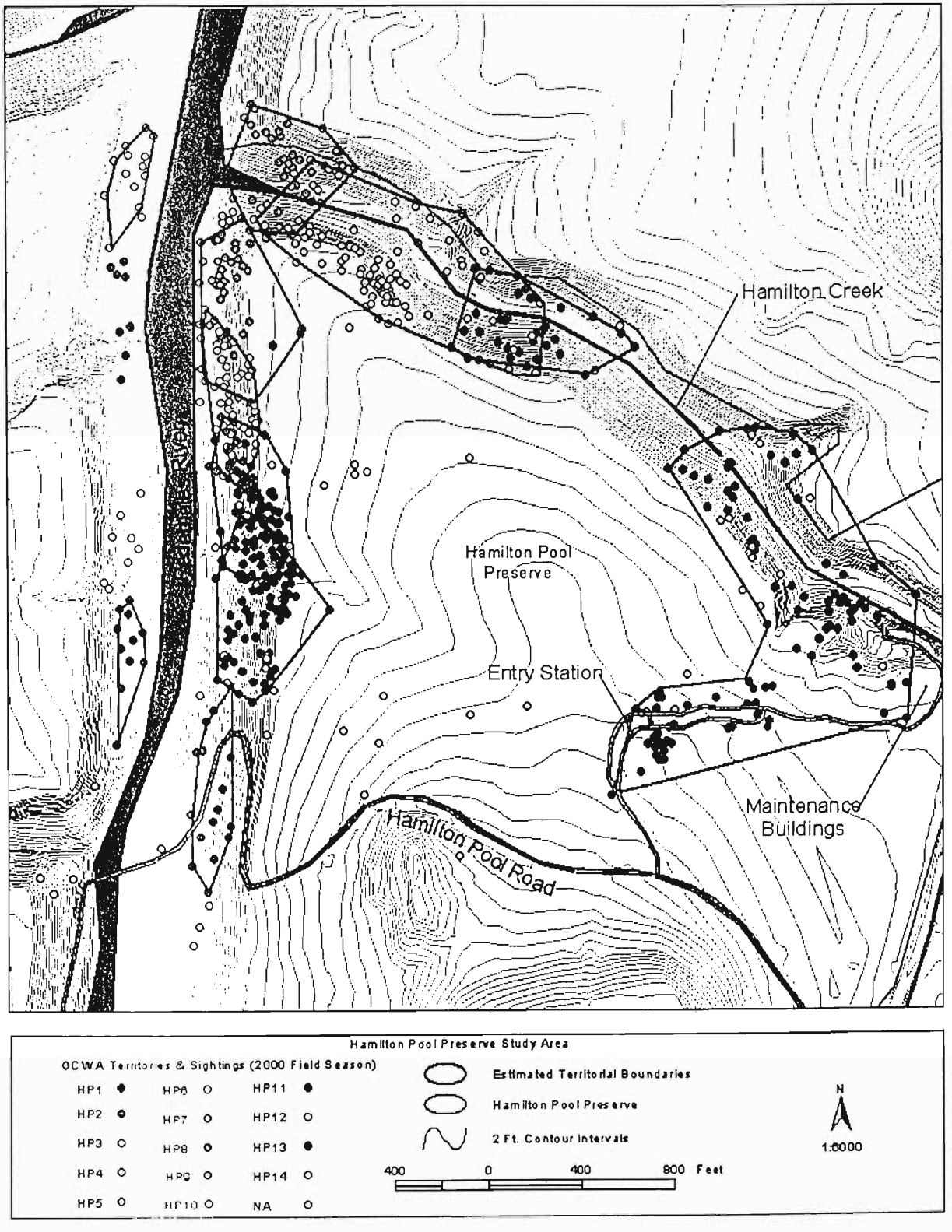


Figure 3. Recorded locations for golden-cheeked warblers at Hamilton Pool Preserve, Travis County, Texas, 2000

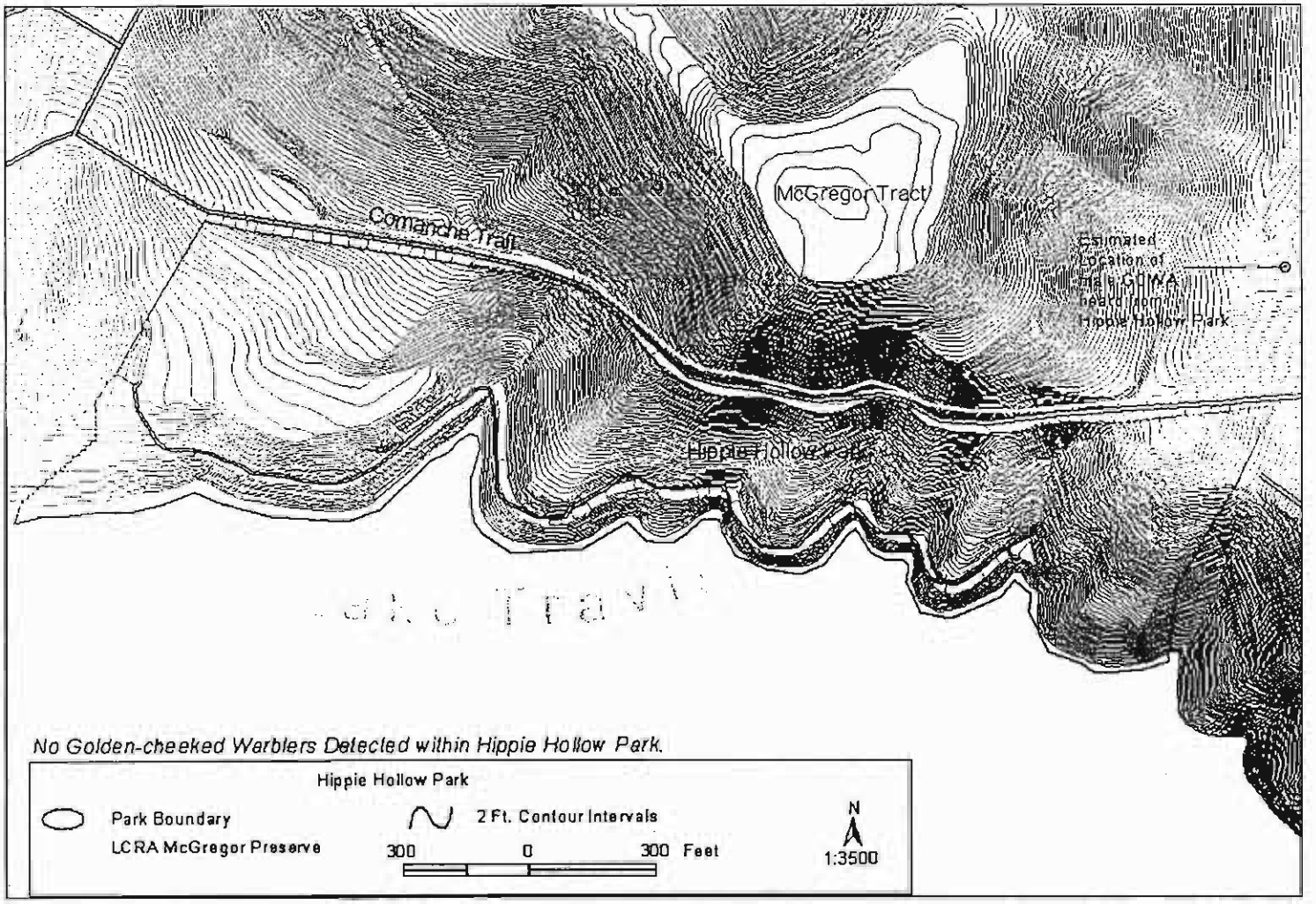


Figure 4. Reported locations for golden-cheeked warblers at Hippie Hollow Park, Travis County, Texas, 2000.

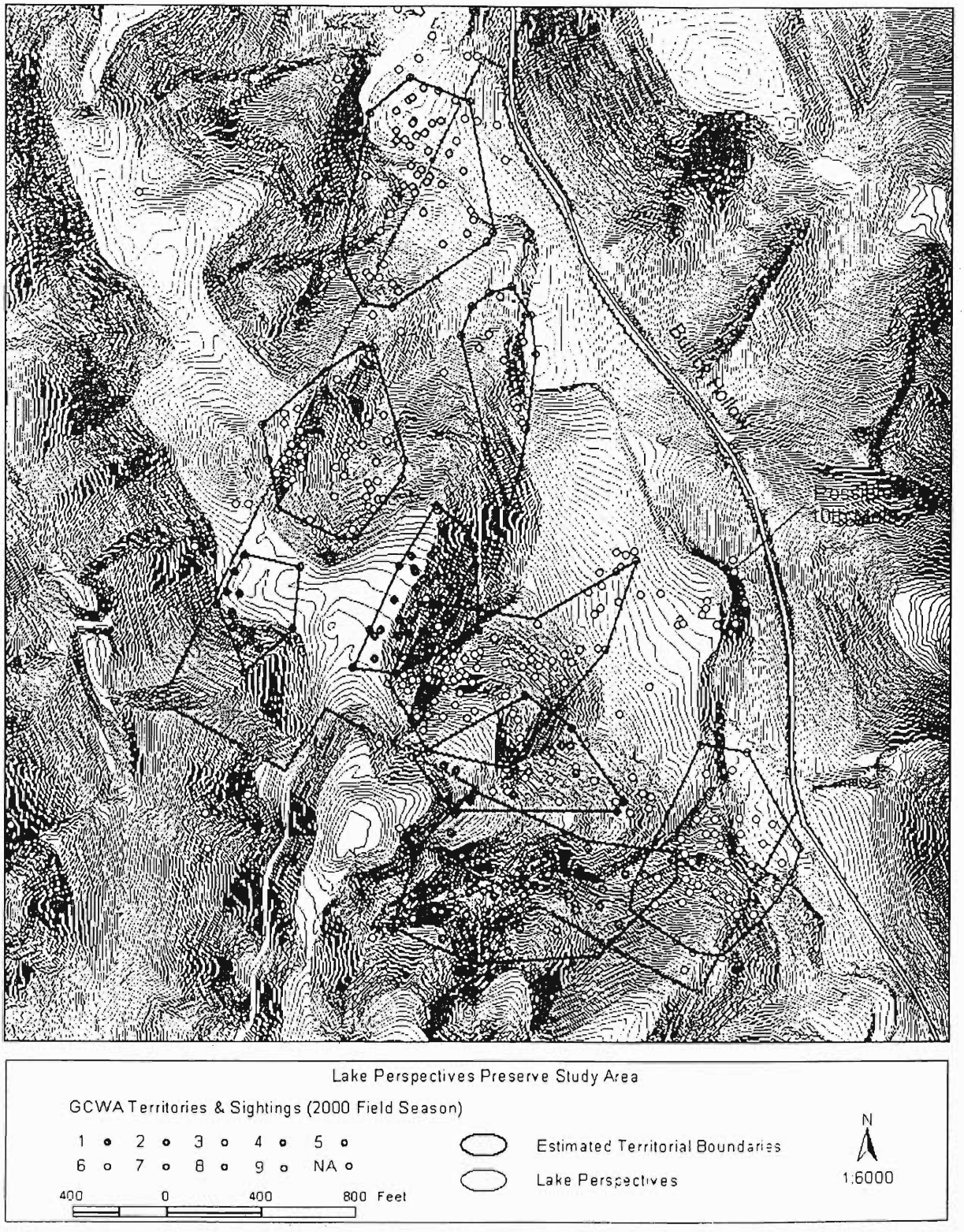


Figure 5. Reported locations for golden-cheeked warblers at Lake Perspectives Tract, Travis County, Texas, 2000.

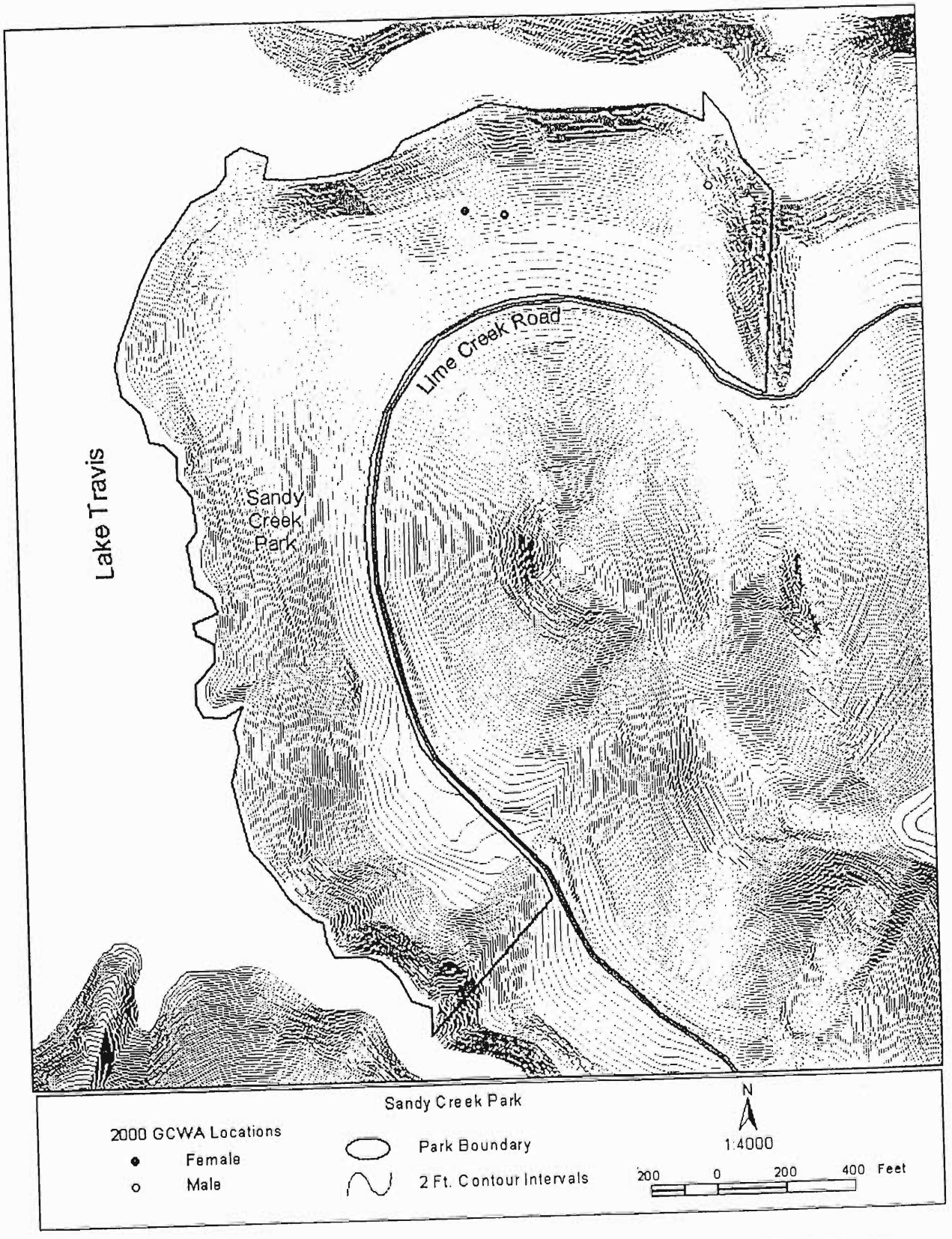


Figure 6. Recorded locations for golden-cheeked warblers at Sandy Creek Park, Travis County, Texas, 2000.

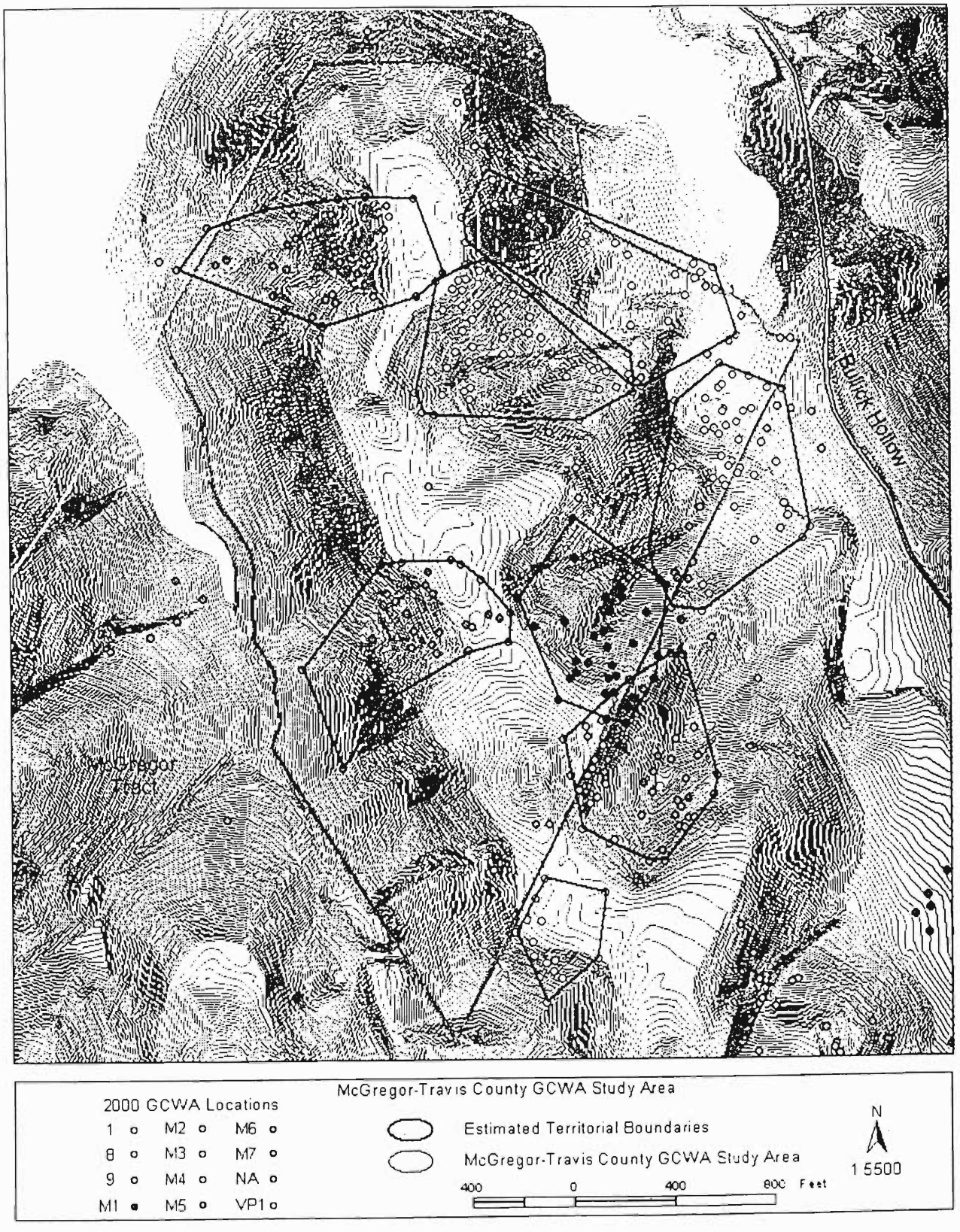


Figure 7. Recorded locations for golden-cheeked warblers at McGregor-Travis County Study Area, Travis County, Texas, 2000.

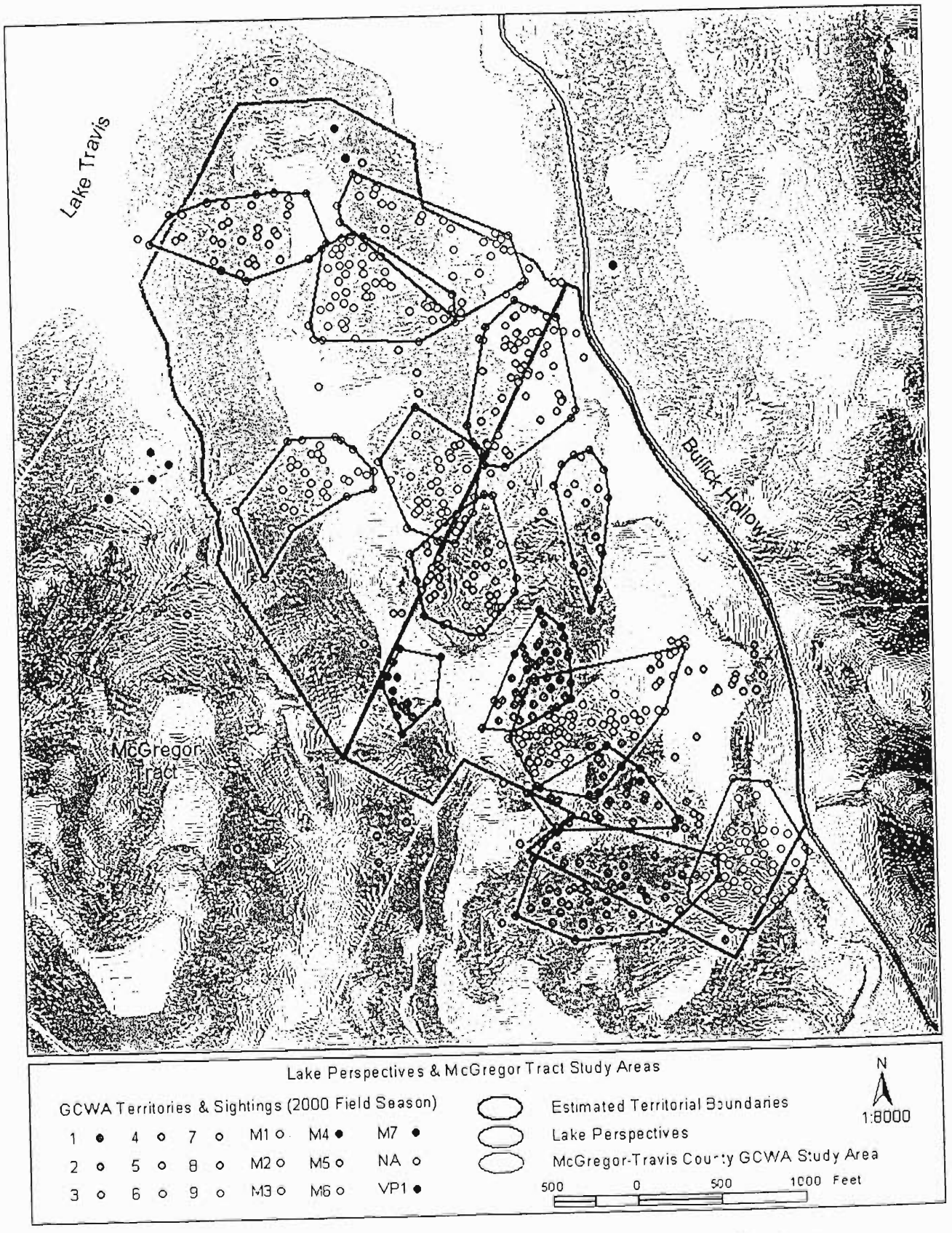


Figure 8. Recorded locations for golden-cheeked warblers at Lake Perspectives Tract and McGregor-Travis County Study Area, Travis County, Texas, 2000.

Appendix 1: Survey effort, weather, and results.

Bob Wentz Park/Romberg Preserve

Date	Time (h:mm)			Temperature (degrees F)		Wind Direction		Wind Speed (mph)		Cloud Cover (percent)		Personnel	Results/comments
	Start	End	Total	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
4/21/00	7:15	8:30	1:15	50	na	calm	na	calm	na	20	na	PF,WB	2 male GCWAs off property
6/6/00	9:45	10:45	1:00	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	PF,WB,PK	no GCWAs detected
	Total time:		4:30										
	No. of visits:		2										

Hippie Hollow Park

Date	Time (h:mm)			Temperature (degrees F)		Wind Direction		Wind Speed (mph)		Cloud Cover (percent)		Personnel	Results/comments
	Start	End	Total	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
3/30/00	7:00	9:00	2:00	55	na	N	N	2-5	5-8	10	30	PF,WB	1 GCWA detected off property
	Total time:		4:00										
	No. of visits:		1										

Appendix 1: Survey effort, weather, and results.

Hamilton Pool Preserve Plot

Date	Time (h:mm)			Temperature (degrees F)		Wind Direction		Wind Speed (mph)		Cloud Cover (percent)		Personnel	Results/comments
	Start	End	Total	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
3/9/00	12:10	1:40	1:30	85	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	PF	1 male GCWA in River canyon, 1 off property; preliminary survey
3/13/00	10:00	1:00	3:00	62	71	NE	SE	5-10	5-10	100	100	PF,WB	5-6 males detected; front blew through, temp had reached 76
3/20/00	7:40	11:00	3:20	55	74	SW	SE	5-10	10-15	10	10	PF,WB	8 males (2 off prop), 1 female off property
3/24/00	7:45	11:45	4:00	66	89	calm	S	calm	5-8	40	50	PF,WB	12 males (5 off prop), 2 females
3/28/00	7:30	12:15	4:45	70	83	S	S	8-10	8-10	90	50	PF,WB	8-9 males (3 off prop), 1 female
3/31/00	7:15	11:15	4:00	54	71	NE	N	2-5	8-10	60	70	PF,WB	10 males (3 off prop), 3 females; nest located
4/6/00	10:30	12:30	2:00	na	80	SE	SE	10-12	10-12	0	0	PF	4 males, 2 females (1 on nest)
4/10/00	7:30	12:30	5:00	65	72	SW	SW	10-12	5-10	100	100	PF,WB	11 males, 1 female
4/13/00	7:30	1:30	6:00	55	70	NE	NE	5-8	5-8	100	30	PF,WB	13 males (5 off prop), 1 female
4/18/00	7:30	12:30	5:00	68	80	SE	SE	2-5	8-10	40	100	PF,WB	7 males (1 off prop)
4/24/00	7:30	12:00	4:30	66	na	N	na	8-10	na	10	na	PF,WB	10 males (2 off prop), 2 females, 2 HYs
4/28/00	7:30	12:30	5:00	70	84	calm	E	calm	8-10	100	20	PF,WB	4 males, 3 females, 2 HYs
5/2/00	8:00	1:00	5:00	61	73	calm	E	calm	5-8	80	90	PF,WB	6 males (1 off prop), 3 females, 5 HYs, nest located
5/5/00	10:30	1:30	3:00	77	84	S	S	8-10	8-10	100	90	PF,WB	4 males (1 off prop), 1 female, 6 HYs
5/10/00	7:15	11:15	4:00	72	na	NE	na	2-5	na	100	na	PF,WB	5 males (1 off prop), 1 female, 8 HYs
5/12/00	7:30	12:00	4:30	78	87	S	S	5-8	8-10	50	70	PF,WB	7 males (1 off prop), 2 females (1 on nest), 5 HYs
5/15/00	7:30	12:30	5:00	68	85	calm	S	calm	10-12	10	70	PF,WB	8 males (1 off prop), 2 females, 2 HYs
5/19/00	7:15	11:15	4:00	76	75	E	E	2-5	8-10	90	100	PF	5 males (1 off prop), 2 females, 3 HYs; nest destroyed /abandoned

Appendix 1: Survey effort, weather, and results.

Hamilton Pool Preserve Plot-continued

Date	Time (h:mm)			Temperature (degrees F)		Wind Direction		Wind Speed (mph)		Cloud Cover (percent)		Personnel	Results/comments
	Start	End	Total	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
5/22/00	7:00	11:00	4:00	70	86	calm	SW	calm	5-8	10	20	PF,WB	5-6 males, 1 female, 5 HYs
6/2/00	6:45	11:45	5:00	76	90	calm	S	calm	5-8	50	60	PF,WB	6 males, 2 females; new nest discovered-parasitized by BHCO HY
6/8/00	7:00	10:00	3:00	64	73	SW	calm	2-5	calm	90	100	PF,WB	4 males; 1 female (after survey)
6/13/00	7:00	12:00	5:00	73	84	SW	W	2-5	8-10	30	30	PF,WB	2-3 males, 2 females, 5 HYs (1 second brood HY, 2 from earlier parasitized nest)
6/19/00	9:00	11:30	2:30	75	82	calm	S	calm	5-8	100	100	PF	2 males, 2 females, 4 HYs
6/23/00	7:00	12:00	5:00	77	88	SW	SW	10-12	15-20	10	10	PF,WB	1 male, 2 HYs
6/26/00	7:15	10:15	3:00	76	84	S	S	2-5	8-10	30	40	PF,WB	1 male, 1 HY
	Total time:		192:10										
	Total visits:		25										

Appendix 1: Survey effort, weather, and results.

Lake Perspectives

Date	Time (h:mm)			Temperature (degrees F)		Wind Direction		Wind Speed (mph)		Cloud Cover (percent)		Personnel	Results/comments
	Start	End	Total	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
3/10/00	10:15	12:15	2:00	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	WB	3 males detected, preliminary survey
3/14/00	7:45	11:45	4:00	60	61	NE	NE	2-5	2-5	100	100	PF/WB	5 males detected
3/21/00	7:30	10:00	2:30	63	65	E	E	5-10	5-10	100	100	PF/WB	5-6 males (1 on McGregor), 1 female
3/23/00	7:30	10:30	3:00	70	74	S	S	5-10	5-10	100	100	PF/WB	7 males
3/27/00	7:15	11:30	4:15	65	77	N	NE	8-10	10-15	10	30	PF/WB	3 males, 2 females
3/30/00	10:30	1:00	2:30	65	70	N	N	5-8	10-15	50	30	PF/WB	5 males, 2 females
4/3/00	9:00	12:00	3:00	56	65	N	NW	2-5	8-12	10	80	PF/WB	4 males, 3 females
4/14/00	7:15	11:15	4:00	55	59	E	S	5	5-8	100	100	PF/WB	6 males, 2 females
4/17/00	7:30	11:30	4:00	65	72	N	var	5-8	3	20	10	PF	3 males, 1 female detected
4/25/00	7:30	11:15	3:45	56	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	WB	3 males, 1 female
4/26/00	7:00	10:30	3:30	56	na	calm	calm	calm	calm	0	na	WB	4 males, 2 females, active nest located, 2 separate HYs
5/3/00	7:15	11:15	4:00	63	69	S	SE	2-5	5-10	100	80	PF/WB	5 males, 1 female, 3 HYs
5/8/00	7:30	10:30	3:00	71	78	S	S	8-10	8-10	30	10	PF/WB	3 males, 2 HYs
5/9/00	7:30	10:30	3:00	73	77	S	S	5-8	10-12	90	90	PF	3 males, 1 female, 2 HYs detected
5/16/00	7:15	10:15	3:00	74	79	S	S	12-15	12-15	80	20	PF/WB	2 males
5/23/00	7:00	10:00	3:00	73	81	S	S	5-8	8-10	100	10	PF	4-5 males, 3 females, 5-6 HYs
5/31/00	6:45	10:15	3:30	73	82	S	S	2-5	8-10	10	20	PF/WB	6 males, 1 female, 3 HYs
6/5/00	6:45	10:45	4:00	74	76	N	N	5-8	5-8	60	40	PF/WB	5 males, 2 females
6/12/00	7:15	8:45	1:30	76	78	S	SE	2-5	5-8	80	70	PF/WB	1 male, 2-3 HYs
6/20/00	6:45	9:45	3:00	78	81	S	S	5-8	8-10	40	30	PF/WB	1 HY
6/22/00	6:30	8:15	1:45	76	na	S	na	10-15	na	90	90	WB/PK	no GCWAs detected
	Total time:		113:15										
	No. of visits:		21										

Appendix 1: Survey effort, weather, and results.

McGregor (Northern section survey area)

Date	Time (h:mm)			Temperature (degrees F)		Wind Direction		Wind Speed (mph)		Cloud Cover (percent)		Personnel	Results/comments
	Start	End	Total	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
3/27/00	9:00	11:15	2:15	na	77	na	NE	na	10-15	na	30	PF/WB	10 males (2 off prop., 2 out of study area), 1 female
4/5/00	7:30	11:30	4:00	50	68	SE	SE	2-5	8-10	na	na	PF/WB	12 males (3 off prop.), 1 female
4/12/00	7:30	11:00	3:30	60	66	N	N	2-8	10-12	90	90	PF/WB	8 males (2 out of study area), 1 female
4/20/00	7:30	11:30	4:00	66	74	var	SE	2-5	10-15	20	10	PF/WB	6 males (1 off prop.), 1 female, active nest located
4/27/00	7:15	10:45	3:30	61	73	na	SW	na	10-12	20	10	PF/WB	4 males (2 off prop.), 1 female, 2 HYs
5/4/00	7:15	10:15	3:00	70	74	S	S	5-8	9	90	100	PF/WB	6-7 males, 1 HY
5/11/00	7:00	10:30	3:30	74	79	S	S	10-12	10-15	80	90	PF/WB	3 males, 1 female, 3 HYs (1 off prop.)
5/17/00	7:15	10:15	3:00	73	79	S	S	17-26	25+	50	50	PF/WB	6 males (3 off prop.), 1 female, 6 HYs
5/24/00	7:00	10:15	3:15	75	85	na	S	na	5-10	10	na	PF/WB/PK	4 males (1 off prop.), 2 females, 3 HYs
6/6/00	6:45	8:45	2:00	60	71	na	N	na	8-10	na	na	PF/WB/PK	2 males, 1 female, 2-4 HYs
6/27/00	6:45	9:45	3:00	76	79	calm	S	calm	5-8	70	20	PF/WB	1-2 males, 1-2 female, 3-5 HYs
	Total time:		70:00										
	No. of visits:		11										

Sandy Creek

Date	Time (h:mm)			Temperature (degrees F)		Wind Direction		Wind Speed (mph)		Cloud Cover (percent)		Personnel	Results/comments
	Start	End	Total	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End		
6/1/00	7:45	9:15	1:30	74	80	S	S	5-8	8-10	10	30	PF/WB/PK	1 male GCWA detected
6/14/00	6:45	9:15	2:30	76	78	S	S	8-10	8-10	90	100	PF/WB	1 female GCWA
6/22/00	8:30	9:30	1:00	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	WB/PK	no GCWAs detected
	Total time:		10:00										
	No. of visits:		3										

Appendix 2: Summary of golden-cheeked warbler survey results from selected sites in Travis County.

Park/Preserve	Surveyors	Year	Territorial Males	Females	Young	Other Males	Notes
Bob Wentz	DLS	1990	0	0	0	1	+ 2 males off property
Bob Wentz	DLS	1991	0	0	0	0	+ 7 or 8 males off property
Bob Wentz	DLS	1992	0	0	0	0	+ 5 males off property
Bob Wentz/Romberg	Travis Co.	1996	0	0	0	1	
Bob Wentz/Romberg	Travis Co.	1997	0	0	0	0	+ 1 male off property
Bob Wentz/Romberg	Travis Co.	1998	0	0	0	0	+ 2 males off property
Bob Wentz/Romberg	Travis Co.	1999	1?	2	4+	0	1 male crossing fenceline
Bob Wentz/Romberg	Travis Co.	2000	0	0	0	0	2 males off property
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	1990	7 or 8	1 or 2	0	0	+ 4 males off property
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	1991	10	0	0	0	+ 3 males off property
Hamilton Pool	DLS	1992	10-13	1+	2+	0	+ 3 males off property
Hamilton Pool	DLS	1993	8-9	3	5	1	+ 1 male off property
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	1994	12	1	0	0	+ 3 males off property
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	1995	10-12	1	0	0	
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	1996	10-12	1	0	0	+ 1 male off property
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	1997	10-11	4	16+	0	+ 1 male off property
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	1998	11	7	8+	0	+ 3-4 males off property; 1 bhcb fl
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	1999	11	9	17+	0	+ 3-4 males off property
Hamilton Pool	Travis Co.	2000	9	8	20	0	5-7 males off property
Hippie Hollow	DLS	1992	0	0	0	0	some males off property
Hippie Hollow	DLS	1993	0	0	0	0	+ 4 males off property
Hippie Hollow	DLS	1995	0	0	0	0	
Hippie Hollow	Travis Co.	1996	0	0	0	0	
Hippie Hollow	Travis Co.	1997	0	0	0	0	+ 1 male off property
Hippie Hollow	Travis Co.	1998	0	0	0	0	
Hippie Hollow	Travis Co.	1999	0	0	0	0	1 male heard on McGregor
Hippie Hollow	Travis Co.	2000	0	0	0	0	1 male heard on McGregor
Lake Perspectives	Travis Co.	1999	7	3	7	1	1 male heard on McGregor
Lake Perspectives	Travis Co.	2000	9	7	10	1	possible 10th male

Appendix 2: Summary of golden-cheeked warbler survey results from selected sites in Travis County.

Park/Preserve	Surveyors	Year	Territorial Males	Females	Young	Other Males	Notes
McGregor	DLS	1993	2+	0	0	0	
McGregor	Travis Co.	1997	10-11	1	0	0	
McGregor	Travis Co.	1998	8	0	5	0	
McGregor	Travis Co.	1999	1	0	0	0	male heard during H. Hollow survey
McGregor	Travis Co.	2000	12	5	12		7 males within study area
Sandy Creek	DLS	1993	2	0	2	0	
Sandy Creek	DLS	1994	0	0	0	0	+ 1 male off property
Sandy Creek	DLS	1995	0	0	0	0	
Sandy Creek	Travis Co.	1996	0	0	0	0	+ 3 males off property
Sandy Creek	Travis Co.	1997	1	0	0	0	+ 1 male off property
Sandy Creek	Travis Co.	1998	0	0	0	0	+ 2 males off property
Sandy Creek	Travis Co.	1999	NC	NC	NC	NC	No 1999 Survey Conducted
Sandy Creek	Travis Co.	2000	1	1	0	0	1 male & 1 female, no HYs obs.

Survey effort varies with year and surveyors.
Zeros indicate none reported; esp. for females and young, observers may not have recorded birds that were present.

LCRA
THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

CODE 9131

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MAR 2 8 2000
INR

March 23, 2000

COPY

Sybil Vosler
Austin Ecological Service Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78758

Dear Ms. Vosler:

Enclosed is the FY00 annual status report for the McGregor, Wheless, and Westcave tracts, owned and managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Material presented reflects the tables found in the Tier III chapters of the Land Management Plan recently submitted to your office.

A description for all management activities is included in the tables. However, the activities scheduled for this FY00 reporting period (October 1998 – September 1999) are shaded and described in greater detail, some with accompanying reports as well. Please note that the LCRA made progress on numerous activities ahead of schedule.

Many apologies for the delay in reporting. The LCRA was not aware of the new deadline within a sufficient amount of time to be punctual with this report. However, the new deadline is now a part of our reporting schedule and material will be prepared in advance for FY01. Please contact me (sbreslin@lcra.org or 473-3323) if you have any questions or need additional information about the FY00 report.

Sincerely,

Shannon Breslin
Senior Environmental Coordinator
Community Services

The Lower Colorado River Authority
Annual Status Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
October 1998 – September 1999

COPY

MCGREGOR

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	
Monitor and suppress oak wilt	A new staff member was hired. One of his responsibilities is to routinely survey for oak wilt on the BCP properties. There was no evidence of oak wilt during this reporting period.
Inventory and evaluate site vegetation and karst features	1) A new staff member was hired. One of his responsibilities is to routinely survey vegetation conditions on the LCRA BCP properties and report unexpected changes to LCRA Parks and Conservation staff. 2) No karst features were encountered this reporting period during other types of survey. A karst survey will be conducted during upcoming reporting periods.
Improve GCWA habitat, as needed	No habitat manipulation was warranted this year. However, LCRA land management staff informally assessed the condition of GCWA habitat after each property visit.
Develop fire management plan	There were no prescribed burns. In fact, prescribed fire is not a likely management tool for this preserve due to its proximity to a residential area. However, a wildfire management plan will be initiated during the upcoming reporting period.
Fence and gate Bullick Hollow area	A gate at Bullick Hollow was installed during FY98.
Maintain and monitor revegetation site across from Hippie Hollow	Vegetation at the site persists, even during dry conditions. LCRA staff will increase monitoring efforts during the upcoming reporting period to evaluate the impact of drought.
Inventory plant species of concern	No plant species of concern were encountered during site visits for other activities.
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT	
Conduct deer surveys and removal, if necessary	A deer census will be conducted in the fall of the upcoming reporting period.

Participate in BCP monitoring program, as determined by BCP monitoring committee	No surveys were conducted by LCRA staff or contract workers. McGregor does not have designated monitoring plots.
Evaluate feral animals and implement control, if needed	There was no evidence of damage from feral animals. Therefore, no controls implemented.
Evaluate BHCO numbers and control, as needed	BHCO individuals were noted during site visits for other activities. However, no formal monitoring or trapping was conducted during this reporting period.
Monitor red imported fire ants and control, as needed	LCRA staff take note of red imported fire ant activity during site visits. Fire ants do not appear to pose a serious threat at this time. Therefore, there was no need for formal monitoring or control during this reporting period.
PHYSICAL & CULTURAL MANAGEMENT	
Monitor perimeter fencing and repair as needed	1) A new staff member was hired. One of his responsibilities is survey perimeter fencing, identify problem areas, and help coordinate repairs. 2) LCRA staff responded to a neighbor's concerns about potential encroachment off of Mountain View. The LCRA determined that perimeter fencing for that section and for the majority of the entire property was inadequate. A fencing schedule will be implemented during the upcoming reporting period.
Inventory and evaluate cultural resource sites	LCRA archaeological staff have been systematically assessing all of the LCRA's parks and preserves. However, as McGregor is not expected to be heavily impacted by recreation, other lands received a higher cultural priority during this reporting period. An inventory and evaluation of cultural resources will be conducted during upcoming reporting periods.
Implement water quality protection measures	There were no measures necessary, therefore none implemented during this reporting period. Appropriate measures will be implemented when fencing efforts are underway or as needed.
VISITOR MANAGEMENT	
Develop access control plan	Staff identified the need for fencing and signage. An access control plan will be

	formalized and implemented during the upcoming reporting period.
Plan and develop trail system and parking area	McGregor does not have unlimited public access. A trail system and a parking area are not optimal amenities for this preserve.
Allow limited guided tours and environmental education classes	There were no requests for guided tours or classes during this reporting period. However, staff biologists continued to review options for public opportunities on the property.

WHELESS

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	
Control non-native species	There was no active control of non-native species during this reporting period.
Monitor and suppress oak wilt	A new staff member was hired. One of his primary responsibilities is to routinely survey for oak wilt on the BCP properties. There was no evidence of oak wilt during this reporting period.
Perform prescribed burn, if necessary	There were no prescribed burns during this reporting period. A burn plan may be written for BCVI habitat manipulation during the upcoming reporting if fire is a selected management technique.
Develop fire management plan	A wildfire plan will be initiated during the upcoming reporting period.
Restore BCVI habitat, in stages	1) LCRA staff met with other BCP biologists and land managers to discuss BCVI habitat manipulation throughout the BCP. 2) LCRA staff identified a portion of the property that may be appropriate for habitat manipulation. LCRA staff will identify and delineate the potential manipulation site on maps and on the ground, after which discussions will be held about techniques(s), funding, and feasibility. All plans will be in concert with efforts of the other BCP land managers and coordinated with the Service.
Improve GCWA habitat, as needed	There was no active vegetation management during this reporting period. However, staff informally assessed the condition of GCWA habitat after each property visit.
Inventory plant species of concern	No plant species of concern were encountered during site visits for other activities.
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT	
Participate in BCP monitoring program, as determined by BCP monitoring committee	The two 100 acre plots were surveyed. See attached letter dated 7/29/99, from Don Melton (contract GCWA surveyor) to Sherri Kuhl, for survey results.
Inventory karst features	A formal inventory will be conducted during upcoming reporting periods. No

	new karst features were located during site visits for other activities.
Conduct deer surveys and removal, if necessary	A deer census was conducted in the fall, but there was no removal of deer during this reporting period.
Evaluate BHCO numbers and implement control, as needed	BHCO individuals were noted during site visits for other activities. However, no formal monitoring or trapping was conducted during this reporting period.
Evaluate feral animals and implement control, as needed	The presence of feral hogs was evaluated.
Monitor red imported fire ants and control, as needed	LCRA staff take note of red imported fire ant activity during site visits. Fire ants do not appear to pose a serious threat at this time. Therefore, there was no need for formal monitoring or control during this reporting period.
PHYSICAL & CULTURAL MANAGEMENT	
Implement water quality protection measures	There were no construction activities on the property that warranted implementation of such measures. The right-of-way for the recent waterline is revegetating.
Protect karst sites, as needed	1) At present, known karst features are not threatened by preserve activity. The sites are included in preserve management planning, though. 2) The City of Austin has been conducting salamander research on the property. The LCRA will receive results from the City's work during upcoming reporting periods.
Inventory and evaluate cultural resource sites	LCRA archaeological staff have been systematically assessing all of the LCRA's parks and preserves. However, as Wheless is not expected to be heavily impacted by recreation, other lands received a higher cultural priority during this reporting period. An inventory and evaluation of cultural resources will be conducted during upcoming reporting periods.
VISITOR MANAGEMENT	
Monitor perimeter fencing and repair as needed	1) A new staff member was hired. One of his responsibilities is to survey perimeter fencing, identify problem areas, and help coordinate repairs. This will help the LCRA identify points

	of trespass and maintain the integrity of the property boundary. 2) The access gate along Lime Creek road was repaired.
Plan and develop trail system and parking area	Wheless does not have unlimited public access. A trail system and parking area are not optimal amenities for this preserve.
Allow limited guided tours and environmental education classes	No tours or classes were requested during this reporting period. However, staff biologists continued to review options for public opportunities on the property.

Donald J. Melton
301 Rancho Bueno Dr.
Georgetown, TX 78628
(512) 863-4710

July 29, 1999

Sherri Kuhl
Lower Colorado River Authority
P.O. Box 220
Austin, Texas 78767-0220

Subject: Endangered Species Surveys on the LCRA's Wheless Natural Resource Preserve

This report documents the activities and findings of the 1999 endangered species surveys of golden-cheeked warbler study plot 2 on the LCRA's Wheless Natural Resource Preserve. The surveys were conducted by Don Melton during the period between March 27 and June 18, 1999.

OBJECTIVES

Determine the number of golden-cheeked warbler nesting territories on golden-cheeked warbler study plot 2 and map each nesting territory.

METHODS

SELECTION OF STUDY PLOTS

Two golden-cheeked warbler study plots were selected, mapped and surveyed in 1997. Study plot 1 represented emerging golden-cheeked warbler habitat and study plot 2 represented prime nesting habitat. The plot locations and descriptions and a detailed discussion of site selection criteria and procedures were reported in the 1997 survey report dated June 18, 1997. Both study plots were surveyed in 1997. For the 1998 and 1999 seasons, the LCRA elected to survey only study plot 2.

DETERMINATION OF POPULATION AND NESTING TERRITORIES

The survey intensity for plot 2 was total of 60 manhours over the season. The survey time was divided equally into ten separate trips. Survey routes were varied on each trip to cover each segment of the habitat at different times of the day. Eight of the trips were completed as soon as possible after the project was approved and two were made later in the season to seek some indications of nesting success. One surveyor surveyed the entire plot on each trip except for the ninth trip, when he was joined by Rose Farmer.

Intermittent gunfire by a hunter or target shooter on adjacent property during the last four trips inhibited surveying in the southeast corner of the study plot. The gunfire was not considered hostile or threatening but, considering that the shooter was

unaware of the nearby presence of the surveyor, prudence suggested that a safe buffer be kept between the source of the gunfire and the surveyor. The effect of the reduced survey effort in the southeast corner during the last four trips on the findings of the survey is considered minimal.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Wheless Natural Resource Preserve is located on the north side of Lake Travis along the south side of the Sandy Creek arm. Wheless has very little lake shore, most of which (25 acres) is leased to Travis County for a recreational park. The remainder consists of a set of ridges at an elevation of about 1000 feet, which are part of the Jollyville Plateau. These ridges are deeply cut by steep canyons and side canyons, producing a large number of relatively moist microenvironments that support mature stands of Ashe juniper-oak woodlands that have many of the characteristics of the Texas oak plant community. The deciduous component of these woodlands is quite varied. Dominated by plateau live oak (*Quercus fusiformis*), it includes Texas oak (*Quercus texana*), scalybark oak (*Quercus sinuata* var. *breviloba*), Texas ash (*Fraxinus texensis*), wafer ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*), escarpment black cherry (*Prunus serotina serotina*), hackberry (*Celtis* spp.), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*) and sycamore (*Plataganus occidentalis*). The understory is open and is not a significant part of the woodland except at the edges.

With three exceptions, the ridges harbor an open stand of Ashe juniper from 10 to 20 feet in height with occasional small motts of live oak or single specimens of live oak or ash to 30 feet tall. The extreme northeast and southeast portions of the area support a mature oak-juniper woodland with 100 percent canopy cover that is similar in composition to the woodlands of the steep slopes of the canyon heads but not as varied in the deciduous component. Part of the long ridge extending southeast from the water tank on the Cedar Park water line supports a similar woodland except canopy cover is about 80 percent.

The LCRA reported in 1995 that "the Wheless property has a block of golden-cheeked warbler habitat totaling 1715 acres, of which over 1400 acres can be considered to be prime nesting habitat. Parts of the marginal habitat are likely to develop into prime habitat in the future. It is likely that golden-cheeked warblers overflow into nonhabitat areas of the property after the young are fledged. The entire property should be considered to be useful to the golden-cheeked warbler at some time during their rearing season."[1]

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[1] D. Chamberlain, S. Kuhl, D. Melton and T. Schumann, *Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species on LCRA Lands*, Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin, March 20, 1995.

STUDY PLOT 2 HABITAT DESCRIPTION

Golden-cheeked warbler study plot 2 is located along two drainages and the intervening narrow ridge just east of Long Hollow Creek on the east side of the property. Canopy cover on this plot is near 100 per cent. Vegetation on the steeper slopes is typical of the canyons on the property (described above) and elsewhere woody species diversity is lower. Woody species tend to be shrubby in a few areas of caliche soils with western exposure. Cedar posts were harvested from the property long (probably over thirty years) ago and some clearing was done within the more recent past for fencing. This clearing included clearing along the fence lines and along roads for access to the fence. In addition, several one-way dozer "walks" were found on the ridge just east of Long Hollow Creek. These trails caused a break in the canopy and are still recovering.

FINDINGS

Golden-cheeked warblers were observed on Plot 2 on 55 occasions during the 1999 surveys. Many of these occasions represent observation of one bird at several locations over a continuous period of time. Three of these observations were females and six were juveniles. All of the juvenile observations were made in June.

Analysis of these observations indicates that there were nine nesting territories established on the study plot. One of these may have actually been two territories but field experience did not confirm this. Seven of the nine territories were entirely on the study plot. The remaining two territories were mostly off the study plot. The location of the observations and the approximate extent of the territories are shown on Figure 1.

Late season surveys on June 2 and 18 to search for evidence of successful nesting revealed at least six juvenile golden-cheeked warblers. Analysis of survey data for the three years of surveys indicates that juveniles are more likely to be seen in June than earlier.

In 1997 and 1998, ten nesting territories were found on study plot 2. Comparisons of territory maps for the three survey years indicates significant difference in the arrangements of the territories over the years, but the best habitat on the site was fully occupied in all three years.

Details for the survey trips are provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1
ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY TRIP DATA
WHELESS NATURAL RESOURCE PRESERVE

Observer: Don Melton
Survey Period: March 27 through June 18, 1999

Trip: 1-99 — Date: March 27, 1999

	Beginning	Ending
Time	0820	1550
Temperature, degrees F	60	67
Wind: direction, mph	E 0-10	E 5-10
Cloud cover	overcast	overcast

Observations: eight male GCW

Trip: 2-99 — Date: April 9, 1999

	Beginning	Ending
Time	0720	1330
Temperature, degrees F	68	88
Wind: direction, mph	clear	clear
Cloud cover	calm	S 5

Observations: one male GCW

Trip: 3-99 — Date: April 14, 1999

	Beginning	Ending
Time	0810	1600
Temperature, degrees F	59	86
Wind: direction, mph	calm	SW 10-20
Cloud cover	cloudy	clear

Comment: Weather front arrived about 0845
Observations: Five male GCW, all after frontal passage

Trip: 4-99 — Date: April 18, 1999

	Beginning	Ending
Time	0800	1500
Temperature, degrees F	45	80
Wind: direction, mph	calm	SSW 5-10
Cloud cover	clear	Partly cloudy

Observations: Eight male GCW

Trip: 5-99 — Date: April 19, 1999

	Beginning	Ending
Time	0715	1315
Temperature, degrees F	58	86
Wind: direction, mph	calm	SE 5-10
Cloud cover	clear	clear

Observations: Three male GCW

Table 1 (continued)

Trip: 6-99		Date: April 23, 1999
	Beginning	Ending
Time	0730	1415
Temperature, degrees F	70	83
Wind: direction, mph	ESE 5	S 5-10
Cloud cover	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy

Observations: Six male GCW

Trip: 7-99		Date: April 25, 1999
	Beginning	Ending
Time	0715	1220
Temperature, degrees F	72	83
Wind: direction, mph	calm	calm
Cloud cover	mostly cloudy	High overcast

Observations: Seven male GCW

Trip: 8-99		Date: April 28, 1999
	Beginning	Ending
Time	0735	1455
Temperature, degrees F	72	88
Wind: direction, mph	calm	S 5-10
Cloud cover	partly cloudy	clear

Observations: Three male GCW

Trip: 9-99		Date: June 2, 1999
	Beginning	Ending
Time	0915	1215
Temperature, degrees F	80	89
Wind: direction, mph	S 5-10	S 5-10
Cloud cover	partly cloudy	partly cloudy

Comment: Accompanied by Rose Farmer

Observations: Five male, one female and three juvenile GCW

Trip: 10-99		Date: June 18, 1999
	Beginning	Ending
Time	0750	1400
Temperature, degrees F	72	90
Wind: direction, mph	calm	calm
Cloud cover	partly cloudy	partly cloudy

Observations: One male, one female and three juvenile GCW

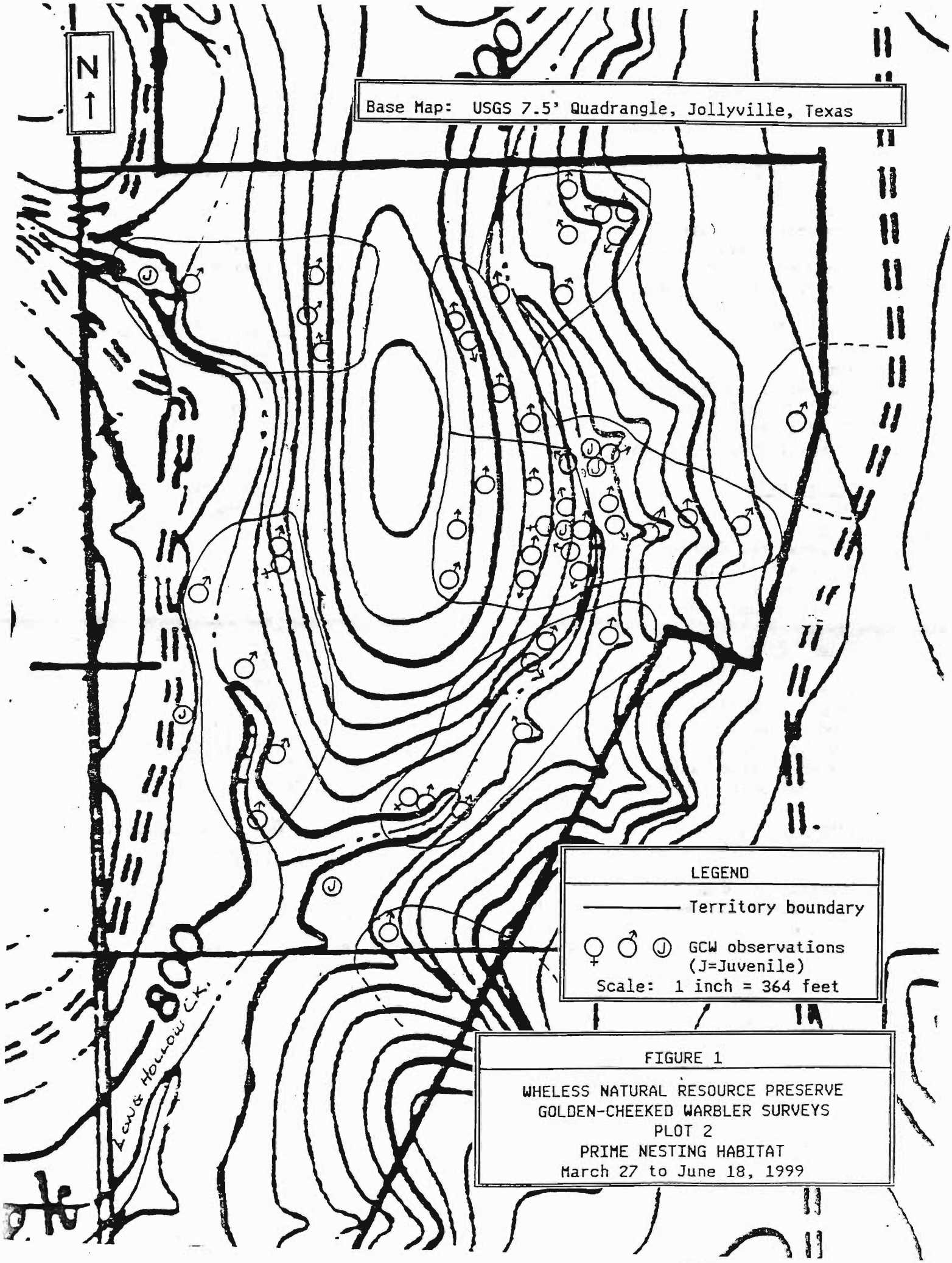


FIGURE 1

WHELESS NATURAL RESOURCE PRESERVE
GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER SURVEYS
PLOT 2
PRIME NESTING HABITAT
March 27 to June 18, 1999

WESTCAVE*

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	
Monitor perimeter fencing & repair as needed	The preserve manager routinely monitors the condition of fencing. LCRA staff assist the manager with fence repair when requested.
Vegetation enhancement projects	A prescribed burn will be conducted, if possible, during the upcoming reporting period. LCRA staff will assist the preserve manager with preparation and application of the burn.
Develop fire management plan	A wildfire management plan was written and is in place.
Monitor for and suppress oak wilt	The preserve manager routinely monitors for oak wilt. There was no evidence of oak wilt during this reporting period.
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT	
Participate in BCP monitoring program, as determined by BCP Monitoring Committee	The preserve staff conduct informal presence/absence surveys during guided tours. During this reporting period, there were four Golden-cheeked Warbler territories established along the guided trail.
PHYSICAL & CULTURAL MANAGEMENT	
If funding is available, acquire additional adjacent land	The preserve staff and board have committed to protecting the watershed by building relationships with neighboring landowners: 1) Westcave co-hosted the second annual Good Neighbor BBQ at the preserve, with the La Tierra Neighborhood Association. Board members, volunteers, and area landowners ate together, walked the trails, and discussed opportunities to work together. 2) Westcave will develop and implement a long-term vision and strategies for working with other interested landowners in the Heinz Branch watershed to conserve natural values and guide development in ways that preserve the water quality of the watershed and its aquifers.

	3) Westcave will develop communications and partnerships with other conservation-minded individuals and organizations in the Pedernales River Valley for the purpose of encouraging and enabling thoughtful stewardship of natural resources.
VISITOR MANAGEMENT	
Offer guided tours and workshops/classes	1) During weekdays, preserve staff provided 145 group tours to 3,757 school children, college students, youth groups, professional researchers, and nature enthusiasts schedules. Visitors included representatives of Texas Military Institute, the Jewish Outdoor Club, and the Austin Learning Center. 2) During weekends, preserve staff provided 326 tours to 2,111 visitors from diverse geographic locales, including Alaska, Germany, Sweden, Korea, Netherlands, and Malaysia.
Offer new workshops/environmental education classes	Preserve staff offered off-site programs for teachers at several east Austin schools (in partnership with the Audubon Society), two Austin Community College campuses, and the Nightingale Archeological Center in Kingsland.
Develop access plan	An access plan was developed and implemented.
If funding is available, build new residence and visitor (activity) center	1) Westcave staff and board continue efforts to plan and build new facilities. A detailed site plan has been developed and approved by the preserve board. Drawings and plans can be reviewed via the preserve website at www.westcave.org. 2) The board hired a part-time fundraising coordinator to develop a plan to fund the proposed activity center. 3) Through partnership with the LCRA and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, major components of a funding plan are in progress. 4) The annual fundraising newsletter was redesigned and the mailing list was upgraded. A color brochure was designed and included in mailings.

	5) Westcave completed its fifth year as a member of Earth Share of Texas, which has been a productive means of identifying new supporters.
Improve ADA accessibility to restroom, upper trail, and deck	Improved ADA accessibility will be incorporated into the new visitor's facility. Existing trails are of sufficient grade, but may be improved during upcoming reporting periods.
Expand parking area and improve drainage	Parking and drainage are major components of the proposed visitor's facility. Parking lot expansion and drainage control will be implemented closer to construction of the new facility.

* See attached Westcave Preserve annual report.



1999
Annual Report

Member of

Earth Share

Westcave Preserve Corporation

24814 Hamilton Pool Road
Round Mountain, TX 78663
830/825-3442

Statement of Purpose: The Westcave Preserve Corporation is dedicated to sustaining Westcave Preserve as a unique ecological treasure and to offering the Preserve as a scientific and educational resource to the community at large.

In pursuit of this mission, the Corporation is dedicated to the following:

- demonstrating the highest level of environmental awareness,
- maintaining the unique qualities of the Preserve,
- protecting the associated ecosystem and watershed area,
- making the Preserve available to the greatest number of people consistent with environmental concerns,
- providing effective educational programming, and
- operating the Preserve and its programs efficiently and effectively.

1999 Program Activities Report: Westcave Preserve is open to the public for guided tours every Saturday and Sunday. There are four scheduled tours both days at 10 a.m., Noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. In 1999, 326 tours with 2,111 people visited the Preserve on these weekend guided tours. Visitors came from as far away as Hamburg and Stuttgarten, Germany; Sundsvall, Sweden; Korea; Rotterdam, Netherlands; Lampur, Malaysia; and Anchorage, Alaska.

On weekdays, the Preserve is available to organized groups for guided tours. In 1999, 145 groups (3,757 individuals) scheduled weekday tours. These groups included school children (public and private), college students, youth groups, professional researchers and nature enthusiasts. Visitors this year included representatives of the Texas Military Institute, the Jewish Outdoor Club, and the Austin Learning Center.

John Ahrns, resident manager, also presented a number of off-site programs this year. He conducted workshops for teachers at several East Austin schools (in partnership with the Audubon Society) including Smith Elementary and Zilker Elementary; he visited two Austin Community College campuses and in Kingsland conducted a teacher workshop for the Llano Uplift Archeological Society at Bruce Nightingale Archeological Center.

In addition to day to day operations, a number of major projects are underway. Work continues toward planning and building a proposed activity center and manager's residence. Two mobile homes presently serve as nature center and residence. A detailed site plan has been developed and approved by the board which minimizes the impact on the pristine nature of the Preserve. Drawings and plans for the proposed activity center are available for review on the Preserve website at www.westcave.org.

The board hired a part-time fundraising coordinator, Kirsten Ingram, to develop a plan for funding the proposed activity center. Through partnerships with the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, the major components of a funding plan are taking shape.

Ms. Ingram also redesigned the annual fundraising letter. The mailing list was purged and reconstructed. A new, color brochure was designed and included in the mailing.

Efforts continue to protect the watershed by building relationships with neighboring landowners. The second annual Good Neighbor Barbecue was co-hosted with the La Tierra Neighborhood Association at the Preserve. Board members, volunteers and area landowners walked the trails, ate BBQ and visited.

In partnership with the Audubon Society, Westcave is conducting tours for students from several East Austin neighborhoods. The Audubon Society had received funding for educational programs for inner city youth, but needed a location and curriculum. The programs offered at Westcave were the perfect match for their needs. Thanks to Toni Turner of the Austin Chamber of Commerce for spearheading this partnership. Toni is also a new member of the Preserve's program committee.

Westcave completed its fifth year as a member of Earth Share of Texas. Earth Share of Texas is a coalition of approximately 65 nonprofit environmental groups organized for the purpose of developing workplace giving campaigns for the benefit of member organizations. In addition to providing significant networking opportunities for staff and volunteers, Earth Share of Texas has been an important means of identifying new Westcave supporters.

Westcave Preserve Corporation
Board of Directors
January 2000

Lee Walker, Chair
4206 Avenue G
Austin, TX 78751

Pat Boyt, Vice-Chair
P.O. Box 566
Devers, TX 77538

Mark Welch, Treasurer
13310 Traildriver
Austin, TX 78737

Kathy McElveen, Communications
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Austin, TX 78737

John Ahrns
24814 Hamilton Pool Rd.
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

John Watson
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Linda Wofford
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Beyrl Armstrong
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Stacey Abel
3212 French Place
Austin, TX 78722

Craig Biddle
816 Congress, Suite 1100
Austin, TX 78701-2443

Mary Herr
1509-A Shoal Creek
Austin, TX 78701

Staff: John Ahrns--Resident Manager/Chief Administrator
(address above)

Westcave Preserve Corporation
Financial Statement
Year Ending December 1998

Revenue

General Contributions	$ 30,682.01
Designated Contributions	14,431.24
Fundraising Proceeds	1,205.00
Earth Share of Texas Distributions	331.51
Interest Income	65.24
Total Revenue	$46,715.00
Expenditures	
Accounting Fees	84.00
Consulting	511.51
Insurance	500.00
Salaries	15,656.45
Payroll Taxes	1,201.25
Supplies	621.24
Equipment Rental & Repairs	611.75
Telephone	2,247.40
Utilities	2,834.89
Postage	85.00
Printing	559.79
Video Project & Promotion	30.31
Fundraising Expenses	2,744.50
Travel	1,101.41
Miscellaneous expense	42.50
Total Expenditures	$ 28,832.00
Excess Revenue Over Expenditures	**17,883.00**
Beginning of Year Surplus	12,818.44
END OF YEAR SURPLUS	30,701.44

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash in bank	$ 18,628.86
Total Assets	18,628.86

Liabilities and Capital Surplus

Current Liabilities	
Accrued Wages Payable	1,143.34
Accrued Payroll Taxes Payable	315.32
Total Current Liabilities	1,458.66
Capital Surplus	30,701.44
Total Liabilities and Capital Surplus	32,160.10