

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

## Q2 Report January – March 2017

### Wheless Preserve Sale

Travis County started working on its due diligence for the Wheless Preserve Sale. LCRA has contracted with Travis County to sell the Wheless Preserve property to Travis County, with transfer of ownership anticipated to occur no later than May 2017.

### Westcave Preserve Land Management Activities

Activities that occurred at Westcave include the following:

- General maintenance of preserve, trails, fences, bird blind, etc.
- Continue to monitor and track hogs in partnership with LCRA, Conservation Services
- Planning meeting regarding Historic Cabin Restoration
- Measured depth in Grotto pool- deepest point measured 20'
- Chimney Swift Round Table Event-13 in attendance
- Cabin Clean up volunteer workday- 7 in attendance
- Conservation Committee meeting
- Water quality monitoring- report to LCRA (CRWN)
- FeederWatch-Citizen Science (Cornell Lab)
- Texas Conservation Corp/Westcave staff- canyon trail work – replace old/rotten posts and steps along canyon trail (TPWD grant funded)
- New conservation intern started, Amanda Andrews, recent TSU graduate
- Put bird nesting boxes and purple martin house up for the season
- March 4<sup>th</sup> volunteer workday
- LCRA Step Forward workday held on March 31 – trail improvements
- March 4<sup>th</sup> volunteer workday
- Non-native plant removal - vitex, chinaberry
- Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) Walk-Paul Fushille guides
- NestWatch - Citizen Science (Cornell Lab)
- GCWA surveys - territory mapping
- Weekly Bird Walks (every Tuesday)
- Awarded grant from Native Plant Society

### T161 (Marshall Ford to McNeil) Transmission Line Overhaul

LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (LCRA TSC) conducted a minor maintenance overhaul on the T161 (Marshall Ford to McNeil) Transmission Line (see map below). This line crosses the following Travis County or City of Austin managed BCPs: Steiner Ranch, Sam Hamilton Reserve East, Ribelin, Kent Butler and 3M and runs parallel (in most locations) to T160, which was rebuilt in 2015.

The T161 transmission line needed to undergo a minor maintenance overhaul to ensure it is safe. The scope of this overhaul project was to replace/repair only what was needed to keep the line from falling. LCRA TSC conducted minimal clearing and mowing in previously cleared areas to allow bucket trucks and other vehicles to drive to those structures where repair work was required. The clearing and overhaul work was completed on February 10, 2017.

