



# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
PO Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
505/248-6911  
505/248-6915 (Fax)

**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** <http://southwest.fws.gov>

**For Release:** May 25, 2011

**Contacts:** Tanya Sommer, 512-490-0057  
Christina Williams, 512-490-0057  
Lesli Gray, 972-569-8588

## **Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Proposed Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Plan**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is announcing the schedule of public scoping meetings for the proposed Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and the Service's preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

On April 27, 2011, the Service published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) to begin drafting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the proposed issuance of an incidental take permit for the Southern Edwards Plateau draft Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (dRHCP).

Led by the City of San Antonio, TX, and Bexar County, TX, the Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Plan is an effort to address the potential impacts of infrastructure and commercial and residential development and seeks incidental take authorization for 11 federally-listed species: the golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, and nine Bexar County karst invertebrates. The proposed planning area covers Bexar County, TX, and six surrounding counties.

The public scoping meeting dates, times and locations for the proposed Southern Edwards Plateau Regional Habitat Conservation Plan are as follows:

### **June 6, 2011**

Silver Sage Corral Great Room  
803 Buck Creek Drive  
Bandera, Texas 78003

### **June 7, 2011**

Boerne Convention Center  
820 Adler Rd.  
Boerne, TX 78006

### **June 9, 2011**

Old Blanco County Courthouse  
300 Main Street  
Blanco, Texas 78606

### **June 13, 2011**

YO Ranch Conference Center  
2033 Sidney Baker  
Kerrville, TX. 78028

### **June 14, 2011**

Helotes Ag Activity Center  
12132 Leslie Road  
Helotes, Texas 78023

The scoping meetings will provide the public with a general understanding of the background of the proposed RHCP and activities that it would cover, alternative proposals under consideration for the draft EIS, and the Service's role and steps to be taken in developing the draft EIS for the draft RHCP.

America's fish, wildlife and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species is a shared responsibility. The Service is actively engaged with conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species. To learn more about the Endangered Species program, go to <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works cooperatively with the American public to continue the conservation legacy of America's great outdoors. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwshq](http://www.twitter.com/usfwshq), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws>, and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/>