



News Release

Public Affairs Office
PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103
505/248-6911
505/248-6915 (Fax)

Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) <http://southwest.fws.gov>

For Release: May 25, 2011

Contacts: Tanya Sommer, 512-490-0057
Christina Williams, 512-490-0057
Lesli Gray, 972-569-8588

Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Proposed Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is announcing the schedule of public scoping meetings for the proposed Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and the Service's preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

On April 27, 2011, the Service published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) to begin drafting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the proposed issuance of an incidental take permit for the Southern Edwards Plateau draft Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (dRHCP).

Led by the City of San Antonio, TX, and Bexar County, TX, the Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Plan is an effort to address the potential impacts of infrastructure and commercial and residential development and seeks incidental take authorization for 11 federally-listed species: the golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, and nine Bexar County karst invertebrates. The proposed planning area covers Bexar County, TX, and six surrounding counties.

The public scoping meeting dates, times and locations for the proposed Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Plan are as follows:

June 6, 2011

Silver Sage Corral Great Room
803 Buck Creek Drive
Bandera, Texas 78003

June 7, 2011

Boerne Convention Center
820 Adler Rd.
Boerne, TX 78006

June 9, 2011

Old Blanco County Courthouse
300 Main Street
Blanco, Texas 78606

June 13, 2011

YO Ranch Conference Center
2033 Sidney Baker
Kerrville, TX. 78028

June 14, 2011

Helotes Ag Activity Center
12132 Leslie Road
Helotes, Texas 78023

The scoping meetings will provide the public with a general understanding of the background of the proposed RHCP and activities that it would cover, alternative proposals under consideration for the draft EIS, and the Service's role and steps to be taken in developing the draft EIS for the draft RHCP.

America's fish, wildlife and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species is a shared responsibility. The Service is actively engaged with conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species. To learn more about the Endangered Species program, go to <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works cooperatively with the American public to continue the conservation legacy of America's great outdoors. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws>, and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/>