



News Release

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Service Approves Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan for Two Federally Listed Species

Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced in the *Federal Register* the availability of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the final Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP), and the Service's draft Record of Decision. The Service will issue a 30-year incidental take permit to Hays County authorizing the incidental take of the golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) and black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) as a result of the Hays County RHCP.

The Hays County RHCP includes conservation measures to minimize and mitigate incidental take of the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo that would occur as a result of activities including, but not limited to, public or private land development, transportation projects, or utility projects. The Hays County RHCP conservation measures include the establishment of a preserve system of 10,000-15,000 acres to mitigate for the incidental take of golden-cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos. "The approval of the Hays County RHCP will enable Hays County to continue to develop and grow while ensuring long-term habitat protection for the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo," stated Adam Zerrenner, Austin Field Supervisor.

You may obtain copies of the EIS and RHCP online at <http://hayscountyhcp.com/documents> or <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/AustinTexas>. For further information on how to obtain or review copies of these documents, see the *Federal Register* notice at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>.

America's fish, wildlife and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species is a shared responsibility. We're working to actively engage 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/angered/>.

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.

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