



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) www.fws.gov/southwest/

For Release: September 16, 2013

Contacts: Adam Zerrenner, 512-490-0057 ext. 248, Adam.Zerrenner@fws.gov
Lesli Gray, 972-569-8588, Lesli.Gray@fws.gov

Service Approves Amendment to the Barton Springs Pool Habitat Conservation Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the City of Austin's amendment to the Barton Springs Pool Habitat Conservation Plan (BSPHCP). The amended BSPHCP enables the City of Austin to continue the operations of the Barton Springs Pool while conserving the listed Barton Springs salamander and the Austin blind salamander. The BSPHCP will be in effect for 20 years.

The City of Austin's renewed incidental take permit (ITP) with a major amendment authorizes the incidental take of the endangered Barton Springs salamander and the endangered Austin Blind salamander. Incidental take would result from activities associated with recreation, operations, maintenance and restoration at Barton Springs Pool, Old Mill Spring, Eliza Spring and Upper Barton Spring.

The three acre Barton Springs Pool is filled by water from Barton Springs, the fourth largest spring in the State of Texas. The Pool is home to both the endangered Barton Springs salamander and the endangered Austin Blind salamander. Both species are entirely aquatic and dependent upon clean water from Barton Springs for their survival.

"Through the efforts of the City of Austin and the BSPHCP, the status of the Barton Springs salamander has been improving," said Adam Zerrenner, Austin Ecological Services Field Supervisor, "As a result of the City's efforts the salamander's habitat is being restored and protected, the water quality of the Pool is improving and the public is able to enjoy the Pool."

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 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. 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>.