

8.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Adaptive Management - An integrated method for addressing uncertainty in natural resource management, or a method for examining alternative methods for meeting measurable biological goals and objectives, and then, if necessary, adjusting future conservation management actions in accordance with what had been learned.

Allochthonous – Originating outside and transported into a given system or area.

Alluvium - Sedimentary matter deposited within recent times by flowing water in the valley of a large river.

Aquifer - The water-bearing portion of subsurface earth material.

BAT - Biological Advisory Team

BCCP - Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

BCP - Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

BCP Partners – The City of Austin, Travis County, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Nature Conservancy of Texas, the Travis Audubon Society and other cooperating public and private entities or individuals

BCNWR - Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

BCVI – Black-capped vireo, *Vireo atricapilla*

Biogeography - Study of the geographical distribution of living things

Biological diversity - Dealing with variety of life forms, the ecological roles they perform, and genetic diversity they contain

Browse - Tender shoots, twigs, or leaves used as forage or food for herbivores or the act of feeding on these.

C1 - Category 1. Taxa for which the USFWS currently has on file substantial information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support the appropriateness of proposing to list the taxa as endangered or threatened species

C2 - Category 2. This category has been deleted. On Dec. 5, 1996, USFWS announced they were discontinuing the practice of maintaining a list of species regarded as “Category-2 candidates” (61 FR 64481). Future lists of species that are candidates for listing under the Endangered species Act will be restricted to those species for which the USFWS has on file sufficient information to support issuance of a proposed listing rule. (Category 2 involved taxa for which substantial data on biological vulnerability and threat(s) were not currently known or on file to support the immediate preparation of rules.)

Capital costs - Expenditures by local governments on physical infrastructure

Carrying capacity – Number of individual organisms that the resources of a given area can support, usually through the most unfavorable portion of the year.

Conservation easement - A legal agreement with a property owner to restrict the alteration or destruction of habitat or other activities within a specified area.

Coordinating Committee - The BCCP permit holders (City of Austin and Travis County) created by Interlocal Agreement the BCCP Coordinating Committee to provide policy oversight for implementing the interagency agreement. The Coordinating Committee oversees all aspects of conservation planning, coordination, and implementation of the plan and regional permit. The Coordinating Committee consists of one representative from each permit holder and a non-voting representative from the USFWS.

- Critical habitat - The specific areas legally defined by the USFWS within a geographic area occupied by an endangered species, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection.
- Dissected area - Area, such as a plateau, that is separated into many closely spaced valleys by erosion.
- Ecosystem - An ecological system or the living system of organisms and their environment.
- Ecotone - Transition zone between two different biological communities.
- Endangered species - A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and that is specifically listed by the USFWS as having protection under the Endangered Species Act.
- Endemic - Native to a particular area or region.
- ESA - Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).
- Escarpment - A long cliff or steep slope separating two comparatively level or more gently sloping surfaces, usually the result of erosion or faulting.
- ETJ - Extraterritorial jurisdiction.
- Extraterritorial jurisdiction - Area within a prescribed distance from a city's boundaries within which no other city or special district can annex land or provide services without the permission of the city.
- Facultative - Having the capacity to live under more than one specific set of environmental conditions (opposed to obligate).
- Fault - A fracture or zone of fractures along which there has been movement of the sides relative to one another or parallel to the fracture.
- Fault zone - An area or region that is expressed as a zone of numerous fractures or faults.
- Fauna - Animals; organisms of the animal kingdom of a given area taken collectively.
- Federal candidate species – Species that are candidates for listing by USFWS as endangered or threatened under the ESA.
- Fee simple - Title to real property belonging to a person or government when full and unconditional ownership exists.
- Flora - Plants; organisms pertaining to the plant kingdom taken collectively.
- FM - Farm to Market Road.
- Forage - Food for animals (e.g., deer), especially when taken by browsing or grazing.
- Formation - A sequence of naturally created rock layers with distinctive upper and lower boundaries.
- GCWA – Golden-cheeked warbler, *Dendroica chrysoparia*
- Geographic information system - A computerized database management system for capture, storage, retrieval, analysis, and display of locationally defined data. A GIS combines digital mapping technology with relational database information, resulting in a system that allows analysis of information within a specific geographic area.
- Geomorphic - Pertaining to the forms of the earth's surface.
- GIS - See Geographic information system.
- Habitat - The environment in which a plant or animal naturally occurs.
- HCP - Habitat conservation plan.
- Hydrology - The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on the surface of the land and in the soil and underlying rocks.
- Hyporheic – Related to saturated sediments beneath or associated with streams or rivers.
- IH - Interstate Highway.
- Impact - An assessment of the meaning of changes in all attributes being studied for a given resource, usually measured using a qualitative and nominally subjective technique.

- Incidental take - Direct or indirect loss of a species listed as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act, or of the species' habitat, due (incidental) to an otherwise legally permitted activity or development (see also Take).
- Indirect impacts - Project-related impacts indirectly attributable to the project itself; for example, soil disturbance causing water quality impacts.
- ISD - Independent school district
- Karst - A limestone topography in which there are numerous caves, sinkholes, and fissures created by water passing through and dissolving away the limestone. Potential karst habitat is that area which contains the limestone that may have caves, sinkholes, and fissures.
- LCRA - Lower Colorado River Authority
- Limestone - A sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate
- Macrosite - A subunit within the BCCP study area that is oriented around a biologically segregated habitat area defined by natural or man-made boundaries.
- Mesic – Pertaining to conditions of moderate moisture or water supply; used of organisms occupying moist habitats.
- Metapopulation - A population of plants or animals in which each individual has an equal chance of breeding with any other individual.
- mg/L - Milligrams per liter.
- Minimum preserve area - The least amount of preserve area that could still present a viable preserve unit within the preserve system.
- Mitigation - The process by which any adverse change or loss of a resource is avoided or minimized and the compensation for such.
- MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area
- Native vegetation - Plant life that occurs naturally in an area through nonhuman intervention
- NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
- Neotenic – Organisms that retain juvenile characteristics through sexual maturity.
- Net development area - The total lot or site development area, excluding publicly dedicated, undisturbed open space on the same tract and excluding any land currently not platted or approved for development.
- NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act
- NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- NOI - Notice of Intent.
- Obligate - Restricted to a particular condition of life or set of environmental conditions (opposed to facultative).
- Occupied habitat - For the black-capped vireo, habitat is defined as the union of all habitat areas occupied by vireos during any of the breeding seasons from 1986-1991. For the golden-cheeked warbler, no occupied habitat has been defined or described in the BCCP area. See also Potential habitat.
- Open space - Any undeveloped land use, such as range and pasture land, noncommercial forests, riparian areas, water bodies, and vacant land.
- ORV - Off-road vehicle
- Participation Certificate - Certificates providing purchaser with mitigation credits necessary for development of a particular tract to occur under the BCCP.
- pers comm - Personal communication
- Physiography - Science of physical geography; geomorphology.
- P/I - See Public/institutional land.

- Potential habitat - For the black-capped vireo, potential habitat will be determined by Permit Holders based on the most up-to-date survey reports provided by USFWS. For the golden-cheeked warbler, potential habitat will be determined by the Permit Holders from maps and aerial photos accompanying the "Golden-cheeked Warbler Habitat Analysis" prepared for the USFWS by DLS Associates (June 1993), and updated periodically with information provided by USFWS based on up-to-date survey reports containing GCWA sightings.
- Potential preserve area - Areas defined in the BCCP wherein the final preserves will be located. Includes habitat for endangered species and species of concern, areas potentially managed for these species, and intervening land considered necessary to maintain contiguity of preserve design.
- Preserve - An area that is set aside specifically for the purpose of retaining suitable habitat for an endangered, threatened, or rare species (or other species of concern), but which may also provide such benefits as improved water quality, open space recreation areas, and aesthetic resources.
- Preserve acquisition area - The area included within the potential preserve area as defined by the USFWS 1996 maps found in the HCP.
- Property tax - Tax imposed by a local government based on the value of property within its jurisdiction.
- Public/institutional land - Land owned by public agencies or private institutions that is included in the potential preserve area and that is recommended for inclusion in the preserve system.
- Recharge - The process by which water is absorbed and added to the zone of saturation, either directly into a formation through sinkholes or indirectly by way of percolation.
- Revegetation - Regrowth or replacement of a plant community. Revegetation may be assisted by site preparation, planting, and treatment, or it may occur naturally.
- Revenue bond - Financial instrument by which government agencies may fund major capital improvements. Used for projects that generate revenue from user charges or similar fees or charges that are applied toward both project operation and debt retirement.
- Riparian - Of or relating to land lying immediately adjacent to a water body and having specific characteristics of that transitional area, such as riparian vegetation.
- RM - Ranch to Market Road.
- RR - Ranch Road.
- RTC - Resolution Trust Corporation.
- Section 7 - The section in the ESA that states, among other things, that no federal action shall jeopardize the survival of an endangered or threatened species in the wild and that provides for consultation between a federal agency and the USFWS on such actions.
- Section 10(a)(1)(B) - The section in the ESA that, among other things, allows permits to be issued for incidental take of an endangered or threatened species (see also Incidental take and Take).
- Seral - Describing a stage in plant community succession.
- SH - State Highway
- Shinnery - Low, shrubby growth of oaks that may cover extensive thin-soiled upland areas; often provides suitable black-capped vireo habitat in the Travis County area.
- Soil series - Collection of soils developed from similar parental material under comparable climate and plant communities.
- Soil types - A category or detailed mapping unit used for soil surveys based on phases or changes within a series (e.g., slope, salinity).

- Special assessment funds - One of the governmental fund types, used to account for financing of public improvements or services deemed to benefit the properties against which special assessments are levied.
- Special district - Local government unit charged with provision of a specific service (e.g., water supply districts, flood control districts). Generally, funding is from property taxes levied on the property benefiting from the service.
- Species - A population or series of populations within which free gene flow occurs under natural conditions. The ESA includes any subspecies of fish, wildlife, or plants and any distinct population segment of any species that interbreeds when mature.
- Study area - An area with designated boundaries in which intensive research on ecology and land use took place.
- Substrate; substratum - Base or material on which an organism lives.
- Take - As defined by the ESA: to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or to attempt to engage in such conduct toward any endangered or threatened species. Court decisions have interpreted the ESA to include the destruction or degradation of endangered species habitat as a form of take.
- Taxon, (pl.) Taxa - A taxonomic entity (e.g., species, subspecies, or variety) or group of these.
- Taxonomy - Science dealing with the identification, naming, and classification of organisms.
- TCAD - Travis Central Appraisal District.
- TCEQ – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, formerly the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, or TNRCC
- Terrestrial - Living on or in, or growing from the land.
- Threatened species - Taxa likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.
- TNRCC - Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, previously two separate organizations (Texas Water Commission and Texas Air Control Board), changed in 2000 to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or TCEQ
- TNRIS - Texas Natural Resources Information System.
- TOES - Texas Organization for Endangered Species.
- TPWD - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
- Troglobite - An organism restricted to a belowground environment.
- TWC - Texas Water Commission, merged with Texas Air Control Board in 1995 to form the TNRCC.
- TxDOT - Texas Department of Transportation.
- USACE - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- USFWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- USGS - U.S. Geological Survey.
- Viable population - A group of organisms of the same species that are able to successfully breed so as to indefinitely perpetuate the group's survival.
- Watershed - A drainage or catchment area of a watercourse or body of water.
- WPZ - Watershed protection zone.
- Xeric - Pertaining to or adapted to a dry environment.