

**Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)  
Update for McGregor, Wheless and Westcave Preserves**

**BCCP CAC/SAC Meetings – April 2016**

**GCWA Territory Mapping at Wheless**

Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) territory-level mapping is contracted to Blanton & Associates, Inc. on both the Prime Plot and Transitional Plot at LCRA's Wheless Preserve. The survey work is GCWA territory-level mapping in accordance to the *Land Management Plan Protocol for Conducting Territory Mapping on BCP Lands*.

**McGregor and Wheless Access Granted to City of Austin**

LCRA authorized City of Austin (COA) biologist and contractors permission to conduct GCWA surveys on Wheless and McGregor Preserves. This work is covered under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) scientific permit, as well as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and U.S. Geological Survey permits. Austin's permit is valid from March 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

**LCRA's McGregor Good Neighbor Program**

LCRA Community Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Department received concurrence from the current LCRA Vice President of Community Resources, to continue the McGregor Good Neighbor Program (GNP). The McGregor GNP is an ongoing program that allows private landowners with property adjacent to McGregor Preserve access to the preserve once they have completed an endangered species orientation provided by LCRA biologists. This program is in compliance with the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Land Management Plan Tier III, section 1.1.2 which states "the preserve has an improved hiking trail; a pond, a gravel road, and fencing on all sides. Access is by permit only." LCRA is working closely with the Comanche Trail Community Association (CTCA) to set a date, within the next couple of months, to provide orientation (classroom and guided hike) to those interested.

**Westcave Preserve Land Management Activities**

GCWA territory-level mapping is being completed by Dawn Houston (FWS permitted biologist). Canyon trail maintenance and repairs as well as fence maintenance occurred during this time. Prescribed burns were conducted on the preserve. The Monarch waystation habitat was prepped and planted. The prairie area of the preserve was plowed and seeded as part of the prairie restoration efforts. Avian transects and surveys were conducted throughout the preserve as well. Unofficial salamander surveys are being conducted. Westcave will work with Nate Bendik (COA Biologist) or Andy Gluesencamp (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Biologist) if a salamander is discovered.