

Workshop #1

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



TEXAS 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A YEAR IN REVIEW

*Growing the next generation of
Texas water leaders!*

For more information contact:
David W. Smith
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Biological & Agricultural Engineering
Texas 4-H Youth Development
(979) 862-1989
davidsmith@tamu.edu



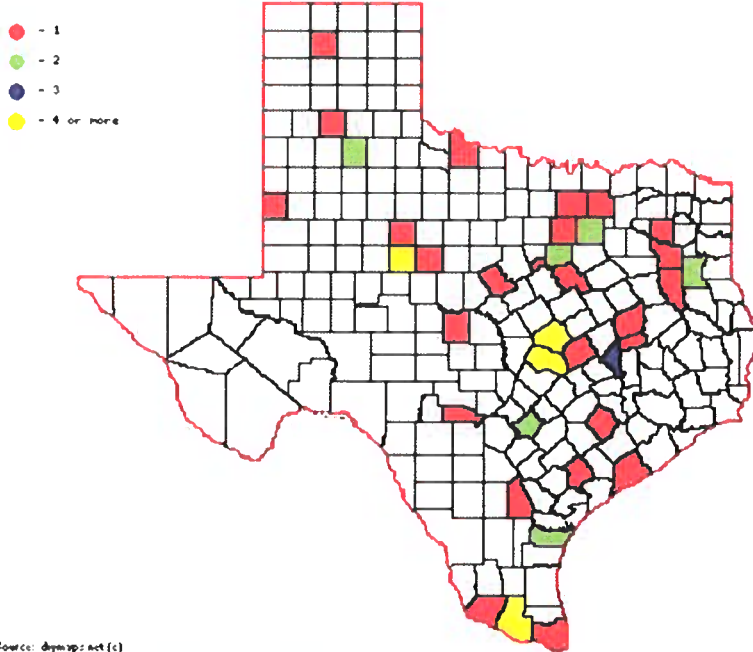
(25) NEW WATER AMBASSADORS ADDED

Since its inception in 2017, (135) youth have served as 4-H Water Ambassadors. There are currently (61) active members representing (42) Texas counties. In 2021, (25) youth were selected for service.



Tier I Ambassadors (County): Lee Barnhill (Fisher), Mallory Bunch (Yoakum), D.A. Bush (Taylor), Keshav Chandrasekhara (Dallas), Peyton Clifton (Rusk), Jhett Davis (Johnson), Emily Denny (Hidalgo), Cora Ford (Hidalgo), Jane Gauntt (Bell), Gracen Gore (Terry), Jaxson Green (Brazos), Roxane Reyna (Taylor), Ana Islas (Nolan), Cone Johnson (Swisher), Daniel Kernes (Wood), Cody Kingston (Nolan), Hannah Lewis (Hill), Victoria Lowe (Brazos), Jackson Miller (Somervell), Robert Miller II (Milam), Madison Oliverrez (Starr), Sophia O’Neill (Williamson), Michael Parker-Fulton (Nolan), Emma Pool (Johnson) and Charlotte Sander (Hidalgo).

ALL 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS



Source: [dynamaps.net](#) (4)

- (25)** Tier I water ambassadors
- (19)** Tier II water ambassadors
- (14)** Tier III water ambassadors
- (3)** Tier IV water ambassadors

Map indicates the current counties represented and number of youth

CURRENT ROSTER AND COUNTY AFFILIATION

(14) Seniors

(17) Juniors

(35) Females

TIER I 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	County	Class
1	Jane	Gauntt	Female	Bell	Freshman
2	Roxane	Islas	Female	Taylor	Freshman
3	Dora (D.A.)	Bush	Female	Taylor	Freshman
4	Hannah	Lewis	Female	Hill	Freshman
5	Emily	Denny	Female	Hidalgo	Freshman
6	Ana	Islas	Female	Nolan	Freshman
7	Sophia	O'Neill	Female	Williamson	Freshman
8	Charlotte	Sander	Female	Hidalgo	Freshman
9	Madison	Oliveres	Female	Starr	Freshman
10	Cora	Ford	Female	Hidalgo	Freshman
11	Daniel	Kernes	Male	Wood	Freshman
12	Lee	Barnhill	Male	Fisher	Freshman
13	Cody	Kingston	Male	Nolan	Freshman
14	Cone	Johnson	Male	Swisher	Freshman
15	Emma	Pbol	Female	Johnson	Sophomore
16	Michael	Parker-Fulton	Male	Nolan	Sophomore
17	Robert	Miller II	Male	Milam	Sophomore
18	Jhett	Davis	Male	Johnson	Sophomore
19	Emma	Burch	Female	Yoakum	Junior
20	Victoria	Lowe	Female	Brazos	Junior
21	Graben	Gore	Female	Terry	Junior
22	Jaxson	Green	Male	Brazos	Junior
23	Peyton	Clifton	Male	Rusk	Junior
24	Jackson	Miller	Male	Somervell	Junior
25	Keshav	Chandrasekhara	Male	Dallas	Junior

TIER II 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS (continued)

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	County	Class
13	Carlie	Estes	Female	Williamson	Junior
14	Shelby	Slavinski	Female	Live Oak	Junior
15	Summer	Halbert	Female	Brazos	Junior
16	Mark (Ty)	Kubecka	Male	Matagorda	Junior
17	Kellen	Rushfeldt	Female	McCulloch	Senior
18	Susan (Mimi)	Clot de Broissia	Female	Dallas	Senior
19	Zachary	Gray	Male	Cameron	Senior

TIER III 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	County	Class
1	Vie Vje	Blanchard	Female	Callin	Junior
2	Madeline	Brown	Female	Willbarger	Junior
3	Lily	Ford	Female	Hidalgo	Junior
4	William (Joshua)	Jones	Male	Smith	Junior
5	Jahongir	Karim	Male	Bell	Junior
6	Javier (Andy)	Vela	Male	Nueces	Junior
7	Bailea	Reeves	Female	Rusk	Senior
8	Ava	Snelson	Female	Williamson	Senior
9	Anna	Vela	Female	Hidalgo	Senior
10	Sarah	Wood	Female	Bell	Senior
11	Matthew	Franklin	Male	Williamson	Senior
12	Jaxon	Grove	Male	Nueces	Senior
13	Trent	Morris	Male	Madison	Senior
14	William	Wright	Male	Victoria	Senior

TIER II 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	County	Class
1	Ava	Larson	Female	Denton	Sophomore
2	Emma	Ganales	Female	Bell	Sophomore
3	Jasmina	Karim	Female	Bell	Sophomore
4	Sadie	Befry	Female	Comanche	Sophomore
5	Sierra	Snowden	Female	Floyd	Sophomore
6	Savannah	Bearden	Female	Cherokee	Sophomore
7	Alexandra	Guerrero	Female	Hidalgo	Sophomore
8	Gabriela	Ramirez	Female	Hidalgo	Sophomore
9	Kyle	Workman	Male	Leon	Sophomore
10	Isaiah	Atoe	Male	Tarrant	Sophomore
11	John	Gauntt	Male	Bell	Sophomore
12	Justin	Hill	Male	Moore	Sophomore

TIER IV 4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	County	Class
1	Tyann	Phillips	Female	Floyd	Senior
2	Rowdy	Kunz	Male	Colorado	Senior
3	Carson	Manning	Male	Guadalupe	Senior

(16) Sophomores

(14) Freshman

UP TO (30) YOUTH TO BE ADDED IN 2022

TIER I 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

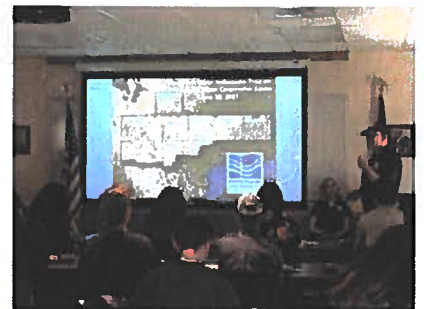


City of Brownfield water treatment facility tour.

After a brief hiatus on travel, this summer we resumed our road tours to learn first hand about water issues around the state! The Tier I H2O Academy focused primarily on groundwater management in the High Plains and Panhandle regions. Tour stops included visits with the Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program member districts, City of Brownfield, Samuel Jackson, Inc., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and USDA-ARS in Bushland, High Plains Water District, and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. We concluded the academy with a visit to John Bunker Sands Wetland Center in Seagoville.



Visit with High Plains Water District to learn about the Ogallala Aquifer, District activities and educational programs.



Visit with North Plains Groundwater Conservation District to learn about center pivot irrigation technology, drip irrigation, drought tolerant crops, crop rotations, and education and outreach activities.



Wetland Ecology Course at John Bunker Sand Wetland Center.



Check out our highlight video!

<https://youtu.be/DY5zHIJwSnk>

JUNE 27-JULY 1 HIGH PLAINS/PANHANDLE

TIER II 4-H2O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

This 6-day academy (tour) for water ambassadors beginning their second year of service focused on water issues along the Texas Gulf Coast. Youth learned about wetland restoration, urban constructed wetlands, aquatic plants, marine ecosystems, hatcheries and fisheries, and bays and estuaries. Tour stops included Houston Botanic Garden, visits with the Galveston Bay Foundation, Texas Community Watershed Partners, Sea Center Texas and the Galveston Naval Museum.



Planting wetland vegetation with Texas Community Watershed Partners at Exploration Green in Clear Lake and with Galveston Bay Foundation at Sweetwater Lake on Galveston Island.



Seining and water quality testing at Sweetwater Lake on Galveston Island.



Visiting Sea Center Texas for a tour of the aquarium and flounder and redfish hatchery.



Learning about naval history and submarine technology at the Galveston Naval Museum.



JULY 11-15 GULF COAST

TIER III/IV 4-H₂O LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Water ambassadors beginning their third and fourth years of service toured south-central Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley met with many water industry organizations and professionals. These included the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Headwaters on the Comal, San Antonio River Authority, Texas A&M AgriLife Researchers at Weslaco, Lower Rio Grande Water District Managers Association, Arroyo Colorado Project and Sea Turtle, Inc. Students learned about irrigation districts, water quality, watershed protection, habitat restoration and agricultural irrigation methods in the Valley.



Visit to a sugarcane farm to learn about subsurface drip irrigation.



Visit with Sea Turtle, Inc. and rehabilitation hospital.



Tour of Canyon Lake Gorge to learn about geology.



Visit with Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association.



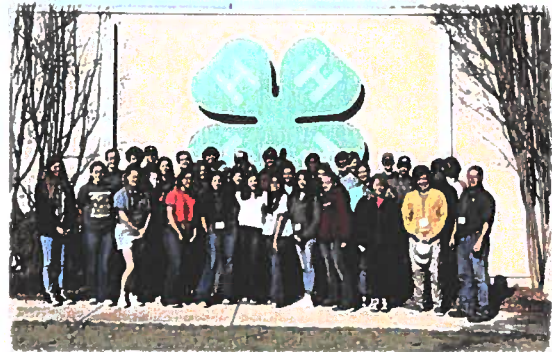
The Original Dolphin Watch Tour at South Padre Island.



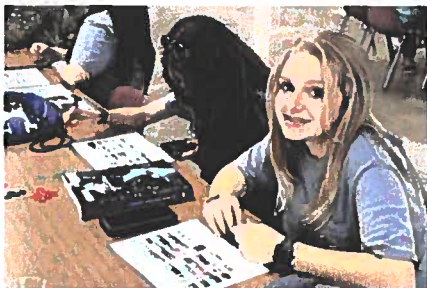
JULY 25-29 LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

SPRING RETREAT

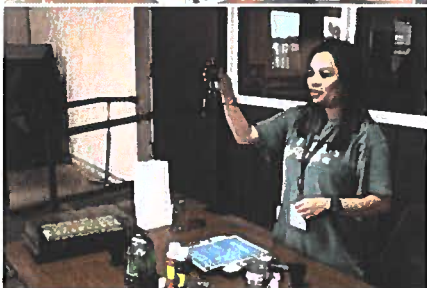
Twice a year, water ambassadors from across the state come together for leadership, citizenship and water education training. It is also a time of fun and fellowship. This past spring, ambassadors convened at the State 4-H Conference Center at Lake Brownwood. Over three days, they learned about new water education activities and practiced old ones. This spring, youth completed the nationally-recognized Project WET Program led by Stephanie Keith, Education Coordinator with Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District in Stephenville.



Stephanie Keith—Education Coordinator with Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District—taught the Project WET training. Students received their very own copy of the Project WET manual and practiced numerous hands-on water education activities they can use to teach others.



Ambassadors were introduced to many new water education games, demonstrations, projects and activities they can lead at 4-H clubs, in schools and at community events. For example, ambassadors learned how to teach about hydroponics by constructing a simple, low-cost hydroponics system in a jar. They also received an activity instruction guide.



Ambassadors worked in small groups to develop a 10-12 minute lesson and record a short video using some of the more commonly-available water education models and games such as the Stream Trailer and Enviroscope watershed model.



**MARCH 26-28—4-H
CONFERENCE CENTER**

FALL RETREAT



A weekend fall retreat was held at the State 4-H Conference Center at Lake Brownwood. Beautiful weather allowed ambassadors to enjoy the outdoors. Center staff led youth through outdoor challenge and teamwork activities. State 4-H Program Specialist Megan Logan provided leadership training and Dr. Kelly Albus with the Texas A&M AgriLife Center in Dallas demonstrated how to create water-focused citizen science projects utilizing on-line GIS tools. Each ambassador tested for water quality and compared and contrasted their data with others.



Ambassadors learned how to lead the 'Water Cycle in a Bag' for young children.



Each youth brought a water sample to test for pH, nitrate, TDS and other parameters.



Dr. Kelly Albus led a discussion by the lake to talk about the importance of conserving and protecting water. Students discussed ways they can raise water awareness and educate others how to protect and conserve water.



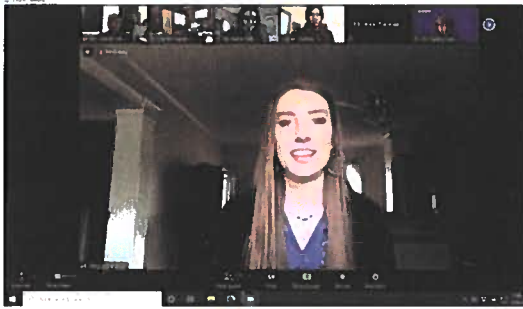
Center staff led ambassadors through the Challenge Course to promote teamwork and build trust among the group.



OCTOBER 29-31—4-H CONFERENCE CENTER

AMBASSADOR SERVICE AND EDUCATION

After weathering numerous event cancellations in 2020, ambassadors were fully engaged in water education and service in their communities and beyond. Youth delivered presentations and led educational activities at county fairs, ag days and in schools, organized river and beach cleanups, and attended several industry conferences.



2,401
hours of education/
service

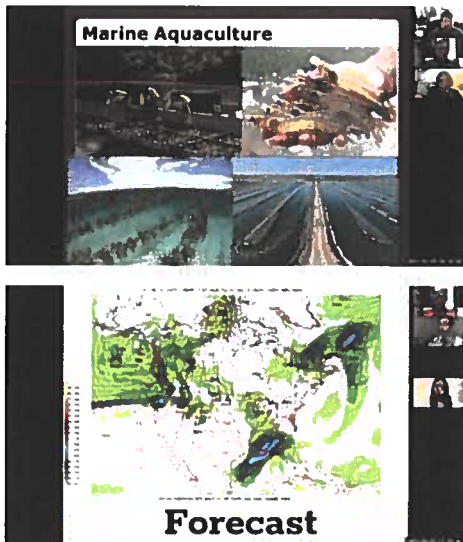
18,786
educational contacts



\$68,525—VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

CONTINUING EDUCATION VIRTUAL SEMINARS

Water industry and education professionals delivered seven seminars throughout the year for water ambassadors to help them stay engaged and learning about Texas water issues.



SEMINAR TITLE	PRESENTER
Careers in Aquaculture and Fisheries	Dr. Todd Sink—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Secret Life of Groundwater	Shae Luther, Natalie Ballew and Josh Sendejar—Texas Water Development Board
Texas Water Foundation and Water Careers	Sarah Rountree Schlessinger—Texas Water Foundation
Water Industry Career Panel	David Collinsworth—Brazos River Authority, Karen Bondy—Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority, Jennifer Windscheffel—San Antonio Water System and Adeline Fox—Texas Water Conservation Association
Weather and Broadcast Meteorology	Shel Winkley, KBTX Television—Bryan/College Station
Municipal and Agricultural Water Conservation	Shae Luther, Josh Sendejar and Kyla Peterson—Texas Water Development Board
On-site Wastewater Treatment Strategies	Ryan Gerlich—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The 4-H Water Ambassadors Program Advisory Committee met May 19 and December 16 to review program activities, provide constructive feedback and offer suggestions to guide the ongoing success and sustainability.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Smith—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	Adeline Fox—Texas Water Conservation Association
Jay Bragg—Texas Farm Bureau	Jill Garcia—Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
Michelle Wood-Ramirez—Tarrant Regional Water District	Whitney Grantham—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Preston Sturdivant—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	Roxanna Reyna—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Julia Stanford—Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Megan Lamb—Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District
Michelle Cooper—Southern Ogallala Conservation & Outreach Prog.	Stephanie Keith—Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation Dist.
Dirk Aaron—Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District	Molly McKinney—Former 4-H Water Ambassador, Student Tech
Jennifer Thayer—Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District	Riley Calk—Former 4-H Water Ambassador, Student Tech

ADVISORY GROUP MET MAY 19 AND DECEMBER 16

PROGRAM SPONSORS

The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors program is funded through private sponsorships and in-kind support. Funds are used solely for the mission and objectives of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Thanks to all sponsor organizations for their support!



Like us on social media and keep up with our 4-H Water Ambassadors!



@TX4HWaterAmbassador



@4H2O_Ambassador



4h_water_ambassadors

Sponsorships are made to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2022

Through an application process, each spring up to (30) youth are selected from across Texas to serve as 4-H Water Ambassadors. Those chosen participate in a Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy – a multi-day tour of Texas aimed at exposing youth to a wide diversity of water issues. Following the Academy, youth commit to a minimum of (40) hours of water education and service in their communities. Those who complete their service commitment may continue as 4-H Water Ambassador in successive years until they graduate high school and are no longer age-eligible to serve. Year 2 (Tier II), year 3 (Tier III) and year 4 (Tier IV) 4-H Water Ambassadors participate in 4-H2O Leadership Academies which focus on a different region of Texas, and renew their annual education and service commitment throughout their remaining terms of service.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- * **April 1, 2022—Applications open**
- * **May 15, 2022—Applications close**
- * **May 20, 2022—Applicants notified of acceptance status**
- * **June 10, 2022—\$250 participation fee due**
- * **June 12-17, 2022—Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy**

HOW TO APPLY

Check out the informational brochure and online application instructions at:



<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/water/> or visit

<http://www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com>

The Texas 4-H State Water Ambassadors Program is led by Texas 4-H and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and supported in part by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation. A team of industry, organization sponsors, and stakeholders provide guidance for programming and serve as mentors for water ambassadors.

Workshop #2



20TH ANNUAL BELL COUNTY WATER SYMPOSIUM

November 17, 2021

Final Balance Sheet 1/5/2022

<u>Sponsors:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Received</u>
	AGS	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Allan R Standen	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Bell County	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Intera	\$500.00	\$500.00
	KPA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Lloyd Gosselink	\$500.00	\$500.00
	LRE	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Michelle A Sutherland	\$500.00	\$500.00
	NRS	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Total Sponsorship:	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00

<u>Expenses:</u>		
	Facility	\$1,441.50
	Meal (175 x \$10.95)	\$1,916.25
	Tech Support: audio, power points, recording, internet access	\$1,655.00
	Misc Supplies: coffee and coffee supplies, snacks, paper goods	\$521.35
	Awards	\$350.74
	Ads: KDH	\$958.00
	Ads: TDT	\$585.00
	Total Expenses:	\$7,427.84

<u>CUWCD:</u>	<u>Cost Share</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
	\$1,927.84	2016	135
		2017	165
		2018	158
		2019	157
		2020	N/A
		2021	183

Workshop #3

Board Workshop
January 12, 2022

Workshop Item #3
Bell/Coryell RHCP

Workshop Item #3:

Receive information related to the Bell/Coryell Karst Coalition RHCP

Narrative:

Bell/Coryell Karst Coalition RHCP:

- Blanton & Associates, Inc was selected from the four firms submitting RFPs,
- 2022-2024 RFP Cost is \$1,475,000 for the Phase 1- 6 (*Goal is to pursue grant funding for majority of the development*)
- Bell County is the contract holder for the Karst Coalition of 13 entities approved 1/3/2022
- Bell County Auditor will manage the billing and payments under the contract.
 - ✓ Judge Blackburn will approve monthly billing of each agreed upon phases.
 - ✓ Dirk Aaron will continue to be the project manager for the Karst Coalition (having been for the BCAMC since 2014)
 - ✓ Steering Committee of 6 is being proposed (*all-Tier I, one-Tier II, one-Tier III*)
 - ✓ Dirk Aaron provides coalition partners reports, updates and progress as directed.
- Phase 1 negotiated cost is total of \$58,500.00 for consultant to pursue the Section 6 grant for the Coalition. Tier System proposed by Judge Blackburn
- Phase 1 cost/contribution breakdown is as follows:
 - ✓ Tier I Entities: 50% of Phase 1 \$29,250.00
 - Bell County @ \$7,312.50
 - Coryell County @ \$7,312.50
 - Clearwater UWCD @ \$7,312.50
 - Brazos River Authority @ \$7,312.50
 - ✓ Tier II Entities: 2/3rds of 1/2 of Phase I \$19,480.50
 - City of Killeen @ \$4,870.13
 - City of Temple @ \$4,870.13
 - City of Copperas Cove @ \$4,870.13
 - City of Harker Heights @ \$4,870.13
 - ✓ Tier III Entities: 1/2 of 1/2 of Phase I \$9,769.50
 - City of Belton @ \$1,953.90
 - City of Gatesville @ \$1,953.90
 - Village of Salado @ \$1,953.90
 - Middle Trinity GCD @ \$1,953.90
 - Killeen-Temple MPO @ \$1,953.90

Velma R. Danielson
Senior Project Manager

Blanton & Associates, Inc.

Bell County & Coryell County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan

B & A Team Presentation

December 10, 2021

Blanton & Associates, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • PROJECT MANAGEMENT

B&A Team Members

B&A Team Interview Participants

Name	Firm	Project Role
Velma Danielson	B&A	Project Director
Gary Galbraith	B&A	HCP Project Manager
Dr. David Zippin	ICF	Chief Scientist/ Senior Advisor
Clifton Ladd, C.W.B.	B&A	Lead HCP Technical Specialist
Dr. Kemble White	Cambrian	Karst and Salamander Lead
James Beach, P.G.	AGS	Hydrogeology Lead
Jon Hockenyo	TXP	Economic Analysis Lead
Kimberly Horndeski	Community Consulting	Facilitation and Stakeholder Involvement Lead

Blanton & Associates, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • PROJECT MANAGEMENT

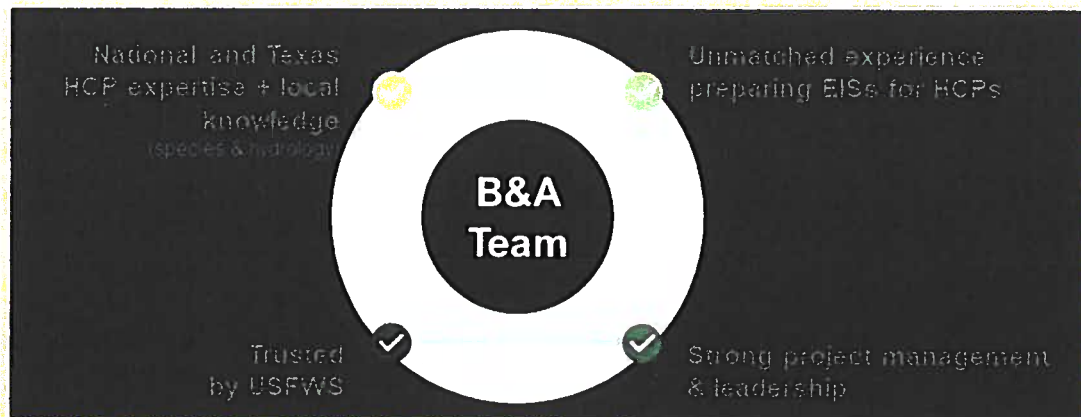
B&A Team Members

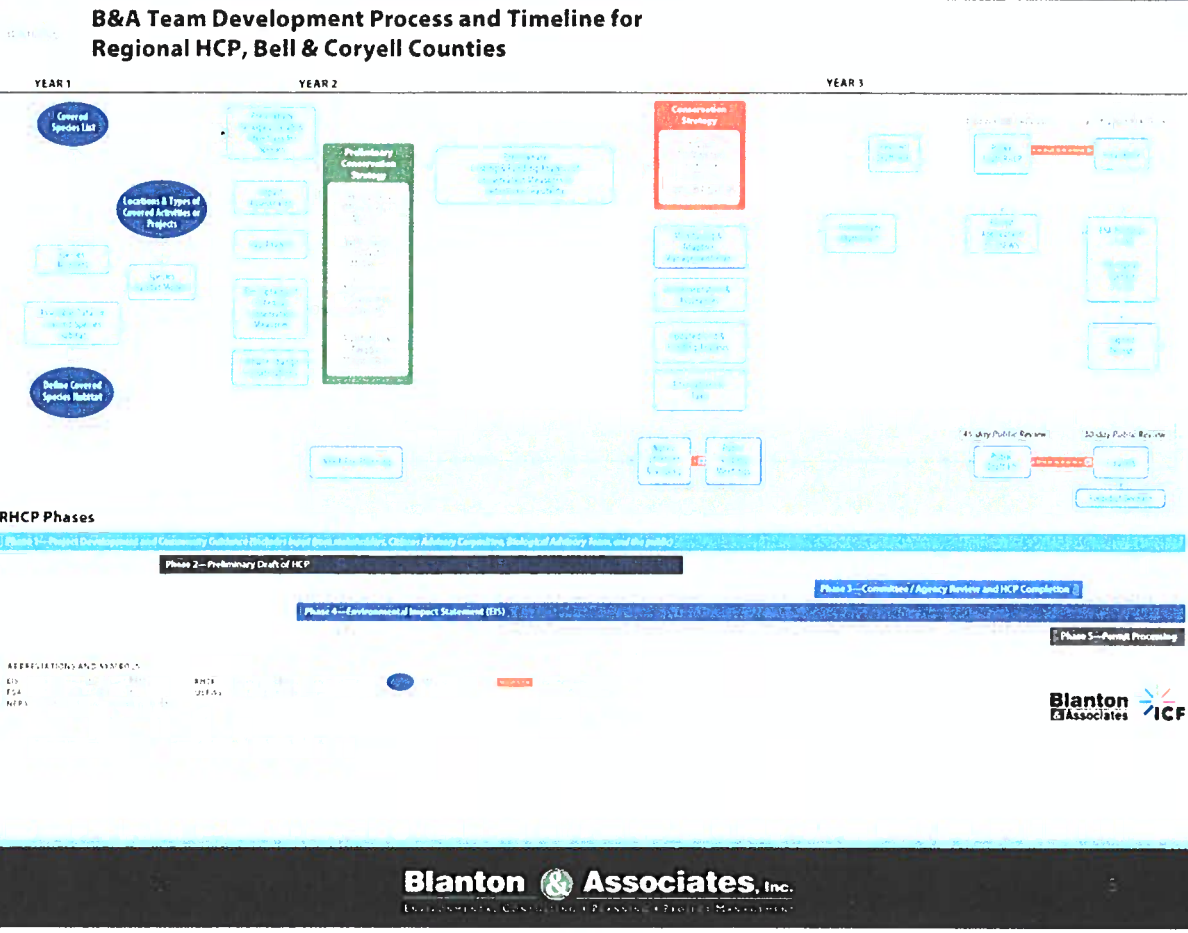
Blanton & Associates, Inc.
Project Management, HCP, NEPA

	HCP, NEPA	Karst & Salamanders	
	Hydrogeology	Mussels	
	Facilitation	Hydrology	
	Economist	Water Quality	
	ESA Legal		

B&A Team Unique Experience

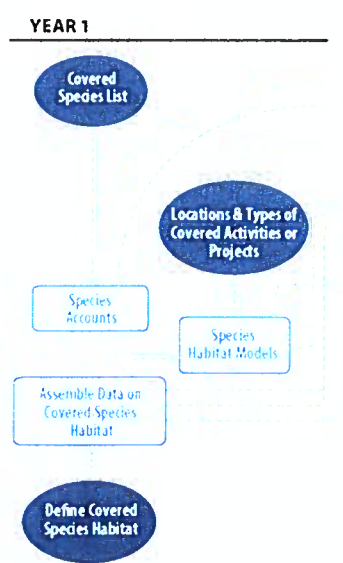
Why the B&A Team?





RHCP Development Process and Timeline

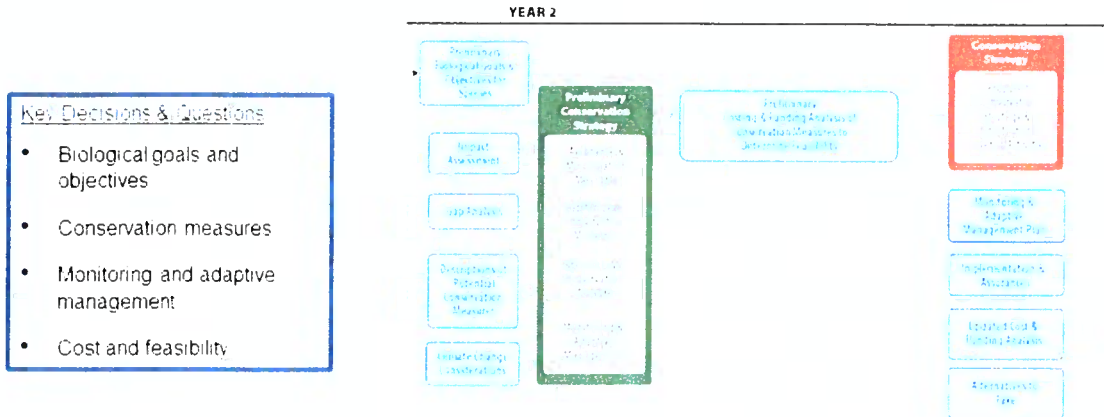
Fundamental HCP Elements:



- Key Decisions & Questions
- Covered species
 - Covered activities (current and future) – fulfill Karst Coalition mission and vision
 - Determine how best to provide coverage

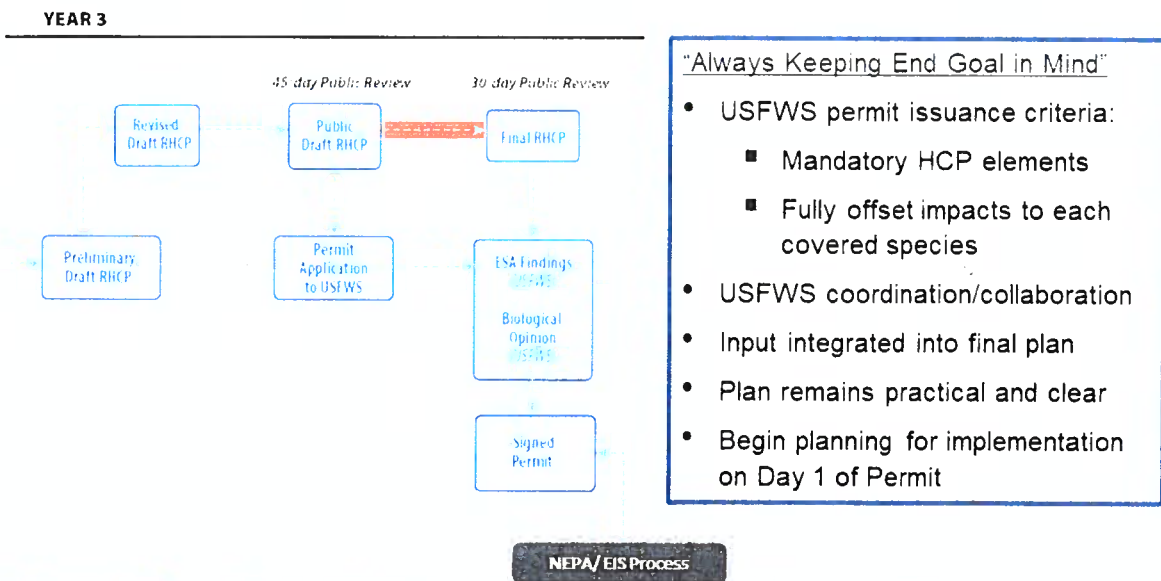
RHCP Development Process and Timeline

HCP Conservation Strategy



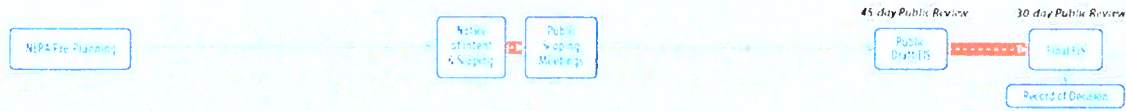
RHCP Development Process and Timeline

Preliminary Draft HCP to Signed Permit



GRHCP Development Process and Timeline

NEPA Process



Issues

- NEPA pre-planning timing
- Changing NEPA regulations
- Page and time limits
- USFWS trust
- Team "firewall"

Relevant Project Experience

- Southern Edwards Plateau HCP and EIS
- Williamson County Regional HCP and EIS
- Placer County HCP and EIS
- American Electric Power HCP and EIS for American Burying Beetle

RHCP Development Process and Timeline

Relevant Project Experience – Regional HCPs

- Southern Edwards Plateau HCP *
- Williamson County Regional HCP *
- Comal County Regional HCP *
- Bastrop County Lost Pines HCP
- Hays County Regional HCP *
- Upper Santa Ana River HCP, EIS, and Early Implementation (10 water agencies) *
- Santa Clara County HCP, Public Outreach, and Implementation (with 3 cities and local water agency) *
- Guadalupe River HCP *

*** Successful Grant Funding**

Critical Issue: Funding for HCP Planning

USFWS HCP Planning Assistance Grant

Approach for Grant Application

- Request \$1 Million to be spent over 3 years
- You will be competitive nationally
 - 12 local government agency partners and many additional stakeholders
 - Comprehensive HCP, with multiple covered species
 - Grant would initiate HCP

Anticipated Schedule

- Recommend applying immediately, not waiting until Summer 2022 (per RFP)
- FY22-23 cycle opens mid-December 2021 (or a bit later)
- Federal deadline (90 days): mid-March 2022
- TPWD deadline (60 days): mid-February 2022
- Recommend applying again Summer/Fall 2022

Successful B&A Team Experience

- Southern Edwards Plateau HCP
- Williamson County HCP
- Hays County HCP
- Comal County HCP

Critical Issue: Local & Economic Impacts

Five-Step Approach to Perform An Economic/Financial Analysis of RHCPs

1. Establish Economic, Demographic, and Real Estate Baseline of Bell and Coryell Counties
2. Perform Case Study Analysis of Similar HCPs
3. Develop Methodology and Economic Model to Assess the Impact of the RHCP
4. Conduct Cost-Benefit Analysis of the RHCP
5. Prepare Report that Details Findings

Critical Issue: Stakeholder Involvement

Keys to RHCP Success

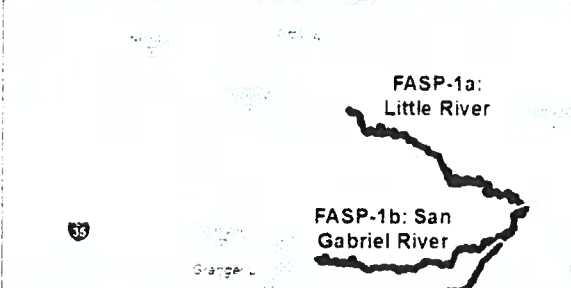
- Early stakeholder identification - citizen advisory committee & biological advisory team (Texas Parks and Wildlife Code)
- Define roles and responsibilities of stakeholder group(s), selection and input process(es), and resources to support stakeholder group(s)
- Determine role of broader public input in RHCP planning process
- Develop policy informed by trusted science
- Training on HCP preparation builds trust and common knowledge base - Optional



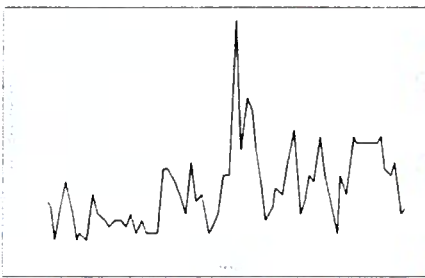
Critical Issue: Freshwater Mussels



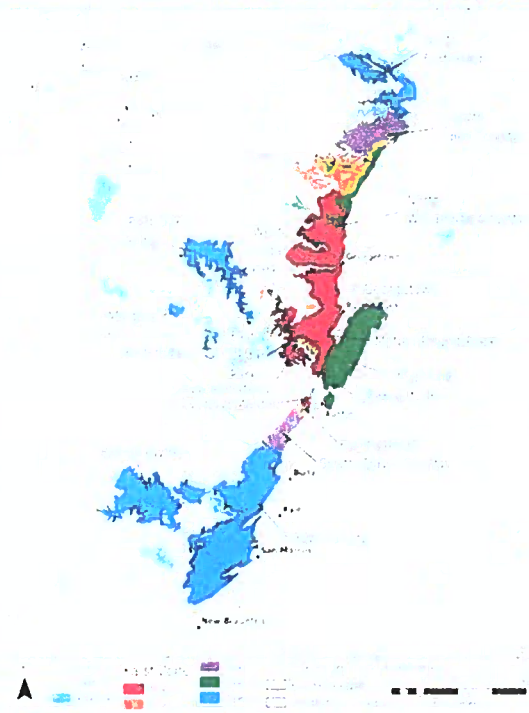
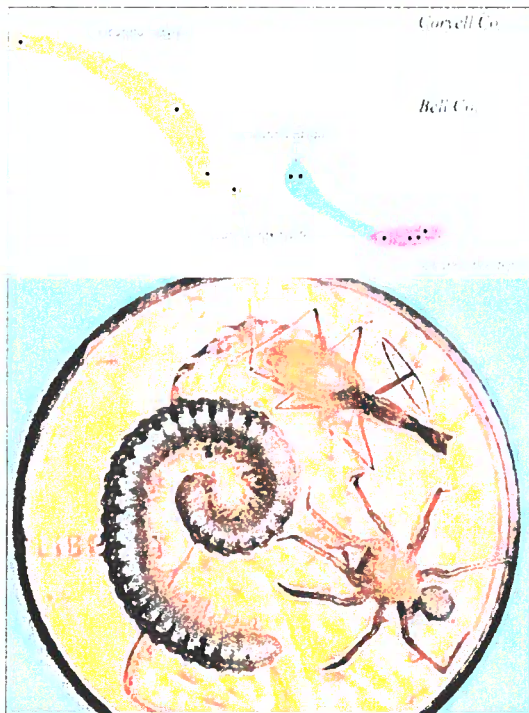
Critical Habitat for False Spike
Unit 1 - Little River



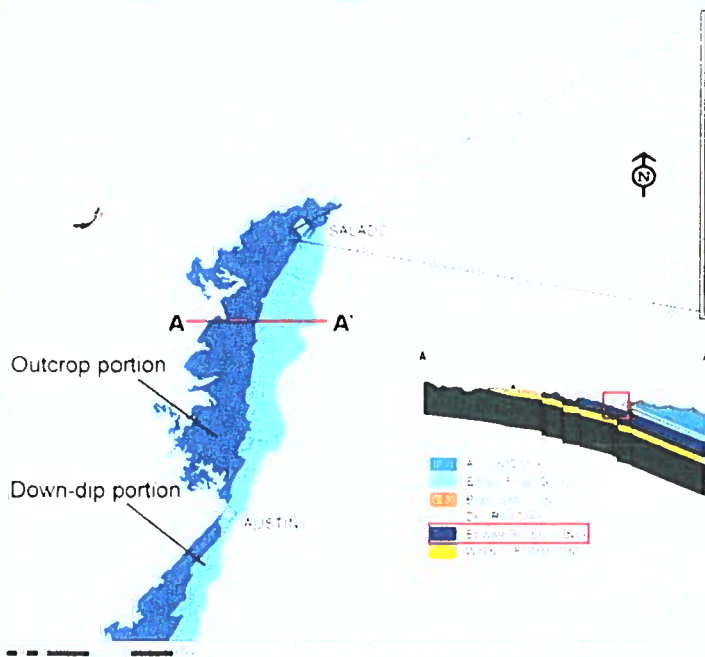
Critical Issue: Salado Salamander



Critical Issue: Karst Invertebrates



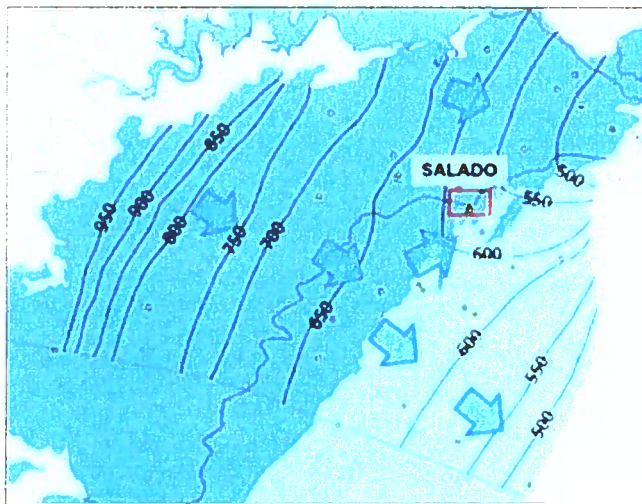
Critical Issue: Groundwater (Northern Edwards Aquifer)



Issues

- New development in Bell, Williamson and Travis
- No control of pumping in Travis & Williamson Co.
- New TWDB GAM (2022)
- Groundwater quality

Critical Issue: Edwards/Trinity Groundwater Modeling



Approach

1. Review the new TWDB model
2. Assess potential changes to improve
3. Develop predictive model
4. Develop development and pumping scenarios
5. Incorporate drought conditions
6. Results will be used to inform regulatory framework and assess drought and aquifer triggers for spring flow protection

B&A Team Unique Experience

B&A Team is passionate about working on the RHCP project!



National and Texas HCP expertise + local knowledge (species & hydrology)



Unmatched experience preparing EISs for HCPs



Strong project management & leadership



Trusted by USFWS

Questions and Discussion

**Supplement to
Blanton & Associates, Inc. Proposal Dated November 9, 2021 for
Development of a Regional Habitat Conservation Plan for Bell and Coryell Counties
Prepared in Response to Bell County RFP 18-22**

January 5, 2022

At Bell County's request, Blanton & Associates, Inc. (B&A) prepared this supplement to our proposal dated November 9, 2021, that was submitted in response to Bell County RFP 18-22. The supplement modifies the following portions of Sections 4 and 5 of our proposal. Table 1 in Section 1 was not modified since this information is no longer applicable. Any other references to "phases" in our proposal will now be interpreted to align with the project phases reflected in this supplement. All other content in our November 9, 2021 proposal not modified in this supplement remains in effect.

Revisions to B&A Proposal – Section 4

Revised **Tables 3.a. through 3.f.** below present our work plan by phase, task(s), sub-task(s), and **RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK** services required. **Tables 3.a. through 3.f.** also include the estimated cost to complete each phase and the cost for each of the items requested in **RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK** by task.

The work plan is based on six phases:

Phase 1 – HCP Planning Grant Application and Project Development

Phase 2 – HCP Development

Phase 3 – HCP Draft

Phase 4 – Committee / Agency Review and HCP Completion

Phase 5 – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Phase 6 – HCP Permit Acquisition

After **Table 3.f.**, is a narrative summary of our six-phased project approach.

Table 3.a. B&A Team Proposed RHCP Project Approach and Deliverables by Phases, Task(s), Sub-Task(s), and RFP Required Services – Phase 1

PHASE 1: HCP PLANNING GRANT ASSISTANCE AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT (Proposed Phase 1 Budget – \$58,500)		
<i>Goals: Establishing preparing and submitting the HCP Planning Assistance Grant Application and begin establishing the foundations to guide the development of the RHCP.</i>		
Task 1. Prepare HCP Planning Assistance Grant Application		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Develop schedule for grant application development and submittal to meet USFWS 2022 deadline (expected in mid-March). b. Develop draft grant application to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. introduction and RHCP approach; ii. discussion of project budget including Bell County and Coordinating Committee; iii. discussion of project schedule; iv. supporting information such as potential species benefitted by the RHCP, proposed project area map, list of potential RHCP partners and stakeholders, detailed three-year budget, a biographical sketch, TPWD Checklist, and overlap and duplication statements; and v. Gather letters of support from local and statewide elected officials supporting the RHCP to include in the submittal packet. c. Secure Bell County and Coordinating Committee approvals and submit application. d. Monitor USFWS consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule for grant application development • Draft and final grant application and supporting documents 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.a. (\$29,500)
Task 2. Design and Implement Collaborative Planning Process for Coordinating Committee		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Establish and facilitate collaborative steering committee of local partner agencies preparing the RHCP. b. Identify and implement framework for working with Bell County and the Coordinating Committee.	Technical Memoranda (one each) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for working with the Coordinating Committee • 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.e. \$14,500 3.f. (\$14,500)

Table 3.b. B&A Team Proposed RHCP Project Approach and Deliverables by Phases, Task(s), Sub-Task(s), and RFP Required Services – Phase 2

PHASE 2. HCP DEVELOPMENT (Proposed Phase 2 Budget – \$236,500)		
<i>Goals: Establishing committee, stakeholder, and public involvement processes including agency consultations, determining the fundamental elements, and performing all data collection and analysis.</i>		
Task 1. Design and Implement Collaborative Planning Process for Committees, Stakeholders, and Public		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Identify other key stakeholders and advisors and their roles and responsibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Comply with TPW Code for the CAC and BAT; and ii. Develop plans for CAC, BAT, and stakeholder meetings. b. Develop consultation plans to work with USFWS, Fort Hood, TxDOT. c. Identify meeting facilitation needs and processes. d. Determine public outreach and involvement process.	Technical Memoranda (one each) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify stakeholders including the BAT and CAC, and framework for stakeholder involvement and public outreach and involvement • USFWS, Fort Hood, and TxDOT consultation plan 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.j. (\$15,000) 3.k. (\$15,000)
Task 2. Develop RHCP Foundations		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Determine fundamental elements of RHCP: co-permittees, covered species, covered activities, plan and permit area, permit term. b. Prepare annotated RHCP outline. c. Prepare, and obtain reviews of, technical memoranda regarding fundamental elements and RHCP outline to be used for early chapters of the RHCP.	Technical Memoranda (one each) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-permittee(s) • Covered species • Covered activities • Plan area and permit area • Permit term • Annotated RHCP outline 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.b. (\$84,075) 3.i. (\$4,425)
Task 3. Collect Data and Identify Data Gaps		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Assemble existing data on proposed covered species and habitat, including water quality and water quantity data. b. Determine habitat and range of covered species, including habitat distribution models (when feasible). c. Assess current conservation lands already set aside to address species conservation needs. d. Determine missing data required for impact and take assessment.	Technical Memoranda (one each) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing information on covered species including habitat data, species occurrence records, and data gaps • Preliminary species accounts for covered species • Existing information/studies on environmental flows for the RHCP plan area • Potential species-specific modeling needs • Potential hydrologic, hydrogeologic, water quantity, water quality (excluding salinity) modeling needs 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.c. (\$70,800) 3.d. (\$17,700)
Task 4. Provide Meeting Support, and Attend, Facilitate or Present at Meetings		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Assist with meeting scheduling. b. Prepare required documents and presentations for required meetings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bell and Coryell Commissioners Court meetings; ii. Coordinating Committee meetings; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various documents related to meetings throughout development of the RHCP • Agendas, materials, presentations, and summaries of meetings 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.e. (\$14,750) 3.f. (\$14,750)

Table 3.b. B&A Team Proposed RHCP Project Approach and Deliverables by Phases, Task(s), Sub-Task(s), and RFP Required Services – Phase 2

PHASE 2. HCP DEVELOPMENT (Proposed Phase 2 Budget – \$236,500)		
<i>Goals: Establishing committee, stakeholder, and public involvement processes including agency consultations, determining the fundamental elements, and performing all data collection and analysis.</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Coordinating Committee Chief Administrative Officer meetings; iv. USFWS meetings; v. CAC and BAT meetings; and vi. Stakeholder and public meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Lead meeting discussions as required. d. Facilitate meeting discussions as required. 		

Table 3.c. B&A Team Proposed RHCP Project Approach and Deliverables by Phases, Task(s), Sub-Task(s), and RFP Required Services – Phase 3

PHASE 3. HCP DRAFT (Proposed Phase 3 Budget – \$442,500)		
<i>Goals: Developing take assessments and the proposed conservation strategy, assessing cost to implement the RHCP, and developing the preliminary drafts of all RHCP chapters.</i>		
Task 1. Conduct Modeling and Research		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Conduct modeling (e.g., species distribution, water quantity [surface and groundwater], and water quality) identified during completion of Phase 1, Task 4. b. Evaluate potential conservation and implementation strategies.	Technical Memoranda (one each) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods and models for determining species habitat impacts, anticipated forms of take for each species, and preliminary take metrics/triggers • WAM modeling and results • GAM modeling and results • Water quality modeling and results from the water quality model runs 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.h. (\$106,200) 3.i. (\$26,550)
Task 2. Develop Take Methodology & Take Calculations		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Assess how covered activities may impact covered species and their habitats. b. Develop take calculations. c. Establish biological goals and objectives.	Technical Memoranda on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary results of the impact assessments, including supporting model data and take estimates • Biological goals and objectives 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.g. (\$70,800) 3.i. (\$17,700)
Task 3. Develop Preliminary Conservation Strategy		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Identify conservation needs and other conservation efforts – Fort Hood. b. Develop mitigation strategies and preliminary conservation measures. c. Develop preliminary monitoring and adaptive management program.	Technical Memoranda (one each) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary biological goals and objectives; preliminary avoidance • Minimization, and mitigation measures, including habitat and species level conservation measures • Framework for a monitoring and adaptive management plan • Anticipated benefits of related conservation measures intended to minimize impacts, including supporting model data 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.i. (\$66,375)
Task 4. Develop Preliminary Cost and Funding Analysis, and Economic Analysis		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Develop preliminary cost model and funding plan for RHCP implementation. b. Develop economic analysis of RHCP implementation.	Technical Memoranda (one each) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost model assumptions • Funding plan • Economic analysis 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.i. (\$2,213) 3.n. (\$26,550) 3.o. (\$15,487)

Table 3.c. B&A Team Proposed RHCP Project Approach and Deliverables by Phases, Task(s), Sub-Task(s), and RFP Required Services – Phase 3

PHASE 3. HCP DRAFT (Proposed Phase 3 Budget – \$442,500)		
<i>Goals: Developing take assessments and the proposed conservation strategy, assessing cost to implement the RHCP, and developing the preliminary drafts of all RHCP chapters.</i>		
Task 5. Refine Preliminary Conservation Strategy and Develop Alternatives		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Refine preliminary conservation strategy. b. Develop updated cost and funding analysis. c. Develop alternatives to take.	Technical Memoranda (one each) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation • Changed circumstances • Take alternatives 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.i. (\$8,850) 3.I. (\$35,400)
Task 6. Prepare Preliminary Drafts of all HCP Chapters		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 1: Introduction. b. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 2: Covered Activities. c. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 3: Environmental Setting. d. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 4: Effects Analysis. e. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 5: Conservation Strategy. f. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 6: Monitoring and Adaptive Management. g. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 7: Implementation and Assurances. h. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 8: Cost and Funding. i. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 9: Alternatives to Take. j. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Chapter 10: References. k. Prepare Preliminary Draft of Technical Appendices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary drafts of all RHCP chapters and technical appendix documents 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.I. (\$66,375)

Table 3.d. B&A Team Proposed RHCP Project Approach and Deliverables by Phases, Task(s), Sub-Task(s), and RFP Required Services – Phase 4

PHASE 4. COMMITTEE / AGENCY REVIEW AND HCP COMPLETION (Proposed Phase 4 Budget – \$295,000)		
<i>Goals: Preparing the Administrative RHCP Drafts, obtaining USFWS review and public comments, and preparing and submitting the ITP application to USFWS.</i>		
Task 1. Prepare Administrative Drafts of RHCP and Reviews		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Prepare First Administrative Draft RHCP based on review of co-permittee, USFWS, and stakeholder review of preliminary draft RHCP chapters. (This document should be sufficient to begin the NEPA process.) b. Conduct team legal review of ITP application, including draft RHCP. c. Prepare summary report of legal review. d. Prepare Second Administrative Draft RHCP based on review of co-permittee, USFWS, and stakeholder review of First Administrative Draft RHCP. e. Prepare Screen Check Public Draft RHCP for co-permittee and USFWS review. f. Prepare Public Draft for RHCP publication in Federal Register.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Administrative Draft RHCP • Legal review summary report • Second Administrative Draft RHCP • Screen Check Public Draft RHCP • Public Draft for RHCP 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.i. (\$177,000)
Task 2. Prepare Permit Application		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Prepare ITP application. b. Conduct team legal review of ITP application, including draft RHCP. c. Prepare summary report of legal review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITP Application 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.i. (\$17,700) 3.l. (\$11,800) 3.m. (\$29,500)
Task 3. Submit Permit Application to USFWS		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Assist Bell County with submittal of ITP application. b. Coordinate with USFWS regarding ITP application review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITP Application submitted to USFWS 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.m. (\$59,000)

Table 3.e. B&A Team Proposed RHCP Project Approach and Deliverables by Phases, Task(s), Sub-Task(s), and RFP Required Services – Phase 5

PHASE 5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) (Proposed Phase 5 Budget – \$368,750)		
<i>Goals: Designing and conducting the NEPA process, and developing the Draft EIS.</i>		
Task 1. Design NEPA Process and Develop Work Plan		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Develop NEPA process and work plan, including "firewall," schedule, and USFWS review times and coordination. b. Develop EIS purpose and need. c. Define proposed action based on scope of RHCP. d. Determine environmental topics evaluated in EIS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPA work plan • Technical memorandum on EIS purpose and need • Technical memorandum on project description 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.p. (\$110,625)
Task 2. Conduct EIS Scoping and NEPA Pre-Planning		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Conduct public scoping process (in person or virtual). b. Prepare scoping report. c. Assemble necessary data and develop EIS outline. d. Determine scope of EIS analysis and methods. e. Determine alternative screening criteria and preliminary alternatives. f. Conduct screening of preliminary alternative. g. Define No Action alternative (i.e., No Regional HCP). h. Define Proposed Action and up to two Action Alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Memorandum on preliminary alternate descriptions • Technical Report on existing conditions • GAM or WAM runs to support RHCP and EIS analyses • Technical Report on preliminary impact analyses • Technical Report on recommendations for the EIS • Public Scoping Plan • Draft NOI • Public scoping meetings or webinars and presentation materials • Scoping summary report • Public notification content for media (e.g., newspaper advertisements, press releases, email or letter content) 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.p. (\$110,625)
Task 3. Prepare First Administrative Draft EIS		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Prepare Introduction chapter. b. Prepare Alternatives chapter. c. Prepare Environmental Setting section for each resource topic. d. Prepare Environmental Consequences section for each resource topic. e. Prepare other sections of EIS as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Draft EIS 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.p. (\$110,625)

Task 4. Prepare Second Administrative Draft and Public Draft EIS		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Prepare Second Administrative Draft EIS. b. Prepare Public Draft EIS for publication in Federal Register. c. Design and conduct public meetings on Draft EIS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Administrative Draft EIS • Draft NOA for USFWS Posting • Public Draft EIS • Public meetings via online webinars (two only) and presentation materials • Updated downloadable materials, if applicable • Public notification content for media (e.g., newspaper advertisements, press releases, email, or letter content) 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.p. (\$36,875)

Table 3.f. B&A Team Proposed RHCP Project Approach and Deliverables by Phases, Task(s), Sub-Task(s), and RFP Required Services – Phase 6

PHASE 6. HCP PERMIT ACQUISITION (Proposed Phase 6 Budget – \$73,750)		
<i>Goals: Preparing the final EIS and final RHCP for submittal to USFWS, and USFWS ITP Issuance.</i>		
Task 1. Prepare Final EIS and Final RHCP for Submittal to USFWS		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Coordinate with USFWS. b. Prepare draft and final response to public comments on EIS and RHCP. c. Prepare final EIS. d. Prepare final RHCP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft response to comments on the draft EIS • Preliminary Final EIS • Draft NOA for USFWS to finalize, approve, and post • Public Final EIS • Project record protocol • Electronic project record 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.m. (\$59,000)
Task 2. Respond to USFWS Issuance of Decision Documents and ITP		
Sub-Tasks	Deliverable(s)	Related RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK Services and Pricing
a. Coordinate with USFWS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified 	See B&A Team Response to RFP Section 3 Item(s): 3.m. (\$14,750)

The following is a description of each phase of work and the tasks within each phase. These tasks represent action steps that need to be accomplished to complete each phase of the RHCP project. As noted in **Tables 3.a.** through **3.f.** above, the services identified in the STATEMENT OF WORK in Section 3 of the RFP are aligned with each of the tasks that require all or some portion of those services to complete the task.

Phase 1 – HCP Planning Grant and Project Development

Task 1: Prepare HCP Planning Assistance Grant Application

We will assist the Coordinating Committee with preparing and submitting the HCP Planning Assistance Grant application. Once retained, the B&A Team will prepare a timeline for drafting and submitting the grant application to the TPWD. Adhering to the schedule will be essential to meeting the TPWD submittal deadline.

Task 2: Design and Implement Collaborative Planning Process for Coordinating Committee

Phase 1 addresses the creation of a framework for the development of the RHCP consisting of a collaborative planning process.

Phase 2 – HCP Development

Task 1: Design and Implement Collaborative Planning Process for Committees, Stakeholders, and Public

Phase 2 addresses the creation of a framework for the development of the RHCP consisting of a collaborative planning process. This framework includes working with key stakeholders, the CAC and BAT, and the public, and consultations with the USFWS, Fort Hood, and TxDOT. Based upon our experience, early and frequent consultations with the USFWS and other key stakeholders are critical to a successful HCP.

Key Decision(s) or Question(s) Addressed:

- What is the role of stakeholders in developing the RHCP?
- What problem(s) does the RHCP need to solve to establish clear goals for the RHCP?

Task 2: Develop RHCP Foundations

Fundamental elements that determine the scope of the RHCP will be identified in coordination with the Coordinating Committee and will be documented through a series of technical memoranda, which will form the basis of the RHCP chapters. These fundamental elements include the plan and permit area, list of covered species, covered activities/projects, the RHCP annotated outline, ITP term, the stakeholders and stakeholder process, and the public information process. The technical memoranda will also be used

Key Decision(s) or Question(s) Addressed:

- What is the plan area and permit area?
- What are the covered species?
- What are the covered activities? Who besides the co-permittees is eligible to use the permit's take authorization?
- What is the permit duration?

to provide information to, and seek feedback from, the USFWS. The technical memoranda will be incorporated into the RHCP chapters.

Task 3: Collect Data and Identify Data Gaps

Existing data and information relevant to the RHCP will be compiled for use in evaluating the covered activities, as appropriate; the list of potential covered species will be developed; species habitat/distribution models and model inputs will be identified and developed for determining impacts, estimating take, and designing conservation measures; and species accounts and other RHCP components will be formulated. During this phase, the B&A Team will also identify relevant data gaps and research needs, as well as determine how and when to address those gaps (e.g., as part of RHCP development or as conservation measures).

The existing data and information will be compiled, as available and appropriate, from publicly available sources and databases, including academic resources such as university libraries and databases; local, state, and federal government websites and databases; and non-governmental organization documents and data, as available and appropriate. Existing information will also be compiled from Coordinating Committee members' files and studies previously conducted by the Coordinating Committee as made available to the project team. Examples of information sources that will be reviewed, as available and appropriate, include (but are not limited to) the reports provided in RFP Addendum #1.

The data compiled in this phase will be used throughout subsequent phases to evaluate species distribution, habitat, and potential to be impacted by activities; to develop and run water quantity and quality models; to assess impacts, estimate take, and develop and evaluate conservation measures; and to prepare various RHCP sections. In addition, the B&A Team will identify additional data needs for the RHCP, and further modeling/research strategies identified for providing additional data. Modeling and research that is anticipated to fill data gaps needed for RHCP development are discussed in Phase 2.

Task 4: Provide Meeting Support, and Attend, Facilitate or Present at Meetings

This task includes the preparation and participation in various project meetings, as listed below. For each meeting, agendas will be prepared, as appropriate. Attendance will be required at Bell and Coryell County Commissioners Court meetings and Coordinating Committee meetings to provide project updates. Also, the B&A Team, in coordination with the Coordinating Committee, will solicit input from the Bell and Coryell County Commissioners and the members of the Coordinating Committee through brief interviews. In addition, B&A Team representatives will meet every other week (two [2] hours) with the Chief Administrative Officer to discuss progress, planning, and development. There will also be regular, general coordination meetings with USFWS to discuss project matters.

Working within the framework established in Task 1, the B&A Team will assist in the planning and organizing, and in making presentations at and facilitating (as needed) CAC, BAT, stakeholder, and public meetings. Because it is difficult to estimate how many meetings may be needed without further discussion with the Coordinating Committee, this proposal assumes no more than six (6) of each meeting will be needed and some or all may be held virtually. These stakeholder meetings would occur in addition to the public meetings held for the EIS (Phase 4).

Phase 3 – HCP Draft

The information compiled and data gaps identified in Phase 1 will directly inform the modeling, research, impact assessments, and take estimates conducted in Phase 2 Tasks 1 and 2. These tasks will inform development of conservation measures in Phase 2 Task 3. During work in Phase 2 Task 3, additional Phase 1 Task 4 data collection and Phase 2 Task 1 modeling may be needed to assess benefits of proposed conservation measures.

Tasks 1 and 2: Conduct Modeling and Research and Develop Take Methodology & Take Calculations, Respectively

The B&A Team will work with the Coordinating Committee and USFWS to obtain additional data needed for RHCP development as identified through Phase 1 Task 4, assessing and quantifying (where feasible) direct and indirect impacts of covered activities on covered species, and estimating take of covered species. The impact assessments will consider activity type and location, species habitat and occurrence, changes in water quantity and quality on aquatic species, and other factors that may affect species or their habitats. The major goal is development of species habitat/distribution models and using the habitat models to evaluate species/habitat impacts from covered activities and estimating take (and to develop conservation measures in Phase 2 Tasks 3 and 5). The major subtasks, which are described below, will involve:

- developing species habitat/distribution models to estimate distribution (for species where distribution is not well defined) and to inform the water quality parameters and other model needs for aquatic habitat impacts;
- conducting water quantity and quality modeling to support habitat impact assessments for aquatic species;
- refining habitat models as needed based on modeling efforts and assess species/habitat impacts;
- evaluating direct take or habitat destruction that may result from covered activities;
- developing take estimates; and
- evaluating effects to designated critical habitat.

Key Decision(s) or Question(s) Addressed:

- What are the impacts of the covered activities on each of the covered species?

Task 3: Develop Preliminary Conservation Strategy

The B&A Team will work with the Coordinating Committee and USFWS to determine mitigation strategies and conservation measures to fully offset the impacts of the taking for each covered species. The level of offset will be determined by the effects analysis (Phase 2 Tasks 1 and 2) for each covered species. The B&A Team will focus on designing biological goals and objectives that function at the landscape, natural community, and species levels and with consideration of climate change. The mitigation measures will strive to benefit groups of species where possible through a variety of strategies, such as habitat conservation, preservation and/or enhancement, education, and research. The strategies and measures will incorporate other ongoing conservation efforts where possible and feasible. This task also includes developing the framework of a monitoring and adaptive management plan.

Conservation measure development will be informed by, and incorporate information from previous tasks, including but not limited to species recovery plans, mitigation measures adopted in other HCPs for the same species, species distribution models, species habitat requirements; and outputs from surface water and groundwater flow and water quality models to assess the benefits of the conservation measures intended to minimize impacts. Benefits of flow-related or other conservation measures intended to minimize impacts to aquatic species will be evaluated using water quantity and quality modeling (up to three [3] model runs each for conservation measures).

The B&A Team will work closely with the Coordinating Committee and their partners to identify and describe avoidance and minimization measures that are already being implemented and others that may be committed to long-term. The Team will also compile lists and descriptions of other avoidance and

minimization measures used by similar water agencies or in other HCPs for the Coordinating Committee's consideration for the RHCP.

Key Decision(s) or Question(s) Addressed:

- What are the biological goals and objectives for the covered species?
- What are the conservation measures needed to fully offset the impacts of the taking?
- How will climate change be integrated into the analysis and conservation strategy?

Task 4: Develop Preliminary Cost and Funding Analysis, and Economic Analysis

To demonstrate that sufficient funding is available to implement the RHCP, the B&A Team will prepare a proposed approach to HCP cost estimating and funding that includes the identification of the general costs and cost categories to implement the conservation measures in the RHCP. The funding plan will also identify the funding sources and mechanisms for assurances that the resources will be available for the duration of the permit. The B&A Team will also assess the economic impact of the RHCP so that this information is available to the Coordinating Committee as the RHCP continues to be developed.

Based on the technical memoranda and other deliverables from previous Phases and Tasks, each chapter and appendix of the RHCP will be prepared for the Coordinating Committee's review, followed by USFWS review. Appendices would include the following: glossary, species considered for coverage, species accounts, technical details on hydrologic modeling, technical details on mitigation measures, cost estimate model and assumptions.

Key Decision(s) or Question(s) Addressed:

- Are the proposed conservation measures affordable?
- How much will the plan cost to implement?
- How will implementation be funded and what will the fees be to participate?

Task 5: Refine Preliminary Conservation Strategy and Develop Alternatives

This task will include the preparation of three (3) Technical Memoranda to propose the approaches to three (3) important components to the RHCP: 1) how implementation will work; 2) anticipated changed circumstances; and 3) alternatives to take. The implementation memorandum will describe how the permit applicants will implement each of the conservation measures (e.g., land acquisition process, restoration process, landowner enrollment process, etc.). This memorandum will also propose the nature of implementation reporting. The changed circumstances memorandum will describe proposed changed circumstances and the limits of those changed circumstances (i.e., where unforeseen circumstances begin) that define the level of regulatory assurances requested. The alternatives memorandum will describe the nature of the take alternatives and their relationship to NEPA alternatives.

Key Decision(s) or Question(s) Addressed:

- How will plan implementation be overseen and managed?
- What is the adaptive management plan? What are implementation assurances and protocols for amending the plan?
- What are the alternatives to take considered but rejected, and why?

Task 6. Prepare Preliminary Drafts of all HCP Chapters

In this task, the B&A Team will prepare preliminary drafts of all RHCP chapters and appendix documents. The Team will compile these drafts into an administrative preliminary draft discussed further in Phase 4 Task 1.

Phase 4 – Committee / Agency Review and HCP Completion

Task 1: Prepare Administrative Drafts of RHCP and Reviews

A compiled administrative preliminary review draft RHCP will be prepared for Coordinating Committee review and comment, followed by USFWS review and comment. The public draft of the RHCP will be prepared for Coordinating Committee, stakeholder, and public review. The ITP application package, consisting of the Section 10(a)(1)(B) application, the draft RHCP, and the draft EIS, will be submitted to the Coordinating Committee for submittal to the USFWS. Coordination with, and review by, the Coordinating Committee is planned for each document. The Bell and Coryell Commissioners Courts and the Coordinating Committee will be informed as part of the B&A Team's required presentations to these entities discussed under Phase 1. The discussion below summarizes the B&A Team's proposed process for preparing the RHCP and ITP application package.

Incorporating Coordinating Committee and USFWS comments, all chapters will be compiled into a First Administrative Draft of the RHCP. This draft will be provided to the Coordinating Committee for review. A Second Administrative Draft will be prepared for USFWS review at the regional office, field office, and by the Department of the Interior Solicitor.

Based on USFWS review of the Second Administrative Draft RHCP, a screen check public draft RHCP will be prepared. The screen check public draft will serve as a final check for both Coordinating Committee and USFWS prior to preparation of the internet-ready public draft RHCP that will be posted for public comment. Comments on the screen check public draft are expected to be minor (if comments are not minor, a Third Administrative Draft RHCP may be needed, which is not included in this proposal).

Based on Coordinating Committee and USFWS review of the screen check public draft, the public draft RHCP that incorporates USFWS and Coordinating Committee comments will be prepared.

Task 2: Prepare Permit Application

The Public Draft RHCP, Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit application and Public Draft EIS will be combined and presented to the permit applicants to obtain approval to submit the application package to USFWS. Comments on the ITP package documents are expected to be minor and may require minimal editing to prepare the final documents for submittal to the USFWS.

Task 3: Submit Permit Application to USFWS

The B&A Team will then compile the final RHCP along with the final EIS for submittal to USFWS. The B&A Team will also assist the permit applicants with USFWS coordination once the final documents are submitted.

Key Decision(s) or Question(s) Addressed:

- When will the permit start?

Phase 5 – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

This Phase supports the NEPA process required for the USFWS' issuance of an ITP for the species covered by the RHCP. USFWS issuance of an ITP and approval of the RHCP constitutes a federal action that is subject to review under NEPA. Per NEPA, the EIS will be prepared by a separate team with different staff (the NEPA Team) than the HCP to ensure the independence of the NEPA analysis.

Task 1: Design NEPA Process and Develop Work Plan

The NEPA Team will develop a work plan that includes a description of the project management approach; communication protocol; roles and responsibilities of the permit applicants, USFWS, and the NEPA Team; firewall protocol addressing communication, file management, and reporting; and an approach to QA/QC for NEPA document development. The NEPA Team will also develop a schedule reflective of the RHCP schedule that takes into account mandatory public review periods and conforms to current NEPA regulations, which require completing the Record of Decision (ROD) within two (2) years from the issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS.

One (1) kick-off meeting between USFWS and the NEPA Team will be held to confirm next steps and schedule, coordinate transfer of project materials (e.g., RHCP chapters, technical reports, GIS data), identify primary points of contact, and initiate the project. Biweekly coordination calls and other recurring calls with USFWS will occur to ensure effective communications and expectations are being managed regarding RHCP status, schedule, content, and progress on the NEPA process.

Longer meetings will be scheduled to occur at critical points in the NEPA process to discuss development of the NEPA pre-planning document; finalization of the document outline, proposed action, alternatives, and scope/methodologies for the resource areas; and development of responses to comments on the public draft EIS in preparation of the final EIS.

Task 2: Conduct EIS Scoping and NEPA Pre-Planning

The NEPA Team will use a pre-planning approach that the ROD will be published within two (2) years of issuing the NOI to prepare an EIS. A NEPA Pre-planning Document will be developed prior to issuing the NOI and beginning the traditional scoping process. It will document preliminary components of the EIS prior to the start of the two-year clock to complete the EIS.

The NEPA Team will work with USFWS to develop the preliminary purpose and need based on input from the RHCP Team. The preliminary purpose and need will be presented in the NEPA Pre-planning Document and used in the development of alternatives.

For this project, the NEPA Team proposes to develop a preliminary project description using early drafts of the following chapters of the RHCP: Introduction, Covered Activities, and Conservation Strategy. The project description will provide the basis for the Proposed Action in the EIS. The Proposed Action will focus on the federal action, which is USFWS issuance of an ITP and the permit applicant's implementation of the approved RHCP.

While the RHCP may provide a description of alternatives for the purposes of the ITP, additional effort will be required to develop alternatives and text that will meet the USFWS' requirements under NEPA

An annotated outline will be developed that will describe the resource topics to potentially be evaluated and which could be eliminated; and the programmatic approach to developing the existing conditions, which will include the plan area and permit area and will be based on existing data sources. This approach involves the compilation, review, and summary of the baseline conditions for the resource areas that may be affected by the Proposed Action and preliminary alternatives. The resources anticipated to be evaluated, but which are subject to change after USFWS discussion, include the following: water resources, biological resources (wildlife and vegetation), cultural, historic, and Tribal resources, land use, public health and safety, socioeconomics, environmental justice, climate change, air quality, transportation, aesthetics, and hazardous materials.

An annotated outline will be developed to describe the approach to developing the preliminary impact analyses, which will accommodate the large geographic scope of the covered lands and address any lack of information on specific locations or activities. To the extent possible, existing data sources will be used to inform the analysis. Where data are inadequate or missing, the NEPA Team will identify other existing data sources or develop reasonable assumptions that will allow USFWS to characterize the types of impacts associated with the issuance of an ITP and implementation of the RHCP. To account for uncertainty in the locations or specificity of covered activities, the impact analysis will use a programmatic approach that will consider the full range of impacts potentially associated with implementation of the RHCP.

The NEPA Team will consult with USFWS on the findings of the pre-planning process and develop a list of recommendations relevant to the EIS and to the Scoping Process. Any input from the RHCP's outreach and stakeholder involvement will inform the recommendations for the EIS. A Technical Report on recommendations for the NEPA process will be developed and will describe the following:

- resources that should be analyzed in detail, and resources that can be dismissed,
- alternatives that should be communicated as part of the Scoping process,
- a preliminary EIS document outline along with potential page targets,
- issues to address during the public scoping process.

The NEPA Team will work with USFWS to develop a Public Scoping Plan, which will provide documentation and articulation of an agreed-upon approach to the public scoping process, including the required agency and public coordination; meeting format and approach; outreach strategy; and materials to be developed.

At the direction of USFWS, the NEPA Team will draft the NOI to prepare an EIS, which the USFWS will finalize and publish in the Federal Register.

The NEPA Team will utilize and expand on existing lists provided by the USFWS, B&A Team, and/or the Coordinating Committee, to develop and maintain a comprehensive computerized mailing list of resource agencies, local media contacts, Tribal contacts, elected officials, community/environmental groups, and other members of the public who have expressed interest in the RHCP NEPA process.

The NEPA Team will coordinate and execute meetings to allow the public an opportunity to easily learn about the project, engage on the project, and allow the USFWS to gather stakeholder and community-specific input. Virtual meeting rooms may be used to engage stakeholders and agencies in a large geographic area.

The NEPA Team will review scoping comments received from the agencies and public and will compile the information in a scoping summary report, which will describe key issues identified during scoping.

Task 3: Prepare First Administrative Draft EIS

One (1) workshop will be held with USFWS to discuss the results of the input received from the public scoping process, which will inform how the elements of the NEPA Pre-planning Document, combined with input from Scoping, will feed into the EIS (e.g., which alternatives will be carried forward for detailed analysis in the EIS); inform data sources and approach to analysis; and inform discussion about finalizing the scope and approach to the EIS affected environment and impact analyses in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations.

The Preliminary Draft EIS will include all substantive content required by NEPA. Input from Scoping, and the results and content of the NEPA Pre-planning Document, will inform the EIS structure, approach, and content.

After USFWS reviews and comments on the full Preliminary Draft EIS, the NEPA Team will arrange for a webinar discussion to review the comments and agree to an approach to address the review comments. A Revised Draft EIS will be provided for USFWS review and approval. This document will include the initial drafts of the remaining chapters of the EIS for USFWS review: Cover sheet, Summary, Table of Contents, List of Preparers, and Appendices.

Task 4: Prepare Second Administrative Draft and Public Draft EIS

The NEPA Team will develop a draft Notice of Availability (NOA), based on a USFWS template, for the USFWS to post and distribute for the public comment period. Once approved, the NEPA Team will prepare the Public Draft EIS for distribution.

Public outreach meetings will be held during the Draft EIS comment period using the same approach as scoping unless otherwise directed by USFWS. The NEPA Team will perform the same functions as described under Scoping, including the development of materials, notification, and facilitation of webinars. The NEPA Team will maintain the project mailing list and update it to reflect any new commenter contact information received during the Draft EIS comment period.

The NEPA Team will maintain project files in a logical and organized manner to document the NEPA process, to support decision making, and allow for easy access to project files. This process will be documented in a Project Record Protocol, which will be provided to USFWS for approval.

Phase 6 – HCP Permit Acquisition

Task 1: Prepare Final EIS and Final RHCP for Submittal to USFWS

The NEPA Team will review the public comments (and categorize the comments if necessary) and develop responses to substantive EIS comments.

Based on USFWS review and acceptance of the responses to public comments, the NEPA Team will prepare the preliminary Final EIS for submittal to USFWS, including responses to public comments on the EIS.

The NEPA Team will revise the preliminary Final EIS, including draft responses to comments, based on USFWS comments. The NEPA Team will develop a draft NOA of the public Final EIS for the agency to post and distribute. Once approved, the NEPA Team will prepare the public Final EIS for distribution.

Following the public comment period, initial draft responses to public comments will be provided to USFWS on the Public Draft RHCP (responses to public comments on the EIS are addressed in Phase 4). Phase 4 assumes up to 100 unique and substantive comments are submitted on the RHCP. Based

on public comments, any final revisions to the RHCP will also be made to produce an Administrative Final RHCP for concurrent review by Coordinating Committee and USFWS. It is assumed that revisions to the Public Draft RHCP will be minor and will not necessitate major revisions to text or rerunning any models or analyses.

Based on comments from the Coordinating Committee and USFWS, the screen check final RHCP will be prepared as a final check version before the final RHCP. It is assumed that comments from the Coordinating Committee and USFWS will be minor and will not necessitate major revisions or additional analyses. The final RHCP will be prepared based on any remaining comments on the Screen Check Final RHCP.

Task 2: Respond to USFWS Issuance of Decision Documents and ITP

The USFWS will prepare their decision documents based on any final comments received during the final EIS availability period. In response to these documents, the B&A Team will prepare the administrative records or project files to document the HCP preparation and NEPA process that can be used to support the USFWS decision.

Revisions to B&A Proposal – Section 5

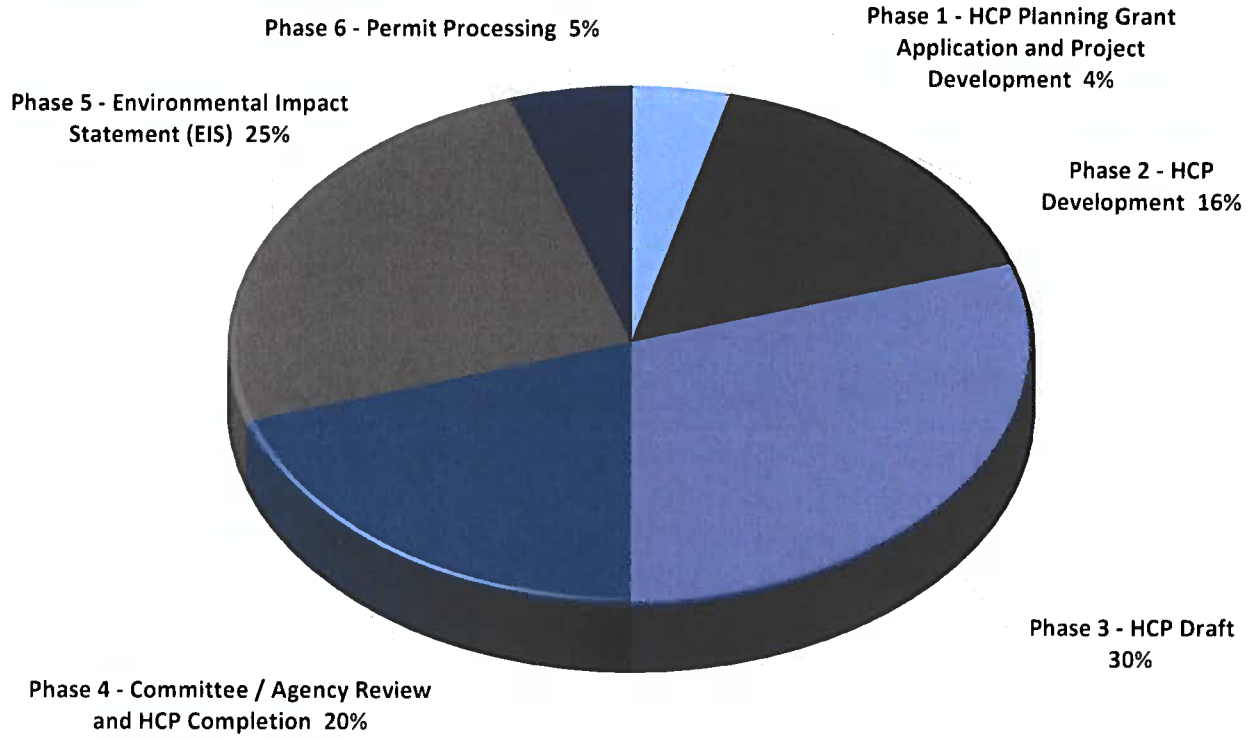
Table 4 below lists the B&A Team’s proposal pricing by each phase and each of the four and one-half years of the project. **Figure 3** provides a breakdown of our proposal pricing by project phase. Also, **Tables 3.a. through 3.f.** above includes itemized pricing for all items requested in this proposal by phase and task. As required by the RFP, our **Phase 1** pricing includes an estimate to prepare and submit the HCP Planning Assistance Grant application. Please note, our pricing also includes project management services to complete the project. Our proposed phase cost breakdown per year will continue to be refined in close coordination with Bell County. Proposed pricing for each phase and the year in which the services will be performed will be refined and coordinated with Bell County throughout the life of the project.

Table 3. B&A Team Proposal – Cost Breakdown by Phase

Phases and Cost Breakdown by Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Phase 1 <i>HCP Planning Grant Application and Project Development</i>	\$58,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$58,500
Phase 2 <i>HCP Development</i>	\$0	\$218,800	\$11,800	\$5,900	\$0	\$236,500
Phase 3 <i>HCP Draft</i>	\$0	\$110,625	\$331,875	\$0	\$0	\$442,500
Phase 4 <i>Committee / Agency Review and HCP Completion</i>	\$0	\$0	\$295,000	\$0	\$0	\$295,000
Phase 5 <i>Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</i>	\$0	\$0	\$258,125	\$110,625	\$0	\$368,750
Phase 6 <i>HCP Permit Acquisition</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51,625	\$22,125	\$73,750
TOTALS	\$58,500	\$329,425	\$896,800	\$168,150	\$22,125	\$1,475,000

Figure 1. B&A Team Proposal – Cost Breakdown by Phase

Cost Breakdown by Phase



The B&A Team's proposal pricing is based upon the following assumptions. No additional (optional) services identified in our response to **RFP Section 3. STATEMENT OF WORK** are included in our proposal pricing.

Phase 2:

- Coordinating Committee staff will handle all logistical, equipment, and supply needs for all meetings.
- Remote sensing, other desktop collection of new boundary data, or site visits to map the plan/permit area are not included in this proposal.
- With input from the B&A Team, the Coordinating Committee will determine how to obtain/conduct additional data needs, research, or studies; however, additional research and studies are not included in this proposal.
- The RHCP will cover up to 10 species.
- Covered species with similar habitat requirements and potential for impacts may be addressed in the RHCP as a group.
- Preliminary species accounts will be based as much as possible on existing species accounts from other HCPs and other sources such as recovery plans, as well as information from on-going studies as it becomes available.
- This proposal does not include fieldwork, surveys, or other studies, unless described explicitly in this proposal.
- Only two drafts of each deliverable document will be prepared.

Phase 3:

- Existing WAM and GAM models will be used for assessing water quantity (flow) estimates.
- Up to three WAM runs and up to three GAM runs will be conducted to support development of the RHCP.
- No new water quality models will be developed for the project; existing TCEQ and EPA water quality models will be used for the project. No more than three water quality model runs will be performed to support development of the RHCP.
- Habitat models will address spatial scales within the plan area appropriate for a programmatic HCP such as at the landscape, watershed, or major stream-reach scale.
- Habitat modeling, impact assessments, and take estimates will focus on federally listed threatened or endangered species only.
- No more than one formal presentation on the results of the economic analysis of the RHCP.
- Only two drafts of each deliverable document will be prepared.

Phase 4:

- Only two drafts of each deliverable document will be prepared.

Phase 5:

- NEPA compliance will require an EIS.
- NEPA regulations, requirements, and guidance as set forth by the CEQ, DOI, and USFWS will apply. Changes to these requirements made after the start of the NEPA process and before issuance of the ROD will require changes to the scope and approach to meet the new requirements.
- No surveys or fieldwork are required for the NEPA task; all information will be compiled via desktop.
- Any modeling needed for the EIS as required by USFWS (e.g., species habitat distribution modeling, hydrologic modeling) would be based on existing models or on models developed for the HCP. No new models would be developed for the EIS.
- The models either developed or used in HCP analyses may be used to support the EIS analyses.

- Other modeling needs will depend on the main ecological concerns identified and are not included in this proposal.
- The EIS will identify and evaluate a No Action alternative and up to two (2) action alternatives other than the proposed action (i.e., the proposed HCP).
- The EIS public meetings will be conducted in either a web-based virtual format or in-person depending upon COVID-19 meeting restrictions.
- Two (2) virtual scoping meetings and two (2) public meetings for the public draft EIS and HCP will be held. (Meetings held in person if requested by USFWS will require additional budget).
- Each scoping meeting or public meeting will be two (2) hours in duration (120 minutes) and have no more than 200 attendees.
- USFWS will be responsible for all required agency consultations, including those consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO), and affected tribes.
- Public comments on the draft HCP and draft EIS will be limited to up to 20 substantive comment letters with no more than an average of 5 unique comments each (i.e., up to 100 unique comments on both documents).
- Work needed to address major revisions to the public draft of the RHCP or rerunning any models or analyses resulting from comments from the USFWS, stakeholders or the public are not included in this proposal or proposal pricing.
- Two drafts of the administrative drafts of the RHCP will be prepared.

Phase 6:

- Two drafts of each deliverable document will be prepared.

APPENDIX F – REVISED PROPOSED PROJECT TIMELINE & SCHEDULE (PHASES, TASKS, SUBTASKS)

Revised Appendix F (abbreviated version and detailed version of the timeline) supersedes any discussion of, or references to, the project timeline or schedule in our November 9th proposal.

Supplemental - Abbreviated Version: Project Timeline and Schedule for Bell County and Coryell County Regional HCP

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Timeline													
					2022	2023	2024	2025	2026									
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
1	Development of the Bell County and Coryell County Regional HCP	221.2 wks	Tue 1/4/22	Wed 4/22/26	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2022 to Q2 2026]													
2	Phase 1 - HCP Planning Grant Application and Project Development	43.2 wks	Tue 1/4/22	Tue 11/1/22	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2022 to Q4 2022]													
3	1. Prepare HCP Planning Assistance Grant Application	43.2 wks	Tue 1/4/22	Tue 11/1/22	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2022 to Q4 2022]													
13	2. Design and Implement Collaborative Planning Process for Coordinating Committee	7 wks	Mon 3/21/22	Fri 5/6/22	[Gantt bar spanning from Q3 2022 to Q4 2022]													
16	Phase 2 – HCP Development	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q4 2025]													
17	1. Design and Implement Collaborative Planning Process for Committees, Stakeholders, and Public	7 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 2/20/23	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q2 2023]													
24	2. Develop HCP Foundations	19 wks	Tue 2/21/23	Mon 7/3/23	[Gantt bar spanning from Q2 2023 to Q3 2023]													
28	3. Collect Data and Identify Data Gaps	23 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Mon 9/25/23	[Gantt bar spanning from Q3 2023 to Q4 2023]													
33	4. Provide Meeting Support, and Attend, Facilitate, or Present at Meetings	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q4 2025]													
44	Phase 3 – HCP Draft	45 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Fri 3/1/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q2 2023 to Q4 2023]													
45	1. Conduct Modeling and Research	13 wks	Mon 10/2/23	Thu 1/4/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q1 2024]													
48	2. Develop Take Methodology and Take Calculations	24 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Mon 10/2/23	[Gantt bar spanning from Q2 2023 to Q4 2023]													
52	3. Develop Preliminary Conservation Strategy	10 wks	Tue 9/26/23	Wed 12/6/23	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q1 2024]													
56	4. Develop Preliminary Cost and Funding Analysis, and Economic Analysis	12 wks	Thu 12/7/23	Fri 3/1/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q1 2024]													
59	5. Refine Preliminary Conservation Strategy and Develop Alternatives	10 wks	Tue 9/26/23	Wed 12/6/23	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q1 2024]													
63	6. Prepare Preliminary Drafts of all HCP Chapters	24 wks	Tue 7/4/23	Wed 12/20/23	[Gantt bar spanning from Q3 2023 to Q4 2023]													
75	Phase 4 – Committee / Agency Review and HCP Completion	22 wks	Thu 12/21/23	Fri 5/24/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q2 2024]													
76	1. Prepare Administrative Drafts of HCP and Reviews	22 wks	Thu 12/21/23	Fri 5/24/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q2 2024]													
82	2. Prepare Permit Application	6 wks	Mon 4/1/24	Fri 5/10/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2024 to Q2 2024]													
85	3. Submit Permit Application to USFWS	2 wks	Mon 4/22/24	Fri 5/3/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q2 2024 to Q2 2024]													
88	Phase 5 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	87.8 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Fri 8/15/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q4 2025]													
89	1. Design NEPA Process and Develop Work Plan	24 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Tue 5/21/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q2 2024]													
94	2. Conduct EIS Scoping and NEPA Pre-Planning	24 wks	Wed 5/22/24	Tue 11/5/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q2 2024 to Q4 2024]													
102	3. Prepare First Administrative Draft EIS	53.8 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Wed 12/18/24	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2023 to Q4 2024]													
108	4. Prepare Second Administrative Draft EIS and Public Draft EIS	34 wks	Thu 12/19/24	Fri 8/15/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2024 to Q3 2025]													
113	Phase 6 - HCP Permit Acquisition	34.8 wks	Mon 8/18/25	Wed 4/22/26	[Gantt bar spanning from Q3 2025 to Q2 2026]													
114	1. Prepare Final EIS and Final HCP for Submittal to USFWS	12.8 wks	Mon 8/18/25	Thu 11/13/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q3 2025 to Q4 2025]													
117	2. Respond to USFWS Decision Documents and Prepare for Issuance of ITP	22 wks	Fri 11/14/25	Wed 4/22/26	[Gantt bar spanning from Q4 2025 to Q2 2026]													

Supplemental - Detailed Version: Project Timeline and Schedule for Bell County and Coryell County Regional HCP

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	2022												2023				2024				2025				2026			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
1	Development of the Bell County and Coryell County Regional HCP	221.2 wks	Tue 1/4/22	Wed 4/22/26	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2022 to Q2 2026]																											
2	Phase 1 - HCP Planning Grant Application and Project Development	43.2 wks	Tue 1/4/22	Tue 11/1/22	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2022 to Q4 2022]																											
3	1. Prepare HCP Planning Assistance Grant Application	43.2 wks	Tue 1/4/22	Tue 11/1/22	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2022 to Q4 2022]																											
4	a. Develop schedule for grant application development and submittal to meet late-March TPWD deadline [late-April 2022 USFWS deadline].	1 wk	Tue 1/4/22	Mon 1/10/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
5	b. Develop draft grant application to include:	9.4 wks	Tue 1/11/22	Wed 3/16/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
6	i. introduction and HCP approach,	9.4 wks	Tue 1/11/22	Wed 3/16/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
7	ii. discussion of project budget including Bell County and Coordinating Committee.	9.4 wks	Tue 1/11/22	Wed 3/16/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
8	iii. discussion of project schedule,	9.4 wks	Tue 1/11/22	Wed 3/16/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
9	iv. Supporting information such as potential species benefitted by the HCP, proposed project area map, list of potential HCP partners and stakeholders, detailed three-year budget, a biographical sketch, TPWD Checklist, and overlap/duplication statements	9.4 wks	Tue 1/11/22	Wed 3/16/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
10	v. Gather letters of support from local and statewide elected officials supporting the HCP to include in the submittal packet.	9.4 wks	Tue 1/11/22	Wed 3/16/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
11	c. Secure Bell County and Coordinating Committee approvals and submit application.	0.3 wks	Thu 3/17/22	Fri 3/18/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
12	d. Monitor USFWS consideration.	32.4 wks	Mon 3/21/22	Tue 11/1/22	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2022 to Q4 2022]																											
13	2. Design and Implement Collaborative Planning Process for Coordinating Committee	7 wks	Mon 3/21/22	Fri 5/6/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
14	a. Establish and facilitate collaborative steering committee of 13 local partner agencies preparing the HCP	3 wks	Mon 3/21/22	Fri 4/8/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
15	b. Identify and implement framework for working with the Coordinating Committee.	4 wks	Mon 4/11/22	Fri 5/6/22	[Gantt bar in Q1 2022]																											
16	Phase 2 – HCP Development	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q2 2025]																											
17	1. Design and Implement Collaborative Planning Process for Committees, Stakeholders, and Public	7 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 2/20/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
18	a. Identify other key stakeholders and advisors and their roles and responsibilities	7 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 2/20/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
19	i. Comply with TPW Code for the CAC and BAT; and	7 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 2/20/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
20	ii. Develop plans for CAC, BAT, and stakeholder meetings	7 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 2/20/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
21	b. Develop consultation plans to work with USFWS, Fort Hood, TxDOT	7 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 2/20/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
22	c. Identify meeting facilitation needs and processes	7 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 2/20/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
23	d. Determine public outreach and involvement process	7 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 2/20/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
24	2. Develop HCP Foundations	19 wks	Tue 2/21/23	Mon 7/3/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
25	a. Determine fundamental elements of HCP: co-permittees, covered species, covered activities, plan and permit area, permit term.	8 wks	Tue 2/21/23	Mon 4/17/23	[Gantt bar in Q1 2023]																											
26	b. Prepare annotated HCP outline.	4 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Mon 5/15/23	[Gantt bar in Q2 2023]																											
27	c. Prepare, and obtain required reviews of, technical memoranda regarding fundamental elements and HCP outline to be used for early chapters of the HCP.	7 wks	Tue 5/16/23	Mon 7/3/23	[Gantt bar in Q2 2023]																											
28	3. Collect Data and Identify Data Gaps	23 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Mon 9/25/23	[Gantt bar in Q2 2023]																											
29	a. Assemble existing data on proposed covered species and habitat, including water quality and quantity.	23 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Mon 9/25/23	[Gantt bar in Q2 2023]																											
30	b. Determine habitat and range of covered species, including habitat distribution models (when feasible).	23 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Mon 9/25/23	[Gantt bar in Q2 2023]																											
31	c. Assess current conservation lands already set aside to address species conservation needs.	23 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Mon 9/25/23	[Gantt bar in Q2 2023]																											
32	d. Determine missing data required for impact/take assessment.	23 wks	Tue 4/18/23	Mon 9/25/23	[Gantt bar in Q2 2023]																											
33	4. Provide Meeting Support, and Attend, Facilitate, or Present at Meetings	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q2 2025]																											
34	a. Assist with meeting scheduling.	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q2 2025]																											
35	b. Prepare required documents and presentations for required meetings:	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q2 2025]																											
36	i. Bell and Coryell Commissioners Court meetings	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q2 2025]																											
37	ii. Coordinating Committee meetings	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q2 2025]																											
38	iii. Coordinating Committee Chief Administrative Officer meetings	124.8 wks	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 6/4/25	[Gantt bar spanning from Q1 2023 to Q2 2025]																											

Supplemental - Project Timeline and Schedule for Bell County and Coryell County Regional HCP

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
					Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2
79	c. Prepare Second Administrative Draft HCP based on review of co-permittee, USFWS, and stakeholder review of First Administrative Draft HCP	3 wks	Mon 4/1/24	Fri 4/19/24					
80	d. Prepare Screen Check Public Draft HCP for co-permittee and USFWS review.	3 wks	Mon 4/22/24	Fri 5/10/24					
81	e. Prepare Public Draft HCP for publication in Federal Register	2 wks	Mon 5/13/24	Fri 5/24/24					
82	2. Prepare Permit Application								
83	a. Prepare incidental take permit (ITP) application.	6 wks	Mon 4/1/24	Fri 5/10/24					
84	b. Prepare summary report of legal review.	3 wks	Mon 4/1/24	Fri 4/19/24					
85	3. Submit Permit Application to USFWS	2 wks	Mon 4/22/24	Fri 5/3/24					
86	a. Assist Bell County with submittal of ITP application.	2 wks	Mon 4/22/24	Fri 5/3/24					
87	b. Coordinate with USFWS regarding ITP applications review.	2 wks	Mon 4/22/24	Fri 5/3/24					
88	Phase 5 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	87.8 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Fri 8/15/25					
89	1. Design NEPA Process and Develop Work Plan	24 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Tue 5/21/24					
90	a. Develop NEPA process and work plan, including "firewall", schedule, and USFWS review times and coordination.	24 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Tue 5/21/24					
91	b. Develop EIS purpose and need.	24 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Tue 5/21/24					
92	c. Define proposed action based on scope of HCP.	24 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Tue 5/21/24					
93	d. Determine environmental topics evaluated in EIS.	24 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Tue 5/21/24					
94	2. Conduct EIS Scoping and NEPA Pre-Planning	24 wks	Wed 5/22/24	Tue 11/5/24					
95	a. Conduct public scoping process (in person or virtual)	10 wks	Wed 5/22/24	Tue 7/30/24					
96	b. Prepare scoping report	7 wks	Wed 7/31/24	Tue 9/17/24					
97	c. Assemble necessary data and develop EIS outline	7 wks	Wed 9/18/24	Tue 11/5/24					
98	d. Determine scope of EIS analysis and methods	7 wks	Wed 9/18/24	Tue 11/5/24					
99	e. Determine alternative screening criteria and preliminary alternatives	7 wks	Wed 9/18/24	Tue 11/5/24					
100	f. Conduct screening of preliminary alternative	7 wks	Wed 9/18/24	Tue 11/5/24					
101	g. Define No Action alternative (i.e., No HCP)	7 wks	Wed 9/18/24	Tue 11/5/24					
102	3. Prepare First Administrative Draft EIS	53.8 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Wed 12/18/24					
103	a. Prepare Introduction chapter	13 wks	Mon 12/4/23	Tue 3/5/24					
104	b. Prepare Alternatives chapter	13 wks	Thu 2/15/24	Wed 5/15/24					
105	c. Prepare Environmental Setting section for each resource topic	13 wks	Fri 4/26/24	Thu 7/25/24					
106	d. Prepare Environmental Consequences section for each resource topic	13 wks	Mon 7/8/24	Fri 10/4/24					
107	e. Prepare other sections of EIS as required	13 wks	Tue 9/17/24	Wed 12/18/24					
108	4. Prepare Second Administrative Draft EIS and Public Draft EIS	34 wks	Thu 12/19/24	Fri 8/15/25					
109	a. Prepare Second Administrative Draft EIS	14 wks	Thu 12/19/24	Fri 3/28/25					
110	b. Prepare Public Draft EIS for publication in Federal Register	8 wks	Mon 3/31/25	Fri 5/23/25					
111	c. Design and conduct public meetings on Draft EIS	12 wks	Mon 5/26/25	Fri 8/15/25					
112	d. Public comment period (45 days)	45 days	Mon 5/26/25	Fri 7/25/25					
113	Phase 6 - HCP Permit Acquisition	34.8 wks	Mon 8/18/25	Wed 4/22/26					
114	1. Prepare Final EIS and Final HCP for Submittal to USFWS	12.8 wks	Mon 8/18/25	Thu 11/13/25					
115	a. Coordinate with USFWS.	4.8 wks	Mon 8/18/25	Thu 9/18/25					
116	b. Prepare response to public comments on EIS and HCP.	8 wks	Fri 9/19/25	Thu 11/13/25					
117	2. Respond to USFWS Decision Documents and Prepare for Issuance of ITP	22 wks	Fri 11/14/25	Wed 4/22/26					
118	a. Coordinate with USFWS.	22 wks	Fri 11/14/25	Wed 4/22/26					

Workshop #5

GCD BOOT CAMP



**February 8, 2022
Sonesta Bee Cave Austin**

**8:30am-12pm
(before Business Meeting)**

Cost for Module 1 of the GCD Boot Camp is \$100 per person

Includes a \$25 discount for the TAGD Business Meeting
Lunch can be added for \$25

Are you a new board member? District employee trying to learn it all? GCD manager with less than 5 years of experience? Just need a refresher on the essentials? TAGD is proud to offer a GCD Boot Camp where participants will learn the ropes of how GCDs operate and manage groundwater resources throughout the state.

Module 1 Sessions

Groundwater Regulation Under Chapter 36

Natasha Martin, Shareholder, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody

Basic Hydrogeology & Wells

Matthew Uliana, Principal Hydrogeologist, INTERA

State Agencies Overview

Shauna Fitzsimmons Sledge, Partner, SledgeLaw

Joint Planning Basics

Natalie Ballew, Groundwater Technical Assistance Manager, TWDB

Questions? Email julia@texasgroundwater.org or call 512-596-3101