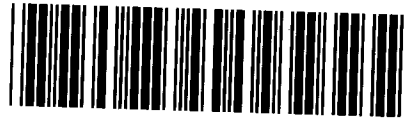


Control Number: 43599



Item Number: 277

Addendum StartPage: 0

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
FILING CLERK

SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-15-1589

P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA TRANSMISSIONS  
SERVICES CORPORATION TO AMEND §  
ITS CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE §  
AND NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED §  
BLUMENTHAL SUBSTATION AND 138- §  
KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN §  
BLANCO, GILLESPIE, AND KENDAL §  
COUNTIES, TEXAS

BEFORE THE  
  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
  
OF TEXAS

**HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST RESPONSE TO  
LCRA TRANSMISSION SERVICES CORPORATION'S  
FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

COMES NOW The Hill Country Land Trust and files this, its Responses to LCRA TSC's First Request for Information to Intervenors, which was filed with the PUC and served on The Hill Country Land Trust on February 27, 2015. This Response is timely filed. The Hill Country Land Trust agrees and stipulates that all parties may treat these responses as if the answers were filed under oath.

Respectfully submitted,

HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST  
320 West San Antonio Street  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

By:

*Bill Lindemann*  
Bill Lindemann

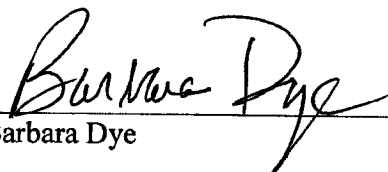
*Y. PERUSSION*  
A.T.

000001

277

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on all parties on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Dye

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA  
TRANSMISSION SERVICES  
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS  
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND  
NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED  
BLUMENTHAL SUBSTATION AND 138-  
KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN  
BLANCO, GILLESPIE, AND KENDALL  
COUNTIES, TEXAS

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BEFORE THE  
  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
  
OF TEXAS

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-1:**

Please provide copies of all correspondence and documents (including photographs, presentations, and/or studies) reviewed by you, received by you, or sent by you to any other landowner, local/state/federal agency official, or intervenor/intervenor group pertaining to the Blumenthal Substation and 138-Kv Electric Transmission Line Project. Please note, this request does not seek to obtain materials protected by the attorney/client privilege.

**HCLT Response No. 1-1:**

Please see the Hershey Ranch response to question 1-1. Regarding the scope of this question, documents responsive to Question No 1-1 may be found in Attachment A.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA  
TRANSMISSION SERVICES  
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS  
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND  
NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED  
BLUMENTHAL SUBSTATION AND 138-  
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BEFORE THE  
  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
  
OF TEXAS

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-2**

Are you aware of any directly affected landowner that did not receive notice of the proposed transmission line project from LCRA TSC? If so, please identify the landowner and describe as best as you can the location of the property affected. [Note: A "directly affected" landowner is any landowner from whom LCRA TSC would need to obtain an easement or other property interest if it built the transmission line using one or more of the segments of the proposed transmission line, or whose land contains a habitable structure that is within 300 feet of the centerline of one or more of the segments of the proposed transmission line].

**HCLT Response No. 1-2:**

No.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	BEFORE THE
TRANSMISSION SERVICES	§	
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED	§	
BLUMENTHAL SUBSTATION AND 138-	§	
KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN	§	
BLANCO, GILLESPIE, AND KENDALL	§	OF TEXAS
COUNTIES, TEXAS		

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-3**

Do any existing transmission lines (i.e., a transmission line 69-kV or greater) cross your property? If so, please describe how and where they cross your property.

**HCLT Response No. 1-3:**

The Hill Country Land Trust does not own any real property in the area of the transmission lines. HCLT does however hold a conservation easement on the Hershey Ranch that is in the area.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	BEFORE THE
TRANSMISSION SERVICES	§	
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED	§	
BLUMENTHAL SUBSTATION AND 138-	§	
KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN	§	
BLANCO, GILLESPIE, AND KENDALL	§	OF TEXAS
COUNTIES, TEXAS		

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-4**

Are any existing transmission lines (i.e., a transmission line 69-kV or greater) visible from your property? If so, please describe from where the lines are visible, approximately how far away the lines are located, and how the current lines affect your property, if at all.

**HCLT Response No. 1-4:**

No.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	BEFORE THE
TRANSMISSION SERVICES	§	
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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BLUMENTHAL SUBSTATION AND 138-	§	
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COUNTIES, TEXAS		

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-5**

What are your specific concerns about the proposed transmission line?

**HCLT Response No. 1-5:**

The Hill Country Land Trust plans to file direct testimony on April 6, 2015 outlining out concerns with the proposed lines.



SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA  
TRANSMISSION SERVICES  
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS  
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND  
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BEFORE THE  
  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
  
OF TEXAS

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-6**

Are your property boundaries for the property you own in proximity (i.e. within 300 feet) to LCRA TSC's route segments accurately depicted on the maps provided by LCRA TSC in its Application at Attachment 7 (maps 1-12)? If not, please explain any discrepancies and provide a modified LCRA TSC map or drawing to indicate the discrepancies.

**HCLT Response No. 1-6:**

Please see the Hershey Ranch Response 1-6.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	BEFORE THE
TRANSMISSION SERVICES	§	
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED	§	
BLUMENTHAL SUBSTATION AND 138-	§	
KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN	§	
BLANCO, GILLESPIE, AND KENDALL	§	OF TEXAS
COUNTIES, TEXAS		

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-7**

What is the primary use for your property and, in your opinion, will this primary use be affected by the proposed transmission line? If so, please explain.

**HCLT Response No. 1-7:**

HCLT holds a conservation easement on the subject property. This conservation easement was filed at the Gillespie Country courthouse in 2009. The proposed transmission lines would compromise the conservation values outlined in the easement documents.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA  
TRANSMISSION SERVICES  
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS  
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND  
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BEFORE THE  
  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
  
OF TEXAS

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-8**

In your opinion, is there any particular feature about your land that you believe should be considered when routing a transmission line on your property? If so, please explain.

**HCLT Response No. 1-8:**

Yes. The HCLT plans to file detail testimony on April 6, 2015 outlining our concerns.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	BEFORE THE
TRANSMISSION SERVICES	§	
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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BLUMENTHAL SUBSTATION AND 138-	§	
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**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-9**

Please identify all persons with an ownership interest in the property identified in Questions 3 and 4, above.

**HCLT Response No. 1-9:**

The Hill Country Land Trust does not own any property in the area. The Hill Country Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the Hershey Ranch property.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA  
TRANSMISSION SERVICES  
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BEFORE THE  
  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
  
OF TEXAS

**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-10**

Which substation location(s), tap point location(s), route(s) or route segment(s) do you oppose or recommend the PUC NOT approve, and why?

**HCLT Response No. 1-10:**

The HCLT plans to file detail direct testimony outlining our concerns and opposition with any routes(s) or route segments(s) that cross conservation easements.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	BEFORE THE
TRANSMISSION SERVICES	§	
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-11**

Understanding that most, if not all, of the intervenors do not want the transmission line on their property, if the transmission line is nonetheless routed on your property by Order of the Commission, please identify the location for the right-of-way that would be least offensive to you. Please use a map to show the location.

**HCLT Response No. 1-11:**

The HCLT can offer no locations for the right-of-way that crosses any conservation easement.

SOAH DOCKET 473-15-1589  
P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 43599

APPLICATION OF LCRA	§	BEFORE THE
TRANSMISSION SERVICES	§	
CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NECESSITY FOR THE PROPOSED	§	
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**THE HILL COUNTRY LAND TRUST'S RESPONSES TO LCRA TSC'S  
FIRST REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO INTERVENORS**

**Question No. 1-12**

Are you aware of any land transactions resulting in a change of ownership that is not currently reflected on LCRA TSC's maps? If so, please provide an explanation of that change in ownership, and please provide any documents that reflect your understanding of the change in ownership.

**HCLT Response No. 1-12:**

No.

**Attachment A**





May 19, 2014



The Honorable Troy Fraser  
PO Box 12068  
Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

**Board of Directors**

**Katherine Peake**  
President  
Gillespie County

**Bill Lindemann**  
Vice President  
Gillespie County

**Pam Mabry Bergman**  
Secretary  
Blanco County

**Kevin Pickard**  
Treasurer  
Gillespie County

**Susan Armstrong**  
Travis County

**Mike Krueger**  
Kerr County

**Steve Nelle**  
Tom Green County

**Jill Nokes**  
Utano County

**Kassi Scheffer**  
Comal County

**Paula Smith**  
Edwards County

**Floyd Trefny**  
Bandera County

**Carolyn Vogel**  
Travis County

Dear Representative Fraser:

The Hill Country Land Trust (HCLT) is a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization based in Fredericksburg, Texas. Our mission is to conserve and protect the agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and watersheds of the Texas Hill Country.

HCLT accomplishes this mission by working with willing landowners on establishing conservation easements on their property. Currently HCLT holds 18 donated conservation easements in our 19 county service area of the Hill Country encompassing over 5,700 acres. These conservation easements are voluntarily instituted by landowners to protect the conservation values in perpetuity for future generations. Our largest conservation easement is the Hershey Ranch, 1,561 acres located about five miles south of Stonewall. This property is being threatened by Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA) intentions to construct a high voltage transmission line as part of their Blumenthal substation west of Stonewall in Gillespie County. LCRA has proposed a number of alternative routes for this line, several of which would pass through the Hershey Ranch.

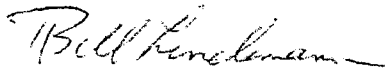
Ms. Terry Hershey, the owner of the property, has spent much of her life as a leader in land stewardship and conservation in Texas as a Commissioner of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, protecting Buffalo Bayou corridor in Houston, and administering the Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation. She is a founding member of the Hill Country Land Trust.

We believe construction of this high voltage transmission line across the Hershey Ranch would essential destroy or denigrate many of the conservation values Ms. Hershey intended to protect by placing a conservation easement on her property in 2009.

The Hill Country Land Trust is asking you to join us in opposing any intrusion of this transmission line across the property which would set a bad precedent for the millions of acres of Texas lands currently being protected by the terms of conservation easements. We strongly believe that if LCRA is allowed to trump our conservation easement through eminent domain, land conservation in Texas would be greatly harmed and diminished by this action.

We ask for your support in helping HCLT and other land trusts operating in our state holding conservation easements to continue protecting the landscape of the Texas Hill Country for future generations to enjoy. We consider this threat to the cornerstone of land conservation, the conservation easement, very seriously and will fight the effort with all our resources and energy. We would appreciate visiting with you regarding any questions you might have. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Lindemann", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Bill Lindemann, Vice-president



May 19, 2014



**Board of Directors**

**Katherine Peake**  
President  
Gillespie County

**Bill Lindemann**  
Vice President  
Gillespie County

**Pam Mabry Bergman**  
Secretary  
Blanco County

**Kevin Pickard**  
Treasurer  
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**Steve Nelle**  
Tom Green County

**Jill Nokes**  
Utano County

**Kassi Scheffer**  
Comal County

**Paula Smith**  
Edwards County

**Floyd Trefny**  
Bandera County

**Carolyn Vogel**  
Travis County

State Representative Doug Miller  
Room GW.4, Capitol  
PO Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Representative Miller:

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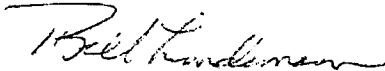
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Lindemann".

Bill Lindemann, Vice-president



## DOUG MILLER

CAPITOL  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0325  
Fax (512) 463-6151  
COMMITTEE TO STOP ALE IN US

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 73  
CAMEL GATES RESIDENCE

DISTRICT  
407 W. 46th St  
New Braunfels, Texas 78130  
(830) 625-1313  
Fax (830) 625-1717

June 11, 2014

Mr. Bill Lindemann  
Hill Country Land Trust  
P. O. Box 1724  
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter about the referenced Blumenthal substation project. I have received input from concerned residents in the area and it seems there is strength in numbers. Just last night, I met with residents in Fredericksburg who expressed the same objections that you have.

In an effort to assist those of our neighbors who could be affected, I have communicated with and will continue to contact LCRA to voice our shared concerns about the proposed routes. Additionally, I am forwarding your information to LCRA and will let them know of your concerns and opposition to the project. I will talk to Phil Wilson, their general manager, in particular.

The Hershey Ranch is part of what makes the Hill Country the treasure that it is. I know that this is a frustrating prospect so please stay engaged in the process. It is important that those citizens who stand to be affected talk with each other so we can coalesce around a unified position.

Sincerely,

Doug Miller  
State Representative  
District 73

DRM:fwr

**Floyd Trefny**

---

**From:** Mark Klym [Mark.Klym@tpwd.texas.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 04, 2015 9:55 AM  
**To:** Harrell, Wade; Bill Lindemann  
**Subject:** RE: Whooping Cranes in Gillespie County

Hey Bill

We have no sightings in Gillespie County for 2013 to date. I would note however that confirmed sightings have occurred as far west as Big Spring in this same period, so I would not completely rule it out. You might mention in your newspaper articles that sightings, especially with photos, of these birds during migration would be welcomed by TPWD.

You might also check with Julie Wicker at TPWD to see if her team has any record of these birds.

**From:** Harrell, Wade [mailto:wade\_harrell@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 7:31 AM  
**To:** Bill Lindemann  
**Cc:** Mark Klym  
**Subject:** Re: Whooping Cranes in Gillespie County

Hi Bill,

I don't have specific information on Whooping Crane occurrence in the area that you are interested in. That area is a bit west of the primary migration route, so occurrences are likely to be inconsistent and sparse. Texas Whooper Watch, established by Texas Parks & Wildlife, was set up in part to document these type of detections. You might check with Mark Klym, CC'd here, who manages the Texas Whooper Watch database [https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife\\_diversity/texas\\_nature\\_trackers/whooper-watch/report.phtml/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/whooper-watch/report.phtml/)

If you have folks that are documenting occurrences in your area, please have them report the data back to Texas Whooper Watch so we have a record.

Best,

Wade

On Sat, Feb 28, 2015 at 12:29 PM, Bill Lindemann <[billin2@beecreek.net](mailto:billin2@beecreek.net)> wrote:

Hi Wade,

I have a copy of a letter written by Adam Zerrenner with USFWS in reference to a question about the presence of endangered species in Blanco, Gillespie and Kendall counties that might be impacted by a LCRA high voltage transmission line associated with the construction of the Blumenthal substation near Stonewall. Adam attached a list of endangered species to his letter citing that Golden-cheeked Warblers, Black-capped Vireos and Whooping Cranes are known to occur in these three counties. I am with the Hill Country Land Trust and we hold a conservation easement on the 1561 acre Hershey Ranch located five miles south of Stonewall. In April 2006 a couple visiting the Hershey Ranch claim that they saw two Whooping Cranes on a small dirt pond (tank) on the ranch. In 2000, a friend of mine told me that he saw two whoopers flying low over his ranch between

Fredericksburg and Harper on a very foggy morning in April 1999. The lady reporting the sightings on the Hershey Ranch said she took photos that were subsequently lost as a result of her computer crashing. We are trying to recover these photos. We are trying to show cause why the construction of the power line might endanger low flying whoopers. There is a thirty-acre reservoir on the Hershey Ranch built in the late 1960s. Four of these large reservoirs were built in a flood control project by the old Soil and water Conservation District in the immediate area. We think these reservoirs could attract migrating whoopers looking for a rest stop or avoiding a dense fog cover. If the USFWS has information on documented whooper sightings in these three counties, I would appreciate having the details.

Many thanks. BTW, I have participated in the last three Christmas Bird Counts on the Aransas NWR, so I have more than a passing interest in the safety of the Whooping Cranes.

Bill Lindemann

--

Wade Harrell, PhD  
US Whooping Crane coordinator  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2  
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge  
1 Wildlife Circle  
Austwell, Texas 77950  
Office (361) 286 3559 x 245  
Fax (361) 286 3722  
Mobile (361) 676 9953

**Floyd Trefny**

---

**From:** Harrell, Wade [wade\_harrell@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 7:31 AM  
**To:** Bill Lindemann  
**Cc:** Mark Klym  
**Subject:** Re: Whooping Cranes in Gillespie County

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On Sat, Feb 28, 2015 at 12:29 PM, Bill Lindemann <[billin2@beecreek.net](mailto:billin2@beecreek.net)> wrote:

Hi Wade,

I have a copy of a letter written by Adam Zerrenner with USFWS in reference to a question about the presence of endangered species in Blanco, Gillespie and Kendall counties that might be impacted by a LCRA high voltage transmission line associated with the construction of the Blumenthal substation near Stonewall. Adam attached a list of endangered species to his letter citing that Golden-cheeked Warblers, Black-capped Vireos and Whooping Cranes are known to occur in these three counties. I am with the Hill Country Land Trust and we hold a conservation easement on the 1561 acre Hershey Ranch located five miles south of Stonewall. In April 2006 a couple visiting the Hershey Ranch claim that they saw two Whooping Cranes on a small dirt pond (tank) on the ranch. In 2000, a friend of mine told me that he saw two whoopers flying low over his ranch between Fredericksburg and Harper on a very foggy morning in April 1999. The lady reporting the sightings on the Hershey Ranch said she took photos that were subsequently lost as a result of her computer crashing. We are trying to recover these photos. We are trying to show cause why the construction of the power line might endanger low flying whoopers. There is a thirty-acre reservoir on the Hershey Ranch built in the late 1960s. Four of these large reservoirs were built in a flood control project by the old Soil and water Conservation District in the immediate area. We think these reservoirs could attract migrating whoopers looking for a rest stop or avoiding a dense fog cover. If the USFWS has information on documented whooper sightings in these three counties, I would appreciate having the details.



Many thanks. BTW, I have participated in the last three Christmas Bird Counts on the Aransas NWR, so I have more than a passing interest in the safety of the Whooping Cranes.

Bill Lindemann

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Wade Harrell, PhD  
US Whooping Crane coordinator  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2  
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge  
1 Wildlife Circle  
Austwell, Texas 77950  
Office (361) 286 3559 x 245  
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**Floyd Trefny**

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**From:** Julie Wicker [Julie.Wicker@tpwd.texas.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2015 5:21 PM  
**To:** Bill Lindemann  
**Cc:** Todd George  
**Subject:** RE: Endangered species in Gillespie County

The Whooping Crane Recovery Coordinator for USFWS is Wade Harrell ([wade\\_harrell@fws.gov](mailto:wade_harrell@fws.gov), or 361-286-3559), but he works at the wintering grounds on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and I'm not sure how much information he has about occurrences in the migratory corridor. Sorry I couldn't be more help!!

Julie

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**From:** Bill Lindemann [<mailto:billin2@beecreek.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 9:57 AM  
**To:** Julie Wicker  
**Subject:** RE: Endangered species in Gillespie County

Hi Julie,

I have and very much appreciate the TPWD response to the issues involving the Blumenthal substation. Our land trust very much appreciated the defense of conservation easements. I am hopeful that we can recover the photos of two whooping cranes on the Hershey Ranch. The problem is that most people don't have their cameras with them when something special is found. Do you have a name in USFWS who might give me information they have regarding whooping cranes in Central Texas?

Many thanks for your reply and documents.  
Bill Lindemann  
Hill Country Land Trust

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**From:** Julie Wicker [<mailto:Julie.Wicker@tpwd.texas.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 4:37 PM  
**To:** [billin2@beecreek.net](mailto:billin2@beecreek.net)  
**Cc:** Mark Klym; Todd George  
**Subject:** RE: Endangered species in Gillespie County

Hi Mr. Lindemann,

Mark Klym me sent your question below because my program reviews proposed transmission line projects and provides comments and recommendations to the Public Utility Commission. TPWD's correspondence regarding the proposed LCRA Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV line project is attached for your reference. Recommendations addressing avoidance of properties with conservation easements are on page 5, and recommendations addressing the Whooping Crane are on page 6 of that letter.

As shown on the attached map, the Texas hill country is on the western edge of the migratory corridor of the Whooping Crane. Although the potential can't be ruled out, TPWD has no records of this species using habitat in the project area.

Please let me know if this doesn't answer your question.

Julie

Julie C. Wicker  
Wildlife Division - Habitat Assessment Program  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744  
Phone: (512)389-4579

**From:** Mark Klym  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 4:04 PM  
**To:** Julie Wicker  
**Subject:** FW: Endangered species in Gillespie County

**From:** Bill Lindemann [<mailto:billin2@beecreek.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 12:03 PM  
**To:** Mark Klym  
**Subject:** Endangered species in Gillespie County

Hi Mark,

I hope you are the person who can help me with my query, but if not, who should I contact at TPWD?

I am trying to find supportive data to help keep a high voltage power line off the Hershey Ranch in southeast Gillespie County on which the Hill Country Land Trust holds a conservation easement. We know that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed three endangered species in Blanco, Gillespie and Kendall counties – golden-cheeked warblers, black-capped vireos and whooping cranes. Although no GCWs and BCVs have been seen on the Hershey Ranch, two whooping cranes were observed in April 2006 on a small dirt pond on the ranch. The observers claim to have photographed the cranes, but a personal computer crash the following year destroyed the photos. We are trying to recover the photos. Also, a ranching friend of mine who owns a ranch between Fredericksburg and Harper, once told me that he saw two whooping cranes flying overhead on a very foggy April morning in 1999. He told me that he heard a “wooshing” sound (wing beats) while feeding his goats and looked up in time to see two long-necked and legged white birds with red on their heads very low over his head. I do not think he was making this story up. Unfortunately he is now in a rest home suffering from dementia.

I am curious if TPWD has any reported sightings of whooping cranes in Gillespie County or nearby counties? I am sure you know Andy Sansom, a former boss at TPWD. Andy lives on the Hershey Ranch on weekends and very much wants to defend the ranch from this power line. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated by both Andy and myself. My connection to the Hershey Ranch is that I am with the Hill Country Land Trust and also a personal friend of Ms. Hershey.

I am trying to document that whooping cranes could use the 30 acre reservoir and several earthen-dammed tanks for resting spots during their migration routes and that the high power electric lines could present possible danger to large, low flying birds. Any information or leads to where I could get supportive information would be appreciated. Do you have a contact in USFWS that I could call?

Many thanks,  
Bill

**Floyd Trefny**

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**From:** Bill Lindemann [billin2@beecreek.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 2:48 PM  
**To:** blake.hendon@tpwd.texas.gov  
**Subject:** FW: Golden cheeked warblers

**Subject:** Golden cheeked warblers

Hi Blake,

Andy Sansom apparently called Cliff Shackleford about TPWD helping us find possible GCWs on the Hershey Ranch in southeast Gillespie County. Cliff "volunteered" your name to go with me to see if one might be present. The Hershey Ranch is under possible selection for a LCRA high voltage electrical line crossing the ranch. I am with the Hill Country Land Trust and we hold a conservation easement on the ranch and are in the fight to keep the ranch clear of the power line. We have a report done by the Bowman Consulting group for LCRA covering endangered species habitat in the Blumenthal Substation study area. The maps show high priority habitat near the SW corner of the Hershey Ranch. I have not seen any warblers on the ranch; however, we hold another conservation easement on the Bergman Ranch which shares a common boundary with the Hershey Ranch near the proposed GCW habitat. In doing the baseline study for the Bergman Ranch some people from Tarleton University heard a GCW singing in a wooded canyon. I went there but it was late in the GCW's breeding season and I got no response from playing a tape. I think the birds were heading to Mexico at the time.

When it is clear that a number of GCWs have been reported in the Hill Country this spring, I want to explore both the Hershey and Bergman ranches for GCWs. It would be great to have you join in the search. I think mid March would be the first opportunity. I am an intervener in the PUC proceedings and my testimony is due on April 6<sup>th</sup>. I hope that I will have time to find and photograph a GCW for inclusion in my testimony.

If you have any factual information I could reference in my testimony relating to GCWs on or near either ranch, I would be most appreciative. I think we have met, but not sure where - maybe at a Master Naturalist program in Kerrville. I have had a weekly birding column in the Kerrville Daily Times for the past seventeen years.

Many thanks for your time.

Bill Lindemann

Cell phone – 830-660-7592