Endangered Species Act Implementation in Central Texas

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"There will always be pigeons in books and museums, but these are effigies and images, dead to all hardships and all delights. They know no urge of the seasons, they feel no kiss of sun, no lash of wind and weather."

--Aldo Leopold

A vastly common species…once there were billions…

"A Kentucky flock was a mile wide and passed for 4 hours at a rate of 1 mile/minute giving us an estimate of 230,272,000 pigeons"

--Alexander Wilson

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**.

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's **natural resources and cultural heritage**; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its **trust responsibilities** or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

FWS Programs

- National Wildlife Refuge System (>540; 150M-ac)
- Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation (70 NFH+7 FTC+9 FHC)
- Migratory Bird Program, NAWCA grants, etc.
- Law Enforcement – Special Agents, Inspectors
- Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR)
- Ecological Services, Endangered Species Program
- Environmental Contaminants, NRDA
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- External Affairs
- International Affairs
- Science Applications

Endangered Species Act of 1973

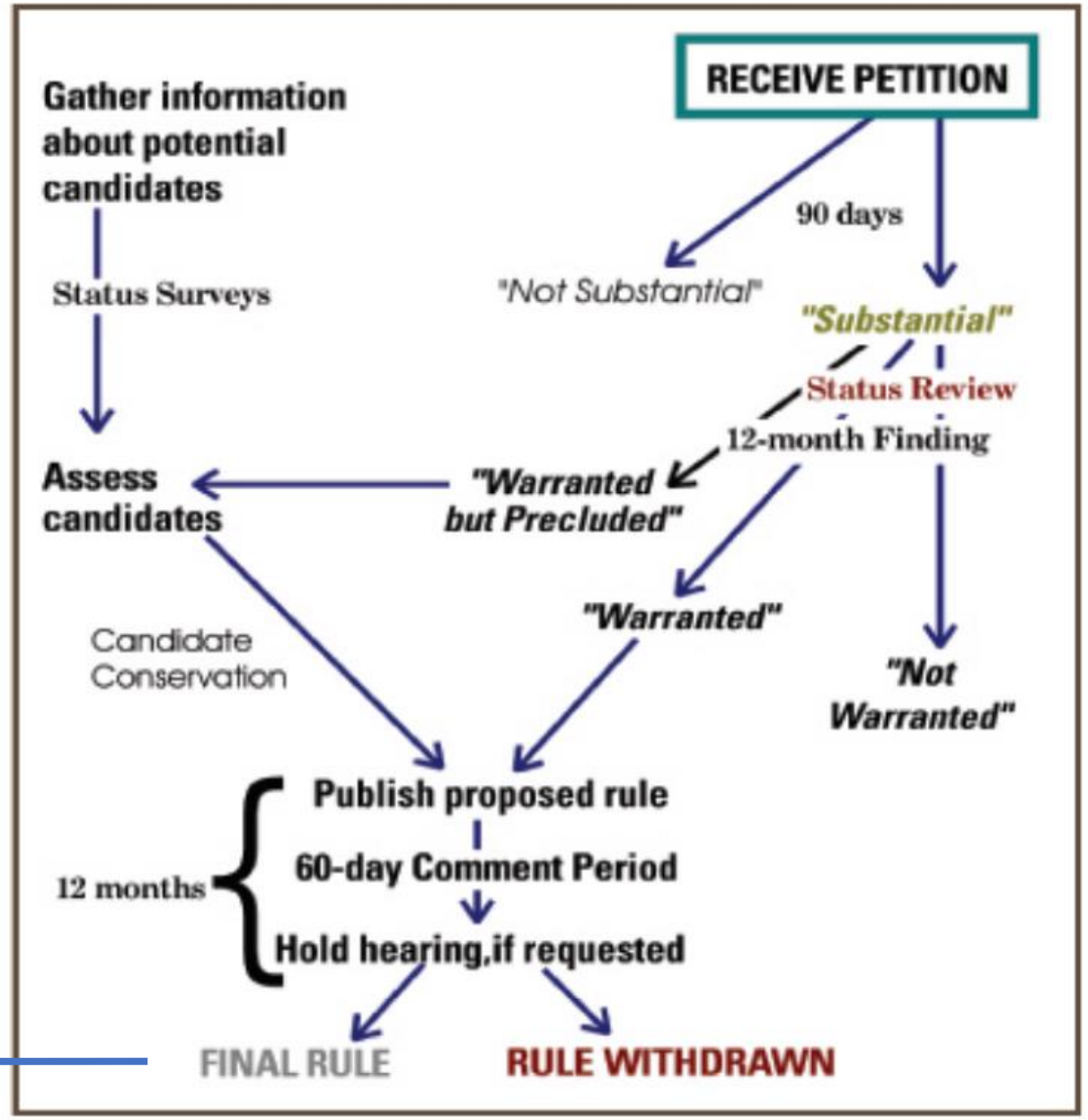
Sec. 2 (b) "The purposes of this Act are to **provide a means** whereby the **ecosystems** upon which endangered species and threatened species depend **may be conserved**…"

Sec. 2 (c)(1) "It is further declared to be the policy of Congress that **all Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered species**…"

Endangered Species Act of 1973

- Authorizes the determination and listing of species as endangered and threatened (Section 4)
- Provides authority to acquire land for the conservation of listed species, using land and water conservation funds (Section 5)
- Authorizes establishment of cooperative agreements and grants-in-aid to States that establish and maintain active and adequate programs for endangered and threatened wildlife and plants (Section 6)
- Requires Federal Action Agencies to Consult with the FWS (Section 7)
- Prohibits unauthorized taking, possession, sale, and transport of endangered species (Section 9)
- Authorizes exceptions to the take prohibitions (Section 10)
- Authorizes the assessment of civil and criminal penalties for violating the Act or regulations (Section 11)

Petition and Listing/Delisting Process: ESA Sec 4(b)(3)



- Endangered
- Threatened
- Delisted

ALCOA – Rockdale, Texas (Sandow Mine)

100 yd^3 dragline revealing lignite

Mine and power plant started production in 1952

Austin College, The Nature Conservancy

Konza Prairie LTER, Manhattan, KS

TNC prescribed fire: Stowers Ranch, Kerr County, Texas; photo courtesy Kevin Moriarty, 2010.

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To efficiently achieve **voluntary habitat restoration on private lands**, through financial and technical assistance, **for the benefit of Federal Trust Species**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish & Wildlife

Austin Texas Ecological Services Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program Work Area & Priority Species Focus Areas

Chihuahuan Desert Focus Areas

West Texas Counties

Edwards Plateau Focus Area

West Central Texas Counties

Houston toad Focus Areas

East Central Texas Counties

fws.gov/partners

tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/lip/

Northern Bobwhite
www.birdperch.com

STAY BACK
400 FEET
TEXAS A&M
AGGIES

Habitat Restoration Branch

- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
  - Private Lands Biologists: Central and West Texas
  - State Coordinator for Texas
- Golden-cheeked warbler
  - Recovery, DoD Coordination
  - Conservation Banking
  - Species Status Assessment (2021-2023)
- Freshwater Mussels
  - Species Status Assessments, Listing Decisions
  - Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances
  - Conservation planning and programs
  - Survey and relocation protocols

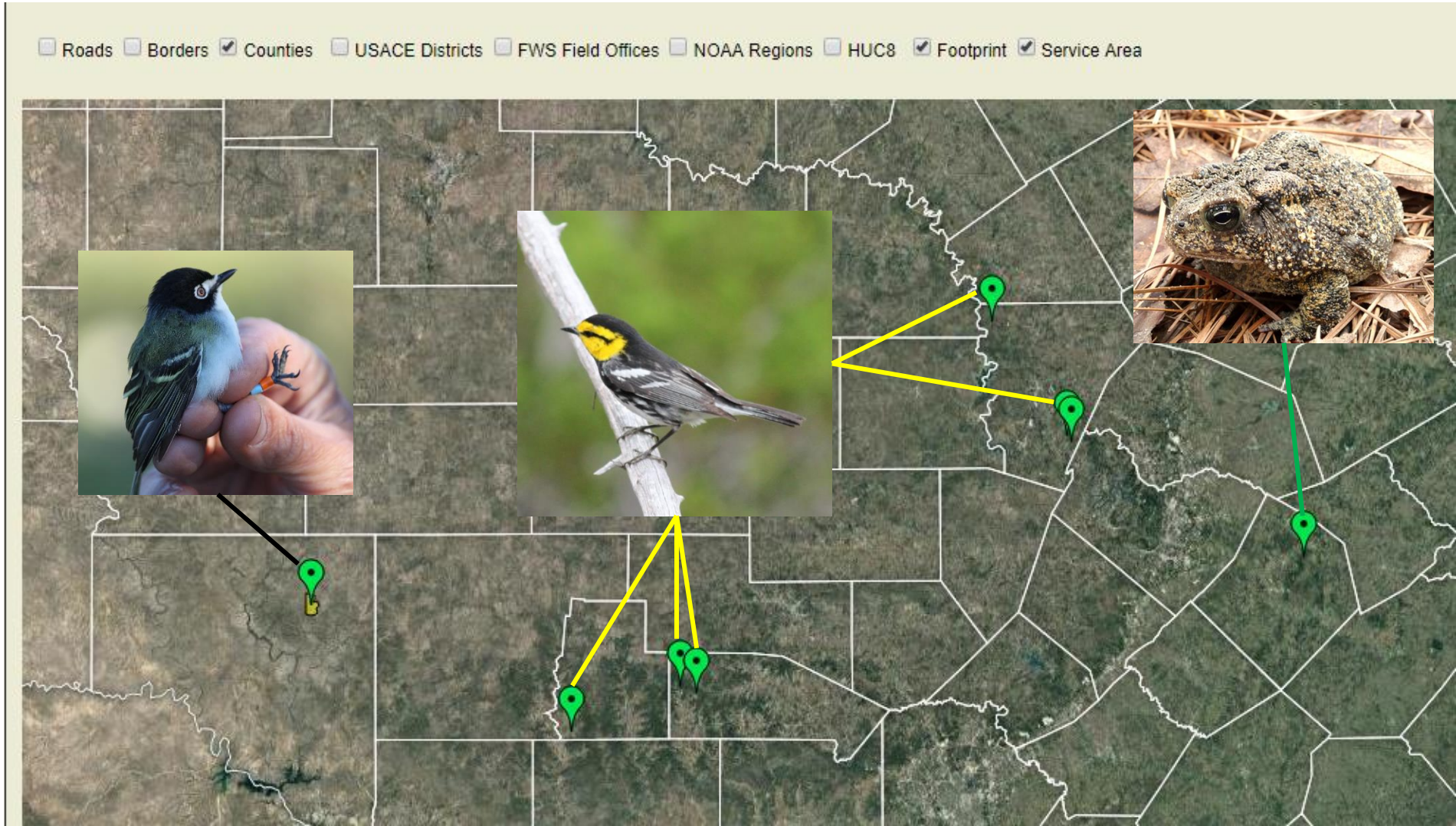
Golden-cheeked warbler from Real County, Texas.

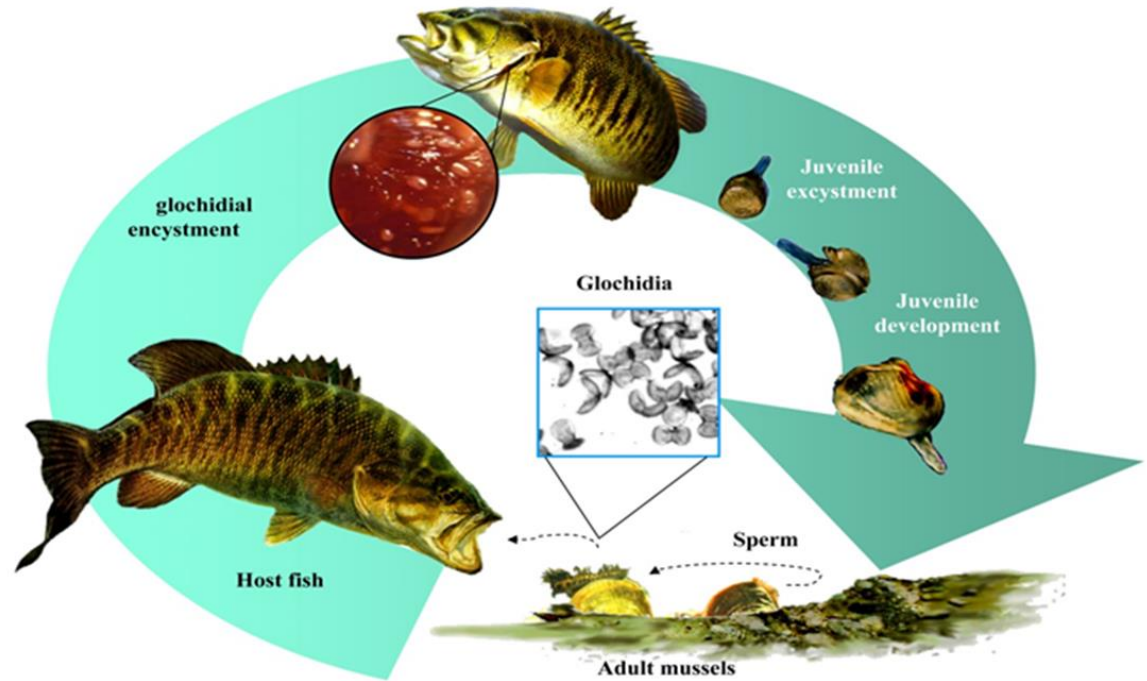
Male (left) and female (right) Texas fatmucket from the San Saba River, Menard County, Texas.
Photo courtesy Gary Pandolfi, USFWS.

Austin FWS Office: Species Conservation Banks

https://ribits.usace.army.mil

Name	Bank Type	Bank Status	Find
Bandera Corridor Conservation Bank	Private Commercial	Approved	GO
Camp Wood Conservation Bank	Private Commercial	Approved	GO
Clearwater Ranch Conservation Bank	Private Commercial	Approved	GO
Festina Lente Conservation Bank	Private Commercial	Approved	GO
Griffith League Ranch Conservation Bank	Private Nonprofit	Approved	GO
Hickory Pass Conservation Bank	Private Commercial	Approved	GO
Hickory Ridge Conservation Bank	Private Commercial	Approved	GO
Val Verde Conservation Bank	Private Commercial	Approved	GO





Designed by: Shane Hanlon