

Golden Cheeked Warbler Habitat

This definition of Golden Cheeked Warbler Habitat is on web sites at TPWD, Travis County and City of Austin:

"mixed oak-juniper woodland typically grows in mesic, or relatively moist, areas such as steep-sided canyons and slopes and supplies the warbler with all of its habitat needs. Mature juniper trees, generally over 20 years old and 15 feet tall, have shredding bark that is used by warblers, along with spider webs, as nest building material. In addition, the foliage of oaks and other tree species support large insect populations for foraging

None of the trailbuilding, maintenance and use of trails in any of the Parks Department grandfathered tracts violate this habitat description

In fact, the work by many volunteers has caused huge improvement of habitat from terribly unsuitable to ideally suitable

The original BCP Plan was terribly flawed, ignoring public input. 7 ft. fences went up and people shut out, volunteering dried up. Much of the staff time is now what they call Law Enforcement, mending fences, chasing off trespassers, and trying to deal with the exploding feral hogs and deer who are destroying the habitat. The new version of the BCP Plan is also Seriously Flawed.

It ignores 99.9% of the written public input.

It keeps the public out with a Public Access Plan that is simply a process designed to say NO.

With a much simpler process, it took us from January 1999 to November 2005 to reach a simple 4-page memorandum of agreement with the City Wildland Conservation Division to adopt the 60-acre Stenis tract to build and maintain an educational hike and bike trail at no cost to the City. It will open officially tomorrow at 10 a.m. and everyone is invited.

In addition to that tract, work we have done restoring habitat, removing destructive 4-wheelers, restoring eroded areas, eliminating homeless and vagrancy, improving water quality, removing invasive vegetation and adding new native species, while having people, bikes, dogs, runners and warblers enjoying life along public trails on Parks Department grandfathered BCP acreage, right adjacent to the deteriorating BCP Forest Ridge tract

It is tragic that after over 10 years BCP management still says they don't have the data to show compatibility between GCW and human activity

**Since no data had been shared, I would provide some
The City BCP biologist reports we have 2 nesting pairs with good fledgling success on Stenis in 06-07, while we are trail building, Emma Long has growing GCW numbers with uses by people and dogs, County Hamilton Pool tract reported a stable and successful nesting GCW population with heavy use, West Cave preserve with 6 regular pairs with public uses, County responsible Wild Basin reporting stable GCW populations**

Given the facts, we can legitimately say that public private partnerships on selected tracts will demonstrate a net gain in GCW's and more productive habitat will result, along with citizen stakeholder education and recreational uses, including hiking, biking, running, dog walking, and even horse back riding.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' saying he learned from his grandfather the value of hard work and doing right by yourself and others and a saying "Old Man Can't is Dead, I Buried Him" It is now time for them to bury old man can't and embrace public access as beneficial to all species.

It is time for you to be decisive and mandate that the City create a public private partnership on Emma Long and Forest Ridge tracts and require that the GCW-human activity studies be done and reported, with all public uses studied

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