

Bandera Corridor Conservation Bank



*5909 West Loop South, Ste 200
Bellaire, Texas 77401
www.banderacorridor.com*

Banking 101

- 1) What is a conservation bank and is it the same as a mitigation bank?
 - Yes and no. At the federal level, a **conservation bank** generally refers to species offsets (USFWS), whereas a **mitigation bank** generally refers to stream & wetland offsets (USACE).
 - Established by the creation of a legal agreement between a regulatory entity and the banking entity.

- 2) What is being “banked?”
 - **Credits** derived from conservation and management actions on a unit of land (e.g., one acre of protected GCW nesting habitat = one GCW credit).
 - Can vary based on needs of the targeted conservation value.

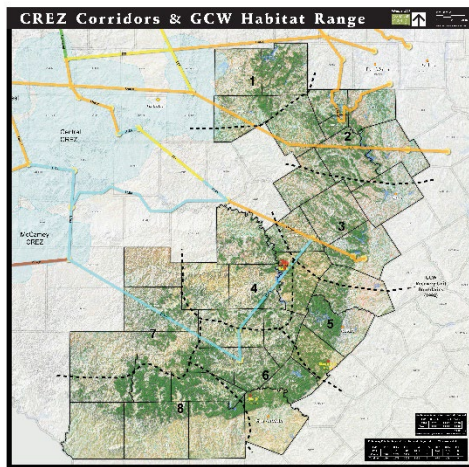
- 3) Is a conservation/mitigation bank similar to a habitat or bio-diversity market exchange?
 - Both concepts are based on **incentivizing conservation through economic transactions**
 - Conservation/mitigation banks rely on regulated actors; exchanges can be largely voluntary and provide a market space for novel or emergent conservation commodities.

- 4) What is the value-added benefit of a bank?
 - **Certainty** - Can foster increased certainty when navigating regulatory compliance.
 - **Scale** - Great conservation impact (e.g., scale, quality, increased value per dollar, etc.).
 - **Time** - Established in advance of impacts; expedites the regulatory pipeline; length of protections.
 - **Economic** – multiple stakeholders are incentivized to come to the table.



What Facilitated Creation of Bandera Corridor?


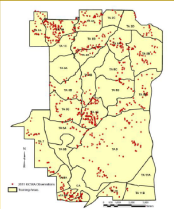
- **CREZ** – Competitive Renewable Energy Zones; 2,000+ miles of new transmission lines tying west Texas wind energy to population centers in the eastern half of the state.
- **DoD** – Camp Bullis Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program
- **Regional HCPs** - Regional Habitat Conservation Plans
 - Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (Bexar County & City of San Antonio)
 - Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan



Camp Bullis Endangered Species Issues

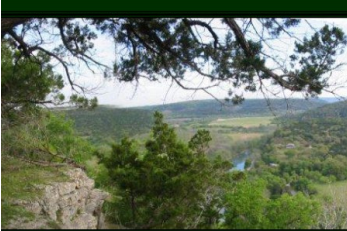

Effect on Camp Bullis of large-scale habitat clearing around Camp Bullis

- RAPIDLY INCREASING POPULATION of Golden-cheeked Warbler; 2011 highest density & largest area of occupied habitat
- 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 survey results on Bullis: +1,250 acres occupied habitat (4,370 occupied acres in 2011 vs 3,120 acres in 2008)



SOUTHERN EDWARDS PLATEAU HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO • BEXAR COUNTY



COMAL COUNTY Regional Habitat Conservation Plan

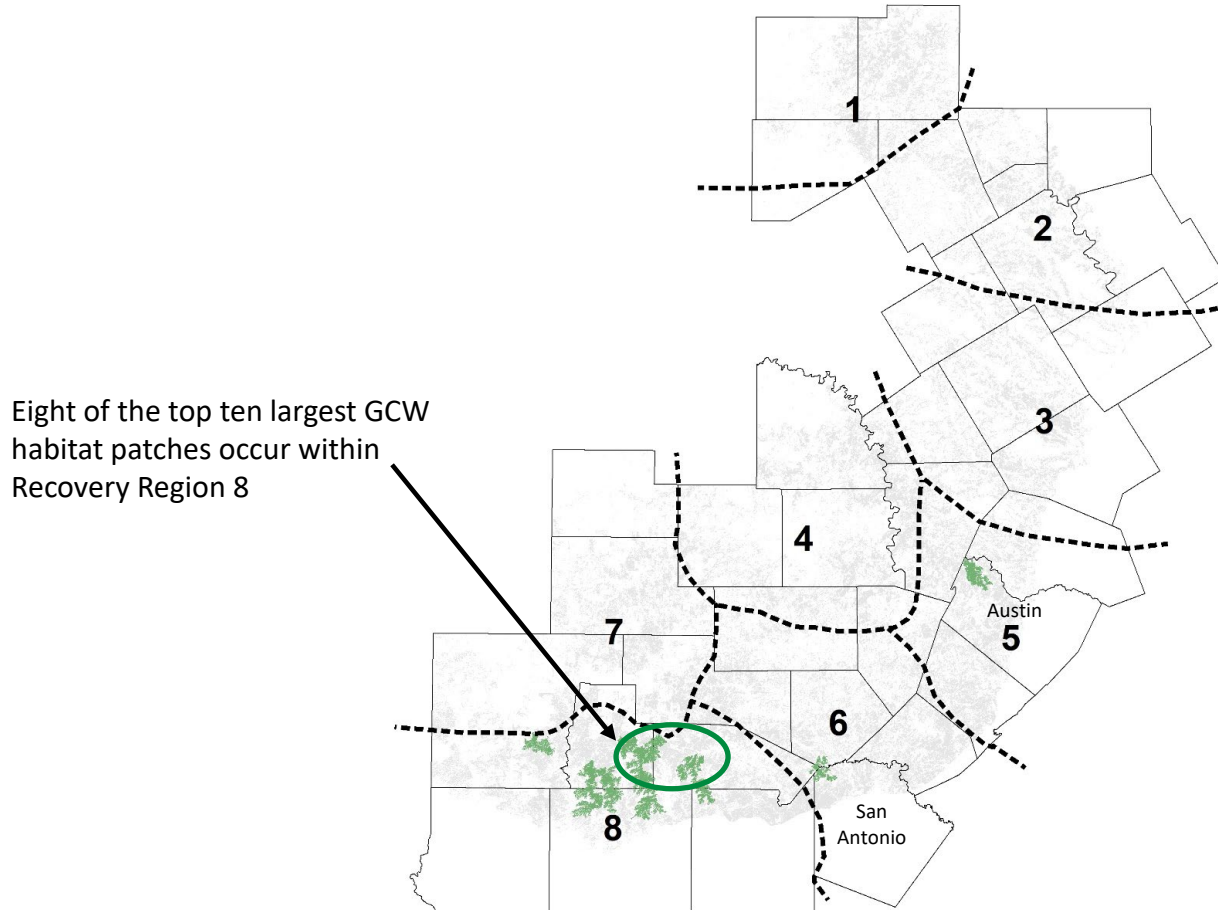


Distilling a Focal Area



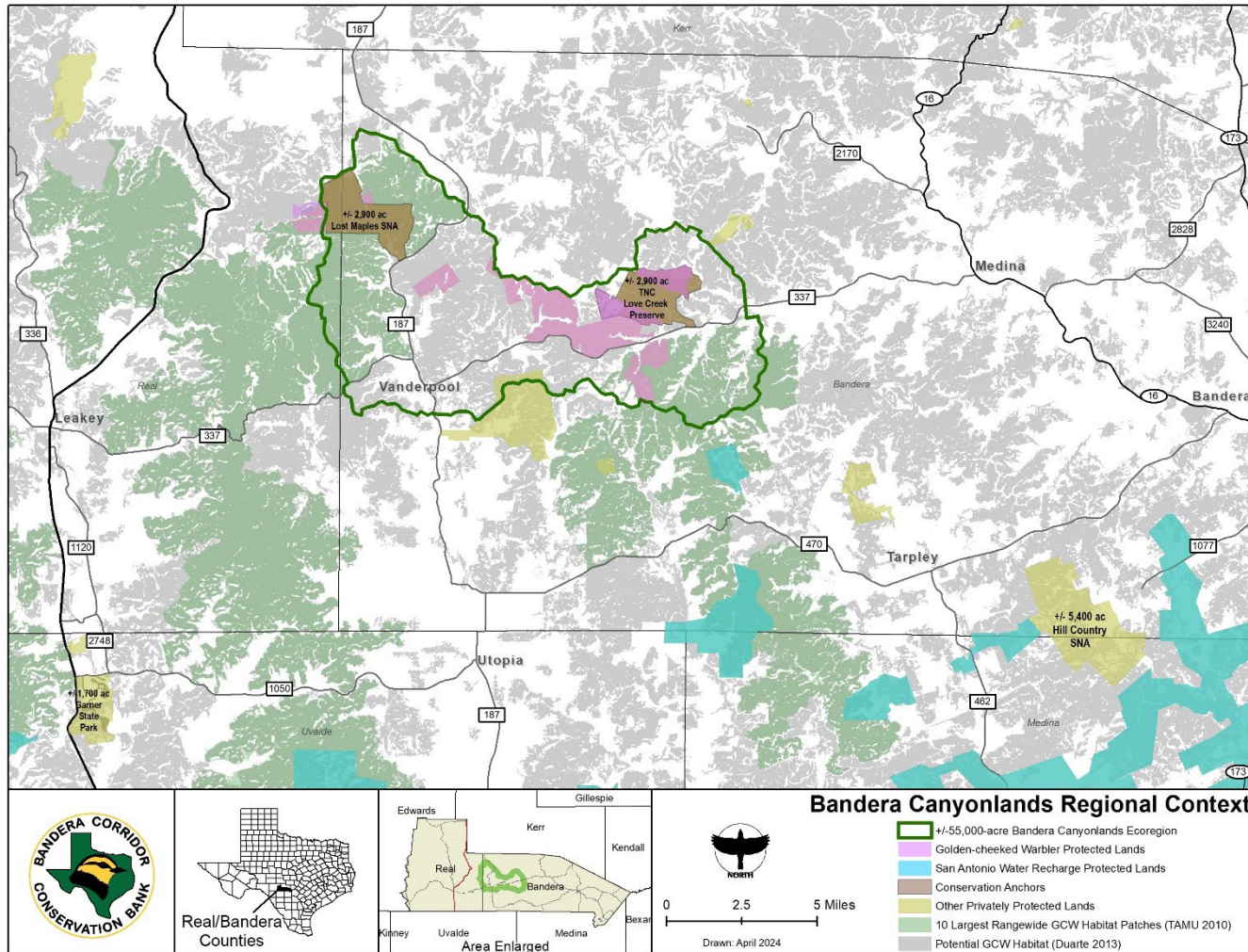
Golden-cheeked Warbler Nesting Range

The GCW nests exclusively within approximately 35 Texas counties. The 1992 USFWS recovery plan for the species delineates eight recovery regions across the nesting range. BCCB's location within Recovery Region 8 links some of the highest quality nesting habitat available to the GCW throughout its nesting range.

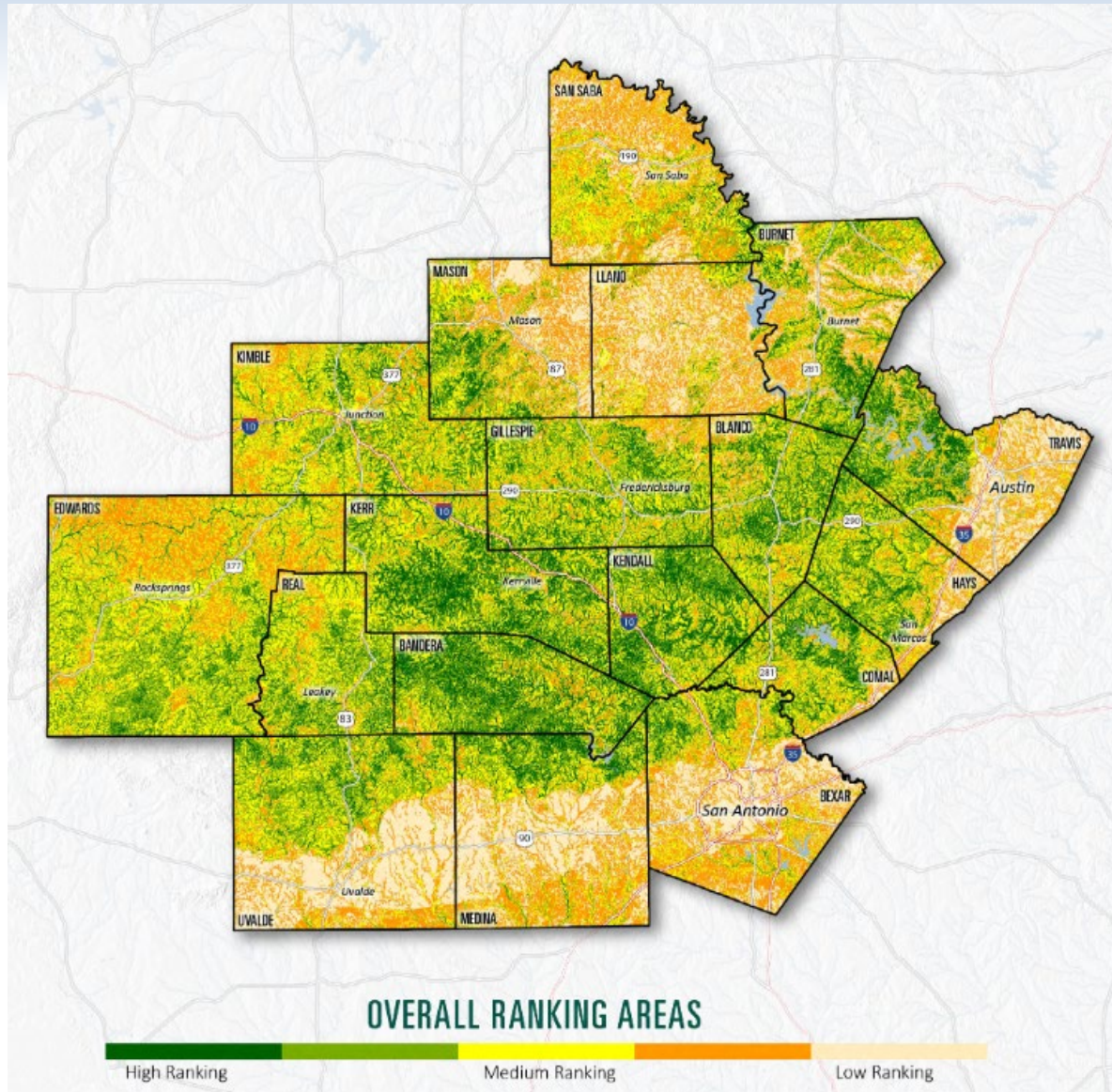


Bandera Canyonlands & GCW Habitat

Protection of GCW habitat within the Bandera Canyonlands ecoregion promotes continued connection between two of the largest habitat patches in the GCW's 35-county range.



Understanding the Land's Narrative



Source: 2023 Land, Water, Sky, and Natural Infrastructure Plan - Texas Hill Country Conservation Network

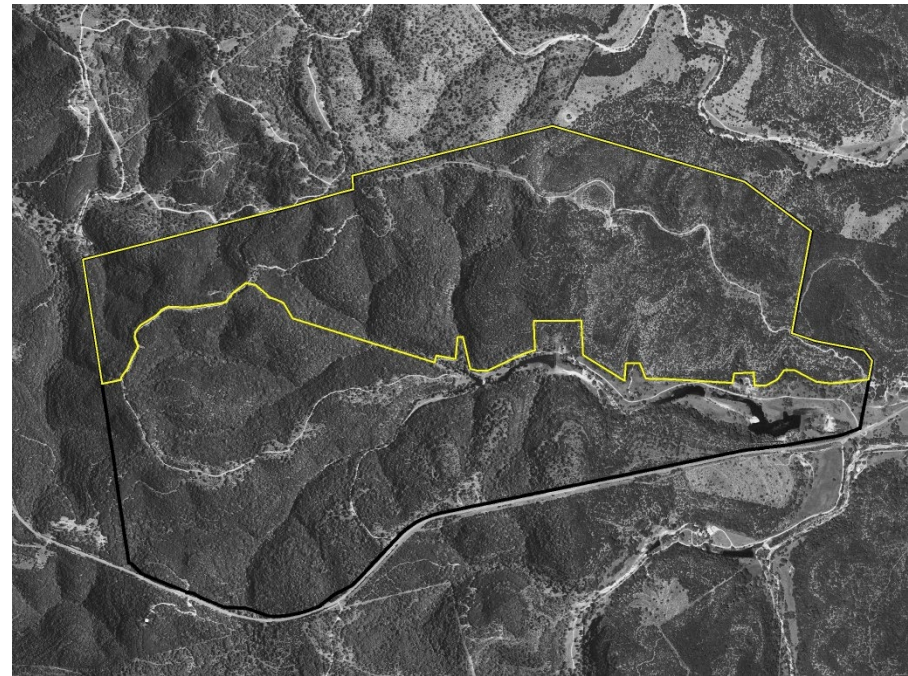
Bandera Corridor Conservation Bank



Understanding the Land's Narrative



1948



2010



Understanding the Land's Narrative



Plateau milkvine (*Matelea edwardsensis*) & Roemer's spurge (*Euphorbia roemeriana*)



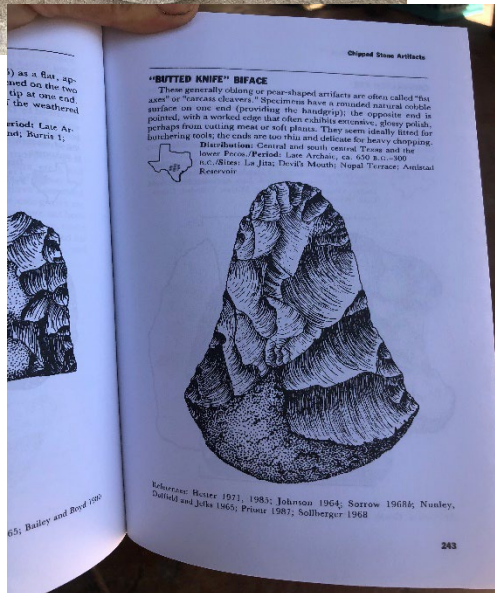
Black noesburn (*Tragia nigricans*) & Texas barberry (*Mahonia swaseyi*)



Sycamoreleaf snowbell (*Styrax platanifolius* ssp. *stellatus*) & Buckley's fluffgrass (*Tridens buckleyanus*)



Understanding the Land's Narrative



Understanding the Community's Narrative



The Twisted Sisters

By **Charlie** • October 28, 2016 • Updated: April 4, 2018 • No Comments • 2 Mins Read



TX 335 / TX 336 / TX 337

This 100-mile loop is, without a doubt, among the best, most challenging motorcycle roads in the state. The route

Texas Land Trends

TEXAS LAND FACTS

FROM 1997 TO 2017

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Texas population increase 48%

Total population increase in top 25 fastest growing counties 86%

Total land conversion from top 25 fastest growing counties 56%

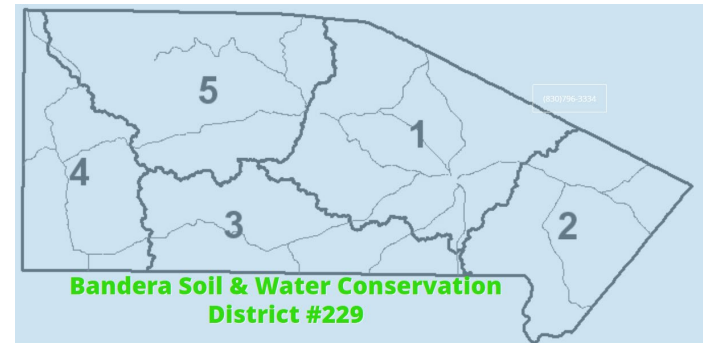
Increase in farming and ranching operations 8%

Population

The state's increasing population, particularly within or in surrounding urban centers, continues to have a significant influence on the continued loss of working lands, changing ownership sizes, and land values.

Land Conversion

Farming and Ranching Operations



Understanding the Community's Narrative



Understanding the Landowner's Narrative

Are they on the path of thoughtful stewardship or inclined to believe the last person they talked to?



Understanding the Landowner's Narrative



Jesse Emmett Teague
1886-1963



Michael R. Levy
Texas Monthly, Founder



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Picking a tool from the toolbox

- Targeted conservation values & goals
- Scale of the property / scale of opportunity
- Competition for funding
- Creativity and flexibility
- Speed from concept to reality
- Application and sustained interest
- Opportunities for conservation partnerships
- Availability of guidance & expertise
- Familiar or novel



Using TPWD's GCW habitat guidance

- **Characterizing juniper/deciduous hardwood stands**

- 1) Habitat types where GCW are expected to occur (highly likely to be used)
 - Ashe juniper trees are >15' tall and >5" dbh
 - Canopy cover is between 50-100%
- 2) Habitat types that may be used by GCW (may be used)
 - Not typically thought of as the "best" GCW habitat
 - Canopy cover may be as low as 35%
 - Variable hardwood densities
- 3) Areas where GCW are not expected to occur (not likely to be used)
 - Stands of immature Ashe juniper <15' or 4" dbh
 - Stands having <10% or >90% Ashe juniper density
 - Canopy cover <35%

*Unless adjacent to occupied habitat



Communicating Best Management Practices

- Avoiding canopy disruption when making improvements
 - Fence lines
 - Ranch roads
 - Trails
 - Shaded fuel breaks
 - Livestock/wildlife watering facilities
- } Linear openings 16 feet in width or less



Communicating Best Management Practices

- Selective removal of Ashe juniper less than 15' tall or 5" dbh (Consider ADJACENCY!!)



Questions?



Jesse McLean, Manager
jmclean@banderacorridor.com
www.banderacorridor.com

