

Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting

Edgar B. Davis Southside Clubhouse
October 19th, 2023



The Guadalupe River Habitat Conservation Plan

Presented by Jana Gray and Chad
Norris



Your Trusted
Water Resource

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An Overview of the Guadalupe River Habitat Conservation Plan (GRHCP)

Presentation to the Plum Creek Steering Committee

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The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

- The GBRA was created in 1933 as the Guadalupe River Authority as a water conservation and reclamation district and a public corporation and reauthorized in 1935 as the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.
- GBRA's services:
 - Water Supply
 - Wastewater Services
 - Hydroelectric Power
 - Laboratory
 - Recreation



GBRA's Growing Need for Endangered Species Protection

- Potential mussel/salamander species federal listing in the Guadalupe River Basin
- Basin anticipated growth -
 - Increasing water supply needs
 - Increasing wastewater treatment needs
- Regional environmental leadership
- Whooping crane habitat conservation facilitation
- Existing and new infrastructure Operations & Maintenance
 - Proactively planning around the Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides GBRA services stability



Can Development and the Natural Environment Coexist?



Services



ESA

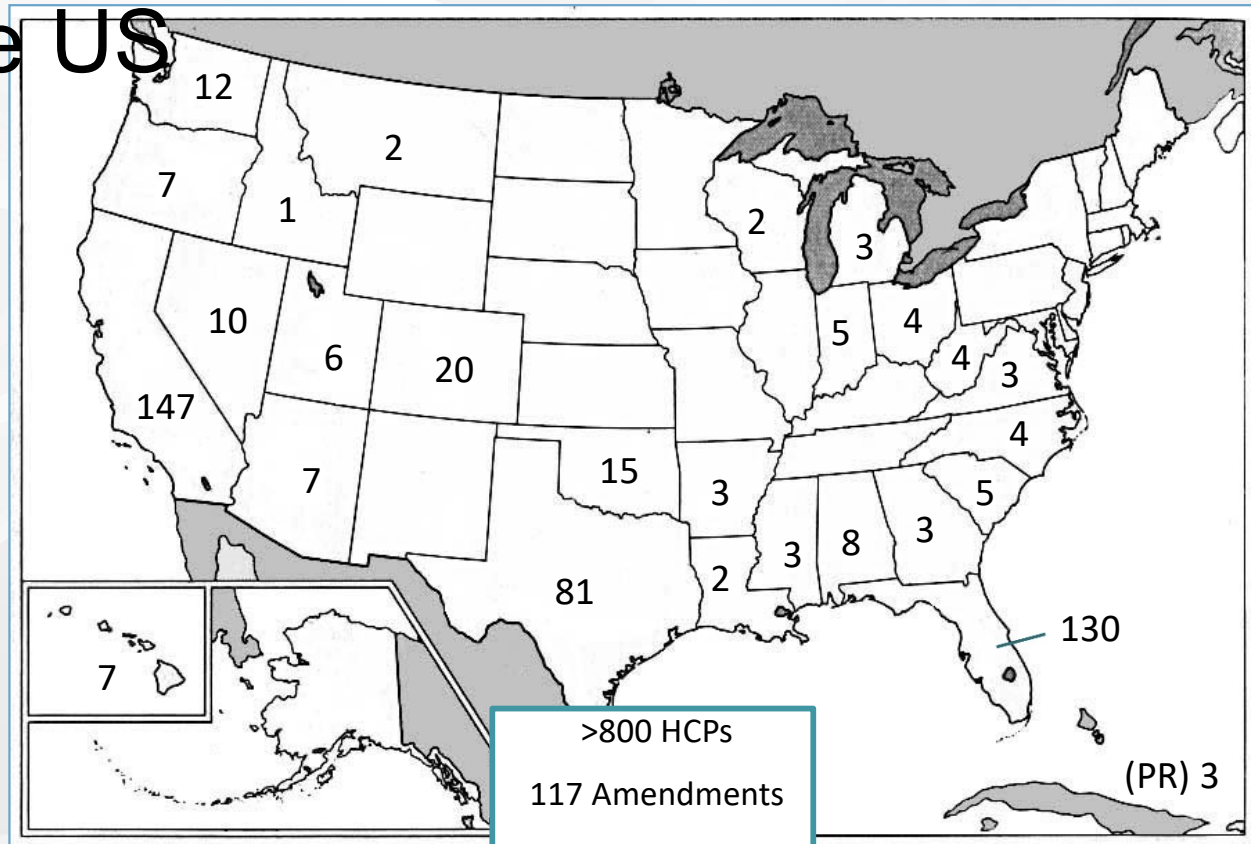
Stability of:
Wastewater
Water Supply
Hydro
Operations

What is a Habitat Conservation Plan?

- Legal definition of a conservation plan under Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 10(a)(2)(A):
 - *No permit may be issued by the Secretary authorizing any taking referred to in paragraph (1)(B) unless the applicant therefore submits to the Secretary a **conservation plan***
- Habitat conservation plan approved by
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
 - Or both
- The ESA defines "take" as: to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.



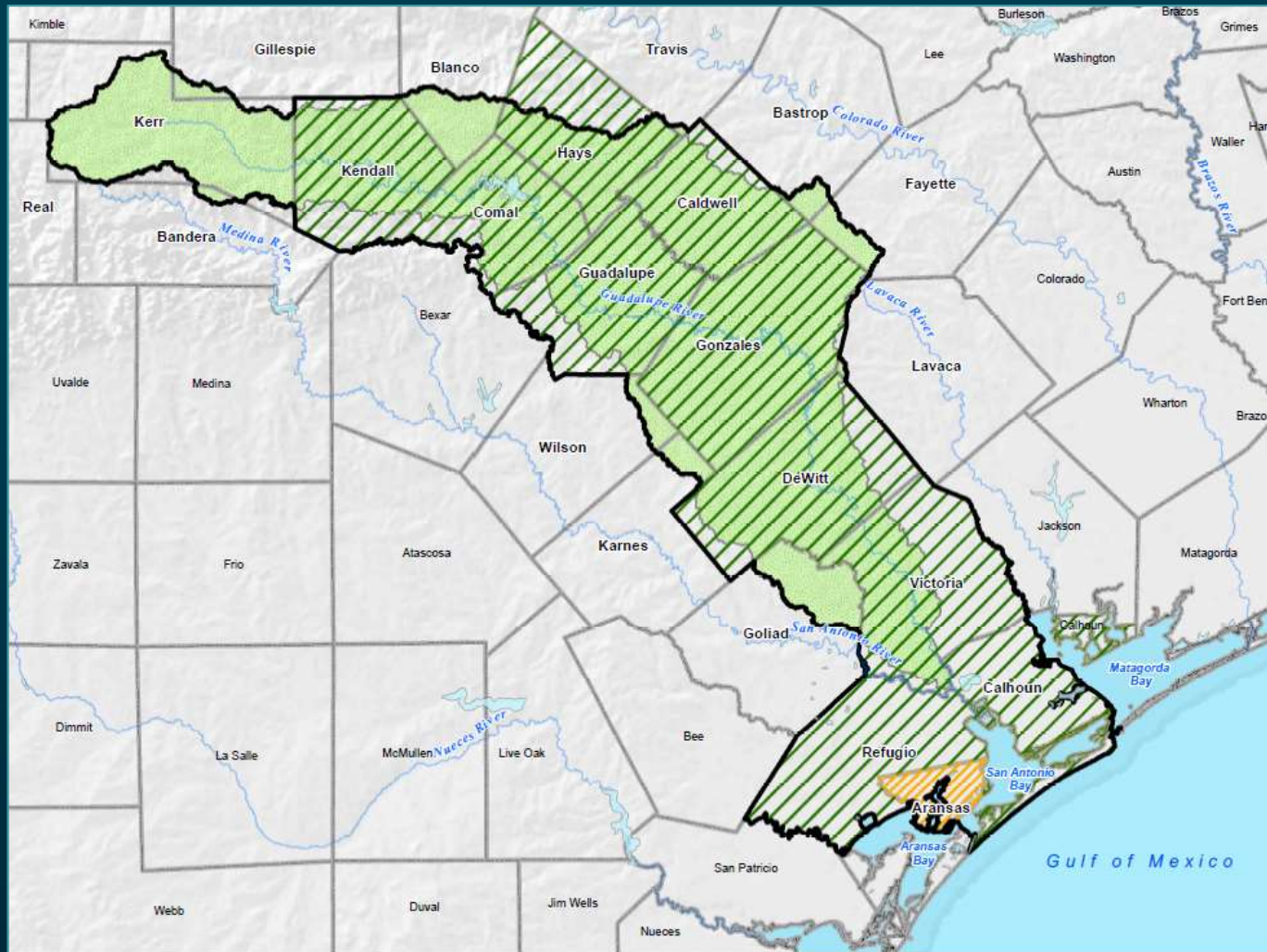
Habitat Conservation Plans Across the US



Source: USFWS 11/21

GBRA's Approach to the Guadalupe River Habitat Conservation Plan

- Entire River Basin
- Comprehensive approach:
 - upstream and downstream
 - all species and all ecosystems
 - terrestrial and aquatic
 - headwaters to tidewaters



Preliminary Plan Area
Guadalupe River
Habitat Conservation Plan
(9/22/2022)

- HCP Plan Area
- Guadalupe River Basin
- GBRA Statutory District
- Additional Plan Area (Mitigation Only)
- County Boundary

Counties in GBRA Statutory District

Kendall, Comal, Hays, Guadalupe, Caldwell, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Refugio, Calhoun

Other Counties (Basin Only in Plan Area):

Real, Kerr, Gillespie, Bandera, Blanco, Travis, Bastrop, Fayette, Wilson, Karnes, Lavaca, Goliad

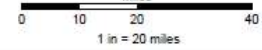
Coastal County, (Mitigation Only):

Aransas, partial

(Note, some of these areas may ultimately be removed from the plan area based on absence of major contributing streams, species habitats, and/or GBRA activities.)



1:1,267,200
Miles

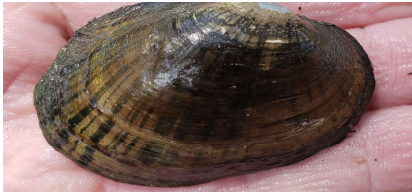


Proposed Covered and Avoidance Species



Covered Species

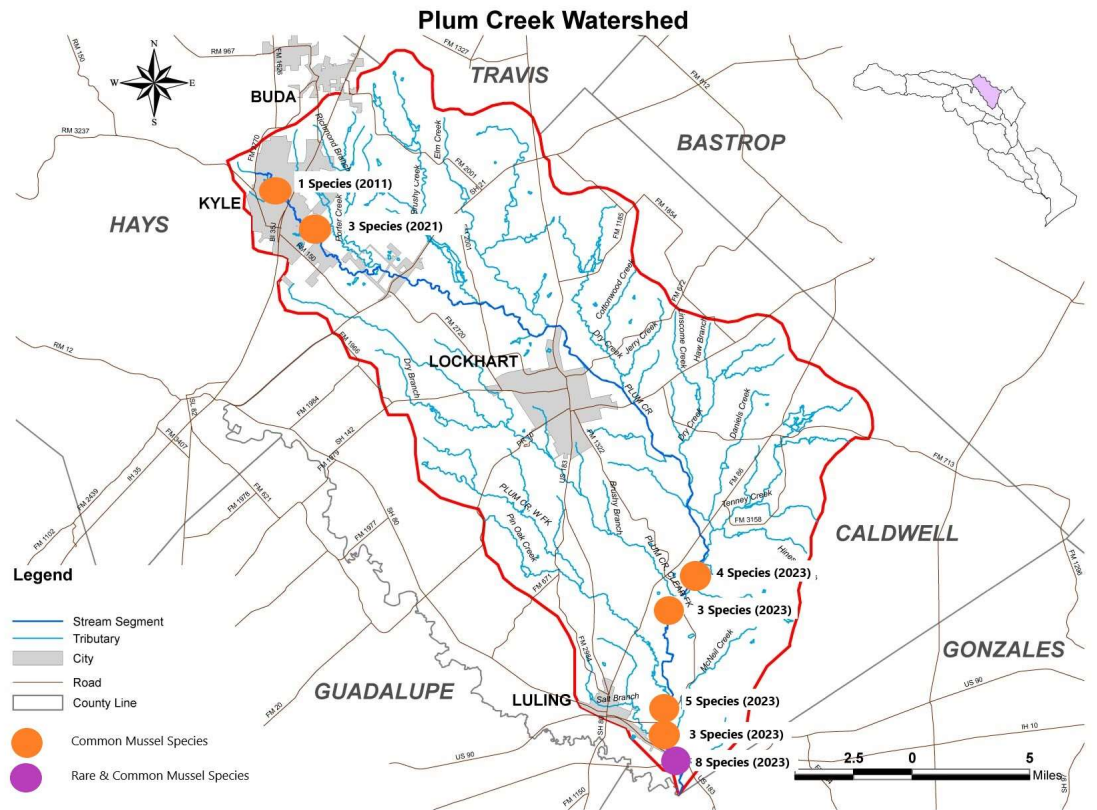
- Eastern black rail
- Whooping crane
- Guadalupe fatmucket
- Guadalupe orb
- False spike
- Guadalupe darter



Avoidance Species

- Golden-cheeked warbler
- Monarch butterfly





Native Mussels Found in the Plum Creek Watershed

Site	Species
Highway 183 SE of Luling	Guadalupe Orb*, Louisiana fatmucket, Mapleleaf, Pimpleback, Pistolgrip, Texas lilliput, Threeridge, yellow sandshell
FM1322 East of Luling	Maple leaf, Pimpleback, Yellow sandshell
CR 1322	Maple leaf, Pimpleback, Pistolgrip, Threeridge, Yellow sandshell
FM1322 NE of Luling	Mapleleaf, Pimpleback, Yellow sandshell
CR 146 SE of Lockhart	Mapleleaf, Pimpleback, Threeridge, Yellow sandshell
N Burleson St. In Kyle	Pondhorn
Waterleaf Park in Kyle	Paper pondshell, Pondhorn, Texas lilliput

*rare species

10 species total

Covered Activities

- Wastewater discharges
- Dam operations
- Water intakes/supply
- Canal operations
- Saltwater barrier
- Distribution systems
- Habitat modification
- Recreation

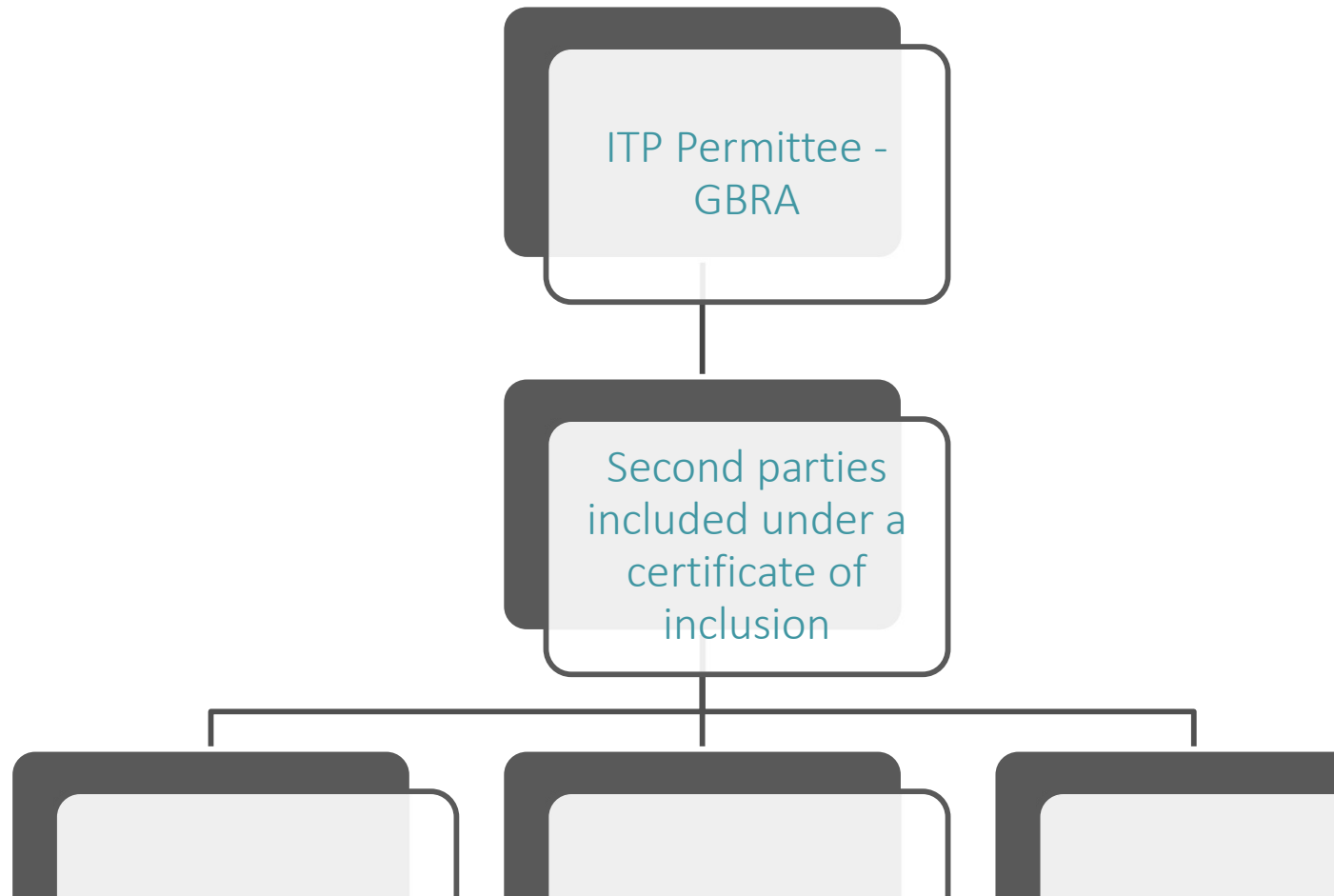




Second Party Take Program

- Entities with similar activities
- Within the Guadalupe River basin

Second Party Take Program Structure



GRHCP Website



Information available on GRHCP website:

gbra.org/environmental/habitat-conservation-plan

- Upcoming and past meetings and events
- Proposed Covered Species
- Documents
 - Technical Memoranda that have completed the review process
 - TAG overview and review process
- Maps
- Frequently Asked Questions
- References cited in Technical Memoranda



Questions?

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Thank you!

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**The 2024
Watershed
Protection Plan
Update**

A draft of the 2024 WPP Update is complete and ready for review. Some of the major changes include:

- New maps
- New statistical review (ANOVA) and data trends
- New main stem monitoring site data figures

Layout and general content was minimally changed.

Work Group Meetings: Plan of Action

This past quarter the Civil Work Group met and discussed the creation a brief guidebook for Plum Creek permitting entities in relation to development and watershed protection.

Resources that may help in this process:

[Land, Water, Sky and Natural Infrastructure Plan](#) by the Hill Country Alliance Conservation Network

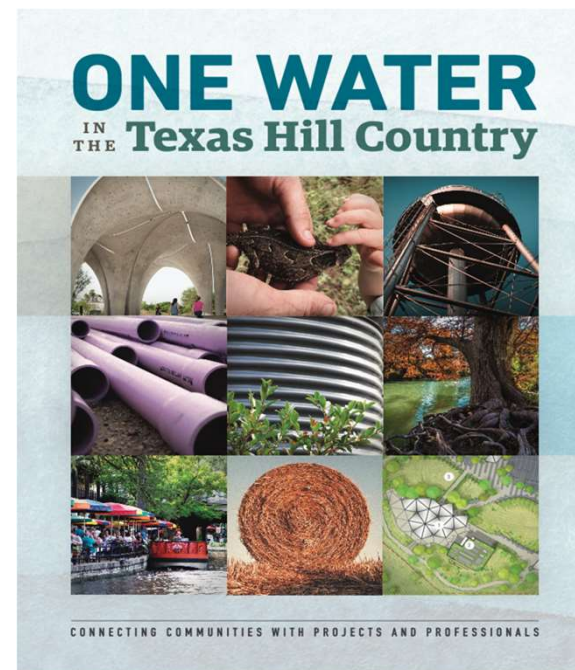
[Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities](#), EPA resources

Let's discuss a work plan for the Work Groups. Tasks for the Work Groups have been discussed, now let us make an ideal plan for said task and objectives.

Next Public Stakeholder Meeting

For stakeholder engagement, the next meeting should be an event for those attending. Let us discuss how we can achieve this. Here are some ideas

- Speaker for One Water in Texas
- Presentation and speaker on conservation/watershed protection advocacy
- Presentation on Best Management Practices and an individual's stewardship
- Texas and regional specific success stories in watershed protection



Upcoming events

- Keep Lockhart Beautiful Annual Fall Cleanup
 - Volunteers and Crew Leads needed!
- “Conservation and Coffee”
 - Time and place TBD. Weekend mornings and weekday evenings. Come and join the Watershed Coordinator



**ANNUAL
FALL
CLEANUP**

Saturday, October 28th, 9am-12pm

LOCKHART CITY PARKS AND TOWN BRANCH CREEK

FREE BREAKFAST TACOS AND COFFEE!

Next Meeting

Public Stakeholder meeting will be in
January/ February of 2024

THANK YOU!

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