MAYOR
Sandy Cox

MAYOR PRO TEM
Ron Massa

COUNCILMEMBERS
Bridge Bertram
Laurie Higginbotham
Louis Mastrangelo
Steve Smith
Keith Trecker

CITY MANAGER
Steve Jones

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
Julie Oakley



December 10, 2018

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Austin Ecological Services Field Office
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 303
Austin TX 78758

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Ecological Services
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque NM 87103

Kelsey Meisenhelder, Environmental Specialist
Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources
700 Lavaca
Austin TX 78701

RE: Schramm Ranch – Fish and Wildlife Service Permit (PRT-812696)
("The 10-A Permit") 2018 Annual Report

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The majority of the permit area is now built out. A total of 370 single family homes were built in the Alta Vista and the Ridge at Alta Vista subdivisions. Forty-six condominium units were built at the Enclave at Alta Vista North. The last parcel readily available for development, the Honey Creek subdivision, is currently undergoing site development and construction. Police and code enforcement officers continue to patrol the subdivisions in order to prevent trespassing and illegal dumping.

In September 2018, Lake Travis Fire Rescue Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Chris Rea and I visited the preserve to determine whether opportunities exist to perform wildfire fuel reduction projects in the preserve. It was determined that the slopes are too steep to be workable. Please see the attached report for a more complete assessment.

No other management activities took place in the preserve in FY 2018.

Please don't hesitate to contact me via phone or email if you have any questions about Lakeway's Schramm Ranch golden-cheeked warbler preserve.

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie Jean Burns, Forester
Lakeway Parks and Recreation Department
1102 Lohmans Crossing Road
Lakeway TX 78734
512-314-7538
forester@lakeway-tx.gov

Enc: Chris Rea's report on fuel reduction possibilities in the preserve

To Whom it May Concern:

The Schramm Ranch Preserve consists of approximately 98 acres of golden-cheeked warbler habitat, which is owned by the City of Lakeway. The preserve surrounds The Ridge at Alta Vista, which consists of single-family homes, and The Enclave at Alta Vista North, a condominium community.

Chris Rea, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist with Lake Travis Fire Rescue, and Carrie Burns, Lakeway City Forester, visited the Ridge at Alta Vista subdivision and the Enclave at Alta Vista North in September 2018. The purpose of the visit was to locate and prioritize potential fuel reduction sites in the preserve. Reduction of fuel loads could help mitigate the risk of habitat loss as well as providing some protection to nearby homes. Direction for fuel reduction treatments in golden-cheeked warbler habitat may be found in the paper Fuel Treatments in Juniper and Oak-Juniper Woodlands throughout the Range of the Golden-Cheeked Warbler.

The topography around the homes and condos adjacent to the preserve consists of steep slopes and a decadent Juniper dominated forest, making it an extreme wildfire hazard. However, it was assessed during the site visit that the terrain does not provide a safe environment for mechanical work to be accomplished to complete fuels mitigation objectives. No sites were found that could be safely worked by a crew with chain saws. Furthermore, there seems to be no easy way to remove the material from the site due to numerous fences as well as steep slopes.

Due to the extremely steep slopes, no opportunities were found to protect warbler habitat through fuel reduction. My recommendation for home and condo owners is to have a Wildfire Assessment with Lake Travis Fire Rescue to help educate them about hardening their homes from wildfire, to provide guidance in regard to defensible space on their property, and to learn more about emergency preparedness.

Regards,

Chris Rea

Wildfire Mitigation Specialist

Lake Travis Fire Rescue

Email: wildfire@ltfr.org