



# COMPLETION STRATEGY UPDATE

BALCONES CANYONLANDS CONSERVATION PLAN AND  
BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

# PERMIT AND PRESERVE

Federal Endangered Species Act  
Permit (BCCP)  
held by City of Austin and Travis County

## PERMIT HOLDERS

Travis County  
City of Austin



## CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Travis Audubon Society  
The Nature Conservancy  
St Edwards University –  
Wild Basin



## MANAGING PARTNERS

Lower Colorado River Authority  
City of Sunset Valley



## OTHER PARTNERS

USFWS  
City of Lakeway  
Developers  
Private Landowners

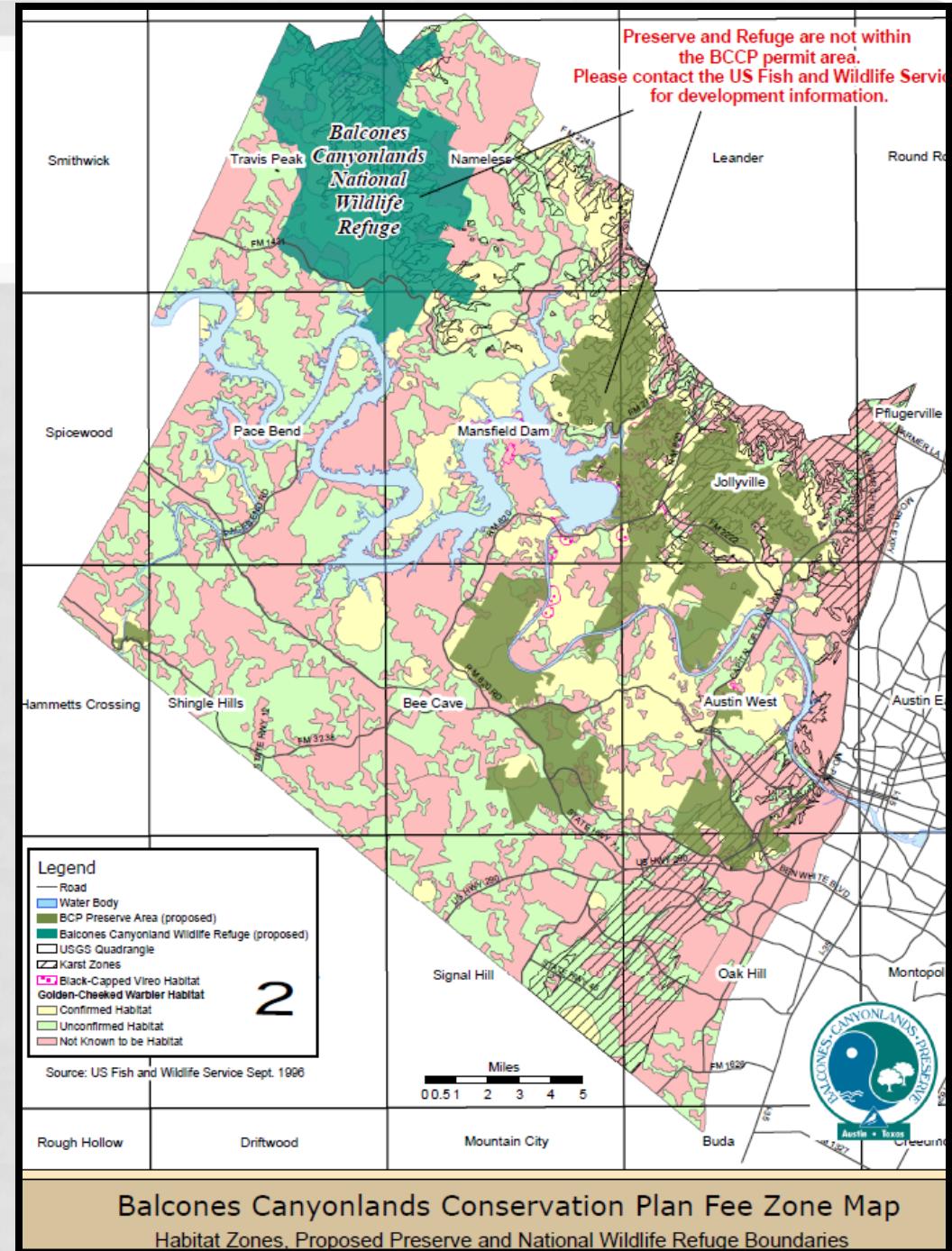
# WHY PERMIT?

- **Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)**
  - facilitates **economic development** - gives project developers a streamlined Endangered Species Act compliance process
  - **Local solution** to a federal regulation
  - **Voluntary** participation
- **Developers and Landowners:**
  - **789** BCCP Habitat Determination Applications
  - **283 Participation Certificates on more than 12,600 acres**
  - PC process has facilitated \$4.5 Billion assessed value of those improvements to the local tax base
- **Public Infrastructure:** 236 public service projects

Travis County and City of Austin continued compliance with our permit enables us to offer this expedited service to our constituents

# WHY PRESERVE?

- Permit requires habitat to offset development we facilitate ("take")
- Original recommendation 125,000 acres
- "Take" is permanent, so preserve must be permanent



# PRESERVE STANDARDS

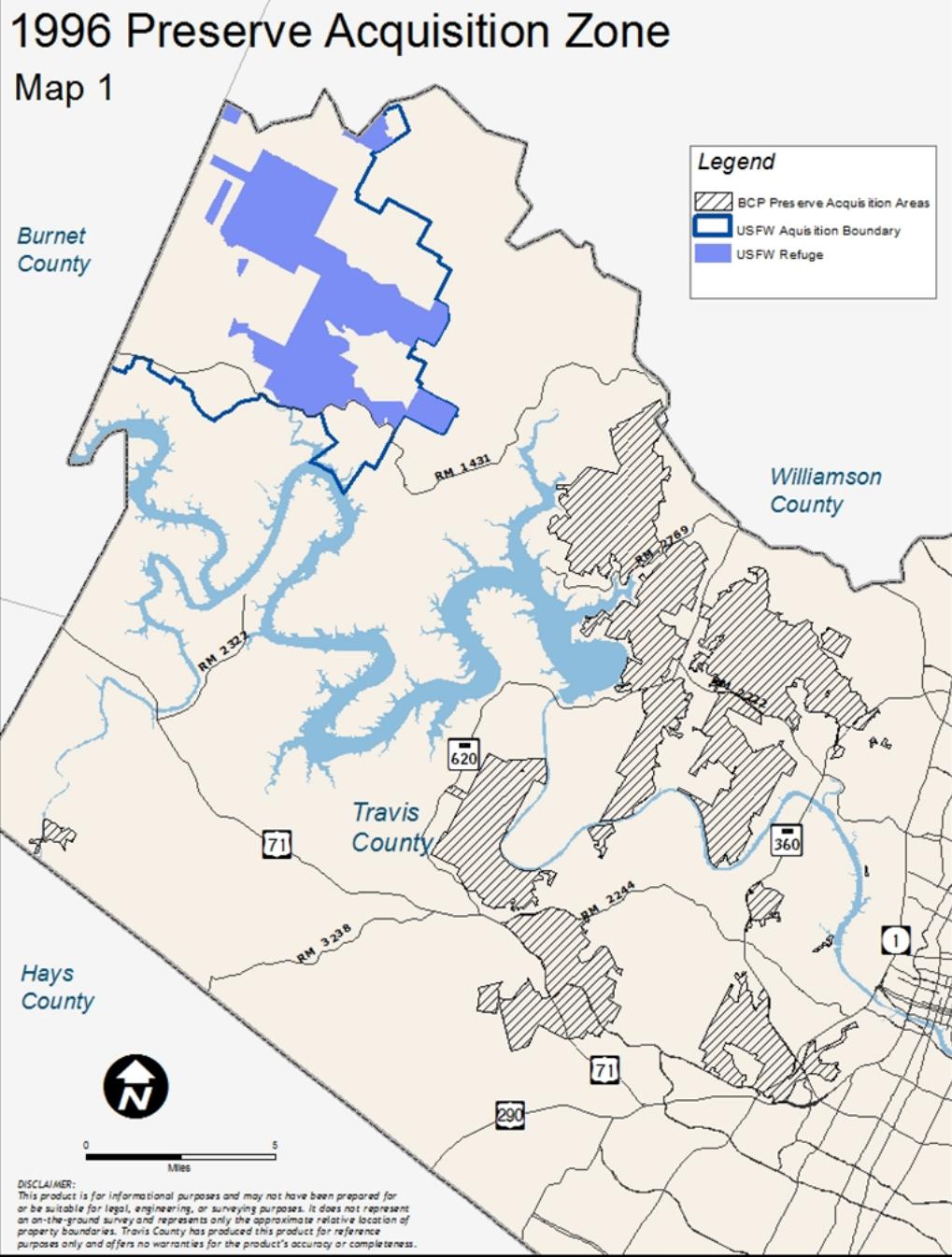
Acreage, features, locations, and habitat types  
are defined in the Permit

- habitat for certain species *in western Travis County*
- bird habitat within or adjacent to core preserves, between Austin and USFWS National Wildlife Refuge
- **Minimums** 30,428 habitat acres within 7 planning units AND 62 specific caves **PLUS**
- **Configuration** core preserves with less than 20% edge-to-area ratio, limit inholdings and fragmentation **PLUS**
- **Management** guided by approved best practices

# ORIGINAL PRESERVE ACQUISITION ZONE

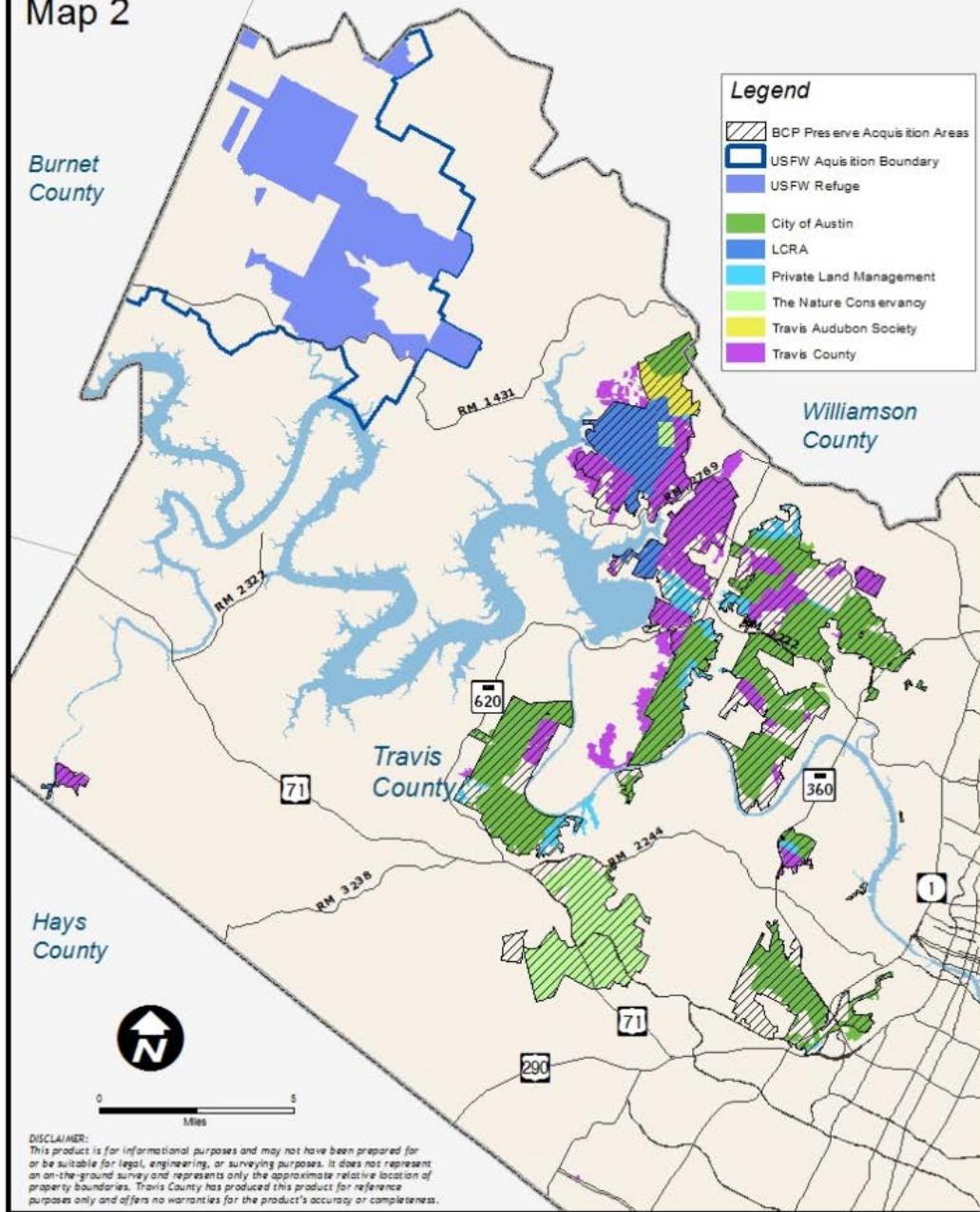
Within 7 planning  
areas (macrosites  
or watersheds)

Total Acres  
Potential  
34,378



## Current Preserve By Ownership

Map 2

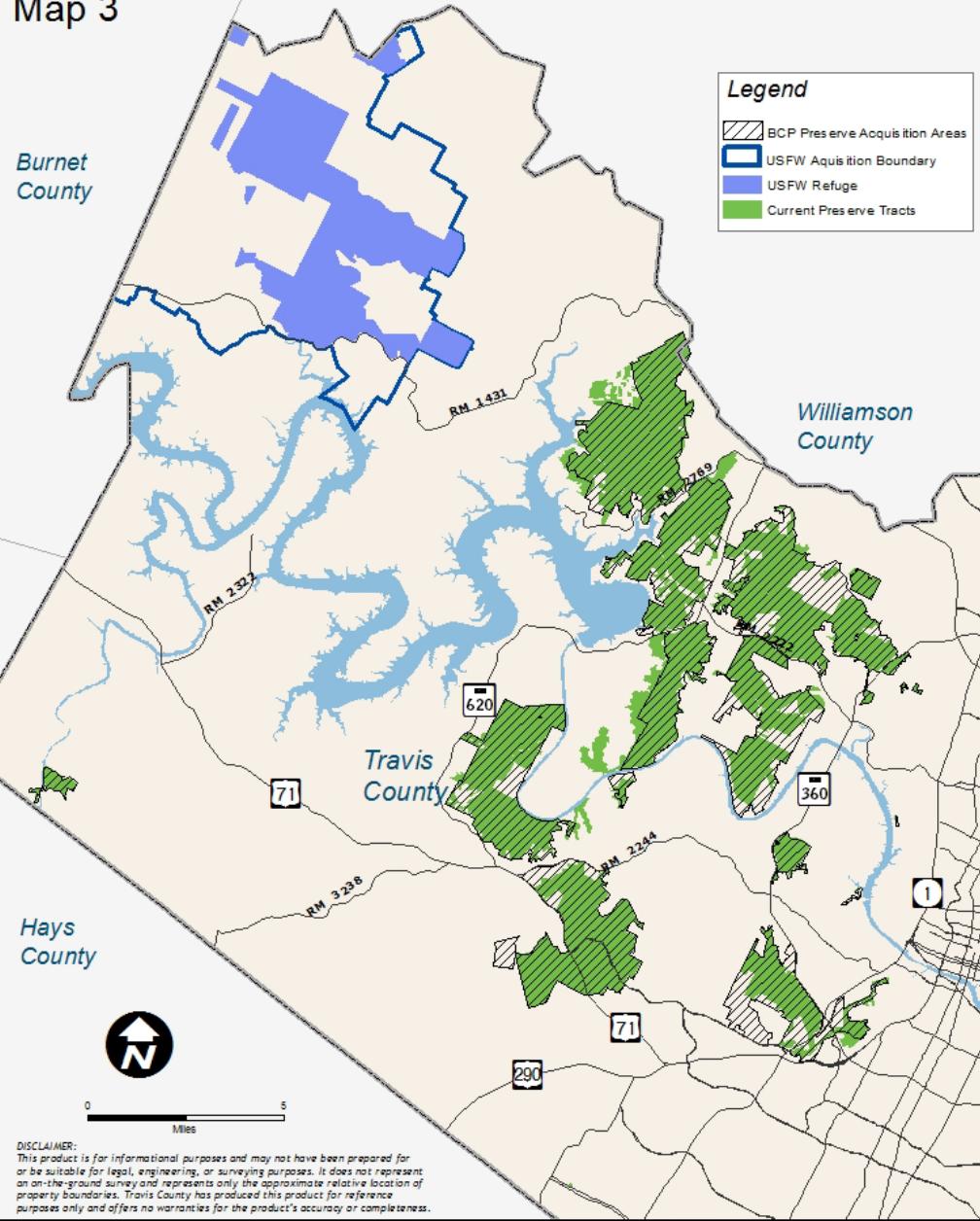


# CURRENT PRESERVES BY MANAGER

Total  
30,540  
acres

## Current Preserve (All)

Map 3



# ADJACENT AND ALTERNATE PRESERVES

Directly adjacent and/or ecologically connected

# NAMED CAVES

Some within Preserve and  
some separate

**Requirement** – protect and manage to preserve environmental integrity, defined by surface and subsurface drainage basin and cave cricket foraging area

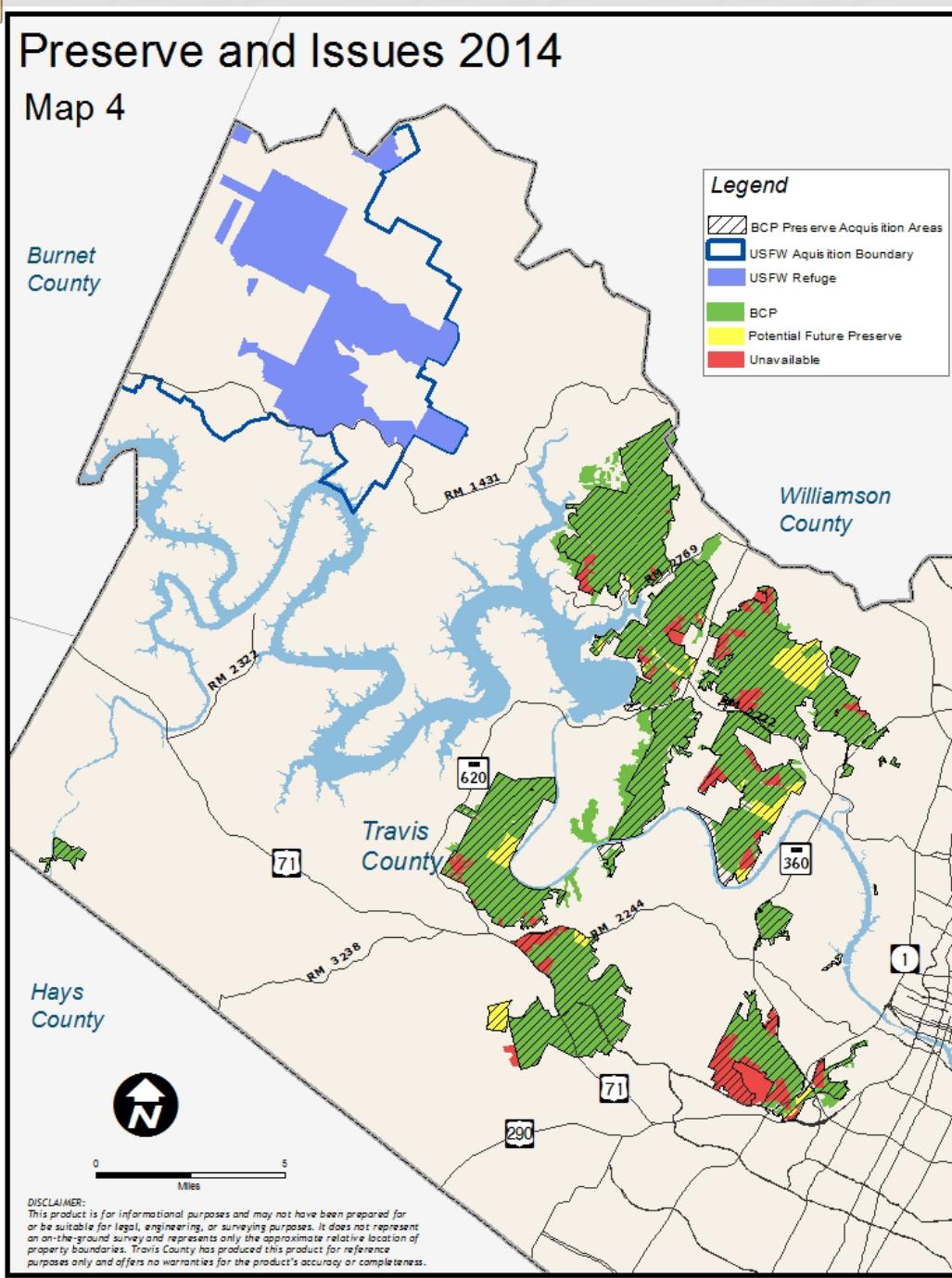
**Substitution** – if a named cave cannot be protected by BCCP Permit Holders, Permit allows substitution (Working Group in progress to define criteria and process)



Photo: Zara Environmental

## Preserve and Issues 2014

Map 4



# CONSTRAINTS FOR COMPLETION

*Opportunity  
Economy  
Regulatory  
Ecology*

alternate sites have been evaluated/protected to meet criteria **and** address constraints

# PROGRESS TO DATE

## What We Have So Far - Total Preserve Acres

- 28,207 Preserve Acres in the Acquisition Zone
- 2,333 Preserve Acres in Adjacent/Connected Areas
- 47 of 62 Named Caves

# TRAVIS COUNTY LAND ACQUISITION COSTS

Type	Acres	Travis Co Cost	Section 6 Grant (USFWS and TPWD)
Acquisitions w/ Section 6 Grant Funds	3,140.05	\$23,049,995.55	\$57,325,150.02
Acquisition 1005 County Funds	892.28	\$51,663,063.56	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,032.33</b>	<b>\$74,713,059.11</b>	<b>\$57,325,150.02</b>

# WHAT WE NEED

- **Approximate Needs** (Estimated 2011 - 2012)
  - **GCWA** Approximately 215 acres
  - **BCP Edge** “smoothing” TBD – dependent on available
  - **BCVI** 238 acres
  - **15 Named Caves** and/or Approved Substitute Features with acreage for surface and subsurface drainage protection
- **High Priority Sites** 1,924 acres
- **Compensate for Lost Sites** 3,648 acres

# STRATEGY SUMMARY

- Bird Habitat and Edge-to-Area Analysis
- Pursue High Priority (Yellow) Sites as Available
- Pursue Remaining Cave Tracts
- Identify Suitable Substitution Features just in case
- Look at alternative sites with habitat and caves to compensate for lost lands and to improve the edge-to-area ratio
- Interim analyses and **Final Completion Report** to USFWS: approx. 5 years before Permit expires