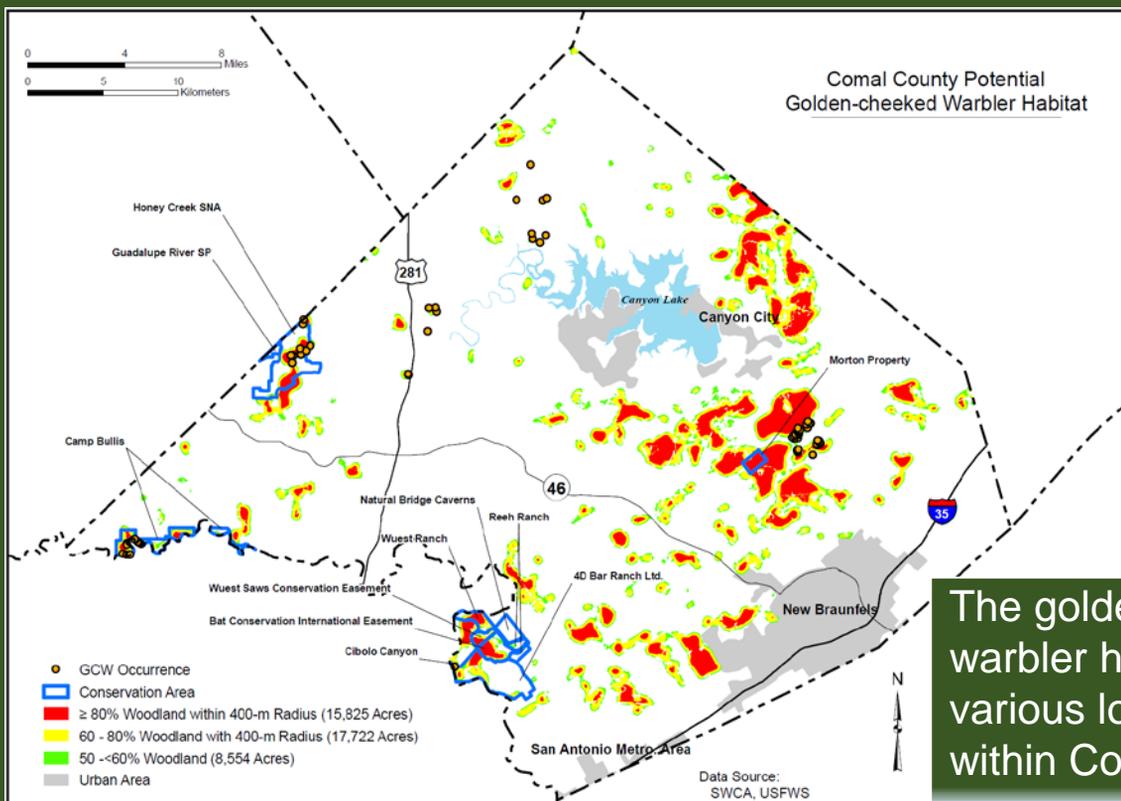


# Are you considering Land Development in Comal County Endangered Species Habitat?

## Endangered Species Act Compliance

Comal County is home to the Golden Cheeked Warbler, an endangered species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA prohibits harming endangered species or their habitat. If a landowner wants to develop endangered species habitat, they must first obtain an incidental take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). An easier, expedited way to obtain this permit is through the voluntary Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (CCRHCP) wherein the USFWS has delegated to the County the authority to grant the permit.



The golden-cheeked warbler has habitat in various locations within Comal County.

Other areas may exist within the County that are not represented by this map.

(over)

# Development in Comal County Endangered Species Habitat



## Endangered Species Act Compliance within Comal County through the Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (CCRHCP)

Obtaining an incidental take permit before disturbing endangered species habitat is mandatory under federal law. Landowners can work directly with the federal USFWS to obtain the permit, or they may choose to work directly with the County. In the CCRHCP process, there is no initial application fee, and submitting an application does not obligate the landowner to pursue a permit through the CCRHCP.

The County will review applications and submit its determination to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review. The USFWS has ten federal working days to review and respond to the submitted determination.

Following the USFWS review period, a determination letter identifying the County's findings will be provided to the potential participant along with a Participation Agreement. The County will calculate a mitigation fee for the number of acres of endangered species habitat that will be impacted by the proposed project.

Collected fees are used to purchase and manage land within existing preserves in Comal County or elsewhere. This process allows the loss of endangered species habitat to be mitigated through the permanent protection of other habitat.

The CCRHCP is also designed to mitigate for infrastructure projects such as roads, utility infrastructure, and cell towers.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please visit the CCRHCP webpage at [cceo.org/CCRHCP](http://cceo.org/CCRHCP) or contact us at (830) 608-2090