



# News Release

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**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)

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## **Carma Paso Robles, LLC Submits Draft Habitat Conservation Plan**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is announcing the availability of an incidental take permit application that includes a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (dHCP) for the Paso Robles Phase II Development in Hays County, Texas. Publication of this notice begins a 60-day comment period.

The Carma Paso Robles, LLC, is requesting an incidental take permit to cover activities associated with the proposed clearing and construction on 376 acres of the Paso Robles Phase II Development that may affect the golden-cheeked warbler and its habitat. The incidental take permit, if issued, would be in effect for 10 years. As part of their draft Habitat Conservation Plan, Carma Paso Robles, LLC, proposes to mitigate with the purchase of high quality golden-cheeked warbler habitat or conservation credits from a Service-approved conservation bank.

The golden-cheeked warbler is a small, migratory song bird that nests exclusively in central Texas. The bird is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of urban encroachment and the clearing of juniper. The golden-cheeked warbler was listed as endangered on December 27, 1990.

The Service is requesting public comments on the incidental take permit, dHCP and the draft environmental assessment (dEA). Comments will be accepted until November 16, 2015. You may submit written comments by one of the following methods:

- Electronically: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2015-0069.
- By U.S. Mail: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R2-ES-2015-0069; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; MS: BPHC 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Copies of the dHCP and dEA are available online at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/AustinTexas/>. For additional information contact, Mr. Adam Zerrenner, Field Supervisor, by mail at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78758-4460; or by phone at 512-490-0057.

America's fish, wildlife, and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species is a shared responsibility. We're working to actively engage conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species.

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov), or connect with us through any of these social media channels:*



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