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Service Approves Bosque Canyon Ranch Habitat Conservation Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has approved the Bosque Canyon Ranch Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and incidental take permit for the Bosque Canyon Ranch residential development in Bosque County, Texas.

As approved, Bosque Canyon Ranch's incidental take permit covers activities associated with construction, operation and maintenance activities on the Bosque Canyon Ranch that may affect the golden-cheeked warbler and its habitat. The incidental take permit will be in effect for 50 years. As part of their Habitat Conservation Plan, Bosque Canyon Ranch will conserve in perpetuity over 900 acres of golden-cheeked warbler habitat on the property. The level of mitigation proposed by Bosque Canyon Ranch in the HCP is five times greater than the Service would normally require for this type of project.

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 Service listed the golden-cheeked warbler as endangered on December 27, 1990.

You may obtain copies of the HCP, the Service's findings, and National Environmental Policy Act documents online at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/ArlingtonTexas/>. For additional information contact, Ms. Debra Bills, Field Supervisor, by mail at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington Ecological Services Field Office, 2005 NE Green Oaks Blvd., Suite 140, Arlington, TX 76006-6247; or by telephone at 817-277-1100.

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